



## **DRACAENA JANET CRAIG • D. DEREMENSIS JANET CRAIG • JANET CRAIG**

Dracaena Janet Craig plants, native to tropical Africa, are one of the most popular plants used in homes and offices. Dracaenas thrive on neglect, grow well in low light, and need very little water. These attractive plants have sword-shaped, leathery, dark green, shiny leaves that are about 3" wide and 2ft. in length. When purchased, Dracaena should have at least 3-5 stalks in the pot; this ensures that the plant will be full as it matures. A Dracaena Janet Craig can be used as a table plant, a floor plant, or a tall, stately tree. The Dracaena Janet Craig "Lisa", a relatively new plant variety, is a little pricey but virtually indestructible.

### **CARE**

#### **LIGHT**

Dracaena Janet Craig plants grow slowly in low light, but grow much faster in medium light. When the light is extremely low, new leaves are smaller and narrower. Placing a Dracaena Janet Craig in the sun outside for even a few minutes, burns the leaves.

#### **WATER**

When in doubt, do not water! Allow the top 50% of the soil to dry out before watering. The lower the light, the less often a dracaena needs water. Fluoride, chlorine, or salt in the water causes brown leaf tips and yellow spots on the leaves.

#### **FERTILIZER**

Dracaenas need very little plant food. Feed once or twice a year in the spring and summer with a balanced houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much fertilizer causes leaf tip burn.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

Dracaena Janet Craig plants do not do well in temperatures below 55°F. Cold winter drafts and blowing heaters damage the leaves.

#### **HUMIDITY**

Basic household humidity is sufficient for Dracaenas to grow well and look good.

#### **FLOWERING**

If the growing conditions are right, a Dracaena Janet Craig may produce a 10"-12" stalk with large fragrant white flowers. Although this is fun to see, the flowers often slow down leaf production, alter the shape of the plant, and may secrete a messy sticky sap that gets all over the plant and the floor. Perhaps best to cut the flower off as soon as it appears.

#### **PESTS**

Mealy bugs and scale can be a problem.

#### **DISEASES**

leaf spot is the main plant disease problem.

#### **SOIL**

Use a loose soil that drains quickly. In Hawaii, Dracaenas are often grown in lava rock. If you purchase a Dracaena in lava rock, remove at least 1/3 of the rock and replace it with potting soil.

#### **POT SIZE**

These plants grow better when root-bound in small pots.

#### **PRUNING**

Thin or bare stemmed dracaenas should be pruned in the spring and early summer. Cut off the top part of a cane anywhere along the stalk; the plants produce new leaves directly below the cut. The pruned section can be used to start a new plant.

#### **PROPAGATION**

Dracaena cuttings root in water, but the preferred method is to root them in a potting soil.

#### **CLEAN AIR PLANT**

NASA lists a Dracaena Janet Craig as a clean air plant.

## **ARECA PALM • DYPHYS LUTESCENS • BUTTERFLY PALMS**