



## **PEPEROMIA PLANT • CAPERATA • PEPEROMIA CAPERATA**

There are 1000 varieties of Peperomia Plants that are mainly native to Central and South America. All Peperomia Plant which belong to the Pepper Family, are semi- succulents with very similar care requirements. The leaves of Peperomia Plants are thick and plump and can be rippled or smooth and shiny. The colors of the leaves of Peperomia Plants come in various shades of green, red, gray, & cream, displayed in solid, marbled and striped patterns. When small, Peperomia Plants can be used in dish gardens and terrariums. Compact Peperomias are ideal for tables and some varieties make excellent hanging plants. Most Peperomia Plants never grow taller than 12"-18." The most popular Peperomia plants, used as houseplants, are the Caperata and the Obtusifolia.

### **CARE**

#### **LIGHT**

Peperomia Plants grow best in bright indirect light provided by a west or east facing, window. They also do well under florescent lights. Insufficient light causes this slow growing plant to stop growing all together. Direct sunlight burns the leaves.

#### **WATER**

Allow the top 50% of the soil in a Peperomia plant to dry out before watering. Over-watering, causing yellow leaves and soggy stems, is the main cause of serious Peperomia problems. Root-rot, which causes the plant to die, is the direct result of over-watering. Peperomia plants do well when watered from the bottom. This technique keeps water off of the leaves and helps prevent plant disease. the thick leaves of a Peperomia hold water and allow it to withstand long periods without moisture.

#### **FERTILIZER**

Fertilize a monthly in the spring and summer with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. It's not necessary to feed a Peperomia in the fall and winter.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

Warm temperatures between 60°-80°F are best. Temperatures below 50°-55°F and cold drafts from windows and doors damage the leaves.

#### **HUMIDITY**

Peperomia Plants are from the rain forests of South American and like a humid environment.

#### **FLOWERING**

Peperomia flowers are small and inconsequently, growing at the top of tall stalks; it's the leaves of a Peperomia plant that are more interesting.

#### **PESTS**

House Plant Pests such as mealy bugs and aphids can be a problem.

#### **DISEASES**

Ringspot, a virus that marks the leaves of peperomia plants, and other houseplants, with unsightly round marks, may develop because of the high humidity this plant likes. Keep the leaves of a Peperomia plant dry and provide good air circulation to prevent ring spot disease.

#### **SOIL**

Use a well-aerated potting soil that drains quickly. Peperomia plants are semi- succulents and do not like wet feet.

#### **POT SIZE**

Repot only when the roots of the plant have out-grown the existing pot. Always move a Peperomia plant to the next size pot only and be sure the pot has good drainage. Putting a Peperomia in a pot that is too large allows the soil to stay wet too long and causes root rot.

#### **PRUNING**

A Peperomia can be pruned at any point along the stem. New growth on the develops from the nodes just below the cut in the stem.

#### **PROPAGATION**

Peperomia Plants are easily propagated from leaf cuttings, stem tip cuttings, and plant division. Be sure to allow the cut ends of the leaves or stems being used for propagation to dry out before planting them.