



## **PILEA PEPEROMIODES • PILEA • FRIENDSHIP PLANT • CHINESE MONEY PLANT**

The Pilea is fairly easy to care for. The plant grows like crazy and then grows little babies so you can share it with friends! The Pilea hasn't been a houseplant for very long. In the 1940s, the plant was brought to Norway by a Norwegian missionary who was living in China. The plant slowly spread through people sharing its "pups," and within the last few years, it has made its way here to the States.

### **CARE**

#### **LIGHT**

Your Pilea will do best in a bright, indirect sunny spot in your home. Even though this plant is part of the succulent family, do not place your Pilea in direct sunlight since it will scorch the leaves. In order to prevent your Pilea from growing lopsided, rotate it at least 2-3 times a week since it grows towards the sun. This plant can adapt to lower light areas, but the leaves will turn a darker green and the plant will spread out more.

#### **WATER**

Allow the soil to dry between watering, as Pilea do not like soggy soil. Watch the leaves-when they start looking a tad droopy, it's time to water your plant. In warmer weather, they need to be watered more frequently.

#### **HUMIDITY**

This plant does not require any extra humidity and does well in a drier environment.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

Normal household temperatures between 65-75 degrees are fine. However, make sure that your Pilea does not sit near the heating vents in the winter, as it will drop its leaves.

#### **FERTILIZER**

For best results, use a general liquid houseplant fertilizer at half strength twice during the spring and summer.

#### **POT SIZE**

Repotting a Pilea can really encourage growth. Giving it some wiggle room will encourage the pups to spread out.

#### **SOIL**

Well-draining. A mix of potting soil with plenty of perlite should work well.

#### **PROPAGATION**

One of the best parts of a Pilea plant is how fast it reproduces baby plants! As your Pilea matures, little babies will pop out of the soil or grow from the stem (near the dirt). These babies are called "pups." The pups actually grow from the root system and pop out of the dirt on top. When the pups start growing, you can either cut them off of the mother plant or let them grow. Letting them grow creates a full mother plant!