



## **RUBBER TREE PLANT • FICUS ELASTICA • RUBBER PLANT**

A Ficus Elastica or Rubber Tree Plant, originated in India and Malaysia and was once grown for the rubber produced from its sap; Today they are very popular indoor house plants. A Rubber Tree usually has 5"-12" large, thick, glossy leaves. Once damaged, the leaves cannot be trimmed and should be cut off. A Rubber Tree does not like to be moved and prefers constant temperatures. There are several varieties you can purchase: burgundy rubber trees have reddish leaves, the tricolor has grayish- green leaves with splashes of pink and cream, and the Doeschri has green leaves with splashes of pale yellow or creamy white.

### **CARE**

#### **LIGHT**

Rubber Tree Plants do best in medium to bright indirect light. The solid green and dark burgundy varieties can adapt to less light, but the stems may be weak and the leaves small.

#### **WATER**

These plants are a little difficult to water. Allow the top 25-30% of the soil to dry out before watering. Keep the soil drier when your plant is in lower light or the room temperature is cooler. The leaves turn yellow from under-watered perfectly fine leaves may fall off from over-watering.

#### **FERTILIZER**

Rubber Tree Plants do not need much fertilizer. Feed monthly when the plant is actively growing with a balanced plant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

Indoors they do well in warm temperatures between 70°F-80°F with a night-time temperature around 65°F. Keep a Rubber Tree away from cold drafts, air conditioners, heaters, and fireplaces

#### **HUMIDITY**

Basic household humidity

#### **PESTS**

Whiteflies, scale, mealy bugs, and thrip can be a problem, so use a household safe insecticide if the problem arises.

#### **DISEASES**

Sooty mold, root rot, and leaf spot. Large brown spots along leaf edges usually indicate a fungal or bacterial disease.

Remove the diseased leaves, replace the soil, and scrub the container with a mild bleach solution. Keep infected plants away from your other plants.

#### **SOIL**

Use a well-aerated houseplant soil that retains moisture but still drains quickly.

#### **POT SIZE**

Rubber Tree Plants like to be root-bound in small pots so don't rush to move them to larger containers. Be sure any pot you use has drip holes in the bottom.

#### **PRUNING**

Cutting off the growing tip of a main stem encourages the plant to send out new shoots and become bushier Rubber Trees are relatively pest free, but not dust free. It's important to clean the broad leaves, both for aesthetics and for the health of the plant.

#### **PROPAGATION**

Stem cuttings and air layering.