



MONSTERA DELICIOSA • SWISS CHEESE PLANT

The Monstera Deliciosa or swiss cheese plant, is a large, popular, easy-care houseplant. There is a great deal of confusion about what to call this plant; the various names have become inter-changeable over the years. Some other names for this plant are: Window Leaf Plant Ceriman, and Mexican Breadfruit Plant. Whatever we call them, these plants are native to the jungles of Mexico, Panama, and India, have big glossy heart-shaped leaves that, as the plant matures, split from the leaf edge to the center vein. If you want a big, tropical, low maintenance plant, this one is perfect.

CARE

LIGHT

A Monstera Deliciosa needs medium to bright light. It can survive in lower light, but the leaves won't split and the plant becomes leggy. Keep it out of the direct sun.

WATER

Water well until the water drains out the drip holes in the bottom of the pot. Allow the top 25-30% of the soil to dry out before watering again. Keep the soil damp but never soggy. Water droplets or perspiration on the leaves indicate over-watering; brown leaf edges indicate under watering.

FERTILIZER

Feed every two weeks when the plant is actively growing with a balanced plant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength.

TEMPERATURE

This plant prefers warm temperatures and doesn't do well in temperatures below 50°F.

HUMIDITY

Monstera Deliciosa grow better in high humidity, but adapt to household humidity.

FLOWERING

A Monstera Deliciosa rarely flowers when grown as a houseplant.

PESTS

Monstera Deliciosa are fairly immune to plant pests; but if mealy bugs, spider mites, aphids, or scale appear, spray with household use insecticide.

DISEASES

Watch out for bacterial diseases such as erwinia blight, xanthomonas leaf spot, and leaf tip burn especially in warm, humid environments.

SOIL

Does well in a rich soil that contains a good amount of peat moss. The soil needs to drain quickly to prevent root rot.

POT SIZE

Unlike most indoor plants, a Monstera Deliciosa prefers to be in a large pot. These bigger pots promote larger leaves

PRUNING

Try to keep the large leaves clean and dust free. This plant needs to be aggressively trimmed or it can take over a room.

PROPAGATION

Propagate using stem cuttings. Be sure to include a few leaves and a few plant nodes on each cutting and to allow the cutting to sit out over night before planting. This helps prevent the developing roots from rotting.



CALATHEA PLANT • CALATHEA ROSEOPICTA • PEACOCK PLANT

Calathea plants, native to tropical South and Central America, Africa, and the West Indies, are grown primarily for their beautiful, brightly colored, upright, oval leaves. There are over 300 different types of Calathea plants, many being man-made hybrids created by tissue cultures. The many varieties have leaves with a purple underside and various vibrant colorful patterns on the top side. As a houseplant, Calathea is a tabletop plant or short bush that rarely gets bigger than 24" tall and 24"-26" wide. A Calathea, with its exotic foliage, may take some care, but is well worth the effort.

CARE

LIGHT

A Calathea likes bright indirect light; so, placing it in front of an east, west, or north window is ideal. Too much direct sun burns the leaves and causes the beautiful leaf colors to fade.

WATER

Calathea likes to be watered with distilled water, rain water, tap water that you have left to sit out over night before using it. Keep the soil moist but never soggy. Allow the top 2-3" to dry out before watering. Never let a Calathea Plant sit in water.

FERTILIZER

Feed monthly in the spring, summer, and fall with a balanced plant food diluted to ½ the recommended strength. Don't fertilize if the plant is not growing.

TEMPERATURE

Calathea like temperatures between 65°-80°F. They do not like cold drafts or temperatures below 55°-60°F. Hot temperatures cause the leaves to curl.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is a must! A Calathea plant gets brown leaf edges when the air is too dry.

FLOWERING

The leaves of a Calathea are more beautiful than many of the flowers of other indoor plants. With over 300 varieties of Calathea, some types such as Calathea Crocata, White Ice, and Brazilian have lovely flowers as well as spectacular leaves.

PESTS

Spider mites, scale, mealy bugs and aphids are houseplant pests that can be a problem. Use a household safe insecticide if this problem arises.

DISEASES

The high humidity that a Calathea plant needs also encourages bacterial and fungal diseases which usually manifest themselves as leaf lesions.

SOIL

Use a good light porous indoor potting soil that retains water but still drains quickly. African Violet soil works well.

POT SIZE

A Calathea rarely need repotting.

PRUNING

Cut off brown or crispy Calathea leaves as soon as they appear.

PROPAGATION

Calathea plants are propagated by plant division but it is a little difficult.



ALOCASIA AMAZONICA • AFRICAN MASK • ELEPHANT EAR PLANT

An Alocasia plant, native to Asia, is also called an Elephant Ear plant or African Mask Plant because of their very large, glossy, heart-shaped leaves with wavy edges. These stunning, veined leaves come in red, bronze, blue-green and purple. If you are searching for a dramatic, very different looking plant that can be as small as 6" or as tall as a tree, an Alocasia plant is a great choice. These plants do require a little care and attention to thrive.

CARE

LIGHT

An Alocasia plant requires very bright indirect light but no direct sun.

WATER

Allow the top 2"- 3" of soil to dry out before watering. Try to keep the soil evenly moist. Over-watering, wet leaves, and soggy soil makes an Alocasia susceptible to a variety of serious fungal infection. Alocasia require less water during the winter when it is dormant.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize every two weeks from late March through September with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Never fertilize during the winter. Too much plant food results in salts building up in the soil and burning the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Alocasia prefer warm temperatures between 60°-80°F. These plants become dormant with prolonged exposure to temperatures below 60°F and may drop all of their leaves. Be sure to keep an Alocasia away from air conditioners and cold drafts. During warm summer months, an Alocasia can produce a new leaf every week and each new leaf may be twice the size of the previous leaf.

HUMIDITY

Alocasia grow best in high humidity. To increase the humidity, place the plant on a tray filled with pebbles and water. Be sure the plant is sitting on the pebbles and not in the water. You can also increase the humidity by placing a small humidifier near the plant or grouping plants together. Do not mist the plant, misting encourages plant diseases.

FLOWERING

The flowers of an Alocasia plant are very small in comparison to the beautiful leaves.

PESTS

Spraying an Alocasia with warm soapy water every few weeks helps prevent mealy bugs, scale, aphids, and spider mite problems. It also keeps the large leaves of the plant dust-free. If an Alocasia does become infested spray with an ultra-fine household safe insecticide or Neem Oil. This kill both the pests and their eggs.

DISEASES

When Alocasia are over-watered or when the leaves are consistently wet, they develop a variety of diseases such as crown, stem, and root rot, leaf spot and xanthomonas. These diseases usually appear as dark brown or black spots on the leaves, surrounded by a yellowish rim. The best way to prevent plant diseases is to avoid over-watering, keep the leaves dry, and provide good air circulation around the plant. Once an Alocasia is infected quickly remove the damaged leaves and any leaves that have fallen off, isolate the plant from your other plants, and treat with a household safe fungicide.

SOIL

Use an organic well-aerated loose soil that contains a good amount of peat moss. If the soil seems a little heavy, add some builder's sand or perlite.

POT SIZE

Alocasia like to be root-bound in small pots, so don't rush to put them into larger pots.

PRUNING

Quickly remove any yellow leaves or those that develop brown or black spots as that may be a sign of a fungal disease

PROPAGATION

Plant division is the best way to propagate.

RESTING PERIOD

An Alocasia becomes dormant for several months during the late fall and winter.



CAT PALM • CHAMAEDOREACATARACTARUM • CATARACT PALMS

The Cat Palm, also called the Cascade or Cataract Palm is native to southeastern Mexico and resembles the inexpensive Areca Palm and the very pricey Kentia Palm. Indoors, the plant grows slowly, eventually reaching a height of 4-6ft. The Cat Palm requires a very tropical environment good indirect light and plenty of water. This is a very attractive plant that produces glossy, dark green leaves on thin shoots, but it does need care and attention.

CARE

LIGHT

Cat Palms need good indirect light but no direct sun.

WATER

Cat Palms like moist but not soggy soil at all times. Fronds turn yellow if the soil gets too dry. Salty water or water containing chemicals such as fluoride causes leaf tip burn; over watering causes entire fronds to turn brown.

FERTILIZER

Less rather than more plant food is always better with palms. Feed a Cat Palm monthly in the spring and summer with a balanced houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Cat Palms only need fertilizer once or twice during winter and fall.

TEMPERATURE

Palms like heat but too much dry heat causes leaf damage. Avoid placing palms in drafts, in front of heaters or air conditioners, or in unheated rooms during the winter. The ideal temperatures are 80°F during the day and no lower than 45°F at night, but does adapt to being inside your home.

HUMIDITY

Lack of sufficient humidity is another reason a cat palm may develop brown tips. Ideally the room should have about 55% humidity, but this is rarely the case. You can place a humidifier in the room or place the palm on a wet gravel tray; just be sure the plant sits on the gravel and not in the water.

PESTS

Spider mites, scale, mealy bugs, and ants can all be a problem. You can treat with a household safe insecticide.

DISEASES

Helminthophobia, or leaf spot is a fungal disease that affects the leaves of a cat palm. It appears as a reddish-brown lesion between one-eighth to one-fourth inches in length.

SOIL

The cat palm requires a potting soil that drains quickly. Try adding peat moss to your regular potting soil to keep the soil light rather than heavy and clay-like.

POT SIZE

Palm plants like to be root- bound. Do not re-pot a cat palm until the roots have started to grow out of the bottom of the pot.

PRUNING

Cut off yellow or brown fronds quickly. Brown leaf tips can be trimmed but the fronds never look quite right after being trimmed.

PROPAGATION

Palms are propagated by seeds and propagation is best left to the professionals.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

Most palm plants clean the air of harmful chemicals.



BAMBOO PALM • CHAMAEDOREA SEIFRIZII • REED PALMS

The beautiful, compact, easy care Bamboo Palm, native to Mexico and Central America, is perfect for low light areas. Indoors, a Bamboo or Reed Palm, can reach a height of 5-7ft. and a width of 3-5ft. with multiple reed-like stems growing in clumps. There are about 10-15 fronds on each stem of a bamboo palm and each frond has 10-14 pinnate (feathery) dark green leaflets. The base of each stem is covered in a tan colored fiber that resembles bamboo. This graceful palm is a hardy variety of palm.

CARE

LIGHT

Although a Bamboo Palm grows faster in bright indirect light, it still does well in medium light and even low light if you're careful not to over-water.

WATER

Allow the top 1/3 of the soil of a bamboo palm to dry out before watering. These plants like barely moist but never soggy soil. Never allow a bamboo palm to sit in the excess water that drains from the pot. Do not use water that has passed through a softener because the high salt content damages the leaves. Leaf tips look pale in color and green leaves fall off an over-watered bamboo palm. New growth and leaf tips turn brown when a bamboo palm is under-watered. The confusing thing is that yellow leaves can develop when the plant is over or under-watered, so you need to check the soil as far down as you can to know if the plant needs water.

FERTILIZER

Feed a Bamboo Palm monthly in the spring and summer with a fertilizer high in nitrogen at 1/2 the recommended strength. Don't use plant food if a bamboo palm is not actively growing or if the soil is very dry.

TEMPERATURE

A Bamboo Palm does well in temperatures between 65°-80°F.

HUMIDITY

All palms, including Bamboo Palms, like high humidity but still do well in basic household humidity.

PESTS

Bamboo palms are very susceptible to spider mites, scale, and mealy bugs. Keep a bamboo palm clean by spraying it often with a mixture of biodegradable liquid soap and water. If the pests persist, spray the plant with a household safe insecticidal soap.

DISEASES

Root rot due to over watering, sooty mold, fungal and viral infections such as rust.

SOIL

Bamboo Palms need a basic well-aerated potting soil that drains quickly but still retains water.

POT SIZE

Re-pot when the roots have filled the existing container.

PRUNING

Brown leaf tips on a bamboo palm should be cut off with scissors, and bare stalks should be removed. Always clean your plant tools in alcohol after using them to prevent spreading plant diseases from plant to plant.

PROPAGATION

Bamboo palms are propagated from seeds. This is a very slow growing plant and It usually takes 2-5 years for a bamboo palm to reach a decent size. I'd recommend leaving propagation to the professionals and buying an established plant.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA lists bamboo palm plants as excellent plants to clean the air of harmful chemicals.



CHINESE EVERGREEN PLANT • AMELIA AGLAONEMA

A Chinese Evergreen Plant is one of the easiest and best-looking houseplants to have in your home or office. Aglaonemas, the scientific name for Chinese Evergreen Plants, are a hardy hybrid from the Aroid family and originally came from the subtropics of Southeast Asia. Chinese Evergreen Plants can be used as upright table plants or, as they get larger, bushy floor plants. All of the many Chinese Evergreen Plant varieties have long shiny leathery leaves with unique patterns of green, gray, and cream.

CARE

LIGHT

Chinese Evergreen plants are one of the few houseplants with light green and gray in the leaves that can grow in low light. The newer varieties of Chinese Evergreen houseplants that have bright red, pink, yellow, and orange in the leaves require medium to bright light. Never place a Chinese Evergreen in the direct sun.

WATER

Allow the top 25-30% of the soil of a Chinese Evergreen to dry out before watering. When the soil of a Chinese Evergreen Plant stays too wet for a long period of time, the stalks rot and die. If the soil of a Chinese Evergreen Plant gets too dry or too wet, yellow leaves develop.

FERTILIZER

Chinese Evergreen houseplants do not need much fertilizer. Feed a Chinese Evergreen Plant every other month with a basic houseplant food at 1/4 the recommended strength when the plant is actively growing.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures below 50 degrees can damage the leaves of Chinese Evergreen houseplants. Keep Chinese Evergreen Plants out of cold winter drafts and away from air conditioners.

HUMIDITY

Chinese Evergreen plants prefer regular household humidity or higher if possible.

FLOWERING

If your Chinese Evergreen houseplant produces flowers, immediately cut them off. The flowers use energy that the plant needs to produce its beautiful leaves.

PESTS

A Chinese Evergreen is susceptible to the mealy bugs, scale, and aphids. Use a household safe insecticide if needed.

DISEASES

In high humidity, the large leaves of a Chinese Evergreen plant may develop bacterial diseases such as Leaf Spot.

SOIL

The best soil for Chinese Evergreen houseplants is a basic, well-aerated houseplant potting soil that drains quickly

POT SIZE

Keep a Chinese Evergreen Plant in a small pot so the soil can dry out quickly and the roots are not constantly wet.

PRUNING

If a Chinese Evergreen plant becomes thin and leggy, prune the stems a few inches above the soil line. The plant will send out new growth at the bottom of the stem and along the length of the stem.

PROPAGATION

Chinese Evergreen plants are propagated using stem cuttings and by plant division.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA lists the Chinese Evergreen Plant as one of the top 10 best houseplants to clean the air of harmful toxins.



TI PLANT • CORDYLINE TERMINALIS • HAWAIIAN TI PLANT

A Ti plant also called a Hawaiian Ti Plant or Hawaiian Good Luck plant, is one of the most colorful foliage plants you can find. The cane-like woody stems produce sword-shaped leaves 2ft.-5ft. in length and 5" to 7" in width. Leaf color can be maroon, purple, rose, yellow, pink, green or a mixture of these colors. When young, a Ti plant can be a small table plant, as it matures these beautiful plants become exotic looking floor specimen. There are many similarities between Hawaiian Ti Plants and Dracaenas. The major difference is that Dracaenas are easy-care plants while Ti plants require quite a bit of extra care.

CARE

LIGHT

A Ti Plant requires good indirect light, but no direct sun.

WATER

Proper watering is the most difficult part of taking care of a Ti Plant. The soil needs to be moist but never soggy and should never totally dry out. If your household water contains a great deal of fluorine, chlorine, or passes through a water softener, use distilled water or allow your regular water to sit out over night before using it. Chemicals in the water damage the leaves of a Ti plant. Fluoride toxicity is especially harmful, causing ugly brown leaf tips.

FERTILIZER

Feed a Ti Plant monthly in the spring and summer with a liquid or slow release plant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Never use a fertilizer that contains fluoride.

TEMPERATURE

Ti Plants prefer warm temperatures between 65°-85° F. Be careful to keep a Ti Plant away from drafts and heating vents.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is necessary to keep the leaves looking good. Set a humidifier nearby or place your Ti Plant on a wet pebble tray if the air is very dry. Be sure the plant is sitting on the pebbles and not in the water.

PESTS

Ti Plants attract fungus gnats, mealy bugs, spider mites, scale, and thrip. A bad infestation of spider mites is often the cause of faded looking leaves. Spray frequently with a household safe, mild soapy water solution and keep the leaves dust free to help prevent both plant pests and plant diseases.

DISEASES

Since Ti Plants prefer high humidity, they often get fungal and bacterial diseases such as leaf spot and erwinia blight.

SOIL

Use a loose, well-aerated fast-draining potting soil.

POT SIZE

Re-pot in the spring if the roots have filled the existing container. When moving a Ti Plant to a bigger pot, use one that is only one size larger than the current pot and be sure it has drainage holes in the bottom.

PRUNING

Prune brown, yellow, or damaged leaves with clean, sharp scissors that have been dipped in alcohol to prevent spreading any plant diseases.

PROPAGATION

Propagate by cane cuttings, stem cuttings, plant division, if the stalks are thick enough, air layering.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

A Ti Plant cleans the air of harmful chemicals such formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene.



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!



SANSEVIERIA PLANT • SANSEVIERIA TRIFASCIATA • MOTHER-IN-LAWS TONGUE • SNAKE PLANT

The Sansevieria, originally from South Africa, is another hardy almost impossible to kill houseplant that thrives on neglect. Sansevieria plants, also called a Snake plant and Mother in Law's Tongue plant, can be used as table plants when taller, stately floor plants. Certain varieties such as the "Trifurcate" have long, thick, stiff, upright leaves that can reach 4ft. in length while other varieties, such as the Hahni have very short compact leaves that are only 4".

CARE

LIGHT

A Sansevieria can be placed anywhere in a room from the darkest corner to the brightest window. The better the light, the faster a Sansevieria grows.

WATER

Over-watering is the main reason Sansevieria plants die. Allow the soil to dry out before watering. During the winter, in a low light area, a Sansevieria plant may need water only once a month.

FERTILIZER

Feed a Sansevieria monthly when the plant is actively growing with a Cactus plant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Never use a fertilizer that contains nitrates.

TEMPERATURE

Sansevierias grow well in temperatures between 60°F (15.5°C) and 85° F(29°C)

HUMIDITY

Prefer low humidity.

FLOWERING

Sansevieria plants may produce flowers every few years during the summer. Flower production occurs when the plant is in bright light and experiencing some stress. Stress for a Sansevieria might be severely dry soil or being root-bound in a small pot. The flowers of a Sansevieria, which appear as clusters on long spike, are fragrant but not particularly pretty.

PESTS

Sansevieria plants seem to be immune to house Plant Pests.

DISEASES

Red leaf spot disease and root rot caused by over- watering.

SOIL

Plant in a good, rich, organic soil that drains quickly. If the soil in the pot isn't draining well, add some sand.

POT SIZE

Like to be root-bound in small pots.

PROPAGATION

Plant division or leaf cuttings. When using leaf cuttings to propagate a Sansevieria, allow the cut end of the leaf to dry out for a few days before planting it.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

These are excellent Clean Air Plants that remove benzene, formaldehyde, and trichloroethylene from the air.



ZAMIOCULCAS ZAMIIFOLIA

ZZ plants, *Zamioculcas Zamiifolia* are beautiful, unique, almost impossible to kill succulent houseplants that burst onto the market a few years ago. They have become an immediate hit. ZZ plants have long stems covered in hundreds of rounds, plump, shiny green leaves (or leaflets as they are called). These plants, native to Eastern Africa, are very drought resistant plants thanks to their rhizomatous roots that store water. ZZ plants may be one of the hardiest and most forgiving indoor plants we can recommend.

CARE

LIGHT

Indoors, ZZ plants can survive in low to bright indirect light. Since a *Zamioculcas Zamiifolia* is a slow growing plant even in good light, in low light these plants rarely produce new leaves. Direct sun burns the leaves of a ZZ Plant.

WATER

Over-watering is the only way to kill a ZZ plant. They do not like wet feet so allow the soil to thoroughly dry out before watering. ZZ Plants have thick roots called rhizomes that store water so when in doubt do not water. Unlike most plants, *Zamioculcas* are very forgiving plants, allowing you to over-water a few times before showing signs of serious damage. Yellow leaves are an indication that the plant has been over-watered.

FERTILIZER

Feed a ZZ plant every other month with a basic houseplant food at 1/2 the recommended strength. Feed only when it is actively growing.

TEMPERATURE

A *Zamioculcas Zamiifolia* Plant prefers temperatures between 60°-80°. Temperatures below 60 hinder growth.

HUMIDITY

ZZ plants do well in basic household humidity.

PESTS

Zamioculcas Zamiifolia are resistant to most plant pests.

DISEASES

ZZ plants are also resistant to most plant diseases.

SOIL

Use a well-aerated soil that retains water but drains well. Add sand if the soil becomes too heavy and compact.

POT SIZE

Zamioculcas Zamiifolia Plants can be found in 4"-14" pots. These are expensive plants because they are such slow growers.

PRUNING

Zamioculcas Zamiifolia rarely need pruning.

PROPAGATION

Propagate a ZZ plant using stem or leaf cuttings. Be patient it may take several months before you see any new growth on the cuttings.



PACHIRA AQUATICA PLANT • PACHIRA AQUATICA • MONEY TREE PLANT

The Pachira Aquatica (Money Tree plant) originally came from the wetlands in Central and South America and became very popular in Taiwan in the 1980's. Today, this plant is available throughout the world especially in the bonsai form. Pachira Aquatica usually has a central trunk made up of three, five, or seven stems that are often braided together. The top of the Money Tree has the "lucky" 5 lobed leaf arrangements. When small, a Money Tree can be trained as a bonsai or used as a table plant. As the plant matures, it makes an impressive tree often reaching a height of six feet or more. Other plants like Pothos and jade plants are sometimes referred to as Money plants, but the Pachira Aquatica is the variety used by the followers of Feng Shui. They believe that a Pachira Aquatica, when properly placed in a home or business, brings prosperity and good fortune.

CARE

LIGHT

A Money Tree plant grows best in medium to bright indirect light. This plant even does well under fluorescent lights.

WATER

Water well and then allow the top 1"- 2" of soil to dry out before watering again. A Pachira Aquatica requires less water during the winter months when resting. Be sure to use a container with bottom drip holes to prevent over- watering and root rot. It's important to water the soil evenly.

FERTILIZER

Feed a Money Tree monthly in the spring and summer when it is producing new leaves. Use a basic household plant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Fertilize every other month in the fall and winter when a Pachira Aquatica is actively growing.

TEMPERATURE

This plant prefers temperatures between 65-75°F

HUMIDITY

A Pachira Aquatica likes high humidity. If your home or office is dry, place the plant on a wet pebble tray to increase the humidity. Be sure the plant is sitting on the pebbles and not in the water.

PESTS

Pests and diseases are rarely a problem.

DISEASES

Be on the lookout for leaf spot, a fungal disease that causes leaf spots and other damage. The disease can be prevented by quickly removing any diseased leaves that fall off, watering well and then not watering again until the soil has dried out somewhat, and keeping the leaves dry. Household safe, commercial Fungicide sprays usually help to control the problem.

SOIL

Use a quick draining potting soil. If the soil is too heavy, add sand to the mix to help it drain faster.

POT SIZE

Keeping a Money Tree in a small pot controls its size and is essential when growing a Pachira Aquatica as a bonsai plant. If you want a taller and larger plant, repot as soon as the roots have filled the existing container.

PRUNING

Cut off a few of the larger leaves from the bottom of a Money Tree Plant each month to encourage new growth at the top.

Pinch back the growing tips at the ends of branches to keep the plant small.

PROPAGATION

The easiest ways to propagate a Pachira Aquatica are by stem cuttings and air layering.

RESTING PERIOD

Reduce the water and feed monthly while the plant is resting during the winter. Even though the plant is resting, you may still have to move it to a brighter spot as the winter sun moves to a different location in your home.

SPECIAL OCCASION

A Money Tree Plant is a popular house warming and new business gift since they are said to bring good luck and prosperity.



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.



POTHOS PLANT • EPIPREMNUM AUREUM

Pothos Plants, native to the jungles of Malaysia are highly adaptable, glossy-leaved plants with heart-shaped leaves. A Golden Pothos has yellow and green leaves, a Marble Queen Pothos has white and green leaves, and a Jade Pothos has solid green leaves. These attractive plants can sit on a table, on the floor, hang in a basket, or grow 5ft tall when attached to a pole. Pothos plants are easy to care for and grow almost anywhere, the perfect houseplant for beginners.

CARE

LIGHT

There is a Pothos variety for almost any light situation. Green Jade Pothos with their solid green leaves do well in low light. The Golden Pothos variety, with yellow and green leaves, likes medium light. Marble Queen Pothos, with green and white leaves, grow best in medium to bright indirect light. The lighter the color in the leaves, the more light a plant requires.

WATER

Water well and then allow the top 50% of the soil to dry before watering again. Over-watering is the main reason a Pothos plant dies. Bright yellow leaves indicate that the soil has gotten too dry before you watered it. New growth and older leaves turn pale yellow and may get black spots on the leaves when a Pothos is over-watered.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize every two weeks in the spring and summer when the plant is actively growing and monthly in the fall and winter. Use a well-balanced plant food diluted to ½ the recommended strength

TEMPERATURE

Pothos do well in temperatures between 55° and 80°F. If temperatures drop below 45°F, a Pothos stops growing and the leaves turn black.

HUMIDITY

Basic household humidity

PESTS

Pothos are relatively pest resistant. If the soil stays too damp, fungus gnats may appear. mealy bugs are another pest to look out for.

DISEASES

Over-watering causes plant diseases such as crown, leaf, and root rot. Once Pothos roots are destroyed, is difficult to save the plant.

SOIL

Use a well-aerated, quick-draining potting soil that dries out quickly.

POT SIZE

Pothos like to be root-bound in small pots. Do not re-pot until the roots of the plant have filled the existing container. There must always be drip holes in the bottom of the pot so excess water can escape.

PRUNING

Trim long runners to keep a Pothos looking bushy and full. 5"- 6"cuttings can be rooted in water or vermiculite and used to start new plants.

PROPAGATION

Propagate using stem cuttings.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA lists Pothos Plants as "Clean Air Plants" that help remove harmful chemicals such as formaldehyde from the air.



FIDDLE LEAF FIG PLANT • FICUS LYRATA

A Ficus Lyrata, or as it is commonly called a Fiddle Leaf Fig, has large wide leathery leaves that resemble a violin or fiddle. These dark green hard leaves on a Fiddle Leaf Fig are over a foot in length and grow on woody stems. The Ficus Lyrata, native to Australia, Melanesia, and Southern Asia, is one of the easier ficus trees to care for. This plant can be small enough to use as a table plant or large enough to be used as an indoor tree.

CARE

LIGHT

A Fiddle Leaf Fig requires bright indirect light. In low light, new leaves are small and mature leaves may fall off. Turn a Fiddle Leaf Fig frequently to keep it from growing toward the light and becoming lop-sided. Too much bright light causes the leaves to fade and lose their dark green color.

WATER

A Fiddle Leaf Fig requires less water than other ficus trees. Allow the top 50% of the soil to dry out and the leaves to become soft and flexible before watering. Keep the leaves dry and water off of the large fiddle shaped leaves to prevent mold. Too much water and water on the leaves can also cause ugly brown spots on the leaves.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize monthly in the spring and summer with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much fertilizer, when the plant is not actively growing causes leaf tip burn.

TEMPERATURE

Fiddle Leaf Fig do well in temperatures between 60°-80°F. Keep all types of ficus trees away from air conditioners, cold drafts, and heating vents. Intense cold or heat causes leaf drop.

HUMIDITY

This plant does well in normal household humidity through it prefers high humidity.

PESTS

The broad leaves of a Fiddle Leaf Fig attract mealy bugs, thrip, whitefly, spider mites, and aphids. Spray every other week with warm soapy water to ward off plant pests. Spraying a Fiddle Leaf Fig also keeps the large leaves dust free and clean so they can absorb more light. Dry leaves after spraying.

DISEASES

Powdery mildew, root rot, and leaf spot disease

SOIL

Use a well-aerated potting soil that holds water but still drains quickly.

POT SIZE

Fiddle Leaf Figs like all ficus plant like being root-bound in small pots.

PRUNING

If a Fiddle Leaf Fig (Ficus Lyrata) gets too tall, gently remove it from its pot and trim the roots. Trimming the roots limits how tall the plant grows. Root trimming a ficus plant can be done every few years during winter and fall. Cutting the stems back in the early spring encourages a ficus to become bushier.

PROPAGATION

Propagate using air layering and stem cuttings.



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 Doescehri 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.



FICUS ALLI PLANT • FICUS MACLELLANDII • FICUS AMSTEL

The Ficus Alii Tree, or Amstel King as it is sometimes called, is a large plant that originally came from various areas in Asia. The Ficus Alii was first grown commercially in Hawaii where it got the Hawaiian name "Alii" which means "king".

Although a Ficus Alii is closely related to the Ficus Benjamin, the Alii variety is much more tolerant and forgiving; it rarely sheds leaves, tolerates lower light, and allows you to move it around without going into shock. A Ficus Alii does grow about 25% slower than a Ficus Benjamin.

The leaves of a Ficus Alii are quite different than those of the usual ficus trees we are familiar with. The leaves are medium green, long (3"-10"), narrow, willow-like, and thick. The newer King Alii ficus plants have wider leaves than the original Ficus Alii trees. New growth is a pretty reddish bronze color until the leaves mature to a natural green color. If you want a ficus tree in your home or office, a Ficus Alii is a great alternative to the finicky Ficus Benjamin.

CARE

LIGHT

Ficus Alii do well in bright indirect light; however, they can survive in medium light. The lower the light level, the longer a Ficus Alii takes to produce new leaves. Rotate weekly to maintain the plant's beautiful shape.

WATER

Water a Ficus Alii when the top 1" of the soil has dried out. If the plant is in a container larger than 12," wait until the top 2" of soil has dried out. Water well so that excess water drains out the drip holes in the bottom of the pot. Immediately empty excess water and do not allow a Ficus Alii to sit in water. New growth turns black and green leaves fall off from over - watering. Leaves become brown and crunchy, drop off, and may turn yellow when the plant needs water.

FERTILIZER

Feed monthly with a well-balanced liquid fertilizer when the plant is actively growing. It is not necessary to feed a Ficus Alii during the winter and fall. Avoid using any plant foods that contain the chemical boron.

TEMPERATURE

Unlike the Ficus Benjamin, Ficus Alii plants are much more tolerant of temperature changes. Although a Ficus Alii prefers temperatures between 60°-85° F, these plants can survive in temperatures as low as 45° for a short time.

HUMIDITY

A Ficus Alii prefers medium humidity, but still grows well in basic household humidity.

FLOWERING

These plants produce flowers and berries that should be removed as soon as they appear to promote healthy leave growth.

PESTS

Whitefly, mealy bugs, scale and thrips are plant pests that can attack a Ficus Alii so use a household safe insecticide as needed.

DISEASES

Botrytis or gray mold are plant diseases that occur when the leaves of a Ficus Alii are kept too wet. Anthracnose is another plant disease that can be a problem.

SOIL

Use a good, all purpose, well- aerated potting soil.

POT SIZE

The roots of Ficus Alii plants grow very slowly, so don't be in a rush to move the plant to a larger pot. Be sure the roots of your Ficus tree have filled the entire bottom of its pot before moving the plant to a larger container. Ficus Alii houseplants like to be root- bound.

PRUNING

Prune a ficus during the winter to maintain the shape of the plant.

PROPAGATION

Propagate a Ficus Alii using branch cuttings.



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



The Areca Palm, native to Madagascar, is one of the most popular indoor houseplants sold today. Indoors an Areca Palm is a medium sized exotic looking plant that can reach a height of 6-8 feet; outdoors it may be as tall as 25 feet. The Areca Palm gets its nickname, the Butterfly Palm, because its long feathery fronds (leaves) arch upwards off multiple reed- like stems, resembling butterfly wings. Each frond has between 40-60 leaflets on it. When first bought, Areca Palms are a delight, inexpensive good-sized plants with beautiful green upright fronds. However, over time, the overall appearance of an Areca Palm may diminish; the older bottom fronds turn yellow and the larger fronds droop and bend.

CARE

LIGHT

Areca Palms require good indirect light. Too much light or direct sun burns the fronds and causes them to yellow.

WATER

Keep the soil of an Areca Palm moist but never soggy. Allow the top couple of inches to dry out before watering. Remember, the soil at the bottom of the container is much wetter than the soil at the top. Never allow an Areca Palm to sit in water. If your household water has a lot of chemicals in it or passes through a water softener allow it to sit out over- night before using it or use distilled water. Water containing a great deal of chemicals or salt can spot the leaves.

FERTILIZER

Feed an Areca Palm monthly when it is actively growing with a balanced liquid fertilizer at 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much salty fertilizer spots the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Areca Palms prefer temperatures between 65°-75° during the day and around 55° at night. This plant is very sensitive to low temperature; if you place it outside during the summer be sure to bring it in before temperatures dip below 50°.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is essential for the fronds of an Areca Palm to keep looking good.

FLOWERING

An Areca Palm rarely blooms indoor if it does the flowers are very small and inconspicuous.

PESTS

Spider mites and mealy bugs can be a problem. Check frequently for pests by examining the backs of the fronds and new growth. If an Areca Palm becomes infected, spray with warm soapy water or an insecticidal soap at 1/2 the recommended strength. Spraying with a product containing alcohol can damage the fronds.

DISEASES

Because Areca palms require high humidity, they are susceptible to the fungus pink rot and gnoderma. Pink rot develops in moist soil and causes the fronds in the crown (top) of the palm to turn brown and droop. Ganoderma, which is spread through the soil and on pruning tools, causes the lower fronds to droop and turn yellow, then gradually works its way up the plant. Neither of these diseases is treatable but both are preventable by keeping the soil drier and providing good air circulation around the plant.

SOIL

Use a rich acidic soil that drains well. Add sand if the soil is too heavy and clay like.

POT SIZE

Plant an Areca palm in a container twice the size of the root ball. Palms like being a little root -bound so don't rush to repot.

PRUNING

Prune any brown or yellow fronds that appear. Use clean wet scissors to prune brown tips on the fronds. Areca Palms have only one growing tip at the very top of the plant; if that tip is damaged or cut off.

PROPAGATION

Areca Palms are propagated by seeds, by separating the offsets or suckers at the base of a mature plant or by plant division.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

It has shown that an Areca Palm is effective in removing benzene, formaldehyde and trichloroethylene from the air

PEACE LILY PLANT • SPATHIPHYLLUM



Peace Lily Plants are beautiful indoor houseplants with large, glossy, oval, dark green leaves and impressive white “spathes” (flowers) that last for weeks. Spathes may be green which reminds us that they are really modified leaves. A Peace Lily or *Spathiphyllum* originated in tropical forests around the world where it grew close to the forest floor in the shade of the larger plants. This helps explain why Peace Lily plants are one of very few indoor plants that can bloom even in medium to low light.

CARE

LIGHT

Peace Lily Plants do well in low, medium, or good indirect light. Too much light causes the leaves to fade and lose their vibrant dark green color. Too little light and Peace Lily Plants cannot develop flowers. Direct sunlight burns the leaves.

WATER

Allow the top 50% of the soil to dry out before watering. You should water the Peace Lily if the leaves are severely drooping. Leaves turn a blackish brown from over-watering.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize every other month when a Peace Lily is actively growing with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much fertilizer burns the leaf tips.

TEMPERATURE

Peace Lily Plants grow well in 65°-85°F

HUMIDITY

High humidity is a plus but not a necessity.

FLOWERING

As Peace Lily Plants mature, they produce more flowers. Brighter light also encourages more blooms.

PESTS

Peace Lily Plants may get aphids, spider mites, and mealy bugs.

DISEASES

Since Peace Lily plants prefer a humid environment, leaf spot, and other bacterial and fungal plant diseases can be a problem. Keeping the leaves dry, providing good air circulation around the plant, and avoiding overly wet soil helps prevent plant diseases.

SOIL

Use a rich well-aerated potting soil that contains a good amount of peat or other organic material.

POT SIZE

A Peace Lily should not be moved to the next size plant pot until the roots of the plant have almost filled the existing pot.

PRUNING

Once the flowers fade, prune the flower and its stem at the soil line. Every Peace Lily flower has its own stem so that stem will not re-bloom. Pruning the flowers and stems helps the plant look better and encourages more flowers. Brown or yellow leaves should also be pruned at the base of their stem. If you want to trim the brown or yellow tips on the leaves of a Peace Lily, rather than removing the entire leaf, use a sharp clean wet scissors to make an angled cut below the discolored area.

PROPAGATION

Peace Lily plants are easily propagated by plant division.

SPECIAL OCCASION

Because of their name, these plants are often sent as gifts for funerals.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA recommends a Peace Lily as an excellent plant to clean the air of harmful chemicals.

HEARTLEAF PHILODENDRON • SCANDENS OXYCARDIUM • PHILODENDRON CORDATUM

Hidden Ponds Nursery • 4863 Hwy 17N • Awendaw, SC 29429 • www.hiddenpondsnursery.com



SWEETHEART PHILODENDRON • PHILODENDRON BRAZIL

There are over 200 different varieties of philodendron plants that come in different sizes, colors, and leaf shapes. The Heartleaf or Sweetheart Philodendron has dark green, shiny, heart-shaped leaves and looks great as a table or hanging plant. Heartleaf Philodendrons are some of the most popular plants we use in homes and offices; they thrive on neglect and are almost impossible to kill.

CARE

LIGHT

A Heartleaf Philodendron can survive in low light conditions, but grows faster and produces more leaves in medium or bright indirect light. Never put any Philodendron Plant in direct sun.

WATER

Water well and then allow the top 50% of the soil dry out before watering again. Yellow leaves indicate over-watering and brown leaves mean the plant needs more water.

FERTILIZER

Feed monthly in the spring and summer with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Fertilize every other month in the fall and winter. Heartleaf Philodendron are fast growing plants and need quite a bit of plant food, but should be fertilized only when they are actively producing new leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Heartleaf Philodendrons grow well in temperatures between 70°F-80°F during the day and above 55° F at night.

HUMIDITY

Basic household humidity is fine though higher humidity encourages larger leaves.

FLOWERING

A Heartleaf Philodendron does not produce flowers indoors.

PESTS

Keep an eye out for aphids, spider mites, mealy bugs, thrip, and scale.

DISEASES

Root-rot from over-watering is the main disease problem

SOIL

Use a well-aerated, all-purpose potting soil that drains quickly.

POT SIZE

Re-pot only when the plant has become root-bound in its existing container. Smaller pots help prevent over-watering.

PRUNING

Keep the long vines pruned so that the plant stays full and doesn't become leggy. Wash the leaves frequently to prevent dust from clogging the pores of the plant.

PROPAGATION

A Heartleaf Philodendron is easily propagated using stem cuttings, especially during the growing season. Be sure the stem cutting has several nubs on it. Nubs are the little bumps where the leaves meet the stem and where new roots will eventually develop.

CLEAN AIR PLANT

NASA lists a heartleaf philodendron as a clean air plant that removes formaldehyde, a chemical found in insulation, floor coverings, cleaning agents, pressed wood, and even paper towels, from the air.

DIEFFENBACHIA PLANT • DIEFFENBACHIA COMPACTA • DUMB CANE PLANT

Hidden Ponds Nursery • 4863 Hwy 17N • Awendaw, SC 29429 • www.hiddenpondsnursery.com



Dieffenbachia or Dumb Cane plants, native to the tropics of Mexico and all the way south to Argentina, are relatively easy-care houseplants with large, broad, patterned, oblong leaves. They can be small table plants or 5ft-6ft. trees depending on the variety you select. Dieffenbachias are fast-growing houseplants that tend to get top heavy if not properly pruned.

CARE

LIGHT

Dieffenbachia require medium to high light. Direct sun burns the leaves and too much bright light causes the vibrant leaf color to fade. When an indoor Dieffenbachia does not get enough light, the new leaves are small and far apart on the stem.

WATER

Water well and then allow the top 2"-3" of soil to dry out before watering again. Dieffenbachia does best when watered on a regular schedule.

FERTILIZER

Fertilize only when the plant is actively producing new leaves. Most Dieffenbachia should be fed every two weeks in the summer and once a month in the spring and fall. Never feed in the winter. Excess plant food causes browning around the edges of the leaves.

TEMPERATURE

Dieffenbachia prefer temperatures above 60°F Lower leaves turn yellow when exposed to cold drafts from doors, windows, or air conditioners.

HUMIDITY

High humidity is a plus, but a Dieffenbachia still does well in basic household humidity.

FLOWERING

Dieffenbachia develop rather non-descript spath-like flowers. It is recommended to cut flowers off as soon as they appear because they slow leaf development.

PESTS

Look out for spider mites and mealy bugs.

DISEASES

Humidity loving Dieffenbachia plants are subject to bacterial leaf spot disease, erwinia blight, and other bacterial diseases that develop in humid conditions.

SOIL

The best soil for a Dieffenbachia is a rich organic mixture that drains quickly.

POT SIZE

A Dieffenbachia likes to be a little pot-bound. Repot your plant in the spring if the roots have filled the existing pot. The new container should only be an inch or two wider than the old container.

PRUNING

Aggressively prune to keep a Dieffenbachia bushy and prevent it from getting top heavy.

PROPAGATION

Air layering and stem cuttings are the best ways to propagate a Dieffenbachia.



Houseplants are a great way to create an oasis in your home. Houseplants add beauty, life and color to your home. They are also great air purifiers and naturally create humidity in your home. Some even say houseplants bring luck, happiness and prosperity! We have developed care and handling sheets on each houseplant that we have in our Wild Pansy shop. Below are a few basic principles to follow in good care and handling of houseplants.

- If required, trim leaves with wet, sharp, CLEAN scissors
- If your tap water has many chemicals or is particularly hard water, allow your full water can to sit out over night before using it so chemicals and minerals fall to the bottom of the container
- For bugs and pests on household plants. Use soapy water or a household safe, commercial insecticide on your houseplants
- If you have a disease problem on your houseplants, use a household safe fungicide sprays and this will usually help to control the problem
- Keep infected plants away from your other plants.
- It is ok to cut off dead or diseased leaves from your houseplant.
- For houseplants with big leaves, carefully wash the leaves frequently with a damp cloth to prevent dust from clogging the pores of the plant.
- No houseplant likes to sit in water, if your houseplant likes high humidity, place it on a tray with pebbles and keep the pebbles in water but do not allow the water to touch the pot.
- Most houseplants “drink” from the roots so do not spray leaves with water. Spraying leaves will promote mold and disease on the plant. Water through the roots.
- Some houseplants may be poisonous if ingested. If you are concerned for animals and small children, check the poison rating on your houseplant and always keep away from small children and animals.