

# BROMELIAD CARE GUIDE

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**Bromeliad**  
*Bromeliaceae*

## WATER

These plants are drought tolerant and will not tolerate over watering. Wait for the top 2" of potting medium to dry before watering. To water, thoroughly soak the plant by running water until it pours out the bottom drainage holes. Many bromeliads also have a tank at the top of the plant where the leaves come together and form a cup. The plant will also take in water from this tank and will appreciate being filled with rain water periodically to flush out the reservoir.

## SOIL TYPE

A soilless mix specifically made for bromeliads is best because they cannot sit in wet soil without rotting. If mixing your own, use porous materials to allow for quick drainage.

## FLOWERING

This type of plant will only flower once in its life cycle, once the center area of the plant is too crowded to grow new leaves. The bloom will last for several months and the bracts will last even longer. Once the flower is done growing, you can cut the stalk off using a sharp, sterile knife. The mother plant will die once flowering is complete, but the pups can be potted up to continue its legacy.

## LIGHT

While these plants can tolerate a range of light depending on the type, it is best to place them in bright, indirect light. This means they will be happiest in front of west-facing, east-facing windows, or a couple of feet back from south-facing windows.

## AIR

High humidity, which can be achieved by periodic misting, by placing the pot on a shallow pebble tray, or setting a small humidifier near the plant.

## FERTILIZER

Bromeliads do not require consistent fertilizing. Instead, occasionally add water soluble fertilizer to the watering routine and water around the base of the plant. Avoid adding fertilizer to the tank of the plant. Do not over fertilize as the plant will begin growing leggy and with muted colors.

## POT

High humidity, which can be achieved by periodic misting, by placing the pot on a shallow pebble tray, or setting a small humidifier near the plant.

## GROWTH

These are a slow growing houseplant which will eventually produce pups near the end of its life cycle.

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# BOTANY