

Air Plants

Indoor Care Information

Meet a low-maintenance houseplant that grows without soil. There is a misconception that air plants are very easy to keep alive. Our homes though are very different from their native environments from open woodlands, deserts, and tropical rainforests. The following guides will help create an ideal habitat for your air plant.

WATER

Using regular sink water would not be beneficial for your air plant since that water is high in salts. Better to use rain water or bottled drinking water.

The best way to water an air plant is to submerge it in a dish of water for 12 hours (minimum 6 hours). In a typical indoor setting, an air plant watered by submerging shouldn't need watering for 10 to 14 days. When you remove plants from the water, gently shake them upside down a few times to dislodge water from the center of the plant.

There are two other methods on watering; dunking or misting. By dunking you briefly immerse the plant in water for just a few minutes, 2 to 4 times per week. By misting you spray all surfaces of the plant between 3 to 7 times per week. Standing water can be harmful to air plants so if you mist (especially if air plant is in a terrarium) try to spray enough to soak plant but not too much to let it sit.



Monitor your plant's appearance to learn when to water. Take note of how the plant looks the day after watering. Note leaf color and appearance. Leaves on a drought-stressed air plant may curl under, color may seem flatter, and leaf tips may turn brown.

LIGHT

Air plants will tolerate natural, bright indirect sunlight or artificial lighting. Bright indirect lighting would be best at an east, south or west facing window. Direct sunlight can leave the plants sunburn. If using artificial light, it should be no more than 12 inches from the plant. Usually you want 20,000 – 30,000 lux (general guideline) and if able on a timer, 12 hours per day.

Variety is important as well; breaking it down in two extremes. Green varieties, for the most part, come from low land habitats (ex. Rainforests). They can take less light and more water. White varieties, which are covered with trichomes, come from mountainous/drier habitats. These varieties can take less water and need more light.

AIR FLOW – TEMPERATURE - FERTILIZER

These plants thrive with proper air movement; the kitchen can be one of the best places for air plants since its one of the most active rooms in a house. Don't place them near an air vent to make sure of air flow. That could dry out the air plants quickly. Optimum temperatures for air plants is 50-90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fertilizing monthly from March to October with a Bromeliad water-soluble fertilizer (17-8-22). Other water-soluble fertilizers such as Miracle Grow can also be used at 1/4 strength. Fertilizing is great for blooming and reproduction.

DISPLAY AIR PLANTS

You can mount air plants on almost anything, driftwood, seashells, coral, lava rock, crystals- using a non-water-soluble glue such as E6000 Adhesive. Cover exposed adhesive area with sawdust, sand, or moss to camouflage.

Another way you can display your air plants is using glass orbs or pretty dishware. You can just sit them on a bookshelf, or have it peeking out of that antique drawer. There are many ways to display just always to remember not to let the plants sit in water or be in contact with direct sun.

