



Care Tips for Bromeliads

*These tips are considered basic care tips for most common species in this group.
Individual notes on favorite species can be found on the reverse.*

- ♦ **Light:** Although the best exposure can vary between different kinds, most bromeliads appreciate medium to bright, indirect light. They can be brought outdoors in a sheltered space (out of direct sunlight) during the warm season.
- ♦ **Soil:** Pick a well-draining mix that's light, porous and airy. Many bromeliad experts make their own mix using indoor potting mix blended with orchid bark and perlite.
- ♦ **Water:** Rainwater is ideal, or distilled water if rainwater isn't available. Some varieties can be sensitive to the minerals in tap water, so use caution if you have no other option. Ideally, keep the 'cup' of the plant filled, as well as the leaf spaces. Be sure to protect from drafts and provide additional humidity as needed via spritzing with water.
- ♦ **Drainage:** Most bromeliads need good drainage and will not tolerate sitting in water.
- ♦ **Feeding:** Monthly, with a liquid seaweed-based fertilizer such as Hasta-Gro, or allow organic matter to remain in the cup of the plant and leaf spaces for a natural food source.
- ♦ **Other tips for success:** Many bromeliads will fade away and die after flowering; however, they typically produce numerous offsets or 'baby' plants that will grow in and eventually bloom and reproduce themselves.



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Our favorite species, hybrids and varieties with individual notes and tips:



Aechmea – commonly called ‘urn plant’ or ‘silver vase plant’, is an epiphytic bromeliad that is native to southeastern Brazil. *A. fasciata* is most common, or *A. primera* is the spineless form. Beautiful, silvery foliage with a pink inflorescence and tubular, blue flowers.



Vriesea – this genus consists of more than 250 species native to Central and South America, Mexico and the West Indies. Vriesea foliage varies, with rosettes of leathery leaves that may be plain green or colorfully banded or mottled. Many species feature brightly colored, spear-shaped flower spikes.



Guzmania – the most popularly grown genus of bromeliad for their brightly colored flower bracts. While they are a common in public indoor spaces, they grow naturally from Florida to Brazil and are particularly common in Costa Rica and Columbia.



Neoregelia – a genus of bromeliads that are grown primarily for their large, colorful leaves instead of their flowers. While they do flower, the more common Neos don’t boast a towering flower stalk like many other bromeliads. Their flowers are more of a hidden treasure found in the central cup.



Cryptanthus – these are unique in that they only grow terrestrially as opposed to epiphytic bromeliads. They’re more commonly known as ‘Earth Stars’, a name they received because of the shape of their foliage. With over 1,200 different varieties, Cryptanthus have incredibly varied and beautiful foliage ranging from dark green and variegated to bright reds and pinks to silvery stripes.



Billbergia – Billbergia is a genus of bromeliads that are native to Central and South America. They are generally epiphytic in nature and feature brilliantly colored flowers and grassy foliage.



Quesnellia – This rare and unusual bromeliad has upright, tubular silver-green spotted foliage that curls at the terminal end of each leaf. In spring and summer, a purple and pink inflorescence arises from the central cup of the foliage.



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