



## Care Tips for Calatheas

*These tips are considered basic care tips for all of the plants related to Calathea, including Maranta, Stromanthe, and Ctenanthe in the 'prayer plant' family.*

- ◆ **Light:** Although the best exposure can vary between different species, generally all *Calatheas* enjoy medium, indirect light. In front of a north, or near an east facing window is great. If keeping near windows, find a protected area away from any direct sunlight.
- ◆ **Soil:** Pick a well-draining mix that will allow for proper drainage. A mix designed for African violets will work.
- ◆ **Water:** *Calatheas* are particularly sensitive to water, so rain water is best, but distilled water is okay. Tap water contains minerals which usually lead to browning leaf edges. Water more each time, but less often—allow the soil to dry slightly to the touch before watering again.
- ◆ **Drainage:** All *Calatheas* require excellent drainage and will not tolerate wet feet.
- ◆ **Feeding:** Monthly, with a liquid seaweed-based fertilizer such as Hasta-Gro.
- ◆ **Other tips for success:** Avoid placing your plant near drafty windows or heaters that will dry it out. Mist the foliage, add a humidifier, or place in a dish of moist pebbles to increase humidity. If the leaf tips are browning and getting crispy, it's likely not in a humid enough location. Repotting your plants every 2-3 years will ensure happy growth. The best time to replant is in spring.



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



**Calathea lancifolia** – Also known as ‘Rattlesnake Plant’, this long, narrow-leafed calathea is also considered the easiest in the family. It’s striking, with ornate studded leaves with ruby backsides.



**Calathea ornata** – Also known as ‘Pinstripe Plant’, it’s a somewhat darker green species that prefers more diffused light than others. Check out one its cultivars, ‘Beauty Star’, which has light green diffused through the leaf and is said to be less fussy about light.



**Calathea roseopicta** – This species has been cultivated into many color varieties ranging from dark purple to the stunning ‘Medallion’ variety. The *roseopicta*’s leaves can get quite large and round, making it a real eye catcher.



**Calathea leitzii** – the ‘Fusion White’ hybrid appears to be painted with little white brush strokes along the leaf, with lilac purple backsides. Although it is known to be a tricky house plant, with consistent watering, maintaining some level of humidity, and the right diffused bright light this plant will flourish in your home.



**Maranta leuconeura** – This makes a great hanging plant as they have a *scandent* growth pattern, meaning to spread cross the forest floor. It is said to be one of the easiest prayer plants to care for.



**Stromanthe sanguinea** – Native to Mexico and Argentina, this dark leaf beauty has purple undersides and a silver stripe down the midrib. *Stromanthe* can get taller than some other prayer plants With long slender leaves. The ‘trio star’ cultivar (pictured) with its pink and white variegation is a fun alternative.



**Ctenanthe burle marxii** – Named after the famed botanist Burle Marx, this *Ctenanthe*’s other common name is ‘Fishbone Prayer Plant’, named after the intricate, bone-like patterns on otherwise green leaves. This prayer plant grows in a circular pattern, and can be more adaptable to brighter light than most other Prayer Plants.



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