



HELLO, WE ARE THE

Anthuriums

(SPOKESPLANT: ANTHONY THURIUM, ANT FOR SHORT)
ANTHURIUM SPECIES

Get to know me

We are members of the Araceae family like our hyperactive cousins the Philodendrons, always trying to climb everywhere, idiots! Our family, Araceae, colloquially referred to as Aroids also includes common houseplant genera such as Monstera, Epipremnum, Alocasia, Caladium, Spathiphyllum and 107 other genera. We all produce a Spadix, which a finger of tiny flowers, usually accompanied by a petal-like bract called a Spathe. We are less well travelled than the rest of our family only occurring (naturally) in the neo-tropics.

There is nothing common about us though! Whilst our flowers are generally not that spectacular (some of us produce some pretty cool inflorescences though) it's pretty safe to say that our foliage is! We have huge variation in our foliage too, from velvety to bullate (bubbly) to coriaceous (leathery) and everything in between, sometimes even metallic in appearance. Some of us have absolutely massive leaves and some of us have deeply lobed leaves like the fingers on your silly primate hands. If placed in the right position with the right growing media we're generally pretty easy to care for and you can find a heap of us that will grow happily for you in a temperate climate without the aid of fancy equipment.

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What I like

POSITION



Light wise we're pretty adaptable; being tropical rainforest plants we can handle bright indirect light to moderate shade, especially those of us with coriaceous or velvety leaves. Whilst it's normal for our older leaves to go yellow because we recycle the Nitrogen for our newer leaves, if lots of leaves are yellowing or our newer foliage is we're probably getting too much light. Humidity is really important for us too! Don't place us somewhere that we will experience hot dry air or our leaf edges will quickly get crispy. That said we all need good airflow, particularly our velvety brethren.

TEMPERATURE



As we are mostly from the tropics we like warmth and humidity. Whilst we are quite adaptable most of us will need to be kept indoors over winter. If you're growing us in a temperate climate it is unrealistic to expect us to reach a size equivalent to those of us being grown in the tropics but we can still survive and be beautiful! The most common sign that we're getting too cold is yellowing leaves that soon brown and fall off in winter – move us somewhere warmer asap if you see this. The amount of cold we can handle is mostly dependent on the altitude we grow at in the wild so look us up! If for example, we only hang out in lowland monsoonal rainforest then it's fairly unlikely we'll survive a temperate winter without additional heating to get us through. If we generally hang out at higher altitudes then it's more likely we can handle a bit more cold.

WATER



Through the warmer months our media should be kept moist but not saturated. Through the colder months you should allow more time between watering as most of us are used to a dry season like you get in the tropics, also we won't be drying out as fast because it's colder, duh! Never let us sit in water we grow in trees not puddles, except for *A. schlechtendalii*, which grows on creek banks (kinda like a moving puddle) and can handle heaps of water!

FERTILIZER



A good pinch of slow release indoor plant fertilizer in spring is generally all we need. A bit of bone meal may be necessary every now and again as we crave (use lots of) calcium and magnesium – pale new leaves is a good sign that we need more of these micronutrients.

RE-POTTING



Most of us will literally start to climb out of our pot when it gets too small. We do benefit from repotting more regularly than other indoor plants and we will probably reward you with a flush of new growth if you repot us in spring. We need a mix that is extremely free draining just like orchids. A mix of 1/3 chipped coconut husk or composted orchid bark (not that one from that hardware store starting with B...) to 1/3 coarse perlite is great. As a general rule: the thicker our roots the coarser our potting media should be!

What I don't like

TOO MUCH WATER



We're generally a pretty cruisy group but we definitely don't like frost or sitting in water! Our big, beautiful leaves can be susceptible to spider mite infestation but if we're kept in the humidity to which we are accustomed they shouldn't be an issue. Mealy bug aren't generally a problem for us but if you see them spray them with Neem oil every couple of weeks until they are dead!



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