

Tropiflora's General Bromeliad Care

Bromeliads are among the easiest and most rewarding plants to cultivate. Useful as houseplants, container plants for the patio, for landscaping (in warm zones) and as collectible specimens that require minimal care, and will thrive, rewarding the grower with beautiful foliage, blooms and years of enjoyment. Here are a few simple and easy tips to get you started in the right direction. *(Note: This care sheet is general and aimed mostly at common potted-type bromeliads.)*

Environmental Requirements

- Grow your bromeliad in a **well-ventilated area**.
- Bromeliads show their best color and form if kept in **bright light**, within tolerable limits.
- Most bromeliads **do not like** to be kept in wet soil.
- Protect bromeliads from frost. **Preferred temperature range** is 70° to 95°F.

Cultural Requirements

- For most varieties a well-drained medium consisting of bark, peat, Perlite and/or a mix of other organic and inorganic media that promotes drainage and aeration, but retains some moisture will do well.
- Bromeliads are very drought-tolerant. It is always better to keep them too dry than too wet. Water thoroughly as needed when soil becomes dry. Bromeliad ‘cups’ that hold water may be kept filled or empty. Flush old water when watering, don’t just refill the cup.. Bromeliads do not like wet feet! **“When in doubt, don’t water.”**
- Feed with a water-soluble fertilizer such as 20-10-20. A **slow release fertilizer** such as Osmocote® or Nutricote® may be applied to the soil surface at label rates once or twice a year.

Problems

- Poor air circulation and over or under watering are the cause of many common bromeliad problems.
- Most insect pests such as scale and mealybugs can be avoided with good air circulation. If scale or mealybugs appear, removing them with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol can treat them.
- **Avoid exposure to pressure treated lumber or copper in any form.** Water dripping from pressure treated or ‘green’ lumber will carry enough copper to severely damage your bromeliads.

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