

Tropiflora's *Tillandsia* Care

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR NEW AIR PLANT

Congratulations on your new *Tillandsia*! Why are *Tillandsias* called 'Air Plants'? Most *Tillandsias* are epiphytes, meaning they don't need soil to grow in, or even roots for that matter. They commonly grow on the limbs of trees or on rocky cliffs where their wiry roots are used as holdfasts, taking nothing from their hosts. They have well-developed trichomes which allow them to absorb water and gather nutrients from their leaves, not their roots.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY NEW PLANT?

Tillandsias need **air, light, water** and **food** to survive. Find a well-ventilated area for your new plant. Light, the natural kind is best, and is something no plant can do without. Outside on the patio or even a bright spot near a window will work. Water once or twice weekly by wetting them thoroughly then allowing them to dry completely. Do not pot your *Tillandsia* in soil or let them sit in water for extended periods of time. As for food, we recommend a monthly feeding of a good 20-10-20 water soluble fertilizer.

Once you have unpacked your new *Tillandsias*, soak them in clean water for a maximum of 5 minutes. They have been in a box for a few days and need a drink! After soaking, shake off any excess water and allow them to dry naturally.

You can display your new *Tillandsia* on wood, cork, stone, or even a nice ceramic pot. Fishing line can be utilized to suspend your plant, as an alternative. If you want to permanently attach your plant to its new perch you can use a craft glue (like E6000 or a construction adhesive such as Liquid Nails), wire (no copper) or both. In time they will form wire-like roots that will grip any rough surface.

Do NOT use hot glue on your *Tillandsia*!

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