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### ***Chamaedorea elegans* - “Neanthe Bella” or “Parlor” Palm (also for all *Chamaedorea* & *Rhapis*)**

**Light:** Keep the palm out of direct sunlight, in an area with ambient natural light. It will grow best in bright light, but will survive in lower ambient light (such as a northern exposure). This is a faster growing plant.

**Water:** Water as the soil goes dry to the touch. They cannot tolerate sitting in very wet soils, but do like to be kept evenly moist (the soil should usually feel like a wrung-out sponge). Water typically once every 7-10 days, less in winter and/or in lower light.

**Environment:** Keep the palm away from hot or cold drafts. These can be planted in an all purpose potting mix and adding extra material like bark or perlite to the mix can provide more drainage capability and will help the plant to thrive. They like a relatively humid climate and may brown around the edges if the air is too dry. Do not place it near a radiator or AC unit.

**Toxicity:** Reported to be safe for cats and dogs.

#### **Of Note:**

- Feed with a diluted liquid fertilizer once or twice during spring, summer, and fall, but not during the dormant winter months.
- This palm can grow quickly in the growing season, so check for signs that it needs repotting, such as if you notice the plant going through its usual amount of water very quickly.
- Prone to the pest spider mites. Check regularly for signs of tiny webbing on the foliage. If a pest issue is found, treat it with insecticidal soap.

\*When planting in a pot without a drainage hole, avoid over watering by estimating 25% of the container's overall volume, with appropriate drainage materials incorporated when planting.