



SPROUTHOME.COM

## ***Strelitzia nicolai* (and other *Strelitzia* sp.) - “Bird of Paradise”**

**Light:** Birds of Paradise can thrive in bright, indirect light, but would prefer some direct sun. Western and southern exposures benefit this species. Birds of Paradise will do fine under a substantial skylight with only indirect light or in a room that is consistently very bright throughout the day.

**Water:** Birds of Paradise prefer consistently moist soil. Water once the top inch or two of soil is dry. Water thoroughly until water drains out of the bottom of the pot. They require less water in winter as they are “resting” and the plant is not using as much water.

**Environment:** Bird of Paradise prefers warm, humid conditions. Be sure not to keep it near AC units or heaters, which can damage the plant. Mist often or use a humidity tray to keep the leaves soft and supple (though splitting is natural).

**Toxicity:** This plant's leaves and stems are mildly toxic in humans and only after ingesting a large amount of it. Potentially dangerous if eaten in larger quantities

### **Of Note:**

- These plants can reach considerable heights: 10–12 feet indoors, and much more in the wild. To encourage growth, re-pot every other year or as needed with fresh soil and larger pot.
- When growing, the bottom leaves will die off and new leaves will grow from the center of the plant. Prune off bottom leaves at the base of the stalk when needed.
- Make sure to wipe dust off your plant occasionally to ensure proper sun absorption and aesthetic pleasure.

\*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.