



Pineapples Plant Care Instructions

Pineapples live in dry, well-drained, tropical habitats. Pineapples love bright, direct sunlight and will do best in a south-facing location in your home.

Pineapple plants are a type of Bromeliad, and the pineapples themselves are the fruit of the plant. Bromeliads are special because each plant only ever bears one fruit. So once the pineapple itself is past its best, keep the parent plant and watch for it producing baby plants around the base. Given the right care and conditions, each of the new baby plants will produce a new pineapple, and those plants in turn will produce new plants.

Additional pineapple plant care is minimal. Pineapple leaves uptake most of their nutrition. For the first few months after planting, just leave the plant alone—no fertilizer, that is. After that, you can use liquid fertilizer such as fish emulsion or seaweed extract. Make a diluted solution and use a watering can to apply to the soil and the leaves. Stay away from artificial or concentrated fertilizers, which can burn the plant. If you use chicken manure, sprinkle it on the soil at the base of the plant and into the bottom leaves. The colour of the leaves will be a tell tale sign of whether or not to feed the plant. If they get a reddish/purple tinge, it's time to feed the pineapple. The ideal way to feed your pineapple is to incorporate compost into the soil prior to planting and mulch heavily around the plant. Some of the mulch/compost will end up in the lower leaves as well as around the shallow root system, and as it breaks down, it will nourish the plant.

The only other thing to pay attention to is if you live in a cooler climate. If so, then you probably have the pineapple outdoors in a pot. Be sure to move the plant inside in an area with lots of sun as the weather begins to cool. Pineapples are no match for frost, so move it inside well before the weather turns.

Sunlight

Pineapples prefer full sun, so give them plenty of light—at least 6 to 8 hours a day. When choosing where to place your pineapple in your home, opt for a sunny windowsill that provides plenty of direct sunlight.

Artificial Light

If you don't have a spot in your home with enough bright sunlight, consider investing in an artificial grow light to supplement the sun's rays. High-intensity or LED lights are the best choices to help pineapple thrive. Take care during the winter to ensure the plant still gets at least 8 hours of light per day.

Temperature and Humidity



True to their tropical roots, pineapples cannot thrive in cool, dry weather—and never in frost conditions. For the best results, keep your pineapple plant in temperatures that range from 65 degrees Fahrenheit to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. When it comes to humidity, your pineapple plant will likely be fine with the conditions already in your home. If you live in an especially dry climate, you can try misting your plant occasionally, but never to the point of saturation.

Watering

Water your pineapple plant profusely throughout its life. As with most bromeliads, you should never allow your pineapple to sit in water, and always water it from the top down. Pineapples will grow more slowly if they're not receiving enough water, but they are generally more tolerant of being under-watered rather than over-watered. Top and root rot are both fungal diseases caused by watering the plant too frequently or poorly-draining soil. To address this issue, consider repotting into well-drained soil or decrease your watering schedule and allow the soil to dry out between waterings.

Fertilizer

Feed young pineapple plants with a weak liquid fertilizer monthly throughout their growing season. After the first year of the pineapple's life, you can fertilize the plant every few months.

Pruning and Maintenance

Pruning a pineapple plant is more a matter of aesthetics than one of plant health. To prune, simply cut down the longer leaves for a more uniform appearance.

Container and Size

A 5-gallon container is suitable for the growing cycle of a pineapple plant. The container can be made of terra cotta, ceramic, or even a plastic bucket, as long as the drainage is appropriate.

Potting Soil and Drainage

Plant pineapples in moist but well-drained soil. Any traditional potting mixture works just fine, but there's a chance you might be able to find a bromeliad-specific soil blend. It's helpful if the soil is slightly acidic in nature, but overall they can thrive in an environment with a neutral pH level too.

Potting and Repotting Pineapple

Pineapples typically should not need repotting. A newly-rooted pineapple will grow long, strappy leaves (about 30-inches long in a healthy plant) that are fiercely serrated (so be careful when handling them!).



As the plant matures, it will begin sending off shoots from the base. These can be carefully removed and potted individually, but the mother plant will not need repotting. After the plant fruits and you harvest the fruit, the mother plant will begin to decline, so it's best to discard it and concentrate on the offshoots.

Pineapple takes quite well to moving outdoors. Make sure it's in full sun. Remember that pineapple handles under-watering better than over-watering, so be sure to keep an eye on the skies. If the pineapple gets adequate water from nature, don't bother watering it on your own. Keep it in full sun and pay attention to the forecast for dipping temperatures.

Bring pineapple plants back inside when the temperatures begin to dip in autumn. Remember that they thrive best in temperatures of 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and temperatures that dip below 70 degrees Fahrenheit or so can lead to dormancy. Before bringing it back inside, take a few weeks to slowly introduce it to more shade to acclimate it to the indoor conditions for winter.

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