



GARDEN
APOTHECARY
Small-batch handmade

Tillandsia (Air Plants)

How the heck do I take care of this thing?!

Tillandsia plants are jungle plants, originating from Central and South America. So (duh!), they love heat and humidity! They naturally grow on the bark and branches of established trees, under a canopy - similar to orchids. They do not have much of a root system to speak of, and can be placed almost in any container. They absorb all their nutrients and moisture from the air and rain. Tillandsia's are Epiphytes -An epiphyte is a plant that grows non-parasitically upon another plant (such as a tree), and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and sometimes from debris accumulating around it instead of the structure it is fastened to. Pretty Cool, huh?

If your home or office is not in the jungle - no prob, here are some tips on keeping your plants happy and thriving:

- ◆ **Watering** completely depends on where you live and the temperature in your house. Generally, people think all they need to do to care for their Tillandsia is to mist it once in a while. This is OK - but doesn't really do a good job of a thorough watering. We recommend (from years doing plant research in the jungles of Belize, and from recommendations from our grower friends) you bring the plants in the shower with you about once a month. Toss them on the shower floor, and while you shower they get fully saturated - but best of all - they get to enjoy the warm water and humidity. I've never had any issues with them getting some soap on their leaves, so don't trip about it. The shower is great, because it will clean the leaves off from dust and other household allergens - allowing the plant to look nicer and absorb the nutrients and water better. Weekly, you can give a little spritz with warm water in a misting bottle. If your house is very warm or dry - soak them in the shower twice a month. Some people soak them in a bowl of water for 24 hours - here's why we don't recommend that. 1st - the water goes cold, and the plants can't absorb the water very well when it's cold. 2nd - sometimes you will forget that they are in there, which can make them over saturated and they will potentially rot. Just try them shower method - it's the best!
- ◆ **Placement** totally depends on the temperature of your house. If your house is on the cooler side, you can have these in more sun. If you house is warmer, they can be in more filtered sun. But remember - they are living, growing plants! They need sun - but not too much that it will burn them. Typically, if you have a window in your bathroom - they will be really happy there.
- ◆ **Flowering** will happen when they have ideal growing conditions. Once you sort out the best place to have them, you will see flowers each year. And some are fragrant! Hooray!



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