

# Across The Way

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## Air Plant Care Guide



**Air Plants**, or Tillandsia, are the largest genus of the bromeliad family. These fascinating plants are easy to care for, and fit into many places of your life that other plants can't. Air plants do not have a traditional root system, and instead absorb all their water and nutrients through their leaves. Some have root like systems that are more similar to tendrils which help them attach to larger trees making them epiphytes.

### Watering Schedule

Your plant needs to be watered regularly, at least 1 to 2 times per week. Misting is generally not sufficient even if done daily. They need to be watered to the point of runoff as though they've just gone through a rain storm, AT LEAST once a week. The easiest way to achieve this is to actually immerse the whole plant in the sink or a bowl of water. Just make sure that your plant lives on a dry surface, and does not sit in water. Even a tiny puddle of water at the base can cause rot, and kill your plant.

### Light and Sun Exposure

Adequate light is the second most important factor in growing a strong, healthy plant. Give your plant as bright a light as you can, without causing burning. We recommend no further than 10 feet from a window or skylight when indoors. Outdoors under a tree, carport, patio or shade cloth is ideal. Partial sun for an hour or so in the morning or evening should be okay, but you should avoid all day direct sun. In offices, fluorescent lighting will normally provide the proper color range for good plant growth, and this can always be supplemented with a desk lamp if necessary.

### Temperature

Optimum temperature range for Air Plants is 50 - 90 degrees F with a 10 degree drop at night. If they are kept outdoors, bring them inside when there is a chance of frost.

### Blooming and Reproduction

Air plant blooms are as diverse and beautiful as any plant in the world, and their blooms can last from a few weeks to as long as a year in some of the slower growing species. Air plants in bloom benefit from additional sunlight and water. When greater attention is given, they will reward you with more vibrant blooms. Air plants will only bloom once in their lives, but can produce offspring to bloom. Air plants reproduce by offset (pup) or seed. Many send out pups from the base of the plant or between the leaves of the mother plant. With a well cared for plant it is possible to get anywhere from 2-8 pups from a single plant. Air plants can produce pups at any point, but have a higher chance after a blooming cycle. Young plants can be separated when they are 1/3 to 1/2 of their mother's size.

### Common Mistakes

1. Underwatering: make sure you are giving them enough water.
2. Leaving them on a moist surface: let them live on a dry surface.
3. Not enough light: make sure they are in a bright room.

Contact us on our website if you have any more questions.

