

Your Complete Guide to *Bromeliad Care*

Native to tropical environments, bromeliads are prized for their thick foliage and vivid rosette. Producing both the Guzmania and Vriesea bromeliad varieties, our plants come in many textures and colors. They are easy to care for and add to any decorating style.

just add ice[®]

Bringing Your Bromeliad Home



LIGHT

Bromeliads need natural light, but can tolerate lower light. Bright light can cause leaf burn.



WATERING

Water your bromeliad at least once a week, or when the top 2 inches of its potting media is dry. Water it through the center area created by overlapping leaves, known as the leaf cup or water tank. You should also water the potting media with two ice cubes once a week to keep the soil moist.

Watering Tip

Place your finger into your bromeliad's potting media. If your finger is clean when you remove it, you need to water. If your finger is dirty, you don't need to water.



HUMIDITY

Bromeliads like more humidity than is usually present in most homes—about 60 percent. You can easily achieve this by:

- » Running a humidifier near your plant
- » Creating a humidity tray
- » Placing some plants nearby
- » Misting your plant with a spray bottle



TEMPERATURE

Because bromeliads come from tropical environments, they love warm, wet and shady climates. If you live in a region where temperatures don't dip below freezing, you can plant your bromeliad outside.

You'll want to keep your plant indoors if you live in a chillier climate. In this case, keeping a temperature of 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit is best.

Supporting Your Bromeliad

The brightly colored leaves at the top of the bromeliad often get mistaken for blooms. However, most bromeliads only actually flower once during their lifetimes.

Vriesea bromeliads will last around 3 months, and Guzmania can last 6 – 9 months in ideal conditions.

As your bromeliad grows, it will continuously add new leaves. When there is no longer room on the plant for new leaves, it can produce a “pup”, or baby plant, in special conditions – though this is quite challenging. This pup can mature into a bromeliad once the mother plant has died.

PROVIDE AN OPTIMAL ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR BROMELIAD BY:

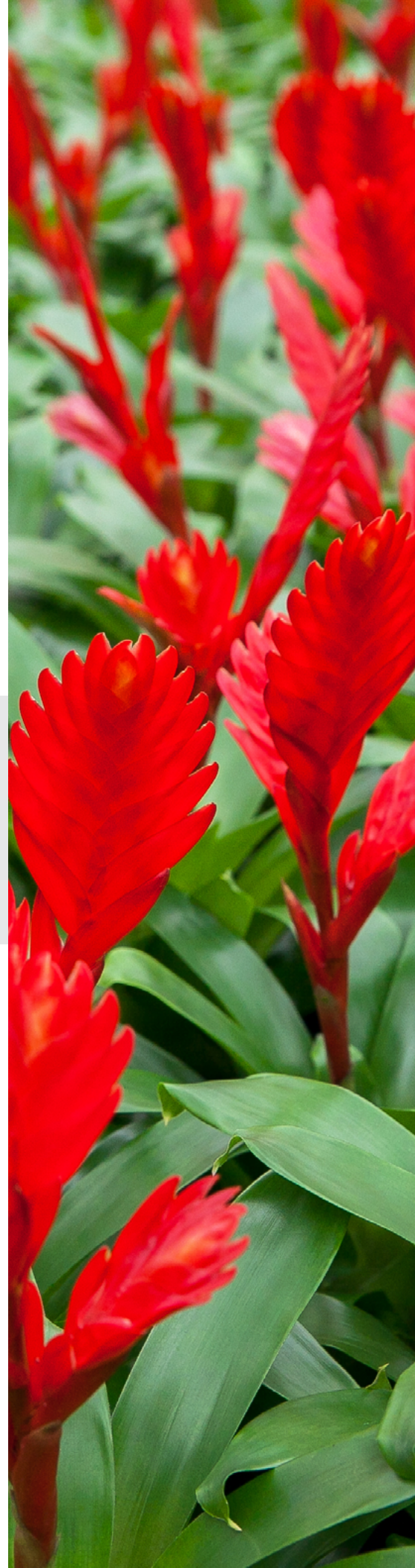
- » Giving it plenty of bright light, but avoiding direct sun exposure
- » Maintaining adequate humidity and airflow
- » Fertilizing sparingly
- » Watering when needed

Pots & Potting Media

The kind of pot and potting media you use for your bromeliad can have a direct effect on the moisture levels of the plant. If you live in a dry climate or are keeping your plant indoors, consider keeping it in a plastic container, which will help maintain moisture.

If you live in a humid environment, you might want to house your bromeliad in a clay pot, which will allow excess moisture to seep out.

Don't use soil as a potting media for your bromeliad. Instead, choose a mix that's specifically formulated for the plant. You can find these mixes at your local garden center.



Pruning



When leaves or the flower become unattractive or start to turn brown, you may want to trim them away. Leaving them on the plant does no damage, but removing them improves its appearance.

Use a sterilized cutting instrument to trim away any dead or unattractive areas at the base of the plant.

Bromeliad Facts

- » There are nearly 3,000 species of plants in the bromeliad family.
- » People used to stuff mattresses with Spanish moss, a type of bromeliad.
- » In nature, roots of some bromeliads don't grow in the ground. Instead, they wrap around rocks and trees.
- » The Guzmania bromeliad is named after Anastasio Guzman, a Spanish naturalist.