

Lucky Bamboo

(Dracaena sanderiana)

Lucky Bamboo has long been associated with the Eastern practice of Feng Shui - or the bringing of natural elements of water, fire, earth, wood and metal into balance within the environment.

Light: Bright indirect light is ideal.

Temperature: Lucky bamboo likes warmer temperatures of between 65°F and 90°F. Do not place the plants in front of air conditioning or heating vents.

Water: Keep roots covered (1"-3") and change out water every 1-2 weeks. Use distilled water or allow tap water to stand in an open container for 24-48 hours to allow chemicals (chlorine, fluoride, etc.) to dissipate.

Fertilizer: Apply an occasional (every other month) dose of diluted water-soluble fertilizer. It's best to add fertilizer when the water is clean.

Cutting Back: As the stalks grow, be sure to stabilize the plant if necessary by switching to a taller container. You can also rejuvenate your lucky bamboo by cutting it back. If you clip off the tops of the plants with sharp shears to the desired height, the plant's energy will be redirected into producing more foliage, and the stalk will start growing again. You can also trim off the side shoots to within 1" of the main stalk; new shoots will soon emerge.

Problems: Yellowing foliage/stalks typically indicate too much direct sun or too many chemicals (fluoride, chlorine, fertilizer, etc.) in the water. Brown leaves could indicate dry air or polluted water. See above WATER section. If leaves, stalks or roots are mushy and brown, the plant could be beyond saving. Remove them immediately, change the water, and replant whatever healthy pieces are left.

May good fortune smile upon you!