

Tillandsias

Tillandsias (aka Air Plants) are Bromeliad relatives and originally grow on trees, rocks, and cliffs.

They do not require soil to grow, since water and nutrients are absorbed through the leaves. Like bromeliads, the original plant will mature, bloom, then form little 'pups' around the base of the plants. These pups will mature, bloom and start the cycle again! You can remove the pups when they reach the size of the mother plant.



Uses: Tillandsias can be mounted on any solid substrate that does not absorb water, or displayed in glass containers, shells, driftwood or rocks. Avoid gluing them to a surface, using containers with natural holes, nooks and crannies instead. Roots can be trimmed if necessary.

Light and Temperature: Requires bright indirect light (fluorescent light ok), warm temperatures, humidity and good air circulation (no moss). No direct sun.

Water: Watering frequency depends on room temperature and humidity. The higher the temperature, the more humidity is required. In general, mist or rinse once a week, shaking off the excess water. Let the base dry a bit before returning to its container. Tall thin tillandsia varieties need an extra misting on their tips. Do not use distilled water.

Symptoms of under-watering are usually inward-curving leaves or leaf-tip die-back. If leaves begin the curl, soak overnight to rehydrate, then shake off excess water. When over-watered, the plant will rot and fall apart, so do not leave plants soaking while you're away on vacation!

Fertilizer: Use a water-soluble fertilizer once or twice a month at 1/4 strength. During winter months when growth slows, cut back on watering and fertilizing.