

Bromeliad Selection Guide

Bromeliads are excellent indoor plants and will adapt to many conditions. They are extremely tolerant of low moisture conditions and will even survive long periods of drought. Aechmeas, Neoregelias, and Tillandsias tend to have harder, thicker foliage and can usually withstand higher levels of light and need to be watered less frequently. Guzmanias and Vrieseas have softer, thinner foliage, require lower levels of light, and need to be watered more frequently. In most cases, bromeliads in low light conditions should require watering once per week, keeping the central cup almost dry and watering the 'soil medium'.

Care Instructions: *When flowering* – Feed with 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer once per month (only the plant, not the flower). *After the flowering cycle* – Cut the stem off inside the cup, bromeliads flower once per lifetime. The mother plant will eventually have offspring sprout from the base which, at the proper time, will bloom. The feeding in this period is stronger. Use the same 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer with every watering or use a coated slow release fertilizer like dynamite products. *Inducing flowering* – Bromeliads can be forced to flower after one year of growth. Drop a small slice of tomato, apple, or any fruit into the cup. The decomposition of this fruit will release ethylene gas and induce the flowering. If the plant is older, it will flower with the change of seasons.

Aechmea – One of the most popular genera of Bromeliads grown today. Their bright inflorescence (red, orange, pink, yellow, and blue) remain very colorful for many months after the actual flowers have withered away. Used heavily in landscapes, and some will tolerate sunny conditions.

Sun – *Big Harv*-Org/Red Bloom 4'ht, *Blanchettiana*-Org Bloom 4'ht, *Correai aroujai*-lime green foliage with black stripe 12"ht, *Yellow Brazil*-yellow bloom 4'ht, *Mariae-reginae*-hot pink petals w/cream cone 3'ht, *Bromelifolia*-sold for pink foliage 3'ht.

Partial Shade – *Malva*-dark foliage/ylw bloom 3'ht, *Blue Tango*-Blue/Pink bloom 3'ht, *Del Mar*-Blue/Pk bloom 2'ht, *Fantasia*-hot pink/ylw bloom 3'ht, *Patricia*-Orange bloom 3'ht, *Black chantinii*-zebra-striped foliage ylw/org bloom 2'ht.

Alcanterea, Androlepis – Great varieties for the landscape. Large in size, colorful foliage, and interesting blooms.

Sun - *Imperialis*-leaf is green above and eggplant on the underside 4'ht, *Odorata*-sold for silver-dusted foliage and symmetrical shape 6', *Reginae*-compact silver foliage 5'ht, *Skinerii*-large wide leaves with a rosy cast 3'ht.

Ananas – Ananas has only a few species, but could be the most well known of the bromeliads as the most famous member is the Pineapple!

Sun – *Cosmosus*-spineless ornamental pineapple 2'ht, *Albo*-pink ornamental pineapple with variegated foliage 2'ht, *Mongo*-spineless, miniature ornamental pineapple 1'ht, *Lucida*-spineless pink pineapple with dark foliage 2'ht.

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Cryptanthus – Cryptanthus flourish in humid, shady places as well as bright, dry locations. They are usually very small plants that are perfect for desktops and personal spaces.

Interior or protected outside- *Black Mystic*-black/grey foliage 6”ht, *Pink Starlight*, *Elaine*.

Dyckia – Heavily spined and growing under the same conditions as cacti and succulents. Most species have green leaves and vary in size from 6” to 5’ht. Flower petals range from orange to yellow and emerge from the edge of the center of the plant rather than the middle.

Full Sun – *Cherry Coke*-burgundy foliage, blooms orange, and is hardy from zones 9-11 2’ht.

Guzmania – Assorted guzmanias are available year-round. We always have a colorful selection in stock with flower colors ranging from red, orange, yellow, burgundy, to pink.

Neoregelias – This genus produces some of the widest color patterns and intense color schemes. There are literally thousands of hybrids available, and most remain low to the ground – around 12” tall.

Full sun – *Allure*-lime-green with a lilac center 12”ht, *Compacta*-lime-green foliage with a bright red center 11”ht, *Royal burgundy*-burgundy foliage 11”ht, *tequila*-lime-green with burgundy spotting on the leaves and tips 12”, *Perfection*-soft variegation with less white and more burgundy radiating from the center 12”.

Partial Sun – *Tricolor*-green leaves striped with white and a brilliant red center 10”, *Rafael*-similar variegation as tricolor but with a soft pink cup 11”, *Martin*, *Orange Crush*.

Portea – These large plants are excellent in the landscape and can be used in the full sun, The flowers are large enough that they can be used in arrangements.

Full Sun – *Petropolitana*-lime-green foliage with purple berries 4’, *Candy*, *Jungles*.

Tillandsia – Tillandsias are not usually grown for their flowers, but it is common to see the foliage change from green to red when ready to flower. Examples: *Xerographica*, *Osteriana* – both for full sun with a strong silver cast to the leaves.

Vriesea – Vriesea are typically 12-15”ht and have a simple inflorescence, but are very colorful with a range from red, to yellow and orange. Examples: *Draco*, *Splenreit*, *Tiffany*, *Inferno*, *Chestnut*, *Fienestralis*.