



NO SOIL REQUIRED: TILLANDSIA

Tillandsia is the largest genus in the bromeliad family. Commonly known as **air plants**, they are found from jungle to rain forest to even desert environments.

Most Tillandsia species use their root systems to attach themselves to trees or rocks, and absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. This classifies them as epiphytes. Since Tillandsia are epiphytes, the mounting medium you choose is limited only by your imagination. These hardy plants are adaptable and tolerant to a wide range of environmental conditions and require minimal care.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR CARE

If your Tillandsia is going to be indoors, care must be taken to provide enough light and correct moisture to maintain a healthy plant. Bright light or filtered sun is recommended. If these light conditions are not possible, use a fluorescent light. Indoor Tillandsias should stay healthy with a watering schedule of 2-3 times per week.

Air plants do exceptionally well in outdoor environments. A backyard tree, screened porch or pool patio will be the most likely areas to find the bright filtered light conditions that Tillandsias love. Plants grown in humid outdoor environments should be watered once weekly. In drier climates, more frequent watering may be necessary. If the plant's leaves start to curl or roll, it could be in indication of dehydration.

FERTILIZATION

Fertilize about once a month, Tillandsias have the ability to capture and hold nutrients with their foliage, and they have a tendency to be sensitive to over-fertilization. Use a good quality liquid or water-soluble fertilizer. Fertilizing is not absolutely necessary for survival, but will increase growth and vigor of your plants and their blooms.

TEMPERATURE

Very tolerant of a wide range of temperatures, most species can withstand near freezing temperatures. Although preferring temperatures at 70 degrees F, with increased water, air circulation and shade, they can do quite well in temperatures well into the 90s.

BLOOM

Tillandsia blooms are as diverse and beautiful as any in the plant world and can last from a few days to as long as a year in some of the slower growing varieties.

REPRODUCTION

Tillandsias reproduce by offset (pup) or by seed. Many send out pups from the base or between the leaves of the mother plant. Young plants can be separated from the mother when they are about 1/3 to 1/2 of the mother's size.

MOUNTING

The possibilities of mounting media are endless. Some suggestions are grapewood, driftwood, tree limbs, cork, clay pottery, rock or stones of any kind. You can even choose for no mounting at all. Here are a few suggestions when creating a display. Make sure the media you select does not hold water. If a hole is drilled, make sure it goes all the way through to allow for proper drainage. We recommend any of the following adhesives as non-toxic to plants: Liquid Nails, hot glue, E6000. Avoid covering the roots of the plant when mounting. If you do not wish to use adhesives, then wire can be used. Eventually, the plant will attach roots and anchor to the mount.

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