



INDOOR PLANTS

Bromeliads

Bromeliads are tropical plants that originate from the Americas. They are a rosette forming, clumping perennial that will thrive in warm, shaded areas. What sets them apart from most other plants is their ability to absorb water and nutrients through their leaves.

They come in a large variety of colours and shapes. The most commonly seen genera are the Aechmea, Tillandsia and Vriesea.

How to grow:

Bromeliads prefer a warm, well-lit spot near a window indoors or a sheltered, shaded spot outdoors. They appreciate a humid environment, so misting regularly in the warmer months can be beneficial.

When it comes to watering bromeliads, it is important to make sure the central rosette is always topped up with a bit of water between the leaves. Apply some water to the soil as well.

Bromeliads will need an open potting mix with good drainage. Orchid mixes made of bark are a suitable growing medium. They can stay in their original pots for a long time as they don't have a large root system.

The flowers on a bromeliad are either noticeable from brightly coloured leaf bracts that emerge from the centre rosette or as a striking flower head. Both flower types range in colour and size. The flower spike will last for a couple of months and then fade in colour. Remove spent flower spikes using secateurs.

Bromeliads produce offsets known as pups around the base of the plant. To propagate, simply remove the pups when they are of reasonable size and place them in a suitable potting medium. This is best done after flowering.