

Plant Care

Includes Aquatic, Carnivorous, Desert and Tropical



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Plants not only add beauty and a sense of well-being but supply oxygen and nutrients to water, air and soil.

PETCO carries many types and varieties of plants:

Aquatic plants improve the water quality and add color and shape to your aquarium.

Desert plants require less water and humidity and are ideal for a desert terrarium.

Carnivorous plants are fascinating as they trap insects within their leaves.

Tropical plants are best suited for tropical terrariums and provide a lush tropical feel to any room.

Pet grass: wheat grass and catnip are enjoyed by birds, cats and dogs



Aquatic Plants

Plants that can survive completely submerged under water. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and nitrates, and provide shelter and security for fish. Aquatic plants are available as potted or in a loose bunch.

Aquatics – Potted plants: Echinodorus Bleheri, Anubias Lanceolata, Cryptocoryne Willisi, Ludwigia Repens, Lilaeopsis brasiliensis just to name a few.

The Brazilian Sword (pictured) prefers a neutral pH, with a pH range of 6.5-7.0 being best. Provide at least 3 watts per gallon of full spectrum light. A member of the Araceae family, this plant requires water temperatures of 73°-83°F.

Aquatics - Loose plants include: Microsorium, Vallisneria, Hygrophila and Bolbitis

Fish safe, plant food can be added as needed to the water to enhance plant growth.

Aquatic plants require light to grow.

Plants can grow in any substrate, 2-3 inches of laterite and/or vermiculate and cover with an inch of gravel. Place plants in pots on the gravel with openings for the roots to spread out.

Tropical Plants

Tropical plants need high humidity and frequent watering. Popular tropical plants include: Bella Palm, Dracaena Sanderiana, Aglonema Species and Pothos.

Bella Palm or parlor palm can be maintained very well with lighting that you'll find in most offices or homes. Wherever you place a Neanthe 'Bella' make sure that you don't place it in afternoon sun. Morning sun or bright filtered light is best. Over and under watering are common. Wait until the soil has dried down about half the soil depth, then, thoroughly water the soil evenly, making sure the soil and roots have all had a good drink. DO NOT let the plant sit in water!

Dracaena Sanderiana the "Lucky Bamboo" will do best in filtered lighting but not direct sun. use distilled water, try to stay away from the tap water as fluoride, chlorine and salts found in tap water are toxic to this plant.

Sanderiana or "snake plant" needs good drainage and thrives best in medium light. During the winter the plant needs water only every two months; in the spring through autumn water moderately, allowing the soil to barely dry between each watering

Aglonema, Chinese evergreen, prefer medium to high light without any direct sun in the afternoon, tolerant of lower light. Water thoroughly and discard the excess water, keep evenly moist during summer. Allow the plant to dry slightly between waterings.

Pothos is a beautiful vining plant with its green or variegated heart-shaped leaves will thrive in a low light, as long as it is watered thoroughly when the top of the soil dries out.

Brazilian Sword or Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum tasson*) is harmful if ingested. Well suited for an amphibian terrarium due to broad leaves and tolerance to high humidity

Tropical plants do well in any commercial potting soil for indoor plants. If planted in a terrarium, rinse leaves and run water through soil to remove any chemical additives, also cover soil with moss to protect amphibians.

Plant food can be added as needed to enhance growth, but ensure it is pet/amphibian safe.

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Desert Plants Plants that require less water and low humidity. Desert plants include: Crassula Species, Haworthia and Sanseveria

“Haworthia Zebra Plant” is easy to grow, The perfect low maintenance plant for the busy person. Place Haworthia in a sunny window, preferably a south facing window. Water it once every three weeks. Fertilize 3 or 4 times per year and your Haworthia will be very happy.

The jade (Crassula argenea) is very popular. Its fleshy leaves and trunk-like stems give it a natural bonsai-like appearance. it will not happily tolerate a complete lack of natural light, the jade is happy in a wide range of situations from bright, indirect light to a full sun window (where its leaves will often acquire a beautiful red border). Water sparingly.

Use well draining potting soil, such as cactus mix or potting mix with perlite and sand

Carnivorous Plants Plants that capture insects and absorb nutrients from prey are called carnivorous. Types of Carnivorous plants include: Venus Fly Trap, Pitcher Plant and Cobra Plant. Carnivorous plants should be fed insects on a weekly basis. (i.e. Flightless flies or small crickets) however, they will survive on nutrients absorbed by their roots, only they will grow more slowly. All carnivorous plants are designed to capture insects, never feed people food or pet food.

Do not use plant fertilizer as it will burn their delicate root systems.

Planting mix should be porous, low-fertility type containing long fiber sphagnum moss, peat moss and/or perlite. The media should be well drained and open enough so air reaches the roots. Do not use clay pots as salts tend to build up in them.

Water with distilled water only. Minerals in tap water may harm these plants. Water every 3-5 days if in a plastic cover. Keep soil damp and humidity high. Water daily if uncovered.

Venus Fly Traps need light to thrive. Natural sunlight is best- if direct sunlight is used you must remove the plastic cover. A healthy plant will have a bit of pink in the traps. The Venus ‘traps’ only close 4-5 times before they wither, if the traps are artificially closed, the trap may not be unable to function when an insect enters the trap.

Pitcher plants like bright light without much direct sun, sunburn appears as red or dead areas. they require high humidity much the same as orchids.

Cobra Lilies need filtered light; those grown in strong light will be more compact with more color, plants grown in less light will be greener but larger.

All require a dormant period each year for strong growth and health.

Pet Grass Wheat grass provides a little bit of outdoors to indoor animals. Dogs, cats and birds will eat wheat grass and it can be beneficial. Water lightly and trim as needed to keep at approximately 1-3 inches tall. Taller grass has a tendency to mold around the base of the stalks. Feed trimmings to your pets to enjoy.

Recommended Supplies

- Distilled water
- Potting soil (sphagnum moss, peat moss, perlite)
- Plant light
- Spray bottle for misting
- Water additive /plant food