Sloat
GARDEN CENTER

Tillandsia Care

Tillandsia, or Air Plants, represent a remarkable genus within the Bromeliad family native to Latin America. These extraordinary plants thrive draped across native shrubs, clinging to rocky cliffs, or nestled in tree branches—without requiring traditional soil. They are epiphytes, meaning they live by absorbing water and nutrients through their leaves, rather than from the soil. They can grow just about anywhere; in a bowl, vase, tucked into a wreath or even a seashell. Tillandsia always looks beautiful paired with succulents.

Watering Tips

Air plants thrive in environments that mimic their natural tropical habitats. Submerge your air plant in bottled or rainwater for a few seconds weekly. After dunking, turn the plant upside down to drain excess water, then return it to its location. This method ensures proper hydration without waterlogging. Once or twice a month Tillandsia will appreciate a bath. Fill a bowl with room temperature water and immerse the whole plant; let it soak for an hour or two. Shake dry and return it to its nook.

In dry environments, increase moisture by misting the plant between full water immersions. Watch for early warning signs of water stress, particularly curling leaf edges. This indicates the plant is becoming dehydrated and needs immediate attention. The earlier you catch these signs, the easier recovery will be. For severely dried plants, perform an overnight soak. Completely submerge the plant in water for 8-12 hours, allowing thorough leaf rehydration. This method works best for indoor plants experiencing significant water loss.

Adjust watering frequency based on your specific environment. In hot, dry regions, air plants can handle more frequent watering. Outdoor plants might need occasional hosing, while indoor plants require more consistent moisture management.

Light

Grow the plants in bright, filtered light. Gray-leaved plants grown within 5-7 miles of the ocean can be grown in full sun. Most Tillandsia will tolerate temperatures that approach freezing. They will also survive high temperatures as long as they receive a sufficient supply of water to make up for the increased rate at which water will evaporate (transpire) out of the plant.