



# Guzmania

## Care Guide

### About:

Guzmania are part of the bromeliad family and are native to Central and South America. They thrive in hot and humid climates and under the right growing conditions, can grow in both indoor and outdoor locations.

### Lighting:

Guzmania do not thrive well in direct sunlight. Instead, place them in bright indirect light or lightly shaded areas. Keep indoor-growing Guzmania close to a light source (such as a window) to ensure that they flower at regular intervals (Guzmania normally flower once a year).

### Watering:

Give your Guzmania a regular, good watering, but also allow the potting mixture to dry out between waterings. Soggy soil will increase your risk of root rot. Keep center cup filled with water, changing the water every few weeks to keep it from rotting. Avoid using hard water.

### Propagation:

Mature plants will produce pups (new plant offshoots). When the pup is approximately 1/3 the size of the mother plant, it can be cut off using a sterile blade and repotted into a small pot. Keep it in bright, indirect light and water regularly. Six or so months later, the plant can be repotted into a bigger, final pot.

### Humidity & Temperature:

Guzmania enjoy hot and humid temperatures. Aim to keep your Guzmania in temperatures above 60°F, with 55°F being the absolute minimum. To help increase humidity, place your bromeliad near other houseplants, or keep it in areas of your house that are more humid.

### Fertilization:

Use a diluted (half strength or quarter strength) fertilizer biweekly or monthly. You can use the fertilizer not only over the potting medium, but over the foliage and central reservoir. Avoid using fertilizers that contain copper and boron, as they are harmful to bromeliads.

### Potting:

Use a bromeliad or orchid potting medium that allows for easy draining, but still retains moisture. Guzmania do not need large pots (4-6" should be adequate) and because they have a small root system, you may need to weight the pot so that it is not top heavy.