



Neoregelia

Care Guide

About:

Neoregelias are part of the bromeliad family and are native to Central and South America. There are over 100 species of *neoregelias* and the plants are grown for their large and colorful leaves, more than their flowers.

Lighting:

In general, most *Neoregelia* species like very bright (although indirect) light. The tougher/thicker the leaves, the more light they can handle. If grown by a window (or another location where light is coming from one side), consider rotating the pot slightly every so often so that the cup remains upright.

Watering:

Water the potting medium when it becomes dry, and keep the center cup filled with water. Flush out the central cup every week or so to keep it from rotting or collecting mosquito larva. Avoid using hard water (rainwater, when available, is your best option).

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. It will usually take anywhere from 1 to 3 years for the new plants to bloom. The mother plant will naturally die after producing the pups, and is not a cause for concern.

Humidity & Temperature:

Neoregelias prefer temperatures in the 50s to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit. They can withstand hotter temperatures, but may lose some of their color until temperatures dip down again. They can tolerate colder temps for short periods of time. Humidity levels between 65-80% are ideal.

Fertilization:

Fertilize your *neoregelia* when separated from the mother plant and during the early months of growing. For adult *neoregelias*, feed sparingly if at all, as too much fertilizer will cause the leaves to turn green and strappy rather than colorful and compact.

Potting:

Use a bromeliad or orchid potting medium that allows for easy draining, but still retains moisture. Smaller plants will do well in a 4 inch pot, and larger plants can be in a 6 inch pot. If mounting a *neoregelia*, rather than potting it, do so when the plant is a pup rather than transferring an adult plant out of its potting mix and trying to mount it.