Chinese Evergreen

Aglaonema commutatum



If you're new to houseplants, here's a good place to start. Aglaonema are some of the best indoor plants for beginners due to their easy care requirements. If you're thinking about starting a collection- look no further than the wide world of Chinese evergreens!

Characteristics:

Dimensions: 10-48" H, depending on variety

Foliage: Varieties that have more green in their leaves are better suited for lower lighting. The varieties that are more colorful will prefer more light. Some leaves are narrow and lance shaped, while others offer a wider, fuller effect.

Blooms: Occasionally, aglaonema will produce pale white flowers. These flowers are similar to the spathe and spike found on anthurium. It is common practice to remove these flowers to encourage more of those beautiful leaves!

Hardiness: 10b-11. Not hardy in our area. Temperatures below 45 degrees F can damage the foliage. It's best to move your patio specimens in for the winter, when possible.

Toxicity: Aglaonema are considered mildly toxic. They contain calcium oxalate crystals- the same biominerial considered toxic in Peace Lilies. Keep these away from pets who taste new plants.

Care Requirements:

Light: Bright, indirect light is best. Remember, brighter light is needed to maintain variegated varieties. If you're looking for a low light tolerant plant, choose one with green leaves; make especially sure to keep these out of full sun!

Water: Water when at least the top two inches of soil are dry. If in doubt, wait a few more days. Your plants will not appreciate being soggy! Water as needed through the spring and summer (growing season) and a little bit less during the winter.

Soil: Repot your aglaonema in the spring, every two to three years. Do this only when your plant has outgrown its current containers. When bringing home a new plant for your collection, check the roots initially to gauge how quickly your plant will need repotting. When it is time to repot, the best soil to choose is a light and aerated mix. Adding extra perlite or orchid mix to your favorite potting blend will help keep the soil loose.

Written by Lynsey Walmsley, Bedding House Lead

Fertilizer: These plants do not require much fertilization. Using a quality liquid fertilizer or fish emulsion once or twice during the growing season will be enough. Do not fertilize during the winter.

Pruning: Remove any dead or damaged leaves at the stalk. From time to time, it might become necessary to clean your plant thoroughly. Go through and remove any old or yellow leaves. It is generally possible to remove spent leaves by gently pulling it by the base.

Uses:

- Great house plant or warm season patio accent
- Works well in greenhouses or offices

Consider rotation your plants ever week to help maintain even growth. These plants are fairly slow growing. Small specimens make great additions to desks or shelves and can eventually be grown into floor foliage over time!

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