

Dracaena

D. fragrans, *D. 'Warneckii'* and *D. marginata*

Dracaena are a great beginner plants for inside the home. These plants offer a variety of colors, heights, and shapes. If you wanted to take one kind of plant and turn it into a collection, check into dracaenas!

Characteristics:

Dimensions: 3-5' average; potentially up to 20'

Growth Habit: Upright; available in single canes, multiple canes, and bushy form!

Foliage: Dracaena have long leaves that come to a point on the end. Fragrans generally have wider leaves; marginata leaves are narrower. Both offer colors from green to variegated whites, greens, and pinks. To keep your leaves healthy, wipe them down monthly with room temperature water to remove dust or build up.

Blooms: Although they rarely bloom as house plants, Dracaenas do produce small white blooms.

Hardiness: Native to places like Madagascar, these plants do not appreciate freezing temperatures. They are very adaptable to most indoor temperatures.

Toxicity: Dracaena are considered toxic to pets. If you pets are prone to tasting your plants, make sure they are out of reach.

Care Requirements:

Light: *D. fragrans* are more tolerant of lower light than Marginatas. Direct summer sun will scorch the leaves. When choosing a spot for your plant, the minimum amount of light required is that same amount that would allow you to read comfortably without additional light. Light that is too low can also cause browning. Consider occasionally turning your plants to encourage uniform growth.

Water: One of the most common problems with indoor Dracaenas is brown tips. These brown areas are a common sign of improper moisture. Ideally, water your dracaena thoroughly when the plant is dry. Keeping too much water will cause leaves to yellow and fall off.



Soil: Choose a loose, well-drained soil. The lighter the soil- the better! Try the Louisiana Nursery Potting soil or Happy Frog Potting Soil. It is a good idea to keep your soil on the dry side when keeping your plant indoors.

Fertilizer: Fertilize every 4-6 weeks.

Pruning: Control the height of your plant by cutting back tall stalks to desired height. It might take some time, but side shoots will produce new growth. It may also be necessary to remove any yellow or browning leaves.

Repotting: Repot your plant every two years. When you bring home a new specimen, check your plant's roots. If you see roots in the top of the soil or coming out the bottom- go ahead and repot it. The best time for repotting is in spring. It is always better to choose a pot with drainage holes.

Uses:

- Great specimen plant for indoor areas and patio areas