

Tillandsias are members of the Bromeliad family. In their native Central and South America, they live on trees and other non-soil surfaces, and have brilliant blooms. They can be mounted on decorative objects, placed on walls, or suspended from ceilings. Because they are different from most other plants, a few simple steps are important to keep your Tillandsia healthy in your home.

Protect them from frosts.

Preferred temperature range is 50 to 90 degrees F. They prefer a cooler night temperature; 10 to 15 degrees below daytime temperature is ideal. If yours is outside during the summer, bring it in before the overnight temperatures get too low. They will not survive a freeze.

Provide them bright, filtered light.

A position near a window, away from air currents would be ideal. The brighter the light, the higher the humidity required, and watering more often is needed. Natural light is preferred, but artificial lights made especially for growing plants indoors can be used.

Drench regularly to provide moisture. Additional misting may be needed in hot, dry conditions.

Tillandsias need regular drenching of the entire plant. Thoroughly wet the plant 2-3 times a week, less often in a cool humid environment, or more in very hot, dry conditions. The plant can be placed in the sink, then water run or sprayed over it until it is saturated. This only takes a few seconds. If the plant is very dehydrated, which is indicated by limp, wrinkled or curled leaf edges, fully submerge it to absorb moisture, for up to 12 hours.

Alternatively, air plants can be sprayed with a mister until thoroughly wet, which can help keep the plant hydrated in dry conditions or hot temperatures. Misting or spraying does not replace regular watering by drenching, or soaking for a dehydrated plant.

Give them adequate air circulation.

Tillandsias need good air circulation to prevent rot. After watering, always shake off excess water. Hold it upside down to shake out any water remaining at the base of the leaves. This central core of the plant is the most susceptible to rot from excessive moisture. The lighting and air circulation provided should allow the plant to dry out surface moisture within 1 - 4 hours. If it is still wet, more light and/or air circulation may be needed. If it dries in less than an hour, less air movement and/or light is needed.