

ANTHURIUM

With common names such as flamingo flower, crystal plant, pigtail flower, painter's palette, etc. some members of this interesting group of plants are grown for patterned foliage and some for their striking bloom. The leaves may be elongated heart or V-lanced shaped. They may be solid green or accentuated with veins of pink or silver. The surface may be waxy or have a velvety sheen. These distinctive flowers consist of a large, flat and waxy brilliantly colour spath, which surrounds or is a backdrop to the thin often twisted spadix. Flowers can range in colour from various shades of pink and red to creamy white and coral.

Light

Anthuriums do best in bright light, but not direct sunlight.

Temperature

Warmer temperatures are preferred. Keep them between 60-70F or 16-21C.

Humidity

High humidity is essential for healthy anthuriums. They should be misted with tepid water frequently or placed in a moist pebble tray.

Water

The potting mix should be kept moist. Water often. In the rest period (winter) when the plant does not grow as actively, allow the top 1/2" of potting mix to dry out.

Fertilizer

Fertilize with a water-soluble houseplant food when actively growing (March to October).

Repotting

Repot plants in spring. The potting mix should have a generous portion of peat moss. A good mix is 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 soil, and 1/3 sand. A soil-less mix would also do well.

Propagation

Overcrowded clumps should be divided in spring. Separate them carefully so that each "pup" has some fleshy roots and a growing point. Pot the new individuals in a peat-based mix, keep them in bright light, within a very warm temperature, and the potting mix should be kept moist.