

# ASPIDESTRA

This Plant was a Victorian favourite that is gaining some of its past popularity. As its common name denotes, the cast iron plant is strong and extremely tolerant, it can withstand much neglect. Aspidistra will grow in bright light, low light, in warmth or cool, humid or dry air and through drought. The long lance-shaped leaves are slow growing, but have a long life span. The leathery foliage is usually a dark, rich green but there is also a variegated variety that is striped in varying widths of cream. Aspidistras may not be very glamorous but they have proven to be the most reliable.

## **Light**

Provide a location with bright but not direct sunlight. Aspidistras may be kept in poorly lit locations but the growth will be very slow. The variegated variety should be kept in brighter light to maintain the colour.

## **Temperature**

These plants do well in both warm and cool temperatures. Normal room temperatures are ideal.

## **Water**

Water moderately, allow about 1/2 of the potting mixture to dry. Do not allow pots to stand in water.

## **Fertilizer**

Fertilize with a water soluble plant food such as 20-20-20 from April to October.

## **Re-potting**

Use a soil based potting mix. Aspidistras do not appreciate disturbance and only need re-potting every three or four years. Re-potting is best done in the spring. Use clay fragments in the bottom of pots to ensure a good drainage.

## **Propagation**

Propagate by dividing clumps when re-potting. Each piece of rhizome should have at least two leaves, severed rhizomes may be planted together in 4 inch pots.