

Dieffenbachia Dumb Cane

The beautiful foliage of Dieffenbachia make them extremely popular house plants, with some varieties growing over 5 feet tall indoors. Other, newer strains remain compact and bushy with continuous new leaf production.

LIGHT: The Dieffenbachia requires a filtered light location in spring, summer and fall. During the low-light, winter months, the brightest possible light with some direct sunlight is best. **WATERING:** Over-watering thoroughly with tepid water. Make sure that all excess water drains away from the pot to avoid the roots becoming soggy.

TEMPERATURE: Dieffenbachia like warm temperature and high humidity. Avoid drafty locations or areas where they will be subjected to hot, dry air from heat duct or radiator. Placing the pot on a moist pebble tray will help increase humidity.

REPOTTING: The Dieffenbachia does well when it is pot-bound and it should only be repotted each spring, in a pot approximately 1" larger in width. Use a mixture of equal parts of potting soil, perlite and peat moss, which should ensure the good drainage it requires.

FEEDING: Use a balanced water-soluble or liquid fertilizer every 2-3 weeks. A 20-20-20 ratio is good, but keep the solution quite weak so that you can feed more regularly.

As these plants get older they have a tendency to lose their lower leaves. To rejuvenate your Dieffenbachia, cut off at the base. The plant will send up new shoots from the base. Cut off the bare inter-stem (mid-section) and the top may be rooted. The inter-stem can be cut into three-inch sections and allowed to dry for two days. Then bury each section half way down, **on its side**, in a propagating mix. These sections will root and produce new plants.

* People with children should be cautious, since all parts of this plant are toxic. Chewing on any parts causes the tongue to swell up to such proportions that a person is rendered speechless, thus the name - "dumb cane".