

SANSEVIERIA

Snake Plant

This plant has such a tolerance for low light it could probably be grown in a dungeon. But anywhere you decide to put one is where it will grow; the plant is nearly invincible. Sansevieria is one of the most durable and easy to grow houseplants available.

GROWTH HABIT: Tall stiff green leaves (which may or may not have yellow cream edges) characterize the most common type of Sansevieria. These can reach up to 4 feet (1.2m) in height. The dwarf versions of this plant look similar to the top of a pineapple, and are just as hardy as their lankier counterpart.

WATERING: Do not overwater. During the active growing period (March through September) water moderately, moistening the soil thoroughly and allowing the top 1" of soil to dry out before watering again. During the low-light season (late fall & winter) allow at least 1/2 of the potting mixture to dry out between watering. Do not allow plants to stand in excess water.

LIGHT: Sansevieria will tolerate a wide range of light conditions from bright filtered light to very low light conditions. It's ideal for those low light areas.

PROPAGATION: To start a new plant, simply cut off an older leaf near the base and cut the leaf into pieces, each at least four inches long. Then put the pieces halfway into a rooting mixture of two parts sand and one part peat moss and water it as you would any other snake plant. Before long you'll have one.

REPOTTING: You can also divide Sansevieria quite easily by slicing off a few stems with the roots, from their main plants and potting up into a lightweight soil such as Promix or Mother Earth. The mother plant can be repotted at the same time and will continue to grow larger.