

## **SPATHIPHYLLUM**

### Peace Lily

Spathiphyllums have short, underground rhizomes (modified stems that serve as roots) that send up clusters of lance-shaped, dark green leaves on sheathed leafstalks. Flower heads arising from centres of leaf clusters are produced mainly in spring or summer. Each flower head consists of a large, white spath surrounding an erect 2-3 inch-long spadix, coloured white, cream or green. The spath gradually changes from white to light green and should be removed when it begins to become slightly.

**LIGHT:** It does very well in a low to medium light. Direct sunlight will burn the leaves.

**TEMPERATURE:** Normal room-temperature is suitable. Spathiphyllums are sensitive to dry air and should be kept on a tray of moist pebbles throughout the year. Misting, once a week, is also beneficial.

**WATERING:** Water moderately; enough to make the potting mixture moist throughout but, allowing the top 1/2" of the mixture to dry out between waterings.

**FERTILIZING:** Apply liquid house plant fertilizer once a month from early spring to late fall (when spathiphyllums grows most actively). Continue feedings throughout the year for plants that are actively growing in peat-based mixture. (In 65F. temperature, spathiphyllums are likely to slow down in the winter but, are still actively growing).

**REPOTTING:** use either a peat-based potting mixture or an equal-parts combination of sterilized soil, peat moss, and coarse sand or perlite. Move plants into pots one size larger every spring until the maximum pot size (12 inches). Thereafter, topdress plants annually with fresh potting mixture.

**PROPAGATION:** Division of overcrowded clusters of leaves can be done in spring. Gently separate rhizomes making sure that each piece has 2-3 leaves attached. Plant as individual pieces in either potting mixture as described above, burying each piece to the same depth as the entire rhizome was planted. Do not feed for three months. Otherwise treat them as mature spathiphyllums.

The Spathyllum is an easy-to-care-for plant and is ideal for those corners of your room which do not receive much natural light.