



Aechmea

About:

Aechmeas are delightful bromeliads because of their beautiful blooms and foliage. They do well in a well-lit room indoors or in an outdoor garden (granted the temperatures are right). Below you will find a few care tips to ensure your plants stay happy!

Lighting:

Aechmeas prefer indirect light to partial shade, or some sun. Keep out of hot, scorching sun conditions, as this can hurt the leaves. Introduce an *Aechmea* to a more sunny location gradually, so that it does not cause sun damage to over-exposed leaves. The gradual exposure will “train” it for sun.

Watering:

Water your *Aechmea* filling its central cup. You will want to flush out the cup on a weekly basis so as to make sure the water does not become stagnant or build up bacteria. The soil should remain lightly moist, but by no means be soggy (which will cause root rot).

Propagation:

Mature plants will produce pups (new plant offshoots). When the pups are approximately 1/2 the size of the mother plant, they can be cut off using a sterile blade. However, you do not have to remove them and they can just as easily be left on the mother plant (who will eventually die). Pups will need about another year after this point to mature.

Humidity & Temperature:

Keep your *Aechmea* in temperatures above 50°F (they will not withstand freezing conditions). They do well in a room temperature environment, around 65°F to 75°F (18-24°C). Humidity levels kept at a moderate level should be sufficient to keep your bromeliad happy.

Fertilization:

Fertilize your *Aechmea* on a monthly basis, spring through summer. Use a balanced, slow release fertilizer and apply it to the base of the plant. Alternately, you can use as a diluted mist on the foliage once a month. Flush out the cup regularly to prevent residual buildup.

Potting:

An adult *Aechmea* can be potted in a 4” or 6” pot (they don’t need a bigger pot because of their small root system). Bromeliads tend to be a bit top-heavy, so you may need to weigh down your pot so it doesn’t tip over, or use a support to hold up your plant until it can support itself. Use a well-draining potting mix so that it does not become soggy or moldy.