

## Caring for your Air plant.

Plants **DO** have to be watered, they live 'in' air, not 'on' air.

They are **NOT** toxic to animals.

Trim away brown, bent or damaged leaves, this will not hurt the plant.

### **Main reasons Tillandsias die -**

They did not get enough light..

They were placed in DIRECT SUN.

They were not watered thoroughly and frequently. Drain them thoroughly after watering.

### **Watering**

Tillandsias **NEED** water, although they can survive for long periods of drought, they are dormant and will eventually die if water is scarce for too long.

Air plants will rot if left wet for too long. 4 hours maximum.

Tillandsias can only get water through their leaves. Humidity is not enough.

**NEVER** use distilled water. Tillandsia like moving air not closed stuffy conditions.

### **Watering Schedule**

Your plant needs to be watered at least twice a week. Misting is generally not enough. They should to be watered (underneath as well as on top) to the point of runoff . Your plant will also like a good soaking for several hours every two weeks (although never submerge the blooming flower for more than a few seconds). In extremely dry conditions (central heating/air conditioning)your plant may need more water. It must dry out within 4 hours. Shake off any excess water . Give thin leaf varieties an extra spray on their tips as they dry out faster.

If unsure pull at an outside leaf, if it comes off easily don't water.

### **Reviving a neglected plant**

Neglected plant?, if there's any green left on the plant, immerse it in water up to a maximum of 12 hours and for another 4 hours, 2 or 3 days later, then resume a GOOD watering cycle, quite often the plant will recover, and even though you will have leaf damage your plant should still produce pups for you. Look after the pups better! Pups are baby plants.

### **Going on Holiday**

If you are going on a short vacation (under one month). Soak your plant for 4 hours 3 days before you go then soak again for 12 hours immediately before you leave. On your return your plant will show a little leaf damage and will look dehydrated, immediately soak for 12 hours and for another 4 hours 2 or 3 days later, then resume normal watering, your plant should start to revive several hours after immersion. Your plant just went dormant while you were on vacation, given good water and light it will wake up again.

### **Lighting**

Plants need to be no further than 10 feet away from a window but not in full sunlight.

### **Temperature**

Tillandsias are tolerant of a wide range of temperatures. Optimum temperature range for tillandsias is 10 and 32 degrees C.

### **Planting your Tillandsia**

**NEVER** 'plant' your plant If you want it in a pot use gravel, pebbles or any medium that drains rapidly. If your plant is placed in anything that holds water or moisture it will ROT!!!

### **Babies (or pups, to give them their proper name)**

Each plant will only flower once.

Pups are produced one to two months AFTER flowering. You may not be able to see them for several weeks or months depending on the species.

You can remove the pups when they are about half the size of the mother plant - a quick twist will detach them.

