

BROMELIADS

Bromeliads are plants in the Bromeliaceae or Pineapple Family. There are about 50 genera and more than 2000 species, all but one native to North America, Central America, South America and the West Indies. Pineapple is the most important crop in the Family from an economical standpoint, and has been cultivated for food for more than 500 years. Spanish Moss has also been cultivated to a much lesser extent as filling for upholstery cushions.

Bromeliads are morphologically diverse and have a wide climatic adaptability.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Herbaceous (non-woody)

Acaulescent.

Leaves brilliantly colored and usually arranged as a "rosette"; may also be small, narrow and without "cup"

Many possess scales on the surface of leaves, whose function is to absorb and retain moisture.

Flowers are typically brightly colored and often borne on long stalks called "peduncles" or "scapes".

Bromeliads fall into 2 major groups based on natural habitat:

Epiphytes - sometimes called "air plants"

Terrestrials - live in the rich organic soil or decaying organic litter on the ground

GENERAL CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS

Media -

Watering and Fertilizing

Light

- Natural
- Artificial

Temperature

Relative Humidity

Pests

Propagation

- Sexual -
- Asexual -

Steps in growing a pineapple plant indoors:

FORCING BROMELIADS TO FLOWER