

**Botanical name:**  
**Genus: Cryptanthus**  
**Species: spp.**

**Common Name(s):** Silver star

**Latin Family Name:**

Bromeliaceae

**English Family Name:**

Bromeliad

\*Cryptanthus is a large genus containing an incredibly wide range of plants; almost any gardener can find a bromeliad that suits their needs

For instance, the 'Black Mystic' bromeliad is known for its dark, intriguing foliage, while the Cryptanthus 'Osiris', also known as rainbow star, is bright and colorful

### **The plant**

**Origin;** country or region: Native to Brazil.

**Growth habit:** Terrestrial bromeliad, thrive in humid environments that simulate their natural rainforest habitat.

**Flower description:** Produce small but beautiful white or pink blooms.

**Blooming period/availability:** The plants bloom only once, however, before the plant produces offsets (pups) and then dies.

**Leaf/Foliage Description:** Their colors range from dark green to bright pink to red, and they can be banded, spotted, solid, or virtually any other pattern

**Usage:** A funky looking houseplant with stiff, slightly coarse leaves

### **STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:**

A number of varieties are available

Adds drama or an interesting 'texture' to poly botanical arrangements

Used for rock gardens, as bedding plants, in containers, in terrariums

They are surprisingly tolerant of short periods of drought.

### **WEAKNESS:**



### **Care & Handling**

**Longevity:** 3 years from pup to flowering plant

**Water requirements:** Cryptanthus thrive in tropical conditions, and you should make efforts to keep them moist

Make sure, however, not to rest them in standing water

A moderately damp environment is moisture enough for these plants

**Light:** Different Cryptanthus varieties need different levels of light, but most plants within this genus will generally thrive in some sort of indirect sunlight or light shade—remember, they naturally grow under the cover of trees in rainforests

Direct sunlight could potentially bleach the bromeliad's foliage, or make it appear leathery

**Nutrition requirements:** Soil based on peat moss works well for Cryptanthus bromeliads, as it has the necessary acidity

There are also potting mixes designed expressly for bromeliads

### **Special care/remarks:**

Cryptanthus are non-toxic to both cats and dogs



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