

Botanical name:
Genus: Tillandsia
Species: ssp.

Common Name(s): Airplant

Latin Family Name:
Bromeliaceae
English Family Name:
Bromeliad

The plant

Origin; *country or region:* Native habitats across the Southern US, Mexico, Central and South America

Growth habit: Epiphytes, meaning that in nature they grow on other plants, usually on tree branches

Flower description: Most species produce attractive, tubular or funnel-shaped flowers

Blooming period/availability:

Leaf/Foliage Description: Their leaves can look like a bit like alien tentacles or like the appendages of an exotic sea creature

They usually have strap-shape or slender triangle-shape leaves that grow in a rosette pattern with new growth appearing from the center. Those with silver foliage tend to be the most drought-tolerant; greener types dry out faster

Usage: Air plants look great all on their own or in groups where you can display several varieties together

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

They can be placed in terrariums or attached to anything from magnets to driftwood for creating your own interesting displays—just use a bit of hot glue or translucent fishing line to secure them

Tillandsia species also make fine companions on a branch with orchids because they like essentially the same conditions

You can also find glass or plastic globes that are made specifically for hanging them

WEAKNESS;

Turns grey after a while



These fascinating little plants have become quite popular over the last few years

Care & Handling

Longevity: 2 years +

Water requirements: Air plants get what they need from high humidity and plentiful rainfall

In your home, you'll need to water your air plants about once a week (some varieties can go two weeks without being watered)

Keep an eye on them to determine when your plants seem to need a drink

To water, place them in the sink or a small jar with enough water to submerge your plants. Let them soak for about half an hour, then give them a gentle shake or two to dislodge some water before turning them upside down on a towel to let them drain

Once they are dry, return them to their designated spot

You can also mist them every other day between baths to keep them looking fresh

Light: Keep your air plants out of direct sunlight

Remember, in the wild, many air plant species like to grow up in the sheltered, shady canopy of trees. They will do best if you can put them in a brightly lit spot out of the sun's rays

Soil/Nutrition requirements: These fun and trendy plants don't need soil, but they do still need a little attention

Special care/remarks:

Once the flower dries out, just snip it off and your air plant will keep on growing and eventually making more blooms

