

**Botanical name**  
**Genus:** *Wallisia*  
**Species:** *cyanea*

**Common Name(s):** Pink quill

**Latin Family Name:**  
Bromeliaceae

**English Family Name:** Bromeliad

Also known as *Tillandsia cyanea*.

#### **The plant**

**Origin:** *country or region:* Native to South Africa

**Growth habit:** Unlike most *Tillandsia* (airplant) species, it can be grown in a pot as well as an air plant

**Flower description:** A vibrant pink bract that looks like a quill (hence the name)

Once it reaches maturity it produces tiny blue-violet flowers on both sides

**Blooming period/availability:** Perennial

#### **Leaf/Foliage Description:**

#### **Usage :**

##### **STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:**

Having the option to grow it in a pot rather than securing the pink quill to other objects (like wood) or attaching with wires, makes it particularly appealing for some houseplant lovers

Easy-to-care, robust tropical houseplant

Neat, compact size

Grow it in a pot rather than securing the pink quill to other objects (like wood) or attaching with wires

Ideal for kitchens and bathrooms

Relatively free of any pests and disease

##### **WEAKNESS:**

Very sensitive to light and water

It usually takes a couple of years for a plant to reach maturity, and it won't bloom until then

Flowers last only a few days



**TIP:** If you want to appreciate the bracts and blooms more frequently, it's easy to propagate from offsets  
So you can grow several generations to have blooms appearing at different times

#### **Care & Handling**

**Longevity:** 1-2 years. The 'mother plant' may die off but new plantlets form that can be re-potted

**Water requirements:** Regular misting is the best option

**Light:** Pink quill plants do best when positioned in a sunny spot  
This will prolong the flowering period and keep the plant happy and healthy. However, too much direct and intense afternoon sunlight can burn the foliage, and too little will mean they won't bloom

**Soil/Nutrition requirements:** Peat (Cocopeat) based potting mix is fine, also you can try orchid mix- as long as it drains well

**Special care/remarks:** The *Tillandsia cyanea* is chlorine sensitive, so rainwater or filtered tap water is the preferred choice

