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Tropical  
Plants*

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### **Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum* sp.)**

#### **Description**

This beautiful *Spathiphyllum* is also known as the 'Peace Lily'. It is a fast growing plant which has glossy green leaves, and pure white hooded flowers. It grows to about 30 to 40 cm tall, and its white blooms are produced year round. The flowers last on the plant for many weeks, before slowly turning green – a very long lasting show.

It is an extremely easy care plant. It makes an outstanding indoor plant, as it will grow, and even flower, in extremely low light. However, as with all flowering plants, a brighter light will encourage better flowering.

If grown outdoors, ensure that it is shaded from strong or direct sun. The soil (outdoors of in a pot) should be rich, well drained, and fairly constantly moist (but not soggy, as the plant will rot). It appreciates high humidity, and warm temperatures warm (minimum temperatures should be between 16-21°C).

Propagate by divisions when the plant is too big for the pot.

#### **Cultivation**

##### **Potting**

Peace Lilies will flourish in almost any well drained soil. Most growers use a mixture containing peat moss, bark and sand.

##### **Water**

Peace Lilies can be thirsty plants. They let you know quickly when they are thirsty by a noticeably droop in the foliage. They'll bounce back quickly once watered.

Depending on the indoor environment watering should be weekly. Many people overwater the plant keeping the soil soggy. Soil should be kept moist but not soggy. The soil should dry out between waterings. Excessive drying out can cause the plant to wilt and yellowing of leaves and edges.

**Overwatering** is one reason many people do not have success with plants indoors. Although it's best to not have your Peace Lily dry out, they can be very helpful in teaching us how much time can go by between waterings.

One thing to keep in mind.... during the summer months IF your Peace Lily sits in a bright or warm area you may notice a "droop" in the foliage late in the day even if the plant is moist. The plant may not really need water.... make sure you don't over water the plant. If the heat is too much and the leaves "droop" every day you may begin to see some brown tips or edges.

Move the plant to a more protected area or cooler space if possible.

Next time you're ready to pour water on your Peace Lily, WAIT – let'em droop (just a little).

##### **Light**

Peace Lilies will survive low interior light but would prefer bright filtered light. Peace Lilies have been used by interior landscapers for many years as a ground cover where the light is very low. Peace Lilies should NOT be placed in direct sun or they will sunburn.

##### **Fertilizer**

When grown indoors Peace Lilies have most no need to be fertilized. If you must fertilize, any well balanced fertilizer will maintain growth. Pelleted fertilizers also work - read instructions carefully. Indoors plants grow slower and therefore have lower requirements for food. Over fertilizing can produce burning of tips and roots.

##### **Temperature**



Peace Lilies enjoy warm conditions between 20-30° C daytime temperature and prefer and 7 degree drop at nighttime. Cold, and drafty conditions less than about 15° will slow growth considerably. Extended periods below 5° can damage leaves, stems and roots.

##### **Humidity and Air Circulation**

Humidity above 25-30% is best but will tolerate long periods down to 10-15%.

##### **Pest and Disease**

One of the great benefits of using Peace Lilies inside is that they have few pest problems. Mealy bugs are probably the most common insect indoors. Most problems occur on the growing end when liners are first planted. Root and stem diseases are the most common problem and this is usually associated with over watering. Because of the wide leaves that most Peace Lilies have, cleaning the leaves regularly with a damp cloth to remove dust will help not only in appearance but also in removing of some pest which tend to gather under the bottom of leaves.



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