



Calathea Care and Handling Guide:

1. Light:

Calathea prefers bright, indirect light. It thrives in medium to low light conditions, making it suitable for indoor spaces away from direct sunlight.

Avoid exposing Calathea to harsh sunlight, as it can lead to leaf burn and loss of color.

2. Watering:

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Water when the top inch of the soil feels slightly dry.

Use room temperature water to avoid shocking the plant. Calathea is sensitive to fluoride and chlorine, so consider using filtered water.

3. Soil:

Plant Calathea in a well-draining potting mix that retains moisture. A mix containing peat, perlite, and pine bark is suitable.

Repot the plant every 1-2 years, especially if it becomes root-bound.

4. Temperature and Humidity:

Calathea prefers warm temperatures between 65°F to 75°F (18°C to 24°C). Avoid exposing it to temperatures below 55°F (13°C).

Maintain high humidity levels around 60% or more. Grouping plants together, using a humidity tray, or using a humidifier can help achieve this.

5. Fertilization:

Feed Calathea with a balanced liquid fertilizer every 4-6 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer).

Dilute the fertilizer to half the recommended strength to avoid over-fertilization.

6. Pruning:

Trim brown or yellow leaves regularly to encourage new growth.

Remove any spent flowers to redirect energy back into foliage development.

7. Pests and Diseases:

Keep an eye out for pests such as spider mites and aphids. Treat promptly with insecticidal soap or neem oil.

Maintain good air circulation to prevent fungal issues.

8. Propagation:

Calathea can be propagated through division during repotting. Separate the plant into smaller sections with roots attached and plant them in individual pots.

9. Decorative Pot and Placement:

Choose a decorative pot with drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.

Place Calathea in a location with consistent, filtered light. Avoid drafts and sudden temperature changes.

10. Prayer Plant Behavior:

Calathea is known as the "prayer plant" due to its daily leaf movements. The leaves fold upward at night and unfold during the day. This behavior is natural and not a sign of distress.

Calathea can be a bit more finicky than some other houseplants, but with the right care, it will reward you with stunning, patterned foliage. Pay attention to its specific needs, and you'll enjoy a beautiful and thriving Calathea in your home.