



Bamboo

Caring for lucky bamboo

Common names:

Latin Name: *Dracaena Sanderiana*

Other names: Lucky Bamboo, Ribbon *Dracaena*, Ribbon Plant, Belgian Evergreen, Chinese Water Bamboo and Friendship Bamboo

Caring for Bamboo

1. Light

Whether Lucky bamboo is grown in water or soil, the light requirements are the same. Lucky bamboo like bright, indirect light. Too much sun can damage the leaves. A windowsill is perfect. For your bamboo to grow adequately, lots of light is required. If it doesn't receive enough light, the plant will get a lanky look with weak growth and poor colour. It can even stunt the growth of your plant.

2. Water

Growing in water:

Keeping the roots always submerged in water is very important. Generally, the water level should always be at least a few inches deep. A good recommendation is to change the water once a month. That stops algae from forming in the plants water. Tap water can irritate your bamboo plant so if possible, it's nice to use distilled or rain water. A tip for watering plants using tap water is to let the tap water sit in an open container overnight. By doing so, this lets the chlorine evaporate. However, there is no way to remove fluoride from tap water which can turn the leaf tips brown.

Growing in soil:

Lucky bamboo like their soil moist but not too soggy. A tip to determine whether your plants need watering is to stick your finger in the soil about an inch deep. If the soil feels dry, give it a water. If it's still a bit moist, check back later. It is safer to under water than to over water. Another tip is to always have good drainage for every plant. Plant roots can rot easily if left sitting in water. Lucky bamboo in soil will need to be misted every couple of days or have their pot sitting in a saucer full of water n rocks. This ensures that your plant has an adequate amount of humidity.

3. Temperature

Lucky bamboo does well in room temperature. Note that placing your plants next to your heater or door/

4. Fertilizer

It's good to fertilize your plants to encourage new growth and flowers. Any tropical plant fertilizer would do well.

5. Lucky Bamboo Pests & Diseases

Leaves with brown tips – Fluoride burn or lack of humidity.

What to do: Fluoride Burn – replace water with clean distilled or rain water; Dry Air – mist leaves every day or every couple of days.

Yellow Leaves – too much light or fertilizer.

What to do: Too much light – place more distance between the lucky bamboo & the light; too much fertilizer – replace water with distilled water & don't fertilize for several months.

Stalks yellow from bottom up – too much fertilizer.

What to do: Replace with distilled water and don't fertilize. At the point that the stalks turn yellow it is often too late for the lucky bamboo to recover. It is often better to cut the green top off and start a new plant. If you have more than one stalk in a container, but only one is yellow, remove the yellow stalk and change the water.

Brown or mushy stalks – root-rot; roots have rotted from over-fertilization or over-watering (plants potted in soil).

What to do: Cut the healthy tops off and root new plants.

White sticky substance on stalks, snail-looking growth on stalks or cottony substances on stalks – insects. Scale and spider mites can be, although rarely, a problem for lucky bamboo.

What to do: Clean the container and pebbles with soapy water (a few drops of dish detergent in water works well) and rinse completely. Wipe each stalk gentle with the soapy water and rinse well. Place the clean stalks in the container and fill with distilled water or rainwater.

Algae growing in water and on container – too much fertilizer and light. Algae grows in nutrient rich water with ample light.

What to do: Clean the lucky bamboo, pebbles and container with soapy water following the same procedure as above. Place the lucky bamboo in the container and fill with water. You might need to move it a little farther from the light or switch to an opaque container.

References: www.flowershopnetwork.com/blog/flower-plant-care/plant-care/care-for-lucky-bamboo-dracaena-sanderiana/

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