Top of Form

Light

All air plants come from tropical climates where cold and freezing never occur. It's important to keep them at temperatures generally from the 60s and warmer. Avoid placing them close to air conditioner vents and cold winter windows.

Air plants do best with at least a few hours of bright, indirect sun daily. Placement within 1 to 3 feet of an east- or west-facing window, or within a foot or two of an artificial light source is ideal. If you keep them well watered, they can have hotter, more direct sun and longer exposure. Avoid dimly lit locations.

 Use room temperature tap or rainwater, but never softened water because the salt in it can damage your plants. Choose the most convenient method for you and your plants:

* **Misting** is perfect for plants inside globes or displays, and for people who like daily interaction with their plants. Mist three to seven times a week, depending on the type of plant, and try to wet all surfaces.
* **Dunking** is good for plants that are attached to wood or freestanding, as well as those with dense or very curly leaves that are hard to mist thoroughly. Dip the whole plant briefly into a pan of water or a freshwater fish tank, or put under a running faucet. Use this method two to four times per week for mesic types and once a week for xeric types.
* **Soaking** helps revive dry plants. Submerge the whole plant for 1 to 3 hours. Use this method once a week or after a period of neglect.

After watering, shake out the excess so that no standing water remains in the center. Let plants dry in a well-ventilated place so they don't remain wet. Water more frequently in air conditioning, hot weather and desert climates, and less frequently in cool, cloudy weather. Tip: When "planting" avoid tucking them into moss that stays damp, which may cause air plants to rot.

Fertilize air plants once or twice a month with a water-soluble orchid or [tillandsia fertilizer](https://www.gardeners.com/buy/air-plant-fertilizer/8591759.html%22%20%5Co%20%22Fertilizer%20for%20air%20plants), following package instructions for dilution. Use the misting or dunking method. These special fertilizers do not contain urea nitrogen, which air plants cannot use. Tip: If your plant is very dry, soak it first, then fertilize it the next day.