

Cultural Information- Alocasia

(a-loh-KAY-see-uh)

Hardy to Zone 10 and higher for outdoors.

Partial sun or shade, grows 1-4' (depending on species) in container, minimum temperature 60°.

<u>Light:</u>	Partial sun or shade. That is an east, west or north window. They don't need direct sunlight but benefit from a little.
<u>Temperature:</u>	Maintain temperatures above 60°, but 65° is better as they are warm growers.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	A little dryness to the surface of the soil is helpful. Do not keep them evenly moist. When watering, thoroughly saturate soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Fertilize sparingly they can be hurt by too much fertilizer. ¼ strength every two months is adequate. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or 7-9-5.
<u>Pruning:</u>	Repot once plant has completely filled the pot. At time, it is necessary to prune off old leaves, which helps keep the plant looking tidy.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	They are not susceptible to insects but can suffer from root rots and bacteria diseases if over watered under cool temperatures and high humidity.
<u>Comments:</u>	Alocasias are beautiful foliage plants for lower light areas. They need warm temperatures and good light, especially during the wintertime. When put under environmental stress they can lose leaves and go back into their tuber or roots, which forces them into dormancy. Good light in the winter, warm temperatures above 65° and allowing the soil to dry a little between watering will keep them growing.

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