



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Amazing Aroids

Pothos, philodendrons, anthuriums, peace lilies, and zz plants are all members of the Araceae family (aka the Arum family), also known as "aroids." No other group of plants can compare to the extravagant and exotic foliage exhibited by Araceae. Aroids have become a staple in the houseplant market as many of them can tolerate both bright and low light conditions. Learn all about these special plants and how to care for them.

AROID CHARACTERISTICS

Aroids have several distinguishing features. The easiest way to identify these plants is by observing the flower. Arum flowers have a spathe, a petal-like structure, which can attract pollinators, and a spadix, which is a spike containing the flowers or inflorescence. Leaf blades come in all sizes, shapes, and colors.

These plants are extremely diverse thanks to their ability to tolerate both low and bright light conditions as well their ability to thrive indoors (or out) with little to no soil. Many of these plants have waxy roots and leaves that block the plants from absorbing too much water, making it possible for them to propagate in water.

AROID CARE

Care varies between species, but here are a few general tips for caring for aroids:

LIGHTING

Most aroids prefer bright, indirect sunlight (near a sunny window but not right in the sun's rays), while other varieties can handle low light conditions.

WATERING

Most aroids like a moderate amount of water. Let the top one-to-two inches of soil dry out before watering again. Leaves will droop, wilt, yellow, or get crispy when thirsty and can develop dark brown, mushy spots when overwatered.

Aroids originate from tropical climates and prefer higher humidity, so misting the leaves or using humidity trays will help. Make sure to plant aroids in a pot with drainage holes.

TIP #1: Let water sit for at least 24 hours before watering plants. This will allow the chlorine and fluoride normally found in municipal water to dissipate. Misting water should also be dechlorinated prior to misting plants.

TIP #2: Time to water? Check your soil regularly. The best tool is your finger. If the soil is dry from the tip of your finger to your first knuckle, it's time to water.

FERTILIZING

Fertilize in the spring and summer when days are at their longest.

POTHOS

Pothos are tough, versatile plants and possibly one of the easiest plants to take care of. This trailing vine has pointed, heart-shaped, green leaves, sometimes variegated with white, yellow, or pale green.

continued on next page

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Pothos like bright, indirect light, but it can flourish in locations that don't get a lot of sunlight or that only have fluorescent lighting (perfect for offices and dorm rooms). Water when the top inch of soil feels dry.

Varieties: *Golden, Neon, Jade, Marble Queen, Silvery Ann (Scindapsis), Pearls & Jade, and Silver Satin*

ANTHURIUM

Anthuriums are a low maintenance, flowering plant with heart-shaped blooms that come in several colors including pink, purple, red, and white. Anthuriums do best in bright, filtered light. Water enough to keep the soil lightly moist but never wet.

Varieties: *Dutch Blooming, and Hookerii*

AGLAONEMA

Chinese Evergreens (aglaonema) are another versatile, low light houseplant option. Adored for their big, beautiful, colorful leaves, their low-maintenance requirements, and their ability to adapt to a variety of conditions, makes them a great choice for houseplant beginners. Aglaonema will tolerate a wide range of lighting scenarios from very low light to bright but not direct sunlight. A moderate drying between waterings is okay, but the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Varieties: *Golden Madonna, BJ Freeman, Emerald Bay, Silver Bay, Cutlass, Golden Floret, Narrow Spinel, White Dalmatian, and Katrina*

DIEFFENBACHIA

Dieffenbachia (also known as dumb cane), is a popular houseplant featuring large, variegated leaves that come in a variety of patterns with cream or yellow markings. This aroid prefers indirect light and high humidity. Water thoroughly, then allow the top one-inch of soil to dry completely before watering again.

Varieties: *Camouflage, Sterling, Camille, and Compacta*

PEACE LILY

Peace Lily plants have large, glossy, oval, dark green leaves and impressive white "spathes" (flowers) that last for weeks. They are an excellent choice for beginners due to their low light and water requirements. Peace lilies are more tolerant of under-watering than over-watering. Water when soil feels dry to the touch.

TIP: Your peace lily will tell you if it's getting too much light: Yellow leaves indicate too much light, while brown streaks are a sign of scorching from direct sunlight.

ZZ PLANT

This rich green, easy-care plant has a unique form and dense cluster of glossy, zig-zag leaves. It is drought tolerant, can handle dry air, and can survive in low-light conditions. Like a succulent, the thick stems and roots store water, so follow a dry/wet cycle when watering.

continued on next page

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ALOCASIA/CALOCASIA (ELEPHANT EARS)

Elephant ears belong to two groups of plants, Colocasia and Alocasia. Both types can be grown in the garden or as houseplants, though colocasias are more often planted outdoors (they're generally larger), and alocasias are more commonly used indoors as a houseplant. One way to tell them apart is by their leaves. Colocasia has leaves with the tips pointing down and most alocasia have leaves pointing up. Their extremely large leaves come in a variety of colors, from light green to purples. Elephant ears prefer bright sunlight when grown indoors, but nothing too harsh. Water to keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy.

Varieties: *Regal Shield, White Lava, and Polly*

SYNGONIUM

Syngonium are tropical, flowering plants that thrive indoors. These plants have arrow-shaped leaves that come in shades of green, pink, yellow, or white. They thrive in medium to bright light, but keep away from direct sunlight. Grow in well-draining soil, and water when the soil feels dry to the touch.

Varieties: *White Butterfly and Red Plum*

CALLA LILY

Calla Lilies have green or spotted leaves topped with goblet-shaped bract in white, pink, yellow, red, purple, and orange. Place indoors near a bright window but out of direct sun. Water whenever the surface of the soil feels dry to the touch.

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