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Dragon tree care guide

Dracaena (Dracaena marginata), more commonly known as the dragon tree, is an attractive, stiff-leaved plant with green sword-like, red-edged leaves. The plant has narrow, slender gray tails, which are complemented by shiny, forging leaves. In spring, outdoor varieties can develop tiny and fragrant white flowers, followed by circular yellow-orange berries. When grown as an indoor plant, flowers and berries rarely appear. These plants are perfect for a novice gardener because they are very easy to grow indoors. This small tree will grow to about 20 feet in warm outdoor climates, but it is usually grown as a potted houseplant and kept pruning up to 6 feet or less. Unlike many indoor trees, it tolerates a wide range of temperatures. Dragons are tough, drought-resistant plants with aggressive root systems that make excellent house plants. Sometimes they are grown as single plants; other times grouped or even braided together in the same ankle. Botanical name *Dracaena marginata* Common Names Dragon tree, dragon plant, Madagascar dragon tree Plant type Broadleaf evergreen, usually grown as houseplant Mature Size 15 to 20 feet; normally kept pruning to below 6 feet; spread 3 to 10 feet of Sun Exposure Bright indirect light, when grown indoors Soil type blend lomish and potted soil Soil pH 6 to 7 Bloom Time Spring (rare flowers indoors) Flower Color White Hardiness Zones 10 to 12 Native Areas of Madagascar and Mauritius Spruce/Krystal Slagle Egle/Corinne Bryson Due to its tolerance to a wide range of temperatures, Dracaena is very popular as a large potted plant for homes and offices. It should be planted in sandms, well drain the soil basket with peat moss and watered regularly during the growing season. The best exposure will be a place with many indirect lights; it will endure in shady places, but the leaves will lose some of their color. They are listed by NASA as an excellent plant to remove harmful chemicals from the air. Watering should be slightly limited in winter. The dragon grows best in bright light, but they can also survive in a dim light. Plants in lower light situations will grow more slowly and will produce smaller leaves with less intense color. Do not place your dragon tree in full sun, because the canopy could burn. When growing like a potted plant, use loose, well drained pots mix-sandmal soil modified with peat moss is ideal. Make sure that the container contains space for a large root system. Some varieties are imported from Hawaii and will arrive with lava rock. If this is the case, remove about 1/3 of the soil and replace it with potted soil. It's easy to overwater this plant. To ensure that you do not drown it, wait until the upper half of the soil is dry before watering. Low light, it can last up to 3 weeks. If the plant develops brown tips on the leaves, which often is a sign of a jerk or water containing too much salt or fluoride. Dracaena marginata, like other plants in the genus, is fluoride, which may cause discoloration. To avoid fluoride, water dragon with distilled or non-fluoridated water. If the plant has yellow leaves, this usually means that it needs more water. Dragons prefer temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Regular household humidity should be fine for them. If your house is particularly dry, consider light fog from the spray bottle. Dragons have a relatively low need for fertilizer. Nourish them easily in early spring or twice a year with controlled release fertilizer. Do not fertilize in winter. Repot your dragon tree in larger pots as needed. Because these trees grow so slowly, they usually require repotting only every second or even third year. Refresh the potted soil every year with fresh soil to replace any that has become compacted. Dracaena marginata roots easily from stem cuttings are rooted in water, so easily that it is often used in dish gardens and easily propagated in nurseries and retailers. It takes about three weeks for carving sprout roots, and using root hormone is not necessary. A dragon clip can make a thoughtful housewarming gift and using cuttings from your plant has a personalized touch. Although there are several varieties most commonly found in herbal stores include: Dracaena marginata Tricolor has dark red spreads, green leaves, and ivory stripe down the leaf center. D. marginata Colorama could be soluble completely pink, but it is variegated with white and green stripes. This variety requires very bright light to maintain its color. D. marginata Bicolor has red and green stripes. The D marginata is a basic shape with dark green leaves and thin red leaf edges. wichatsurin / Getty Images Spruce / Krystal Slagle Beautiful, as it is, the plant is also poisonous. Although it is not harmful to humans, the leaves are very toxic to cats and dogs. Cats in particular seem to love chewing on leaves containing toxic alkyds. The most obvious symptoms are vomiting and excessive salivation. Treatment of dracaena poisoning in a veterinarian may include induction of vomiting and then in the form of fluids to prevent dehydration. Although they are usually resistant to disease, Dracaena marginata is susceptible to scale, mealybugs, and thrips. Mealybugs are easy to identify because they leave small, sticky, cotton deposits. Dragon tree plants are also very susceptible to common plant pests, spider mites. They tend to occur when the temperature is warm and the air is very dry; however, ticks are very difficult to see until they are already damaged plant. The dragon tree, also known as the dragon plant, is the name of any number of species of Dracaena of the genus plants. These easygoing, rugged houseplants can add dramatic tropical vibes to any room. With spiky green leaves on long asses, they can resemble miniature palm trees. In the wild, dragon trees can grow up to 70 feet long and live hundreds if not thousands of years. Long, elegant specimens are usually kept pruning at six feet, although there are some dwarf species such as Dracaena compacta Janet Craig, also called pineapple dracaena. These species also grow up to six feet long in maturity, but they grow much slower than conventional varieties, only about four inches per year. There are more than 100 varieties of dragon. Common types are the Dracaena marginata or Madagascar dragon tree, which offers long, spiny green leaves with red edges, and Dracaena draco, with two-foot long, sword-shaped blue-green leaves. Dracaena fragrans or Massange's dracaena is also known as a corn plant thanks to its wide, shiny green leaves. The Lemon Lime variety features ample, pointed green leaves with thin forest green and cream stripes running down the middle. And the plant that is known as happy bamboo is not actually related to bamboo, but it has a variety of dracaena. Dorling Kindersley: Rob Streeter/Getty Images Place your dragon tree spot with lots of bright, indirect light. If you move your dragon tree from the site with less light on the site with more light, you will notice a significant difference in its growth, which will be faster and larger with brighter light. Variegated or colorful types can also lose their distinctive coloring in low light conditions. These tropical plants grow at the best temperatures that don't drop below the high 60 degree range at night. Since they will be better off with wet conditions, keep them away from air conditioning or heating vents and drafty areas. These plants are also toxic to cats and dogs, so make sure they're placed away from curious pets. Dragon trees are quite flexible when it comes to watering, but you still want to keep tabs on moisture in the soil. Stick your finger in the soil and water when the top inches of soil are dried up. Reduce the amount of watering during the winter months. Fertilize your plant every six months with house plants fertilizer. These house plants can be familiar at any time of the year. When repotting, use fresh commercial pots of soil, go up one pot size. If you notice brown soiling tips on dragon tree leaves, your space may be too dry. Create a wetter microclimate by grouping your dragon tree along with other plants that release moisture from the leaves, or move them into a damp, warm place like your bathroom window. You can also put your plant on a wetting tray: fill a plastic tray with a layer of pebbles, then add water just below the top of pebbles. Place the pot on top of the pebbles, making sure that the bottom of the pot is not touching the top of the water. The water will evaporate and increase moisture in the air around your plant's leaves. Be sure to periodically check the tray and, if necessary, add more water. Because these plants can only have about one foot of foliage on each stalk, they tend to lose their lower leaves as they grow. If your plant starts to look like a leg and palm tree, for example, you can air layer it and back into the trunk to grow two new plants. Flavio Coelho/Getty Images Dragon trees can be easily replicating in new plants. Air layering allows you to grow a brand new plant with mature foliage from the stalk's top growth, while removing the leg, empty trunk and spurring new growth at the base of the original plant. In addition, new dragon trees grow from the top and base of the mother plant, you can also cut the bare part of the trunk to grow new plants. To air layer your dragon tree, you will need a clean, sharp blade, a sheet of clear plastic (such as a baggie or plastic wrap), a toothpick, twist ties or cords, sphagnal moss, and an optional powdered root hormone. Step 1: Set the point below the stem of top leaf growth where you want the roots of the new plant to grow. Make an ascending diagonal cut about one-third of the way through the trunk at this point, taking care to make sure that the trunk will not overthrow any more. Step 2: Insert the toothpick to hold the incision open and apply the root hormone to the incision surface of the trunk. Step 3: Moisten a little sphagnant moss and wrap it around the incision. Wrap the clear plastic around the sphagnant moss and fasten it to the foot above and below the moss with a twine or twist the ties. Step 4: Periodically check the humidity and ridicule the moss as needed. When the moss is full of new roots, the new plant is ready to be removed (it can last up to several months). Step 5: Cut the trunk just below the bottom of the new root growth. Plant a new dragon tree is appropriately sized in a pot filled with moistened potted soil and keep it in a warm place with bright, indirect light. Step 6: Cut back the bare trunk up to four to six inches above the soil line. Soon, new growth will spring from the nodes at the base of the plant. Use this method after air layer your plant or pruning back overgrown the artes. The top part of the leaf branched trunk can be simply planted in the soil to create a new plant if necessary. Step 1: Cut the eight-inch sections of the dragon tree into the trunk, taking care to note what ends in the top and which at the end is the bottom of each cutting. Step 2: Place the cuttings in a glass or container with water. Keep the cuttings in a warm place with lots of bright, indirect light. Soon, white roots will begin to grow from the nodes of the cane, and the plants will begin to grow new leaves on top. Step 3: When the roots have reached at least two inches long, pot them into small containers of damp pots in the soil. Keep the young dragons in a warm place with bright, indirect light and take care of them as usual. Usually,