

## ANTHURIUMS

Anthurium is a genus of flowering tropical evergreen plants that has approximately 1,000 different species. It is the largest genus of the arum family or *Araceae*. Generally, they are referred to as Anthurium, however they have also been called tailflower, flamingo flower, and laceleaf. Anthuriums are native to the Americas where it is grown in northern Mexico, Argentina, and the Caribbean. Because the genus is so large, as of 1983 it was divided into 19 sections. Since their discovery they have been bred for years to create an array of many different colorful spathes. The flower of the anthurium is relatively small compared to the plant and contains both male and female structures. What we think of as their flower is also incorrect, as it is actually a modified leaf called a spathe. These plants often grow epiphytically, preferring to cling to host trees or other plants. Anthuriums are relatively easy to grow indoors, making them an excellent choice for the hobbyist indoor gardener.



**Latin Name:** Anthurium  
**Type:** Evergreen tropical flowering houseplant  
**Hardiness:** Zone 10-11, not frost hardy  
**Size:** 1.5' x 1'  
**Exposure:** Moderate indirect light  
**Growth Rate:** Medium  
**Growth Habit:** Epiphytic/Vining

### Where should I plant my anthurium?

Anthuriums are commonly grown as tropical houseplants. They are not frost hardy but do make an excellent specimen plant for your indoor garden. They are herbaceous epiphytes that enjoy well-draining, nutrient rich soil. They enjoy bright to moderate indirect light and temperatures between 60-80 degrees. Since they are epiphytic in nature, these plants will benefit from a mix of potting soil and a course material such as orchid bark.

### How much water will my anthurium need?

Anthuriums benefit from being watered regularly with careful attention not to over water. Water your plant only when the soil is dry to the touch. They enjoy moderate dryness between watering, but never completely dry. The size of the plant and location it is in will also dictate the proper watering schedule.

### When should I fertilize my anthurium?

Anthuriums do not need to be fertilized often to produce bountiful, colorful flowers and spathes. They only need to be fertilized with one-quarter strength fertilizer every three to four months. This can be achieved with a balanced water-soluble fertilizer.

### Are there any pests or diseases I should be aware of?

Anthuriums are not typically bothered by many pests or diseases, however there are a few. They may be susceptible to common houseplant pests such as spider mites, mealy bugs, and white flies. They could also suffer from an infection such as leaf spots or root rot due to over watering.