

ZZ PLANT

Zamioculcas, or ZZ plant is genus of flowering evergreen tropical plant in the Araceae family. It is also commonly referred to as Zanzibar gem, Zuzu plant, aroid palm or emerald palm. These plants have been mass cultivated since 1996, in part due to their popularity and ease of care. They have an unusual leaf structure, with each leaf containing 6-8 pairs of elliptic, glossy green leaves that can contain up to 91% water. ZZ plants can also store water in their large, potato like tubers that can keep them alive for up to four months without water. These plants have the ability to flower sporadically when grown indoors. Their flowers can be described as yellow or bronze spadix type blooms. When exposed to extreme drought, they may become deciduous, although this behavior is rare when grown as a houseplant.



Latin Name: Zamioculcas zamiifolia

Type: Evergreen tropical flowering houseplant

Exposure: Bright, indirect light

Growth Rate: Moderate

Hardiness: Zones 9-10, not frost hardy

Size: 2-3'

Soil: Well-draining potting mixture rich in organic matter.

Growth Habit: Moderate

Where should I plant my ZZ plant?

These plants benefit from a well-drained potting mix that includes peat moss and compost or a high-quality fertilizer blend. They benefit from a shady spot indoors, or bright indirect light. They should not be placed in direct light, even indoors. They prefer temperatures of 60-75 degrees.

How much water will my ZZ plant need?

ZZ plants should be regularly watered but prefer to dry out about half-way before being watered again. They can tolerate drought in their native environment, by storing water in these large rhizomatous tubers.

When should I fertilize my ZZ plant?

ZZ plants do not require much fertilizer to reliably grow indoors. However, they do benefit from semi-regular feeding in spring and summer if they have been repotted recently. They may be repotted once per year during the springtime.

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

ZZ plants are generally not bothered by many pest or disease issues and are very easy to care for. They may occasionally suffer from common houseplant ailments such as scale, mealy bugs, or white flies. However, these can all be treated with a houseplant systemic. All parts of this plant are said to be toxic if ingested by children, cats, and dogs.