



SEED OF THE MONTH: January 2018

Common Name: Blushing Bromeliad

Scientific Name: Neoregelia Mcwalliamsii

Family: Bromeliaceae

Genus: Neuroglia

Species: Neoregelia **Subspecies:** Bromelioideae

Height:

12" in height

24" in width

Spacing:

6 – 8 inch pots

8 inch spaces in ground

Sun Exposure:

Filtered sun

Bloom Color: The center of the bromeliad will turn red before flowering. A cluster of small violet colored flowers will burst through the small bracts.

Bloom Time: Blooms at no specific time in the year. Just know, that when the center turns red, blossoms will follow. This beautiful change in color can last for months.

Other Details: This plant is a great house plant that is nontoxic to cats or dogs. It does well in filtered sunlight. It does not need a lot of fertilizing. If you are compelled to fertilize add a liquid fertilizer directly to the center of the plant. (Follow the label for dilution instructions). Its waxy leaves minimize transpiration making this a very drought tolerant plant for your landscape. If planted near a tree and is not maintained its offspring can climb like a vine making what would have been a small maintenance job a larger, cumbersome one.

Soil Requirements: The Bromeliad is a type of air plant and uses the roots to anchor it not feed it. Therefore you don't want water puddling at its roots to rot its anchors. Be sure it's anchored in well-drained soil.

Water Requirements: Its waxy surface and wide leaves direct water directly to its reservoir at the center of the plant (where the flowers appear). Its nutrients are found here in the reservoir. In our tropical climate this reservoir has been known to house mosquito larvae. To prevent a mosquito infestation, simply place a few drops of oil in the center. The oil produces a film on the surface making it difficult for the mosquito to lay eggs.

Propagation Methods: Once the plant has flowered the bract will die and produce pups. You may remove the offspring which can be found under the mother plant's large leaves, by cutting as close to the parent plant as possible. When planting in a pot use a mix of 1 part peat, 1 part bark and 1 part perlite. Do not use plant mix that already has fertilizer in it. If you do be cautious not to fertilize for about 4 months. Remember, it gets its food from its center.

Known Uses: Frequently used as a house or office plant, and in landscapes can be found under trees and other low light areas. It is also used in landscape to minimize outdoor water use.