

Watering

Bromeliads in their natural habitat grow under such varied conditions as rainforest, cloud forest, nightly fog, or heavy morning dew. The rule of thumb for watering is water well and allow to drain, then allow to dry before watering again. Tank type Bromeliads that hold water in the cup and leaf axils need frequent flushing by pouring fresh water over the plant. Then invert it and fill it again to prevent stagnation, odor, and the buildup of mineral salts.



Potting

The potting medium may be organic, inorganic (soil-less) or a combination of the two. The main points to remember are to provide quick drainage and firm support. Plastic pots hold moisture well. Clay pots require more frequent watering. Dark plastic pots may get hot in the sun and injure roots. Clay pots accumulate mineral salts and algae. The soil line should only reach the base of the leaves. If the plant is too high, it may not be stable. If it is too deep, the plant may rot. A pot near the diameter of the plant is usually selected; a smaller pot can restrict root growth. A larger pot can retain too much moisture and cause root problems.

Mounting

Most epiphytic (roots attached to a tree) and saxicolous (roots attached to a rock) bromeliads develop hold-fast roots. The bromeliad should be firmly affixed to its support so that the tender root tips can attach to the support. The plant may be held to the medium with fishing line or glue. A variety of materials make attractive mounting surfaces: cork slabs, stone pieces, wood slabs, lava rock, and driftwood. Ocean salts can be removed by soaking the entire item in fresh water for two weeks and changing the water frequently.

Why Grow Bromeliads?

They are very easy to grow indoors, outdoors or in a greenhouse. They are exotic and colorful. Blooms can last for months. They may produce offset pups rapidly. They have few enemies.

Culture

Bromeliads have simple requirements: moderate temperatures from 35F-100F, moisture may vary from occasionally wet to dry. Light may range from full sun to deep shade depending on the species, and most do not require fertilization.

Do:

Stabilize your plant, whether potted or mounted. Maintain humidity requirements and good air circulation. Provide the required light level and have good drainage. Try to avoid extremes in temperature.

Don't:

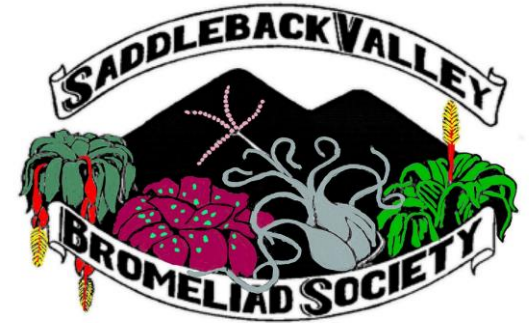
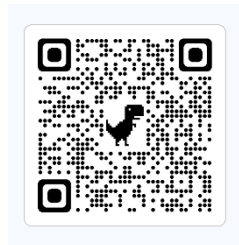
Give too much water or allow the plant to become totally dry. Give too much fertilizer for the type of bromeliad. Fertilize during the winter. Move suddenly from deep shade to full sun. Place plants near heating or cooling vents.

Bromeliads on the web:

www.bromeliadsociety.org – SVBS

www.BSI.org – Bromeliad Society International

www.FCBS.org – FL Council of Bromeliad Societies



JOIN US!

Meetings 7:00 P.M. first Thursday, each month
Norman Murray Community Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA
(see map inside)

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

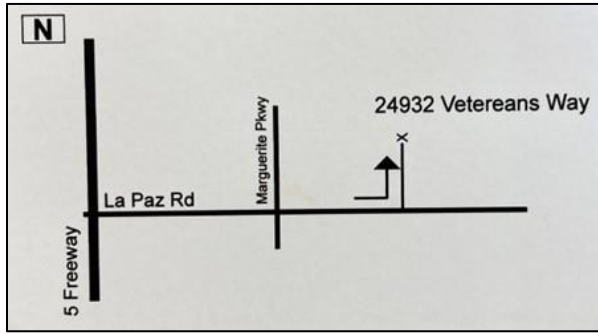
Annual dues are per household & include a monthly newsletter.

\$15 / year for emailed newsletter

\$20 / year for USPS newsletter

Mail dues and application to:

Saddleback Valley Bromeliad Society
24891 Camberwell St.
Laguna Hills, CA 92653



To learn more about bromeliads, visit our website, bromeliadsociety.org. Our regular monthly meetings feature a presentation, inexpensive supplies for purchase, a plant raffle, a silent plant auction, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet people who are knowledgeable about Bromeliads. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M., at the Norman Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo.



Aechmea & Billbergia

These are easily grown, dependable bloomers. Their interesting array of colors, forms, and foliage make these genera very popular. These tank-type Bromeliads should have periodic flushing of the central tanks. Give them moderate to bright light, protect them from wind damage. They may be either potted or mounted.



Tillandsia

There are two types: those with green or soft leaves and those with gray or hard leaves. The rule of thumb is to mount the hard-leaved types and pot the soft-leaved types. The hard-leaved types like bright light. Give them water and fertilizer by occasionally soaking or spraying. They must drain and dry quickly. The soft-leaved types want less light, and should be potted and grown like Neoregelias. These are easily grown, dependable bloomers and have an interesting array of colors, forms, and foliage.



Guzmania, Nidularium & Vriesea

Being sensitive to heat, wet roots, mineral salts, and stagnant water, this group of bromeliads is a little more difficult to grow than others. The rewards of having some of the most beautiful Bromeliads are worth the extra effort. To ensure success; pot, place in moderate light, and maintain high humidity and good air movement. Take care with their soft leaves that are subject to wind and chewing-insect damage.

Neoregelia

These tank-type Bromeliads are some of the most spectacular foliage plants in cultivation. For the best color, place the plants in bright light to full sun, water less frequently, and fertilize very lightly or not at all to allow the foliage to vividly color up. Under-pot the plants in a loose mix with a little organic matter.



Cryptanthus

These truly terrestrial plants, also known as "earth stars," naturally grow on the rainforest floor in the rich humus. Bright but diffused light and a lot of water and regular feeding with Bromeliad fertilizer will bring out all their color and enhance their interesting shape. Over-pot since the root system is spreading and shallow. They are not usually suitable for mounting.

Dyckia & Hechtia

Contrary to their appearance (often being mistaken for some kind of cactus or succulent), these thorny terrestrials love big pots, water, and fertilizer. Over-pot in clay pots for best results. Give them bright light.

