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Dracaena marginata care guide for beginners pdf online

Temperature Dracaena Marginatas like temperatures between 65 and 80 degrees F (18 to 27 degrees C) making it an ideal houseplant. It (like most people) does not like to be in a cold, drafty environment, and also doesn't like temperature variations. Position it away from air vents or drafty, cold winter windows. Yellow colored bands across the leaves of your Dracaena Marginata may be a sign that your plant needs to be relocated to a warmer spot. The slow-growing plant can be planted year-round and boasts tiny white flowers in the spring (though it rarely flowers indoors). Dragon tree plants are also at risk of acquiring the common plant pest, spider mites. Try to find a spot with bright, yet filtered light, and you will be rewarded with a more vibrantly colored, faster growing plant. Watering Dracaena Marginata One of the biggest mistakes that people tend to make with their Dracaena Marginata is overwatering them. The amount of water that your Dracaena Marginata will require depends on the amount of light that it receives. Only water your tree when the top 1-2" of soil is dry, and then water until the excess water flows freely out of the bottom drainage hole. You may only need to water your plant once a week, depending on how quickly your soil dries, making this the ultimate in low maintenance houseplants! Allow the surface of the soil in your pot to dry to the 1-2" depth between waterings. You will find that your tree is somewhat drought tolerant, so there is no need to fret if you forget to water it for a while. You can propagate your dragon tree using stem cuttings rooted in water. It can take a decade for the plant to reach just a few feet tall. It takes just about three weeks for the cuttings to sprout roots, and using a rooting hormone isn't necessary. tall, 3-10 ft. Yellow leaves are telling you that your plant is thirsty and needs more water. Dracaena Marginata are sensitive to chemical additives such as fluoride and chlorine sometimes added to tap water from city or commercial water systems. If you notice that your plant leaves are discolored you may want to switch to watering your plant with spring or distilled water. Any water that you use to water your tree should be at room temperature - remember this plant comes from the semi arid desert, and likes a warm environment. Because these trees grow so slowly, they generally require repotting only every second—or even third—year. In the meantime, you can refresh the potting soil annually to replace any of the mixture that has become compacted. Potential Disease Dracaena Marginata can be susceptible to leaf spot disease, which is characterized by light brown or reddish colored spots surrounded by a yellow halo. To avoid this, reduce the amount of moisture that comes into contact with the leaves, and water the plant at the soil level. Remove any infected leaves from the plant. You may consider moving the plant to a location with more, but not direct, light. Marginata does not have a red resin, but draco does have a red resin (called "dragon's blood") that you will see ooze out if you cut into the leaves. Treat the cutting with a house plant propagation promoter to provide nutrients and protect the cutting from diseases. Place the cutting in moist soil in a warm spot in indirect sunlight to root. Be patient - since Dracaena Marginata is slow growing, it may take several months for roots to develop. Two or more branches may form after propagating a stem. Dracaena Marginata can also be started from seeds. These seeds must be soaked in warm water for four to five days in room temperature water. Sow the seeds in a loamy soil with a pH in the 6-7 range, covering the pots with a plastic cover to retain moisture. Maintain the temperature between 70-80 degrees F. It may take 30-40 days for the seeds to sprout. Once they do, move them to a location with bright, indirect light. This elegant, wispy tree has long slender canes and spiky, deep green leathery leaves with beautiful bands of color on the leaf margins. It's an easy-care houseplant that's very tolerant. To avoid fluoride, water your dragon tree with distilled or non-fluoridated water. Propagating Dracaena Marginata is easy to propagate from cuttings. To do so, cut an 8" cane section from the plant, making sure to include nodes. Dragon trees prefer warmer temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Regular household humidity should be fine for them, but if your house is particularly dry, you can consider misting the pant lightly from a spray bottle every few days. In fact, it's so easily done that the varietal is often used in dish gardens and readily propagated by nurseries and retailers. Keep the dragon tree away from pets because it's toxic to animals if ingested. Some varieties are imported from Hawaii and will arrive with lava rock—if this is the case, remove about one-third of the rock and replace it with potting soil. The Spruce / Krystal Slagle The Spruce / Krystal Slagle wichatsurin / Getty Images The Spruce / Corinne Bryson Dragon trees grow best in bright light but can also survive in partial shade. They tend to occur when temperatures are warm and the air is very dry; however, mites are very difficult to see until they have already damaged the plant. Plants in lower light conditions tend to grow more slowly and produce leaves that are less intensely colored. Dracaena Marginata, also known as the Madagascar Dragon Tree, Dragon Tree, or Dragon Plant, is a plant that is easy to grow and popular worldwide as a houseplant in home and office settings. The main difference between Dracaena marginata and Dracaena draco is inside the leaves. If the plant develops brown tips on its leaves, that's usually a sign that it's either receiving too much water or that the water you're using has too much salt or fluoride, which can cause discoloration. Mealybugs are easy to identify as they leave small, sticky, cottony deposits on the leaves of the tree. It will need very bright light to keep its unique colors.D. marginata 'Bicolor': True to its name, this dragon tree varietal has red and green stripes. Flowers In its warm, semi-desert. If the plant has yellow leaves, it usually means it needs more water. To ensure you don't drown it, wait until the top half of the soil is dry before watering (this can often take three weeks or more). Although they are fairly disease-resistant, dragon trees are susceptible to scale, mealybugs, and thrips. Just pick them up and discard them. Native to Madagascar, the eye-catching spiky tree is known as a great entry plant for household gardeners—it's easy to care for, drought-tolerant, and nearly indestructible. Different varieties of the dragon tree have varying leaf shapes, but that's not the case with these two dragon trees because they look virtually identical. To keep the plant trim and neat, remove leaves that look like they are about to fall or cut back stems with sterile, sharp pruning shears to tidy up the tree. Make sure the container you choose has room for the plant's extensive root system. They are members of the Family Asparagaceae, and are related to plants like hostas, hyacinths, yuccas and spider plants. While they may look like a palm tree, they are actually in a group of houseplants considered "false palms". The four main cultivars of Dracaena Marginata include: Bicolor - deep green leaves with rich red marginsTricolor - rich green leaves edged with margins of cream and rubyTarzan - has thicker leaves and a sturdier looking trunk than other cultivarsColorama - has leaves that are strikingly deep and hot pink Some plant nurseries offer Dracaena Marginata with stems that have been woven or braided together, which gives the tree an even more striking appearance and adds visual appeal. Growing your Dracaena Marginata Toxicity Before bringing this plant into your home, you must be aware that Dracaena Marginata is extremely poisonous to dogs and cats, so if there is any chance that your curious pets will chew on your plants, this is not the houseplant for you. Dracaena Marginata has not been found to be toxic to birds or humans. Dracaena Marginata can benefit from an occasional light misting of warm water on the leaves. This is especially important when the air is dry, which often occurs indoors in the winter months. Although there are several varieties of dragon tree, the most commonly found at plant stores (and used as household plants) include: Dracaena marginata 'Tricolor': This varietal has dark red margins, green leaves, and an ivory stripe down the leaf center.D. marginata 'Colorama': This dragon tree may appear to be completely pink, but it's actually variegated with white and green stripes. Remove any leaves and remember which end goes down into the soil.Put the cutting in potting soil that's moist.Place the cutting in bright, but indirect sunlight.Leaves will sprout on the upper nodes of your cutting and top of the cutting as a rosette. These striking plants with evergreen foliage and multiple stems add immediate height and visual interest when added to the indoor landscape. Dragon trees are very slow-growers. Dracaena marginata, more commonly known as a dragon tree, is an attractive plant with green sword-like, red-edged leaves. Repot your dragon tree into larger pots as necessary. FAQ Are dragon trees easy to care for? It's perfectly normal for a dragon tree to self-shed dead leaves. Common Names Dragon tree, dragon plant, Madagascar dragon tree Botanical Name Dracaena marginata Family Asparagaceae Plant Type Broadleaf evergreen Mature Size 15-20 ft. Additionally, take care not to place your dragon tree in a spot that receives direct rays of sunlight—its foliage can burn easily. When growing dragon tree as a potted plant, use a loose, well-drained potting mix—loamy soil amended with peat moss is ideal. Light Requirements Your Dracaena Marginata will thrive in moderate to bright, indirect light. You will want to keep it out of direct sunlight to avoid leaf burns, which appear as scorched areas on the plant leaves. Though they can thrive in a variety of light conditions, they do best with indirect bright light. Dracaena Marginata General Care Pointers You can dust or wipe the leaves occasionally with a damp cloth to keep them shiny. Gently pull off any leaves that have become brown or that have died off. Pruning Because Dracaena Marginata is slow growing, you won't have to prune it often, but when you do, use clean, sharp pruning shears or scissors to prune it to the desired size and shape. wide Sun Exposure Full sun, partial shade Soil Type Loamy, well-drained Soil pH Neutral to acidic Bloom Time Spring (rarely flowers indoors) Flower Color White Hardiness Zones 10-12 (USDA) Native Areas Madagascar Toxicity Toxic to dogs, toxic to cats Thanks to its tolerance for a wide range of temperatures, dragon trees are very popular as large potted plants for homes and offices. Wiping down the blades of your pruning shears or scissors with rubbing alcohol or an all purpose disinfectant prior to pruning can prevent the spread of disease. You can prune off any brown leaf tips by cutting at an angle to match the natural sword shape of the leaves. An occasional pruning can encourage new leaf growth. You may wish to prune your tree to increase the density of the plant. Try to prune your Dracaena Marginata in early spring before it enters the active growing phase of spring and summer. You will know if you are overwatering your tree if the stems become soft and begin to rot. Another indication of overwatering is if you notice brown edges on a green leaf. You do not want the soil in your pot to ever remain soggy for long periods of time. However, to boost their growth, you can feed them lightly at the beginning of spring with a balanced controlled-release liquid fertilizer. Keep in mind, plants kept in lower light situations will grow slower and produce smaller leaves with less intense color. Fertilizing Your Dragon Tree Dracaena Marginata has low fertilizer requirements, and will only need to be fertilized once every 4-6 months with a controlled release water soluble commercial houseplant fertilizer. Select a low dose liquid fertilizer recommended for indoor plants. Look at the label and find a fertilizer with a nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) ratio of 3:1:2. Fertilize your plant early in the spring before it enters the active growing phase, and again in the fall before growth slows during the winter months. You can search online and purchase fertilizers that have been formulated specifically for Dracaena Marginata plants if you are unable to find a local resource for this fertilizer. Selecting a Pot The Dracaena Marginata plant has a long, graceful trunk and bears its leaves in a cluster at the top. Select a pot with this in mind, since the plant may be slightly top heavy. Keep the scale of the plant in mind and select a pot that is sufficiently heavy to compensate for the potentially top heavy nature of the plant. Make sure that your pot has a drainage hole in the bottom and that you place small stones or pebbles in the bottom of the pot below the soil to help with drainage. Select a pot that is several inches larger than the root ball of the plant so that the roots have room to grow. While Dracaena marginata is a slow grower, it can become root bound, and will need to be transplanted into a larger pot every 2-3 years. Soil for Dracaena Marginata The soil in your pot should be well drained and be slightly acidic, with a pH of 6-7. Adding peat moss to a quality potting mix will help to lower the pH, and loosen the soil. You should plan on refreshing or replacing the soil in your pot once a year, or if you notice that the soil is getting hardened, compacted, or is pulling away from the edges of the pot. When you replace the soil in your pot, gently break the existing root ball to encourage new root growth. If your soil is too alkaline (pH greater than 7), you may notice brown or tan coloring on the white areas of the leaves, or your plant may develop yellowing at the leaf tips. native environment, Dracaena Marginata produces small, lilac scented, white flowers in summer that develop into little orangish-yellow berries. Because our indoor environments are much drier than their native growing environments, Dracaena Marginata rarely produces blooms as a houseplant. If you are fortunate enough to have an indoor plant that produces blooms, simply deadhead the spent blooms after you have enjoyed the flowers and before the berries develop. If you want to attempt to start Dracaena Marginata plants from seeds, save the berries, and follow the instructions for seed propagation. This small tree will grow to about 20 feet in warm outdoor climates, but it is generally grown as a potted houseplant and kept pruned to 6 feet or less. Dracaena Marginata Fun Facts According to the Houseplant Resource Center, plants from the Genus Dracaena were used in NASA's 1989 clean air study, and were shown to remove formaldehyde from indoor air. In this study, common indoor plants were studied to test their ability to remove organic chemicals such as benzene, trichloroethylene and formaldehyde from the air. The results showed that plants can play a major role in removal of these chemicals from indoor air. Having a Dracaena Marginata plant in your indoor environment is a win-win: it beautifies your living and working space while potentially removing harmful chemicals!Dracaena Marginata grows slowly as a houseplant, attaining a height of 5-6' in about 10 years. If you like the appearance of a Dracaena Marginata with a woven trunk, you can find instructions on how to attempt this yourself here. They should be planted in well-draining soil and watered regularly during their growing season. What's the difference between dragon tree (Dracaena marginata) and dragon tree (Dracaena draco)? With proper planning and a minimal amount of care and fuss, your Dracaena Marginata plant will bring beauty and elegance to your home or office environment for many years. It will become the focal point of your indoor landscape. Dragon tree cuttings can make a thoughtful housewarming gift and using cuttings from your own plant is a personalized touch. It's best to do this in the spring when the plant is growing vigorously. Sterilize your pruning tool with a clean rag doused in a common household item, such as rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide, then rinse with water, and wipe the tool dry before using it on your plant. Like with many drought-tolerant plants, it's easy to over-water the dragon tree. How fast does a dragon tree grow? Dragon trees have a relatively low need for fertilizer and it is not an essential component to having a thriving plant. Potential Pests Before bringing home your Dracaena Marginata from the nursery, check the underside of the leaves and the stems for pests. Avoid bringing home any specimens that have pests, as these can easily spread and infest your other houseplants. Occasionally, when watering your Dracaena Marginata, check the underside of the leaves for spider mites, scale or mealybugs. If you see any, remove them or spray them off of the leaves with a hose or kitchen faucet. You can then treat the tree with a horticultural oil spray. Do not fertilize in the winter. In their native, humid, semi-arid, desert environments of Madagascar, Mauritius, and Indian Ocean Islands, Dracaena Marginata can grow to 20 feet high and 10 feet wide, but as houseplants they are much more slow growing, and can easily be kept pruned to 6 feet in height and 3 feet or less in width. Outdoors this tree will do well in US/UK Hardiness zones 10a, 10b, 11a, 12a and 12b. These plants are considered relatively easy to grow, but careful selection of a healthy plant, correct potting, light and watering should be taken into account before you purchase this plant. Dracaena Marginata are one of approximately 120 species in the Genus Dracaena. Using a sterile, sharp scissor, cut a long length of stem that's about 8 inches.