

Cryptanthus bromeliads, more commonly known as earth stars due to rosette-shaped arrangement of the leaves and their low growth habit, are beautiful and incredibly varied plants native to Brazil. There are over 1,200 types of bromeliads within the *Cryptanthus* genus, with a great variety of foliage. Their colors range from dark green to bright pink to red, and they can be banded, spotted, solid, or virtually any other pattern.

Like most bromeliads, *Cryptanthus* species are mostly grown for their interesting leaves, but they also produce small but beautiful white or pink blooms. The plants bloom only once, however, before the plant produces offsets (pups) and then dies. The life cycle of these plants is about three years from pup to flowering plant.



2010 30TH AVENUE
KEARNEY, NE 68845
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Cryptanthus sp.

CRYPTANTHUS 'EARTH STAR'



Light

Bright indirect light year round

Bright indirect

Watering

Cryptanthus thrive in tropical conditions, and you should make efforts to keep them moist. Make sure, however, not to rest them in standing water. A moderately damp environment is moisture enough for these plants. But bromeliads are surprisingly tolerant of short periods of drought

Feeding

Dilute an all purpose liquid plant food to one-half strength and use it to spray the leaves monthly from spring to fall. We recommend Espoma Organic Indoor Houseplant Food.

Planting & Care

Grow with Black Gold® All Purpose soil

Flower

Though the plant blooms only once in its lifetime, its propensity to produce offsets means it is possible to keep flowers blooming year-round. Despite the reputation of bromeliads for being difficult to grow, *Cryptanthus* plants are a very feasible option for any gardener who wishes to enjoy their lovely and diverse foliage. *Cryptanthus* bromeliads bloom only once before dying, but the offset "pups" can be repotted to create an ongoing supply of plants.

Size

Up to 2 feet

Temperature

70-80°F

Humidity

Moderate to High

Care

Easy

Never use any type of oil/leaf shine to clean the leaves or control pests, since oil can interfere with the work of the leaf scales.