



Lotus Bamboo

Dracaena compacta

Lotus bamboo is also known as rose bamboo or flower bamboo. It is so named because its leaf bracts resemble lotus flowers. This beautiful plant will grace your home for many years.

Unpacking Lotus Bamboo

From the top, gently pull off the packing sleeve or sock protecting the lotus bamboo “flower”. Also remove the wet packing material around the roots. If your plant arrived during very warm weather or if you want to take an extra precaution for its health, submerge the entire plant in a bath of lukewarm water and let it soak for 2–3 hours. This rehydration process minimizes shock to plants from shipping conditions. Afterwards, place the stems in a vase with 2 inches of clean water and a few drops of Green Green lucky bamboo fertilizer.

Light, Temperature, and Water Requirements

Lotus bamboo prefers the same care as lucky bamboo. Moderate or indirect light is preferred without direct sunlight. Temperatures should be between 65–95° F. Fresh clean water is essential to maintain the plants and the roots should always be wet or moist. Maintain a water level of 1.5”–2”; more than that and the lotus bamboo will grow roots higher up the stem. Replace the vase water with fresh water every 7–10 days. Tap water is sufficient if chlorine levels are low. It is best if you leave a pitcher of tap water sitting out overnight to let the chlorine evaporate before watering your lotus bamboo the next day. Unfortunately, fluoride does not evaporate and it is toxic to lotus bamboo. If fluoride levels are high in your tap water, it is recommended that you use a non-fluoridated water source. Fertilizing every 3–4 weeks with Green Green will promote vigorous growth. Fertilizing is more critical for lotus bamboo than lucky bamboo.

Ambient Air Conditions and Maintenance

Good air movement and occasional pruning are essential for maintaining the lovely appearance of lotus bamboo. The top foliage should have enough air space to allow evaporation of any accumulated moisture. The stems may grow 5–7” a year and proper shaping and pruning adds beauty and strength to lotus bamboo stems. Remove any yellowing or browning foliage promptly. Brown tips caused by dry air may be trimmed with *sharp* scissors; dull scissors cause bruising and discoloration.

Other Care Considerations

Lotus bamboo will grow for years with proper care. Watch for mold that may develop on damp surfaces such as its container, nearby plants, etc. Remove mold with cotton swabs dipped in rubbing alcohol before it spreads to the lotus bamboo. Also watch for common houseplant pests such as spider mites and mealy bugs. If necessary, treat with weekly applications of mild insecticidal soap such as Safers according to manufacturer’s instructions.

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