



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

PONYTAIL PALM CARE

LIGHT

Ponytail palms (*Beaucarnea recurvata* and *B. guatemalensis*) need bright light. A sunny south-facing window is ideal, with gradual acclimation to stronger sun. Turn the pot periodically for even growth. These slow-growing plants store water in their swollen trunk base and are not true palms.

WATERING

Allow the potting mix to become nearly dry throughout before watering thoroughly. Let water drain completely and empty the saucer. Keep water out of the leaf crown and away from the trunk base. Reduce watering in winter; moisture deep in a large pot can persist for weeks.

SOIL

Use a gritty, fast-draining cactus or succulent mix in a pot with drainage holes. Avoid oversized containers, which hold excess moisture. Repot in spring only when needed, moving up one size. Keep the swollen base at its original depth rather than burying it.

TEMPERATURE

Comfortable household temperatures around 65-75°F are suitable. Protect from frost, cold glass and sudden drafts. Normal indoor humidity is adequate; routine misting is unnecessary. If moved outside for summer, acclimate slowly and bring indoors before cool autumn nights.

FERTILIZING

Feed sparingly in spring and summer with a cactus or balanced houseplant fertilizer, following label directions. Stop feeding when growth slows. Too much fertilizer can encourage weak growth. Leave healthy green foliage intact and remove fully brown older leaves carefully.

PESTS

Inspect the leaf bases and undersides for scale and mites. Isolate affected plants before treatment. Brown tips can reflect irregular watering, mineral buildup or unsuitable conditions. A soft, collapsing trunk base can indicate rot; check roots and drainage promptly before adding more water.