



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

BIRD OF PARADISE CARE

LIGHT

Bird of paradise (*Strelitzia reginae* and *S. nicolai*) needs abundant bright light, including direct sun after gradual acclimation. A large sunny window is ideal. Provide room for broad, arching leaves. White bird of paradise grows much larger and is usually enjoyed indoors for foliage.

WATERING

During active spring and summer growth, water thoroughly as the surface starts to dry, keeping the root ball moist but not saturated. Allow excess water to drain and empty the saucer. Reduce watering in autumn and winter, allowing more drying between waterings as growth slows.

SOIL

Use a fertile, well-drained container mix with added grit or perlite for drainage. Choose a stable pot with drainage holes. Repot crowded plants in spring, moving up only one size. Mature plants can flower better when slightly pot-bound; frequent oversized repotting is unnecessary.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Keep in a warm room, generally above 55°F, away from cold drafts and freezing glass. Moderate humidity and good air circulation help the large leaves. If summered outdoors, acclimate gradually, shelter from strong winds and bring indoors before chilly autumn nights.

FERTILIZING

Feed regularly during active spring and summer growth with a liquid houseplant fertilizer, following label directions. Reduce or pause feeding in winter. Wipe dust from leaves gently with a damp cloth so they receive light. Flowering requires maturity and strong light and is not guaranteed indoors.

PESTS

Check leaf undersides and stalk bases for scale, mealybugs and mites. Isolate infested plants before treatment. Some splitting along leaf veins is natural and can increase with handling or wind. Remove fully dead foliage with clean scissors and check drainage if leaves decline in wet soil.