REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Monstera adansonii
Swiss Cheese Plant

A Garden Guide



Monstera adansonii are tropical plants from Central and South America, in lower elevation river valleys. Members of the Aroid family (Araceae), they climb up trees in the jungle understory. It is thought that the holes in their leaves help protect them from tearing in high winds. In the tropics outdoors, they can grow 10-15′. Indoors in WNC, they tend to max out at 6-8′. They are not edible.

Water: Monsteras love rainwater! Filtered water, or water left out overnight are also good choices. Most gardeners find that watering weekly, or letting the top 2-3″ of soil dry out in between waterings, work well. They prefer to be on the drier side, and will need less water in winter. Monsteras also love high humidity, but will tolerate medium. Leaf edges may start to brown if humidity is too low.

Light: As tropical understory plants, they prefer bright to medium indirect light. Light aids in forming the leaf fenestrations in mature leaves. Monsteras will let you know: if the light is too bright, the leaves will burn; if the light is too dark, the new leaves will grow towards the darkness and have fewer fenestrations. They prefer to be between 65-85°F. Growth ceases at 50°F.

Fertilization: Many options: diluted fish/seaweed, worm castings, house plant food (2-2-2).

Potting Mix: Light, rich, well draining soil. High quality potting mixes are sufficient.

Training & Care Details: Monsteras want something sturdy to climb and root their aerial roots into. Moss poles and trellises are excellent choices. They will also help to keep the plants growing more vertically. Cleaning the leaves periodically (with water + a few drops of gentle dish soap and a soft cloth) will help your plants access more light, and keep them looking their best. Rotate the plant occasionally to encourage even growth.

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