



SEED OF THE MONTH: February 2017

Common Name: Blushing Bromeliad

Scientific Name: Neoregelia Mcwalliamsii

Family: Bromeliaceae

Genus: Neuroglia

Species: Neoregelia **Subspecies:** Bromelioideae

Height:

Spacing:

Sun Exposure:

12" in height

6 – 8 inch pots

Filtered sun

24" in width

8 inch spaces in ground

Bloom Color: The center of the bromeliad will turn red before flowering. A cluster of small violet colored flowers will burst through the small bracts.

Bloom Time: This happens at no specific time through the year. Just know, that when the center turns red, blossoms will follow.

Other Details: This plant is a great house plant that is nontoxic to cats or dogs. It does well in filtered sunlight. It does not need a lot of fertilizing. If you are compelled to fertilize add a liquid fertilizer directly to the center of the plant. (Follow the label for dilution instructions). Its waxy leaves minimize transpiration making this a very drought tolerant plant in your landscape. If planted near a tree and is not maintained its offspring can climb like a vine.

Soil Requirements: Well drained, loose soil that is kept slightly moist. The Bromeliad is a type of air plant and uses the roots to anchor it not feed it.

Water Requirements: Its waxy surface and wide leaves direct water directly to its reservoir at the center of the plant (where the flowers appear). Its nutrients are found here in the reservoir. In our tropical climate this reservoir has been known to house mosquito larvae. To prevent a mosquito infestation, simply place a few drops of oil in the center. The oil produces a film on the surface making it inappropriate to lay eggs.

Propagation Methods: Once the plant has flowered it will begin its demise and produce pups at the same time. You may remove the offspring by cutting as close to the parent plant as possible and when you see tiny roots appear. When planting in a pot use a mix of 1 part peat, 1 part bark and 1 part perlite. Do not use plant mix that already has fertilizer in it. If you do be cautious not to fertilize for about 4 months. Remember, it gets its food from its center.

Known Uses: Frequently used as a house or office plant, and in landscapes can be found under trees and other low light areas. It is also used in landscape to minimize outdoor water use.