

Newsletter

THE LUCKY BAMBOO

THIS EVERGREEN PLANT NEEDS LITTLE CARE AND IS POPULARLY GROWN TO ATTRACT GOOD LUCK.

THE lucky bamboo is popular all the year around. There are many varieties to choose from, to match your budget. The plant is easy to grow and needs little care or attention. It can be grown hydroponically with just a few inches of water, in cute little containers or vases for the tabletop. As it can thrive under indoor artificial lighting, it is suitable for the home and office. It can also be used in cut flower arrangements and as gifts. As the lucky bamboo has many qualities similar to the bamboo, it is a popular ornamental houseplant in every landscape design. In botany speak, this family of grass plants grows rapidly and their shoots are edible.

Bamboo

The plant is highly regarded in Chinese culture as a symbol of life, resilience, virtue, longevity and good fortune. It is often depicted in Chinese art, literature and garden design, like in The 3 Friends Of Winter (pine, bamboo, plum) and The 4 Gentlemen (orchid, bamboo, chrysanthemum and plum blossom), as a symbol of perseverance, integrity and modesty, the bamboo represents the gentleman scholar's ideal characteristics.

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AUSPICIOUS PLANT

HOW TO GROW

TIP



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Scientific name: *Dracaena sanderiana*

Common name: Lucky bamboo, ribbon plant, Belgian evergreen

Family: Asparagaceae

Origin: Cameroon (West Africa)

Category: Evergreen perennial

Dracaena is derived from the Greek work *drakaina*, meaning female dragon. The genus is named in honor of orchid specialist and nursery owner Henry Frederick Conrad Sander (1847-1920).

The shrub grows naturally as an understory plant of the tropical rain-forest. It can grow up to 1.5m. The stems are semi-woody and erect, but flexible enough to be bent into fanciful shapes.

AUSPICIOUS PLANT

Enthusiasts grow the lucky bamboo to incorporate the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire and earth into the plant for goodness.

The plant is said to have the wood, water and earth elements. Add coins to have the metal element and tying a red string or ribbon to the stalks to have the fire element.

HOW TO GROW

The lucky bamboo can be grown in water with pebbles, stones or marbles. Use filtered or bottled water. If using tap water, let it sit in an open container for a day before use.

Chlorinated or dirty water can be deadly for the plant, so the water should be changed every week. Remove blackened roots. Never allow dead leaves to rot underwater.

Grow in partial sun or bright indirect lighting. Add a drop of regular fertilizer every month. Use an opaque container as a transparent one will allow light to penetrate through and encourage algae growth.

You can opt to buy the lucky bamboo from the local florist, flower markets, garden centers and even gift shops. It is sold as cut stalks with roots, in fanciful containers. Choose the plant with healthy roots and stems and glossy green leaves.

Do the twist, curl or spiral upwards and sideways, so as to manipulate the lighting conditions.

TIP

The leaves can turn yellow or brown at the edges due to too much exposure to the sun, so avoid the overcrowded roots, over-fertilizing or growing the plant in tap water with fluoride or chlorine on a regular basis.



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