

# AGLAONEMA

## Dave's Tips



**PLANT NAME:** AGLAONEMA

**PRODUCT FORM:** URC, RC, Liners from Basal shoots or suckers

Aglaonema are in the Araceae family, Originally called Chinese Evergreen, is a tropical ground growing plant that is native to India, South East Asia, Indonesia and southern China. There are now 50+ varieties with attractive foliar variegation and are tolerant to low light levels. These varieties are some of the best interior landscape plants for low light levels. Plants are

typically grown in 5", 6", 8" and 10" + pots but there are some cultivators that can be grown in 4" pots.

**TEMPERATURES/HARDINESS ZONE(S):** These are tropical plants and most are not tolerant of cold temperatures or very low humidities. Damage can occur below 60°F.

**GROWING CONDITIONS:** These are shade friendly plants and need to be kept in a warm/humid climate. In propagation minimums of 68°F at night and 75°F in the day are necessary to maintain vigor and growing speed.

**LIGHT LEVELS/INTENSITY:** Typically 75% to 90% shade is best, 1250 to 2500 foot candles is required for growing. If the light levels are too bright the leaves will tend to grow vertically.

**FERTILIZER:** A controlled release or water soluble fertilizer with a N P K ratio of 3:1:2 is ideal with a balanced micro element package is necessary. EC levels should be kept at 2.0 and monitored regularly to maintain nutrition. Care needs to be taken to insure the EC does not get too high (3.0) and it is recommended to periodically leach the soil mix if this happens.

**APPLICATIONS:** These plants are best for Low light applications in warm areas. They will tolerate 200 to 300 foot candles and survive for years.

### Growth Rates

Aglaonema are relatively slow growers. Much depends on the finished pot size and the number of cuttings used. The smaller pots can be 1 per + and the larger pots would be 3 per +.

#### From URC:

- 4-5" Pot = 4-6 months
- 6" Pot = 6-9 months
- 8 or 10" Pot = 9 to 14 months

**DISEASES:** Bacteria - Erwinia is the most common, a typical symptom of this is mushy stems and leaves with a foul smelly odor. It is critical to start with clean cutting material and planting on sterile benches - new media and pots. Fusarium stem rot can also be a problem but the treatments will be different than for the bacteria. Pythium can be a root issue in heavy or poorly drained soils. Leaf spots can appear in propagation - this is typically Myrothecium and Colletotrichum and result from wounded tissues.

**PESTS:** Mealybugs and an occasional cut worm can be a pest.

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### SOIL MIXTURE

A well drained soil is best - keep away from 'muddy' mixes to insure good aeration for the root system. A porosity of 50 to 70% is good that allows air space of 10 to 20%. pH in the media should range from 6.0 to 6.5.

### WATER

It is best, when watering, to totally saturate the soil media and then allow to dry to at least 50% of the moisture weight before watering. These plants do not like "soggy feet".

### HUMIDITY

Tropical plants will thrive with 70% day humidities. During URC propagation it is critical to maintain high humidity (90-100%) during the day. This can be done in a poly tunnel or by misted. DO NOT MIST at night unless humidity levels get very low. Once the plant root in they will tolerate 60 - 80% humidities.