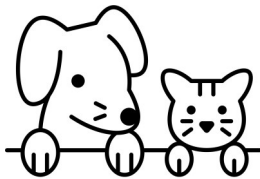


Money Tree



This plant filters pollutants from the air while releasing oxygen. With this plant in your home, you breathe cleaner air.



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Pachira aquatica

- **Use:** Who wouldn't want to grow a money tree? Sadly, while it doesn't immediately produce dollars, money tree is said bring good luck and is a favorite plant for applications of Feng Shui. The tree offers shiny, hand-shaped leaves that lend it a decidedly tropical appearance. You may also see several money trees grown together in a single pot with their trunks braided together. This is common way to make it look more decorative and doesn't harm the plant at all. Money tree is frequently used as a specimen for bonsai, as well, and can develop a fat, dense trunk.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Does best in a bright spot and regular watering. This is a good houseplant if you tend to overwater plants, as it appreciates (but doesn't need) constantly moist soil. Being a tropical, money tree also appreciates abundant humidity. If the leaves start to have brown, crispy edges, placing it with other plants or near a small humidifier can help. Using filtered water will help avoid issues of too much chlorine or fluoride from city water that can cause leaf tip burn. Fertilize money tree no less than two times a year with a regular houseplant fertilizer. You can fertilize it more frequently if you want it to grow faster. Make sure to follow the directions on the fertilizer package, though, to avoid overfertilization.
- **Growth:** You can prune money tree at any time. Pruning money tree will help it grow to be more full and bushy. Could grow to 30-30' tall in an outdoor tropical environment, but these are easily kept shorter indoor so don't worry it will not outgrow your house is trimmed regularly.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 10-12; Houseplant
- **Foliage:** Each palmately compound leaf has 5-9, elliptic to lance-shaped, shiny green leaflets (to 5-10" long). Large, greenish to yellowish-white flowers feature five long cream-colored petals surrounding 200-250 tightly-packed, red-tipped stamens (to 3-4" long). Bushy stamens have a shaving-brush like appearance.
- **Flowers:** Not likely to flower indoors when braided. Flowers are white with red tips and resemble a shaving brush and bloom for one day and are fragrant at night. Fruit is a heavy, woody, brown capsule (to 12" long) that bursts when mature to release edible nuts (seeds) which may be eaten raw or roasted or ground into flour. Young leaves and flowers may be cooked as a vegetable.