

# *Cryptanthus*



*Cryptanthus*, or Earth Stars as they are commonly known, is a genus of Bromeliad that is endemic to Brazil. However, almost all of the “crypts” available today are exquisite hybrids created to show off their great color and shape.

*Cryptanthus* grow under the same conditions as African Violets, that is with medium light and humidity. They like to be watered a little more often than other broms, around once a week or so in average conditions. If they’re indoors on a kitchen windowsill for instance, water them with bottled drinking water if you can. Outdoors, just use a hose.

Each mother plant will normally produce two to four offsets after it blooms and the offsets will fall off in your hand once they’re about a third the size of the mother. Set them in a loose, fast draining mix and they will root quickly if the soil is warm. These are among the most stunningly beautiful of all the bromeliads and perfect for someone for whom space is a consideration.