

## Guzmanias [gooz-MAH-knee-ah]



Guzmanias grow in tropical rainforests in wetter, cooler, and shadier habitats than most other bromeliads. Nearly all of the *Guzmania* species have shiny dark green leaves that form a central cup that holds water. Their inflorescences are their most desirable asset: these may be compact heads or elongated spikes resembling fountains. Color may develop in their large primary bracts, the central leaves, the flower, or in all of these. Guzmanias are bred (hybridized) to adapt to interior low-light environments and are especially desirable because their blooms last for up to three months. More and more Guzmanias are used as colorful decorations in offices, hotel lobbies, homes, and airport terminals because of their long-lasting colorful blooms that can be used in place of short-lived cut flower arrangements.

Care: Guzmanias can adapt to darker conditions than other bromeliads. Never give your *Guzmania* direct sunlight. They do especially well in temperatures ranging from 60 to 80 degrees, but will tolerate extremes for short periods of time. Water by flushing out the flower head and center cup formed by the leaves with fresh water (filtered or rain water preferred and leaving the soil moist but not soggy. It is best to use a slow release fertilizer in the soil: if foliar feeding or using a liquid fertilizer use a very dilute amount (1/8 strength.) Otherwise basic green leafed bromeliad care may be followed. Refer to *Bromeliads: A Cultural Manual*.