

## Anthurium (Red) - Plant



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### Description

Anthuriums are herbaceous epiphytes native to tropical America. Anthurium is a genus of more than 800 species found in the New World tropics from Mexico to northern Argentina and Uruguay.

The anthurium plant has a bright pink, tube-shaped flower that sits on the end of a long stalk. For this reason, the plant is often called the flamingo flower for its resemblance to the bird. With proper care, each flower spike can last four to six weeks, and you almost always have blooms to display.

The leaves are often clustered and are variable in shape. The inflorescence bears small flowers which are perfect, containing male and female structures. The flowers are contained in dense spirals on the spadix. The spadix is often elongated into a spike shape, but it can be globe-shaped or club-shaped. Beneath the spadix is the spathe, a type of bract.

Anthuriums are grown for their brightly coloured flower spathes and their ornamental leaves.

In Greek, the name Anthurium means tail flower. The plant's stem lengths may grow to a height of 15-20 inches depending on the size of the spathe, i.e., the bigger the spathe, the longer the stem.

Its leaves are usually simple, large, attractively coloured and borne on long stalks. The flowering stalk is slender, ending in a fleshy column crowded with many uni-sexual flowers. They have leafy bracts which may be white, yellow, red, pink, orange or green.

Being popular foliage plants, Anthuriums are grown for their attractive flowering bracts which are popular with the cut flower trade.

**Common name:** tailflower, flamingo flower and laceleaf

**Color:** Red color flowers

**Bloom time:** Early spring, Mid spring, Late spring, Early summer, Mid summer, Late summer, Early fall, Mid fall, Late fall, Early winter, Mid winter, Late winter

**Height:** upto 1.5 feet

**Difficulty level:** Medium

#### Planting & Care

Anthurium can be propagated by seed or vegetatively by cuttings. In the commercial Anthurium trade, most propagation is via tissue culture. The most important aspect of caring for an anthurium plant is moisture control.

**Sunlight:** Shade to Partial Sun

**Soil:** Anthuriums prefer a growing media that is coarse and well drained. The potting media should be of a peat moss base with a 1:1:1 ratio of peat moss, pine bark and per-lite. Plants when they are young should be planted in a mix that is not quite so coarse, to retain moisture. The soil should be settled firmly around the roots and the root system should fill the pot before the plant is stepped up to a larger pot size.

**Water:** Anthuriums like to approach dryness in between watering and should not be kept continuously moist. Promote quick drainage by using a potting soil that is heavy on pumice or orchid bark. As a plant ages, it will mound itself out of the pot, exposing stem. Spraying the stem helps keep the plant well hydrated.

**Temperature:** Anthuriums grow best with day temperatures of 78°F to 90°F, and night temperatures of 70°F to 75°F. Temperatures above 90°F may cause foliar burning, faded flower colour, and reduced flower life. Night temperatures between 40 to 50 F can result in slow growth and yellowing of lower leaves. Anthuriums will not tolerate frost or freezing conditions.

**Fertilizer:** Use liquid fertilizer throughout the growing period or pellets in the spring. New plants should not need fertilizer for at least a few months, and if you use it, opt for a diluted 3:1:2 fertilizer. A 3:1:2 fertilizer contains 3 parts nitrogen, 1 part phosphorus, and 2 parts potassium.

#### Care:

- Anthuriums need a high light but not direct sunlight.
- Remove dead and unsightly foliage and faded or brown flowers.
- Use a peat moss base.
- Do not over-water the anthuriums as it may cause root damage and yellowing of the leaves.
- Avoid droughts and strong temperature fluctuations.
- In winter, anthurium plants need a 6 week rest period at a 15°C with little water.
- This allows the plant to flower profusely again in the following season.
- Pinch off the dead flower, leaving the stem and any remaining flower buds intact.
- Dead flower removal prevents seed formation and encourages a new set of flowers on some aster varieties.

#### Use

##### Medicinal use:

- There are reports showing the use of anthurium in steam for the discomforts of arthritis and rheumatism.
- You cut up the leaves and boil it in a pot and have the person sit over it in a chair with a blanket.
- The person sweats and the medicinal properties enter the body through the open pores.
- Also indicates it to be useful as a poultice for muscle aches and cramps.

##### Ornamental use:

- The plant is used for ornamental purpose.
- Its generally kept indoor in living room and in terrace area.

##### Note:

All parts of the anthurium plant, are poisonous. If ingested, may cause mild stomach disorders. The anthurium plant s sap can cause skin irritation.

Should be kept out of the reach of young children and pets

##### Reference:

<http://easybloom.com/plantlibrary/plant/flamingo-flower>

[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_8071815\\_uses-anthurium.html](http://www.ehow.com/info_8071815_uses-anthurium.html) <http://www.theflowerexpert.com/content/aboutflowers/exoticflowers/anthuriums>

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