

Aroids are plants from the *Araceae* family, a group of more than 140 genera (i.e. *Monstera*) that includes about 3,750 known species (i.e. *Monstera dubia*), and can be found on every continent except Antarctica. Like many houseplants, most aroids are found in the forest understory, protected from direct sunlight, and drawing nutrients and water directly from larger trees through aerial roots.

GREAT ARACEAE TO EXPLORE



MONSTERA

M. deliciosa
M. adansonii (Swiss Cheese)
M. karstenianum 'Peru'



RHAPHIDOPHORA

R. tetrasperma (Mini Monstera)
R. decursiva (Dragon Tail)
R. korthalsii (Shingle Plant)

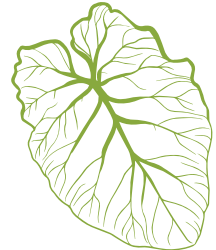
EPIPHEMNUM

E. aureum (Golden Pothos)
E. pinnatum 'Cebu Blue'
E. aureum 'Marble Queen'



PHILODENDRON

P. hastatum 'Silver Sword'
P. erubescens 'Pink Princess'
P. cordatum (Heartleaf)



Other great aroid climbers include *Syngonium*, *Anthurium*, and *Scindapsus* spp..

AROID SOIL BLENDS

Basic

- 50% medium orchid bark
- 30% pumice or perlite
- 20% indoor potting soil

Advanced

- 40% medium orchid bark
- 20% indoor potting soil
- 10% perlite or pumice
- 10% worm castings
- 10% vermiculite
- 10% charcoal

RECOMENDED FERTILIZERS

Your desired watering schedule can help you determine what fertilizer you use.

Bonide Liquid Plant Food (10-10-10) Can be used 1-2x month, or more if diluted.

Espoma Indoor Houseplant Food (2-2-2) Use at every watering.

Fox Farms Grow Big (6-4-4) Use every other watering.

TYPES OF SUPPORTS

Wire Trellis

- easy purchase / set up
- physical support only, no nutrients/water for aerial roots

Wooden Support

- probably most attractive
- most similar to natural conditions
- pretty good nutrient / water retention (with bark especially)

Coco Coir Pole

- available to buy pre-made
- sphagnum moss alternative
- low nutrient / water retention

Sphagnum Moss Pole

- our favorite! best nutrient / water retention
- can be extended as plant grows
- boosts humidity
- some folks dislike appearance

Aroids grow well as upright or trailing plants, but for many varieties, adding an effective moss pole to the mix that imitates the trees of their natural habitat will result in bigger foliage and a healthier overall plant. Because a well 'aerially-rooted' aroid will draw nutrients from a moss pole instead of ground roots, many don't require very large pots (8" or smaller), which makes them great for tight spaces.

MAKING A MOSS POLE

You will need: zip ties, vinyl coated hardware cloth, sphagnum moss, & wire cutters

1. Wet the moss. This is gonna be a bit messy!
2. Cut the wire to size and bend sharp edges inward
3. Fill mesh with sphagnum moss
4. Zip tie together every few inches, starting at the middle and working outwards
5. Cut off zip tie ends and secure to container

WATERING

Nature never works on an exact schedule. There are way too many variables that affect watering needs, so it's best to test your moss pole regularly to know when to water. If it's dry, it's time! Misting moss poles is not effective in the long run; a regular watering can will do the trick. You won't need to water the whole pole from the top unless your plant has grown that high. If you do have a fully rooted moss pole, you can insert a 1-2 liter bottle into the top to passively water the pole.

KEEP IN MIND... The single most important rule about gardening is that there are no actual 'rules' about gardening. Each garden, indoors and out, and each gardener is different, so don't be afraid to experiment and find what works best for *you*!

MORE RESOURCES

Sydney Plant Guy - YouTube, Instagram
Welcome to the Jungle by Enid Offolter

You Grow Gurl by Christopher Griffin
Houseplants for All by Danae Horst

TYING SUPPORTS

