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The All Season Gift
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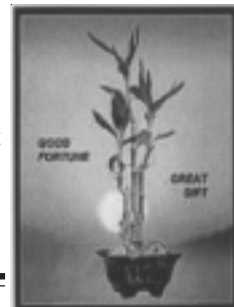
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Lucky Bamboo

Dracaena sanderana

The Chinese say that Lucky Bamboo will bring good fortune to your home or business. In Asia, it is given as a gift to those starting a new business, or to someone moving into a new home, or to anyone at any time of celebration. Since Lucky Bamboo requires no natural light it is especially nice in a home or office; in an area where no other plants can grow. It is very easy to grow and will live for many years.



Unlike its name, Lucky Bamboo is not really a bamboo at all; it just looks like bamboo. Lucky bamboo is actually a dracena, (*Dracaena sanderana*). Lucky bamboo is a stick that will grow only a few inches of roots and sprouts. It will not grow branches or produce new shoots.



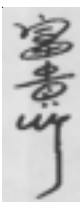
Curly. Many lucky bamboo stocks have fancy curls or waves. They do not grow that way naturally. Growers lay the stocks on a table in a greenhouse. They cover three sides to keep them dark. One side receives bright light. The plant naturally grows toward the light and then the grower rotates the stock to make it curl. It can take as long as a year to produce a complete curl.

Care. Keep your lucky Bamboo in 1"-3" of water, just enough to cover the roots. There is no need to transplant it into soil. This is not a winter hardy plant, so, it will not survive if you plant it outside in the garden. Add water to the container as needed and wash out the container regularly, at least once a month. Keep your lucky bamboo in temperatures from 45 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.



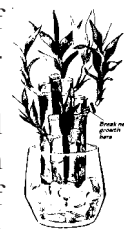
Water. Lucky Bamboo does not like chlorine so either use distilled water or let the water sit for at least 24 hours before adding it to your plant. Be sure to change the water about every two weeks so the water does not become stagnant. An easy way to change the water, without taking it out of the container, is to stand the pot (with the plant) in a sink and pour water into the container until all the old water is completely flushed out. Wash all the leaves and stalks of your lucky bamboo once every month or two to help remove any troublesome spidermites that might find a home on your plant.

Fertilizer. Fertilizer is not necessary to keep your Lucky Bamboo alive. However, it does help to add a drop or two of fertilizer to the water once every two or three months, especially if you are trying to force the leaves to grow faster.



Light. Lucky Bamboo does not need natural light. In fact, it prefers to be out of direct sun. The low-light conditions in an office are great for Lucky Bamboo.

The main stalks of the Lucky Bamboo will not grow any longer than they are, but they can get thicker over time. The leaves on the top of the stock will grow upwards. The more area the roots have to grow (the bigger the container), the faster and longer the leaves will grow, but the main stock will always remain the same length. The leaves can eventually form stems of their own. To keep the bamboo from growing too large, you can gently break these leaf stems from the main stem.



If you want to start a new plant put these leaf stems in water. The leaf stems may start to root and form new plants. Let the new leaf stems grow as tall as you like, then cut off the tops of the stems to control their height.

Ancient Chinese traditions indicates that the number of lucky bamboo stalks in a container have different meanings and bring different beneficial factors into your life.

Three Stalks: Bring happiness, wealth and longevity.

Five stalks: Represents the five different parts of life from which wealth spurs from.

Six stalks: Bring prosperity and favorable conditions.

Seven stalks: Good health.

Eight stalks: Grow and thrive.

Ten stalks: Complete and perfect.

Twentyone stalks: Offers a very powerful, all-purpose blessing.

Everyone loves to receive good luck and beautiful decorations for their home or office. Lucky bamboo is the perfect gift, it represents good luck and it is extremely easy to care for. Give one to your friends and neighbors.

