



Summary of Production and Handling Recommendations for Selected Foliage Plants

Production				Shipping		Postproduction	
Temp. (°F)	Light (footcandles)	Fertilizer* (ratio, lb/1000 ft ² /yr)	pH	Up to 15 days*	Temp. (°F)	Light (footcandles)	Fertilizer, water
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> 'Massangeana'							
65–95°	3000–3500	3-1-2, 35 lb	6–6.5	60–65° 50% mhc 80–90% RH	65–85°	75–150	1200 ppm soluble salts; occasional light application every 4–6 months; don't allow water to stand in saucer
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> 'Warneckii' and 'Janet Craig'							
75–80° ideal; chlorosis and leaf notching at 95°	2000–4500 (1500 – 1800 at warmer temps)	3-1-2, 35 lb, avoid excess	6–6.5	60–65° 50% mhc 80–90% RH	65–85°	100–150; does well under low light	Fertilize lightly with soluble 20-10-20 every 4–6 months; allow pots to dry out a little between waterings; low RH causes necrosis of leaf margins
<i>Dracaena marginata</i>							
75–90°	3000–6000	3-1-2, 48 lb; moderate to heavy feeder; relatively high trace element requirements; low temp and high light causes leaf flecking	5.5–6	55–65° 50% mhc 80–90% RH (60–65° up to 30 days)	65–80°	Best at 100–200; tolerates 75–100	1200 ppm soluble salts; allow to dry slightly between waterings; don't allow water to stand in saucer
<i>Cordyline fruticosa</i>							
65–95°	3000–4500	3-1-2, 34 lb; increase application in heavy rainfall or frequent irrigation	5.5–6.5	60–65°	65–75°	Tolerates low light; higher to maintain color	Fertilize lightly every 2 months; keep moist but not wet

Notes

Fertilizer units for production are the "NPK ratio," then the application amount in pounds N-P₂O₅-K₂O per 1000 square feet per year. Shipping units: mhc = moisture holding capacity, RH = relative humidity.

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<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>							
60*	2500 – 6000 lower end for warmer temps	3-1-2, 28 lb; light feeder; slow grower; provide micros, especially iron and magnesium	5.5–6	50–55° 50% mhc 80–90% RH (55–60° up to 30 days)	50–72° ideal; tolerates higher	75–300 ideal; higher end for better longevity	Fertilize lightly during summer months; provide micronutrients; allow media to dry between waterings
<i>Howea forsteriana</i>							
60–85°	2500–6000	3-1-2, 28 lb; keep salts <1000 ppm	6–6.5	50–65°	60–85°	75–100 minimum; tolerates low light well	Fertilize monthly during growing season but maintain 1000 ppm soluble salts maximum; don't allow roots to stand in water in saucer
<i>Dypsis lutescens</i>							
70–80°	3500–6000	3-1-2, 41 lb; moderate to heavy feeder	6–6.5	55–65° 50% mhc 80–90%RH (60–65° up to 30 days)	60–80°	100–400; too bright causes chlorosis	Fertilize every four months, keep soluble salts below 1000 ppm; keep moist but not wet

Notes

Light units are foot-candles. Fertilizer units for production are the “NPK ratio,” then the application amount in pounds N-P₂O₅-K₂O per 1000 square feet per year. Shipping units: mhc = moisture holding capacity, RH = relative humidity.

Adapted from

Joiner, J.N. (ed.), 1981. *Foliage Plant Production*.
 Griffith, L.P. Jr., 1998. *Tropical Foliage Plants: A Grower's Guide*.
 Blessington, T.M., and P.C. Collins, 1993. *Foliage Plants: Prolonging Quality*.
 McGregor, B.M., 1989. *Tropical Products Transport Handbook*, USDA Handbook 668.

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