

# *Tropiflora's* Recommendations for COLD HARDY BROMELIADS

Cold hardiness in bromeliads has been poorly documented and is largely based on anecdotal evidence reported by gardeners and nurserymen. As the interest in bromeliads for use in landscapes is increasing and spreading northward from south Florida to the gulf coastal areas and the warmer parts of the Atlantic coast as far north as the Carolinas, the need for more accurate and comprehensive data is evident.

In general, cold hardiness for bromeliads can be 'guessed at' by selecting those species native to the extreme northern and southern parts of their natural ranges, and for those naturally occurring at higher altitudes. This is not always easy to determine and simply does not work for all or even most species, and does not take into consideration hybrids which nowadays form the bulk of bromeliads available for use. So, it seems that we are left with referring to lists of 'proven' varieties and to experimentation to find those bromeliad varieties that will perform best in our own individual circumstances.

Some things to keep in mind regarding cold exposure when planning to use bromeliads in landscape are; microclimates and frost exposure. In any garden there are likely temperature 'pockets' that can vary by several, possibly critical, degrees from one another. On a slope, the higher locations will be warmer. Wind chill is a factor for plants as it is with people, so sheltering from northerly wind is prudent. Frost will severely damage or kill bromeliads. Tree canopy or similar shelter from frost will help, but one should still plan to cover plants when frost is predicted.

There has been much discussion about whether to water your bromeliads before a possible dip to freezing occurs, or to leave them on the dry side. We have found that, at Tropiflora, having a well hydrated plant seems to help, but this is inconclusive. What is known, however, is that watering to ice over the plants will almost always result in their demise.

**A tip for more northerly gardens:** Bromeliads may be planted in their pots and thus are relatively easy to remove to a safe place in threatening weather. It may be a little extra work, but the beauty of a bromeliad bed is well worth the effort.

**Bromeliads are survivors. Even plants severely damaged by cold will often survive to continue growing and producing offsets, replacing the damaged portions.**

**A** = hardy with survival with little or no damage at 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-6.7 Celsius) for several hours.

**B** = hardy with little or no damage at 26 to 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-3.3 to -2.2 Celsius) for

	A	B		A	B
Acanthostachys strobilacea		x	Aechmea lueddemanniana		x
Aechmea aquilega		x	Aechmea mariae-regina		x
Aechmea 'Bert'		x	Aechmea mulfordii		x
Aechmea blumenavii	x		Aechmea nudicaulis		x
Aechmea bracteata		x	Aechmea orlandiana	?	x
Aechmea bromeliifolia 'Rubra'	x	x	Aechmea ornata	x	
Aechmea 'Burgundy'	x	x	Aechmea pectinata		x
Aechmea calyculata	x	x	Aechmea penduliflora		x
Aechmea caudata    killed 16, burned 19	x	x	Aechmea pimentii-velosoi		x
Aechmea comata	x	x	Aechmea pineliana var. minuta		x
Aechmea 'Covata'	x		Aechmea pubescens		x
Aechmea cylindrata	x	x	Aechmea recurvata	x	x
Aechmea dactylina		x	Aechmea triangularis		x
Aechmea distichantha all forms	x	x	Aechmea weilbachii		x
Aechmea distichantha x planerophlebia	x		Aechmea worononii		x
Aechmea eurycorymbus		x	Alcantarea vinicolor (Most Alcantarea species are hardy)		x
Aechmea fendleri		x	Androlepis skinneri		x
Aechmea fosteriana		x	Ananas bracteatus		x
Aechmea 'Foster's Favorite'		x	Billbergia amoena		x
Aechmea gamosepala	x	x	Billbergia distachia	x	x
Aechmea kertesziae	x		Billbergia 'Fantasia'		x
Aechmea lamarchei	x		Billbergia 'Gerda'		x
Aechmea lingulata		x	Billbergia leptopoda		x

	A	B		A	B
Billbergia meyeri	x	x	Neoregelia johannis		x
Billbergia 'Muriel Waterman'		x	Neoregelia marmorata	x	
Billbergia nutans	x	x	Neoregelia macwilliamsi		x
Billbergia pyramidalis	x	x	Neoregelia pascoaliana		x
Billbergia rosea		x	Neoregelia pineliana		x
Billbergia 'Santa Barbara'	x	x	Neoregelia 'Royal Burgundy'		x
Billbergia saundersi		x	Neoregelia sarmentosa		x
Billbergia 'Thelma Darling Hodge'		x	Neoregelia spectabilis		x
Billbergia 'Theodore L. Mead'		x	Neoregelia tristis		x
Billbergia vittata		x	Nidularium fulgens	x	
Billbergia zebrina		x	Nidularium innocentii		x
Bromelia serra variegata	x		Nidularium procerum	x	x
Deuterocohnia brevifolia (Most all species are hardy)		x	Nidularium regelioides	x	x
Dyckia brevifolia	x	x	Ochagavia (all species)	x	
Dyckia chaguar		x	Pitcairnia xanthocalyx		x
Dyckia coccinea		x	Portea leptantha		x
Dyckia encholirioides	x	x	Portea petropolitana		x
Dyckia ferox	x		Puya (all species)	x	x
Dyckia fosteriana	x	x	Quesnelia arvensis		x
Dyckia leptostachya	x	x	Quesnelia marmorata		x
Dyckia maracasensis		x	Quesnelia testudo	x	x
Dyckia 'Naked Lady'	x		Tillandsia (Most species are hardy to at least 32 degrees)		
Dyckia rariflora	x		Vriesia bituminosa x saundersii	x	
Dyckia remotiflora	x	x	Vriesia carinata	x	x
Fascicularia bicolor	x	x	Vriesia ensiformis	x	
Hechtia marnier-lapostollei	x		Vriesia fenestralis		x
Hechtia stenopetala	x		Vriesia flammea	x	
Neoregelia ampullaceae		x	Vriesia fosteriana 'Red Chestnut'		x
Neoregelia 'Avalon'		x	Vriesia gigantea	x	
Neoregelia carcharodon		x	Vriesia hieroglyphica		x
Neoregelia carolinae		x	Vriesia incurvata	x	x
Neoregelia cholorstictica		x	Vriesia phillipocoburgii	x	
Neoregelia compacta		x	Vriesia 'Purple Pendant'	x	
Neoregelia concentrica	x	x	Vriesia rodigasiana	x	
Neoregelia cruenta		x	Vriesia schwackiana	x	
Neoregelia farinosa		x	Vriesia simplex	x	
Neoregelia 'Fireball'		x	Wittrockia superba		x

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