Bromeliads, Air Plants, Ferns & Live Mosses

Neoregelia Tank Bromeliads • Tillandsia Air Plants • Vivarium Ferns • Mood, Sheet & Spikemoss

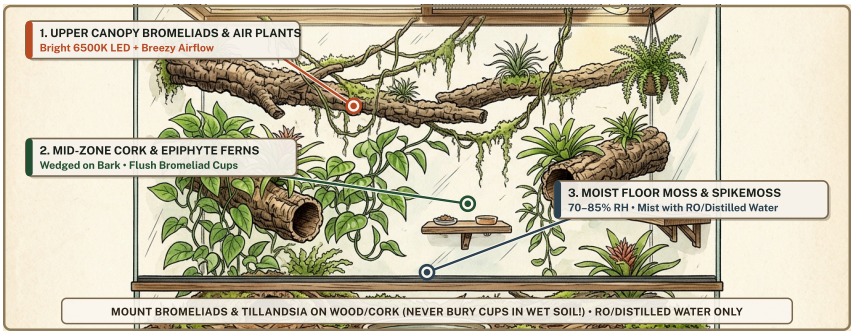
The Quick Version: Epiphytes — plants that perch on branches and cork bark rather than sitting in heavy mud — are the secret to building a 3D rainforest canopy! Tank bromeliads (*Neoregelia*) hold miniature pools of water for dart frogs and tree frogs, while air plants (*Tillandsia*), ferns, and live mosses turn bare wood into a living wall. **Golden Rule:** never bury an epiphytic bromeliad or air plant's base in wet soil, and always match **green-leaf vs. fuzzy silver-leaf air plants** to the right humidity!



BEST FOR	BROMELIAD RULE	AIR PLANT RULE	WATER SOURCE	GEL TISSUE CUPS
Dart Frogs, Tree Frogs & Geckos	**Mount on Wood • Keep Cup Full!**	**Green = Humid • Silver = Breezy**	**RO, Distilled, or Rainwater ONLY**	**Rinse Gel → Trim → Plant**

1. Canopy Mounting & Epiphyte Water Rules

EPIPHYTE ROOTS ARE HOLDFASTS, NOT MUD SPONGES — MOUNT ON CORK OR WOOD!



1. Tank Bromeliads
Mount on wood/background; keep central water cup 1/2–3/4 full of RO water
Flush Cup Weekly

2. Green-Leaf Tillandsia
Smooth/bulbous species (bulbosa, ionantha) for humid upper canopy mounts
Must Dry Between Mists

3. Silver-Leaf Tillandsia
Fuzzy white trichomes (magnusiana, oaxacana) belong in breezy/semi-arid setups
Rots If Kept Wet!

4. Vivarium Ferns
Plant terrestrial ferns in airy ABG mix; mount Rabbit's Foot/Blue Star on cork
60–85% RH • Damp Soil

5. Live Moss & Spikemoss
Press onto damp cork or soil; mist ONLY with RO or distilled water
Zero Tap Minerals

2. Two Ways That Work — Pick What Fits Your Home

SHORT & SWEET: BOTH OPTIONS WORK GREAT

Mounting Neoregelia Tank Bromeliads (Never Bury the Cup!)

True tank bromeliads (*Neoregelia, Vriesea, Guzmania*) drink through their central leaf cup, while their wiry roots act as wood anchors:

WEDGE INTO CORK BARK, DRIFTWOOD, OR BACKGROUND FOAM

Trim the woody stolon stub to 1–2", wedge it into a cork crevice (or pin with stainless wire / superglue gel), and keep the stem base out of wet soil. *(Note: **Cryptanthus Earth Stars** are terrestrial bromeliads and DO plant in well-drained floor soil.)*

CENTRAL WATER CUP CARE & HOW BROMELIAD 'PUPS' GROW

Keep the center cup filled with fresh RO or dechlorinated water (dart frogs use these pools as tadpole nurseries!) and flush weekly when misting. After blooming once, the mother plant sends out **1–4 baby 'pups'** from its base — leave pups attached until half grown!

Air Plants (Tillandsia): Green-Leaf vs. Fuzzy Silver-Leaf Rule

Josh's Frogs warns: *'Avoid most Tillandsia [in wet frog tanks] – if they have a powdery silver coating on the leaves, they won't do well.'*

HUMID VIVARIUM CANOPY (SMOOTH GREEN OR BULBOUS BASE)

***Tillandsia bulbosa*, *T. butzii*, *T. brachycaulos*, *T. caput-medusae*, *T. cyanea* (Pink Quill), and *T. ionantha* ('Rubra', 'Fuego', 'Guat', 'Mexican')** thrive mounted in the upper vivarium canopy where leaves dry within a few hours after misting.

BREEZY SCREEN-TOP & SEMI-ARID TANKS (FUZZY SILVER TRICHOMES)

Tillandsia magnusiana*, *T. oaxacana*, *T. harrisii*, and *T. tectorum reflect desert sun and smother if kept constantly wet — mount near breezy screen tops or in semi-arid enclosures.

Live Mosses, Spikemoss (Selaginella) & Tissue-Culture Gel Cups

Mosses and clubmosses create humidity-buffering carpets across wood and soil:

MOOD MOSS, SHEET MOSS, JAVA MOSS & SELAGINELLA SPIKEMOSS

Press **Mood Moss** (*Dicranum*) onto sloped wood or soil mounds (never in standing puddles); use **Sheet Moss** or **Java Moss** in wetter drip zones; plant **Selaginella** ('Golden', 'Ruby Red', Peacock Spikemoss) and **Baby's Tears** (*Soleirolia*) in 75%+ RH.

HOW TO PLANT SEALED TISSUE-CULTURE CUPS (RINSE → TRIM → PLANT)

For sterile gel cups: **1. Gently RINSE** all agar gel off the roots in lukewarm dechlorinated water, **2. TRIM** into small portions, and **3. PLANT** into damp substrate or moss under 80%+ RH while they acclimate.

Flip Over for Page 2: Feeding Schedule, Team Tips & Grab-and-Go Checklist →

3. Species-by-Species Cheat Sheet (10–75 Gal Vivariums)

LITTLE PRINCE, JOSH'S FROGS & AIRPLANT MAN — EPIPHYTES, FERNS & MOSS

Tank Bromeliads & Earth Stars
Neoregelia, Guzmania, Vriesea & Cryptanthus

Compact **Neoregelia** ('Fireball', 'Donger', 'Chiquita Linda', 'Tarzan') blush bright red under strong 6500K LED light! Mount on cork/wood at a 15°–30° angle so light hits the center cup and frogs can climb in. Compact **Guzmania & Vriesea** offer broader perches for tree frogs/geckos; **Cryptanthus** ('Pink Starlight', 'Elaine', 'Red', 'Absolute Zero') plant in floor soil.

Vivarium Ferns (Floor & Bark)
Maidenhair, Lemon Button, Korean Rock, Blue Star & Rabbit's Foot

Floor/Mid-Zone Ferns: Lemon Button / Duffy Fern (*Nephrolepis*), **Korean Rock Fern** (*Polystichum*), **Maidenhair** (*Adiantum*), **Brake Fern** (*Pteris*), & **Crispy Wave Bird's Nest** (*Asplenium*) love evenly damp ABG soil. **Epiphytic Ferns: Rabbit's Foot Fern** (*Davallia*) & compact **Blue Star Fern** (*Phlebodium*) have furry surface rhizomes — mount on bark or keep rhizome above soil!

Live Mosses & Spikemosses
Mood Moss, Sheet Moss, Selaginella, Soleirolia & Sagina

Mood Moss (lush cushions for mid-slopes), **Sheet / Pillow Moss** (flat carpets for bark & floor), **Java Moss** (amphibious/paludarium zones), **Selaginella kraussiana / uncinata** ('Golden', 'Aurea', 'Ruby Red' spikemosses), **Baby's Tears** (*Soleirolia*), & **Irish/Scotch Moss** (*Sagina*).

Critical Epiphyte & Moss Survival Tips:

- **RO or Distilled Water ONLY** — Tap water mineral salts crust over bromeliad cups, air plant trichomes & moss
- **Airflow After Misting** — Air plants breathe through leaves — if sopping wet 24/7, they smother & rot
- **Never Use Copper Wire** — Copper kills bromeliads & is toxic to frogs/inverts — use stainless wire or superglue gel!
- **Bright Light = Red Color** — If a red Neoregelia turns green, move it closer to your 6500K LED bar

Safe Glues & Mounting Hardware: Never use copper wire around bromeliads, air plants, amphibians, or invertebrates. Use **cyanoacrylate superglue gel** (100% tank-safe once cured), **aquarium silicone**, **plastic-coated plant ties**, **fishing line**, or **stainless steel pins**.

4. Tips, Tricks & Big No-Nos from Our Bioactive & Vivarium Team

REAL-WORLD HABITS THAT KEEP THEM THRIVING

Keep Bromeliad Stems Out of Mud
If a Neoregelia's base sits buried in wet soil, the lower leaves rot from the bottom up. Wedge it into wood or rock above the soil line!

Reviving a Thirsty Air Plant
If Tillandsia leaves curl inward, soak it 20–30 minutes in RO or dechlorinated water, then shake upside down so no water stays trapped in the crown.

Don't Bury Furry Fern Rhizomes
Blue Star Ferns (Phlebodium) and Rabbit's Foot Ferns grow from furry surface stems (rhizomes). Pin the rhizome on top of bark or sphagnum.

Keep Moss Unburied & Misted
Place live moss where it gets direct 6500K LED light (don't cover moss cushions with dead oak leaves) and mist daily with RO/distilled water.

5. Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

ASK US ON THE FLOOR — WE'LL HELP YOU MATCH EVERYTHING!

1. CORK BARK & CANOPY HARDSCAPE

- [ ] Virgin Cork Bark Flats, Cork Tubes, or Ghostwood / Driftwood
- [ ] Aquarium-Safe Cyanoacrylate Superglue Gel OR Stainless Pins
- [ ] Long-Fiber New Zealand Sphagnum Moss (Small Wisp for Roots)

2. EPIPHYTE, FERN & MOSS BUNDLE

- [ ] 1–3 Neoregelia Tank Bromeliads (Mounted at Upper/Mid Angles)
- [ ] 2–3 Humidity-Matched Tillandsia Air Plants (Green vs. Silver)
- [ ] 1–2 Vivarium Ferns + Live Mood Moss, Sheet Moss, or Selaginella

3. PURE WATER & MISTING GEAR

- [ ] RO / Distilled Water Jugs (Mandatory for Moss & Bromeliads!)
- [ ] Fine-Mist Hand Sprayer or Automatic Misting System (MistKing)
- [ ] 6500K Full-Spectrum Plant LED Bar (Maintains Red Blushing!)

A Quick Note from Our Team — Keep Learning & Ask Us Anytime!

The quick version: live plants transform a glass box into a living ecosystem! Match your temperature and humidity to your animal first, use a true 6500K plant LED alongside your reptile lighting, and water with RO, distilled, or dechlorinated water for **generations of bromeliad pups & mossy canopy** — use these two pages as your home-base cheat sheet, grab our 1-Page Bioactive Substrate Recipe Guide for exact soil ratios, and stop by Critter Cabana (Newberg) or Gresham Pet Supply anytime to pick out live plants, cork bark, and isopods!

MY EPIPHYTE & BROMELIAD CANOPY MAP

Enclosure & Resident Species: _____

Canopy / Mid / Floor Plants: _____

Date Planted & Clean-Up Crew: _____