INSIDE FLAP • KEEPER HABITS

4 Keys to Long-Term Health

Small Daily Habits That Prevent 95% of Vet Visits

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.

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**.

BACK COVER • TAKE THIS TO THE AISLE

Grab-and-Go Setup Checklist

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!)

MY EPIPHYTE & BROMELIAD CANOPY MAP & FEEDING LOG

Enclosure & Species: _____

Plants & Clean-Up Crew: _____

Watering / Misting Schedule: _____

Critter Cabana & Cascade Pet Supply

Questions about bioactive soil, plant lighting, or isopods? Stop by Newberg or Gresham anytime — we're here for the full generations of bromeliad pups & mossy canopy!

CRITTER CABANA & CASCADE PET SUPPLY • CARE GUIDE

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!

QUICK VITAL STATS AT-A-GLANCE

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

GEL TISSUE CUPS

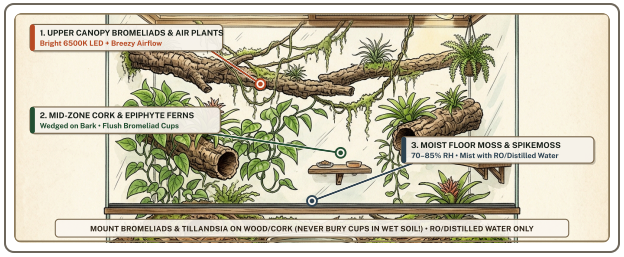
Rinse Gel → Trim → Plant

OPEN FOR PLANTING ZONES, SPECIES NOTES, CARE & CHECKLIST →

STEP 1 • ZONES, SOIL & PREP

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

6500K LED & Pure Water Rule: Reptile heat and UVB bulbs don't emit plant-growth spectra — pair them with a **6500K full-spectrum LED bar** and always mist with **RO, distilled, or dechlorinated water**!

STEP 2 • STOCKED STORE OPTIONS

Two Ways That Work

Pick Option A or Option B Based on Your Home Setup

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.

STEP 3 • SPECIES CHEAT SHEET

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

Rinsing vs. 3–6 Week Grow-Out Rule: Rinsing roots removes loose soil, NOT systemic pesticides. Plants from general garden centers need a **3–6 week grow-out quarantine** before entering an animal tank!