

Parlour palm *Chamaedorea elegans*

Fact sheet



LIGHT ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ **bright, no midday sun**

Bright and indirect, but it copes with partial shade away from the window. No direct sun – it scorches the fronds.



WATER 💧 💧 💧 💧 💧 **moderate**

Water when the surface is dry – as a rule of thumb about once a week in summer, less in winter. Don't leave it standing in water for long; rainwater is best.



HUMIDITY 💧 💧 💧 💧 💧 **medium**

Medium humidity. Mist regularly in heated rooms – against brown tips and spider mites.



TEMPERATURE

20–27 °C from spring to autumn, cooler in winter, but to be safe not below 16 °C. Away from cold draughts.



SOIL

Peat-free, free-draining, acidic (ericaceous) compost, mixed with some grit or perlite.



FEEDING

Spring to autumn about once a month with a balanced liquid fertiliser. Too much browns the leaf tips.



REPOTTING 🪴 9 cm → est. 30 cm

Every 2–3 years in spring, once the roots fill the pot – only slightly bigger. In the years between, renew the top 5 cm of soil.



HEIGHT ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ **up to approx. 1.5 m tall, est. 90 cm wide · bushy**

GROWTH 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 **slow**



TOXICITY

👤 **Humans:** mildly toxic 🐱 **Cats:** non-toxic

🐶 **Dogs:** non-toxic

👉 **Sap** irritates the skin

	TOO LITTLE	TOO MUCH
Water	 Brown, dry leaf tips. → Water thoroughly as soon as the surface is dry. Mist regularly in heated rooms.	 Fronds turn brown; in wet soil the roots rot. → Let the surface dry before watering, tip away water from the saucer after a short while.
Light	 Fronds turn yellow, the plant hardly grows. → Move it somewhere brighter, but out of direct sun.	 Scorched, brown patches on the fronds. → Move it out of direct sun.
Fertiliser	 Poor growth although light and water are right. → From spring to autumn feed once a month with liquid fertiliser.	 The tips of the lower fronds turn brown and die. → Feed less often – monthly in the growing season is plenty.
Warmth	 Reddish-brown, dead patches on the fronds a few days after a cold spell or draught. → Move it somewhere warmer, away from cold draughts at windows and doors.	



WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU

A palm that copes with fairly low light and is safe for cats and dogs. It doesn't measurably clean the air, but it's beautiful anyway.



CAUTION

Non-toxic for cats and dogs. For people, sources range from non-toxic to mildly toxic. The juice of the rare fruits can irritate sensitive skin – handle them with gloves.