

Chenille Plant

General Information:

The main species for indoor cultivation is *A. hispida*, the Chenille plant, which has green foliage and long trailing inflorescence resembling deep red chenille. All *Acalpha* species have insignificant dioecious flowers and are therefore cultivated chiefly for their magnificent variegated foliage.

Acalpha species belong to Euphorbisceae family. They are suitable for use indoors.

Light:

If too little light is provided the leaves revert to dark green. The plant needs plenty of light and warm conditions throughout the year.

Temperature:

In winter the temperature should never fall below 60-65°. A high level of atmospheric humidity should be provided, even during the dormant period between September and late January. If the air is too dry, the leaves will curl up and aphids and red spider will appear.

Water:

During the flowering period from May to the end of September, the soil should be kept moist, but care should be taken that the plant does not stand with its feet in water.

Fertilize:

From April onwards feed every 2 weeks.

Grooming:

Remove the side shoots on young plants during the first year. In the second year the plant should be topped to induce a good shape. Dead flowers must be removed.