

Lucky Bamboo

Dracaena sanderana



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Lore of Lucky Bamboo

Lucky Bamboo is a traditional Chinese plant used to improve Feng Shui, to give as gifts in times of celebration, and to draw Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to the household.

In Chinese, the plant is called “Fu Gwey Zhu”, translated literally as “Wealth-Power Bamboo”. Feng Shui masters place Lucky Bamboo in areas where Chi, or Life-Force, is blocked or stagnated, to restore balance and positive energy to a room, office, lobby, or classroom. Lucky Bamboo the energy of the wood and water elements, and the traditional red ribbon tied around the stalks represents fire.

The purpose of the Lucky Bamboo is determined by the number of canes. Three canes bring Happiness, five canes attract Wealth, and six canes promote Health. Lucky Bamboo is never grown in groups of four, as it is traditionally an unlucky number, since the Chinese word for “four” (*si*) is similar to the word for “death” (*si*).

Lucky Bamboo Care

The influence of Lucky Bamboo over Chi is symbolized in its easy care. It thrives in low and bright light levels, and requires no soil or fertilizer; just enough fresh water to keep its roots moist. Change the water weekly to keep it fresh, and keep the water level on the roots but below the base of the canes. Rain water, filtered water or natural spring water is best as chemicals in tap water can cause leaves to yellow or brown at the tips.



Yellowing leaves may result if Lucky Bamboo receives too much strong direct sunlight. They grow wild in shaded tropical rainforests, so this is a plant that needs to adapt gradually to bright sun. An occasional mild dose of diluted fertilizer will keep it strong and healthy, but too much fertilizer can burn the roots or cause it to grow too quickly.

To share the Good Fortune brought by your Lucky Bamboo, just cut a cane just below a node and give it to a friend or loved-one. They need only place it in water until it forms roots. Frequent misting may help the cutting produce new growing buds. Now they can then enjoy your gift of Health, Happiness, and Prosperity.

