

Moses-in-the-Cradle (*Tradescantia spathacea*)

Care Instructions

- **Light:** Bright, indirect sunlight; tolerates partial shade. Avoid harsh midday sun.
- **Water:** Keep soil lightly moist; allow top inch to dry between waterings. Reduce in winter.
- **Humidity:** Prefers 50–70%; mist occasionally or use a humidity tray.
- **Temperature:** Thrives in 60–85°F (15–29°C); protect from cold drafts.
- **Soil:** Well-draining mix with peat moss and perlite.
- **Fertilizer:** Monthly feeding with diluted balanced fertilizer during growing season.
- **Pruning:** Trim leggy growth and dead leaves in spring to encourage bushiness.
- **Propagation:** Easy via stem cuttings or division.

Ecological Benefits

- **Air Purification:** Absorbs indoor pollutants like formaldehyde and benzene.
- **Humidity Booster:** Increases ambient moisture, improving respiratory comfort.
- **Stress Relief:** Green foliage promotes calm and reduces anxiety.
- **Natural Pest Repellent:** Emits a scent that deters mosquitoes and flies.

Other Interesting Details

- **Common Names:** Boat Lily, Oyster Plant, Cradle Lily.
- **Origin:** Native to Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala.
- **Appearance:** Sword-shaped leaves with green tops and vivid purple undersides.
- **Flowers:** Small white blooms nestled in boat-shaped bracts—resembling baby Moses in a cradle.
- **Growth Habit:** Clump-forming perennial; typically 6–12 inches tall indoors.
- **Toxicity:** Sap may irritate skin and is toxic if ingested—keep away from pets and children.
- **Symbolism:** Associated with renewal, protection, and prosperity in various cultures.