Name(s) | Dracaena deremensis “Warnckii”, Striped dracaena; Lemon Lime  
Origin | African tropics  
Flowering | Although dracaenas can bloom, they rarely flower as potted plants.  
Poisonous | The entire plant is poisonous to pets, although the most toxic parts are the berries and flowers. The poisonous compound is the steroidal saponin. The symptoms dogs may exhibit if ingested can range from mild intestinal issues to serious heart rate problems.  
Temperature | Usual household temperatures between 65°- 80°F (18.3°-26.7°C). Keep the leaves away from cold windows, air conditioners, and heaters.  
Light | Survives in low light, but grows faster and fuller in medium light. In low light, the new leaves may be smaller and narrower. Direct sun burns the leaves.  
Watering | All dracaena plants like to be kept on the dry side. Water well and then allow the top 50% of the soil to dry out before watering again. Never allow the plant to sit in water. The lower the light level the less water it needs. All dracaenas are very sensitive to fluoride. If your household water is heavily chlorinated allow water to sit overnight, use water from an outside hose, use rain water or distilled water.  
Soil | Use a fast-draining well-aerated loose soil. Can also be grown in soil mixed with lava rock.  
Fertilizer | Feed monthly in spring and summer with a balanced liquid fertilizer diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. It’s not necessary to feed dracaenas in the fall or winter.  
Repotting | These plants like to be root-bound in a small pot. When the roots have filled the existing pot, it is time to move it to the next size container. Be sure the pot has drip holes in the bottom.  
Humidity | Dracaena plants prefer high humidity but do well in basic household humidity.  
Pruning | Brown leaf tips can be cut off the leaves with a wet scissors. Tall stalks with only a few leaves at the top can be cut anywhere along the stalk. New growth appears all along the stem below the cut area.  
Propagation | A Dracaena warnekii is propagated by stem (cane) cuttings.  
Potential Problems | Fluoride toxicity causes brown leaf tips and long tan/brown streaks in the white stripes of the leaves. Over watering causes root rot. Fusarium Leaf Spot Disease causes reddish tan spots with wide, yellow halos on a Dracaena Warnekii. Mites, mealybug, thrips and scale can sometimes be a problem but Warneckii is, for the most part, not prone to many insect problems. Mealybugs are the most likely problem.


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