

REEMS CREEK NURSERY

# Hypoestes phyllostachya

## Polka Dot Plant

### A Garden Guide

Members of the Acanthaceae family, *Hypoestes phyllostachya* are native to Madagascar, South Africa, and southeast Asia. These are easy, forgiving plants to grow and come in a large variety of bright foliage colors - green, pink, white, and red - with dramatic patterns splashed across.



Here in WNC, they can grow to 6-12" T x 6-12" W, and will grow small purple-pink flowers on long flower stalks. This plant has many common names, including: Baby's Tears, Flamingo Plant, Freckle Face, Measles Plant, Pink Splash, and Polka Dot Plant. Winner of the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit.

**Light:** Indirect bright sunlight is best for indoor situations. Too little light and they start to lose their coloration, too much light will cause foliage to burn. They can also be grown outdoors as bedding plants, tucked under larger plants.

**Water:** Moist, well-draining soil. They do not want to have wet feet, so do not leave them sitting in containers of water for an extended period of time. They do love high humidity.

**Fertilization:** For indoor plants, fertilize monthly during the growing season with houseplant fertilizer.

**Maintenance:** Rotate the pot 1/4th every week so the plant grows evenly. Plants can be pruned back at any time to maintain a bushy shape. Flower stalks are often cut back during or after blooming.

**Temperature:** 60F or higher is best for growth, but plants are rated as surviving in zones 10-11.

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