

Cold Sensitivity of Some Bromeliads

By Tom Wolfe and Eileen Kahl

Many variables factor into cold hardiness, including the condition and location of the plants along with the climatic conditions of a particular cold event.

Wind velocity can dissipate radiational heat from the ground; no wind (calm conditions) can allow frost under 38°F. Some plants will tolerate temperatures below freezing for a short period but be severely injured by frost.

Additional factors in cold tolerance include the duration of the cold; location of plants (in ground, under trees, in pots, in hanging baskets, or in tree branches which make these elevated bromeliads more vulnerable when surrounded by cold air); and cold following unseasonable warmth.

Prior to a hard freeze, we recommend that you water your bromeliads. The water in the cups may insulate the caudex so that the caudex will survive and the plant can pup. While the mother plants may die, pups will survive.

Be aware of the climate conditions in your own yard. Conditions can vary widely from area to area, depending on such factors as wind, cloud cover, canopy or the proximity of water. Your yard could be in a cold pocket or a warm pocket. You are your own best weatherman; you should rely as much on your own experience as you do on any list. Don't forget that your local bromeliad society is also a tremendous resource for information on cold tolerant bromeliads for your area.

The following list is compiled as a guide for many bromeliad species and some hybrids.

16⁰-21⁰ F

Aechmea

apocalyptica

aquilega

blumenavii

calyculata

caudata

comata

cylindrata

distichantha (all varieties)

gamosepala

kertesziae

ornata var. nationalis

recurvata (all its varieties)

triangularis

winkleri

wittmackiana

Billbergia

distachia

horrida

nutans (and its hybrids)

pyramidalis (including 'Striata' and 'Kyoto')

sanderiana

saundersii (formerly chlorosticta)

'Theodore L. Mead'

Bromelia

flemingii

serra

Deuterocohnia

meziana

schreiteri

Dyckia

All species *except*

marnier-lapostollei

Fascicularia

bicolor

bicolor ssp. canaliculata (formerly pitcairnifolia)

Hechtia

marnier-lapostollei

stenopetala

texensis

xNeophytum

'Ralph Davis'

Neoregelia

'Marcon'

macwilliamsii

spectabilis

Nidularium

fulgens

procerum

rutilans (formerly regeloides)

Puya

Most species

Quesnelia

arvensis
quesneliana
testudo

Tillandsia

baileyi
ionantha
recurvata (ball moss)
usneoides (Spanish moss)

Vriesea

atra
barilletii
carinata
corcovadensis
ensiformis
flammea
friburgensis (all varieties)
gigantea
incurvata
lubbersii
'Mariae'
phillipo-coburgii
platynema
rodigasiana
scalaris
schwackeana
simplex
vagans

22⁰-27⁰ F**Aechmea**

'Burgundy'
eurycorymbus
'Foster's Favorite'
nudicaulis
ramosa var. festiva
rubens

Billbergia

amoena var. stolonifera
'Catherine Wilson'
'Muriel Waterman' (severely damaged by frost)

Vriesea

bituminosa
guttata

Canistrum

aurantiacum

Edmundoa

lindenii (formerly Canistrum)

Hechtia

argentea
glomerata
montana

xNeomea

‘Strawberry’

Neoregelia

‘Catherine Wilson’
compacta
cruenta

Vriesea

erythrodactylon

28⁰-32⁰ F**Acanthostachys**

strobilacea

Aechmea

‘Bert’

blanchetiana (frost sensitive)
bracteata (frost sensitive)
bromeliifolia (frost sensitive)
chlorophylla
dactylina
fasciata
fendleri
filicaulis
fosteriana (frost sensitive)
fulgens
lamarchei
lingulata
lueddemanniana
mariae-reginae

miniata
mulfordii
nudicaulis
orlandiana
pectinata
pimenti-velosoi
pineliana (also var. minuta)
pubscens
triticina
weilbachii

Alcantarea
imperialis

Androlepis
skinneri

Billbergia
amoena (all varieties)
leptopoda
meyeri
morelii

rosea
speciosa
vittata
zebrina

Bromelia
balansae

Canistropsis
burchelii (formerly *Nidularium burchelii*)

Deuterocohnia
brevifolia
brevispicata
longipetala

Guzmania
berteroniana lingulata
lindenii
monostachia

Hechtia
mexicana

xNeophytum

‘Galactic Warrior’

Neoregelia

ampullacea

‘Avalon’

burle-marxii

carolinae in all its forms

‘Dexter’s Pride’

‘Fosperior’

johannis

johannis rubra

kautskyi

laevis

macrosepala

melanodonta

‘Morrisoniana’ (Foster hybrid)

pineliana

‘Rien’s Pride’

sarmentosa

‘Sheba’

Nidularium

amazonicum

ferdinando-coburgii

innocentii

procerum

rutilans

Pitcairnia

most species

Portea

kermesina

leptantha

petropolitana (all varieties)

silveirae

Quesnelia

edmundoi

humilis

marmorata

Tillandsia

bartramii
fasciculata
xfloridana
paucifolia
setacea
simulata
tricolor
utriculata

Vriesea

bituminosa
fosteriana
gigantea
glutinosa
'Lucille'
'Mon Petit'
'Purple Cockatoo'
'Rex'
'Rosa Morena'
saundersii
'Seminole Chief'

32⁰-40⁰ F

There are a multitude of bromeliad species and hybrids that will survive temperatures between 32°-40° F, though there are some that will be damaged or killed by temperatures in the 40's.

Some information was gleaned from lists compiled in prior years by Karen Andreas, Dale H. Jenkins, Al Muzzell, and Tom Wolfe.

Editor's note: If you know of bromeliads that survive any of these temperature ranges – and do not appear on this list – please email Karen Andreas at Karen@fcbs.org. This list will be posted on the Council website and updated as new information is available.