

## **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.

#### **16<sup>0</sup>-21<sup>0</sup> 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

**22<sup>0</sup>-27<sup>0</sup> 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

**28<sup>0</sup>-32<sup>0</sup> 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'

**32<sup>0</sup>-40<sup>0</sup> 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](mailto:Karen@fcbs.org). This list will be posted on the Council website and updated as new information is available.