

Monstera Care Card

Monstera deliciosa · Swiss cheese plant

Ka'ala Lush Nursery
Grown with aloha · Wai'anae, O'ahu

Quick answer: Monstera deliciosa wants bright, indirect light, water when the top two inches of soil are dry, and a chunky, fast-draining aroid mix. Give it something to climb and feed monthly in the growing season. No split leaves? Almost always a light problem. Yellow leaves? Almost always overwatering.

Light	Bright, indirect; a little gentle morning sun is fine	Support	Moss pole or trellis for bigger, split leaves
Water	When the top 2 inches of soil are dry	Size	Huge over time — leaves 1–3 ft in good conditions
Soil	Chunky aroid mix — potting soil + orchid bark + perlite	Pets	Toxic to cats and dogs if chewed (calcium oxalates)
Feeding	Balanced liquid fertilizer monthly, spring–fall	In Hawaii	Grows outdoors year-round — and gets enormous

Care essentials

How much light does a monstera need? Bright, indirect light is the monstera sweet spot — near an east window, or a few feet back from a south or west window with the harshest sun filtered by a sheer curtain. Outdoors in Hawaii, that means bright shade under trees or a covered lanai.

How often should I water a monstera? Water when the top two inches of soil feel dry — stick a finger in and check rather than watering on a schedule. In a warm, bright spot that's roughly weekly; in a cooler or dimmer spot, every two weeks or more.

What soil and pot does a monstera like? Skip dense bagged soil straight from the bag. Monsteras are aroids — jungle climbers whose roots grab bark and leaf litter — so they want a chunky, airy mix: roughly equal parts quality potting soil, orchid bark, and perlite (a handful of horticultural charcoal is a nice bonus).

How do you propagate a monstera? Take a stem cutting that includes at least one node — the knuckle on the stem where a leaf and aerial root emerge; a leaf alone will never grow roots. Cut just below the node, drop the cutting in a jar of water in bright indirect light, and change the water weekly.

Why doesn't my monstera have split leaves? Fenestrations — the splits and holes — come with maturity and good light. Young plants and new cuttings naturally push solid, heart-shaped juvenile leaves regardless of care.

Quick FAQ

- **Is monstera toxic to pets?** Yes — all parts contain insoluble calcium oxalates that cause mouth pain, drooling, and vomiting if cats or dogs chew it. Keep it out of reach of chewers.
- **Why are my monstera's leaves turning yellow?** Overwatering is the usual cause — soil staying wet too long. Let the top two inches dry between waterings, ensure the pot drains, and remove fully yellow leaves. One old lower leaf yellowing occasionally is normal.
- **Should I cut off monstera aerial roots?** You can, but it's better to tuck them into the soil or onto a moss pole — they feed and anchor the plant. Trimming them doesn't seriously harm it if they're unruly.

kaalalush.com/guides — free full guides, updated with what works in Hawai'i

Plants by appointment in Wai'anae, O'ahu — email kaalalush@gmail.com to arrange a pickup

Just a little 'ohana nursery — mahalo for growing with us!