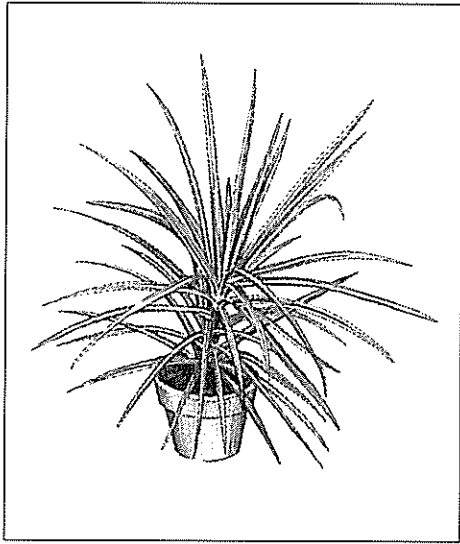


# DRACAENA, DRAGON TREE DRACAENA



*Dracaena* is Greek for female dragon, supposedly in reference to the “dragon’s blood” appearance of the juice of this species when thickened.

**Botanical Name** *Dracaena cincta*

**Ethylene Sensitivity** Yes. Ethylene exposure can cause leaf spots and necrosis on leaf margins.

**Interior Light Level** 50–150 foot candles. ‘Tricolor’ should receive higher light levels to maintain leaf coloration.

**Storage** 55–65°F. Storage time is 2–4 weeks. It is chill sensitive, so hold above 55°F.

**Purchasing Hints** Leaves should be deep green and glossy or highly variegated (“tricolor”) at purchase.

**Additional Information** *Dracaena* can be geotropic and should be transported and held upright. This species is one of many plants that has been shown to remove pollutants such as benzene and formaldehyde from air. Fluoride-induced foliar yellowing and dead areas may occur from irrigation water containing fluoride or fluoride-contaminated fertilizers such as superphosphate. The addition of dolomitic lime into the growing media reduces this problem. The cultivar ‘Tricolor’ held under low light interior conditions will not do as well as the green cultivars.