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About Chinese Money Plant

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Chinese Money Plant

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Chinese Money Plant Introduction

Tell me a plant joke

The Chinese Money Plant (Pilea peperomioides) is a charming and popular houseplant known for its distinctive round, coin-shaped leaves. Native to the Yunnan Province of southern China, this plant has gained widespread popularity in recent years due to its attractive appearance and ease of care.

Pilea peperomioides is a member of the nettle family (Urticaceae) and is characterized by its thick, dark green leaves that grow on long, slender petioles. The leaves are typically 2-4 inches in diameter and have a slightly glossy surface. The plant's growth habit is compact and bushy, with new leaves emerging from a central stem.

One of the most notable features of the Chinese Money Plant is its ability to produce numerous offsets or pups around the base of the main plant. These small plantlets can be easily separated and propagated, making it a popular choice for plant enthusiasts who enjoy sharing their plants with friends and family. The plant's round leaves and coin-like appearance have led to various nicknames, including 'Pancake Plant' and 'UFO Plant.'

Chinese Money Plant Care & Growing Guide

Caring for a Chinese Money Plant is relatively straightforward, making it an excellent choice for both novice and experienced plant owners. This plant thrives in bright, indirect light and prefers well-draining soil. It's important to allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings to prevent overwatering, which can lead to root rot.

The Chinese Money Plant appreciates moderate humidity levels but can adapt to average indoor conditions. Regular misting or placing the plant on a pebble tray can help increase humidity if needed. In terms of temperature, it prefers a range between 60-75°F (15-24°C) and should be protected from cold drafts and extreme temperature fluctuations.

Fertilizing should be done sparingly, typically once a month during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength. Pruning is generally not necessary, but you can remove any yellowing or damaged leaves to maintain the plant's appearance. Regular rotation of the plant will help ensure even growth, as the Chinese Money Plant tends to grow towards the light source.

Soil ¥.

The Chinese Money Plant thrives in well-draining, nutrient-rich soil with a pH range of 6.0-7.0 (slightly acidic to neutral). A mix of potting soil, perlite, and peat moss in equal parts provides excellent drainage and aeration for optimal growth. The ideal soil composition should retain some moisture while allowing excess water to drain freely, preventing root rot.

For best results, use a high-quality, peat-based potting mix and add perlite or coarse sand to improve drainage. The soil should feel light and fluffy, not compacted. Soil composition directly affects the plant's health by influencing water retention, nutrient availability, and root aeration.

Soil problems to watch for include:

1. Poor drainage: Can lead to root rot and fungal issues.

2. Compaction: Restricts root growth and reduces aeration. 3. Inappropriate pH: Can affect nutrient uptake.

4. Salt build-up: Often caused by over-fertilization, can damage roots.

5. Nutrient deficiencies: May result in yellowing leaves or stunted growth.

6. Root boundness: Can occur if the plant outgrows its pot, restricting growth and nutrient uptake.

Fertilizer

The Chinese Money Plant benefits from regular fertilization during its active growing season (spring and summer). Use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength once a month.

Recommended mixture:

- Use a 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 NPK (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) balanced fertilizer.
- Dilute to half the recommended strength to avoid over-fertilization.

Optimal schedule:

- Fertilize monthly during spring and summer.
- Reduce or stop fertilization in fall and winter when growth slows.
- Signs of over-fertilization:
- Brown or crispy leaf edges
- White crust on soil surface
- Stunted growth
- Signs of under-fertilization:
- Pale or yellowing leaves - Slow growth
- Smaller new leaves
- Organic fertilizer alternatives:
- Compost tea
- Worm castings Diluted fish emulsion
- Specific nutrient requirements:
- Chinese Money Plants generally don't have high nutrient demands.

- They may benefit from slightly higher nitrogen levels to promote lush foliage growth.

- Magnesium deficiency can sometimes occur, causing yellowing between leaf veins. This can be addressed with a foliar spray of Epsom salts solution.

💑 Watering

The Chinese Money Plant prefers to be kept slightly moist but not waterlogged. Allow the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings. Water thoroughly until water drains from the bottom of the pot, then empty the saucer to prevent the plant from sitting in water.

Water quality preferences:

- Rainwater or distilled water is ideal.

- If using tap water, let it sit out overnight to allow chlorine to evaporate.

- Signs of underwatering: - Drooping or wilting leaves
- Dry, crispy leaf edges
- Signs of overwatering:
- Yellowing leaves
- Soft, mushy stems
- Mold on soil surface

Watering needs change seasonally:

- Reduce watering frequency in winter when growth slows. - Increase watering in spring and summer during active growth.

During different growth stages:

Young plants may require more frequent watering.

- Mature plants are more drought-tolerant and can withstand slight underwatering.



The Chinese Money Plant thrives in bright, indirect light. It can tolerate some direct morning sun but should be protected from harsh afternoon sunlight, which can scorch its leaves. An east-facing window is often ideal, providing gentle morning light and indirect light throughout the day.

Signs of insufficient light include elongated stems, smaller leaves, and slower growth. The plant may also become leggy as it stretches towards light sources. In contrast, signs of excessive light exposure include yellowing or bleached leaves, brown spots, and leaf curling.

If natural light conditions are suboptimal, you can adjust by:

1. Using sheer curtains to filter strong direct sunlight.

2. Moving the plant closer to or further from windows as needed.

3. Supplementing with artificial grow lights, especially in low-light environments.

4. Rotating the plant regularly to ensure even growth, as it tends to grow towards light sources.

Т lemperature

The Chinese Money Plant thrives in temperatures between 60-75°F (15-24°C). It can tolerate slightly cooler temperatures but should be protected from cold drafts and temperatures below 50°F (10°C).

Temperature tolerance:

- The plant can adapt to slight temperature fluctuations but prefers stable conditions.

- It's sensitive to extreme cold and may suffer damage below 50°F (10°C).

- While it can tolerate warmer temperatures, prolonged exposure to heat above 80°F (27°C) may stress the plant.

Protecting from extreme temperatures:

1. Keep away from cold windows and drafty areas in winter.

- 2. Move the plant away from air conditioning vents or heaters.
- 3. Use insulating materials like bubble wrap around the pot in colder months if necessary.

4. In summer, ensure good air circulation and consider moving to a cooler spot if temperatures consistently exceed 80°F (27°C).

5. When transporting the plant, protect it from temperature extremes, especially in winter.

Humidity

The Chinese Money Plant prefers moderate humidity levels, ideally between 40-50%. While it can adapt to average indoor humidity, it will thrive in slightly higher humidity environments.

To increase humidity:

1. Use a pebble tray filled with water placed beneath the plant pot.

2. Group plants together to create a microclimate. 3. Use a room humidifier.

4. Mist the leaves occasionally, but avoid excessive misting as it can lead to fungal issues.

To decrease humidity:

1. Improve air circulation with fans.

2. Use a dehumidifier if necessary.

Symptoms of low humidity stress: - Crispy, brown leaf edges

- Curling leaves
- Slower growth

Symptoms of high humidity stress:

- Fungal growth on leaves or soil

- Soft, mushy stems – Leaf drop

Specific humidifying methods:

1. Pebble trays: Effective and low-maintenance, but limited range.

2. Misting: Provides temporary relief, but needs frequent repetition. 3. Humidifiers: Most effective for maintaining consistent humidity levels, especially in larger spaces or for multiple plants.

Propagation

The Chinese Money Plant is known for its easy propagation, primarily through division of offsets or 'pups.' Here's a detailed step-by-step guide:

1. Wait for the plant to produce offsets, which typically appear around the base of the main plant.

2. When the offsets are about 2-3 inches tall and have developed their own roots, they're ready for propagation.

3. Gently remove the parent plant from its pot.

- 4. Carefully separate the offset from the parent plant, ensuring it has some roots attached.
- 5. If the offset doesn't have roots, you can still propagate it by placing it in water or moist soil until roots develop.
- 6. Plant the offset in a small pot with well-draining soil.

7. Water lightly and place in a warm, bright location out of direct sunlight.

8. Keep the soil slightly moist but not waterlogged.

9. After 2-3 weeks, the offset should be established and can be cared for as a mature plant.

Propagation success rates:

- Offset division: High success rate (80-90%)
- Leaf cuttings: Lower success rate (30-50%)
- Stem cuttings: Moderate success rate (60-70%)

Best time to propagate:

- Spring and early summer, during the active growing season
- Establishment time:
- Offsets typically establish within 2-4 weeks
- Leaf or stem cuttings may take 4-8 weeks to root and establish

Potting

The Chinese Money Plant prefers a pot with good drainage holes and a size that allows for some growth but isn't too large. A pot 1-2 inches larger than the current root ball is ideal for repotting.

Potting requirements:

- Use a well-draining potting mix (as described in the soil section).

- Choose a pot with drainage holes to prevent water accumulation. - Terra cotta pots can be beneficial as they allow for better air circulation to the roots.

Repotting frequency:

- Young, actively growing plants may need repotting annually.

- Mature plants can typically go 2-3 years between repotting.

- Signs that indicate repotting is needed:
- Roots growing out of drainage holes
- Plant becoming top-heavy or unstable
- Water draining too quickly, indicating a root-bound plant - Slowed growth despite proper care

Repotting process:

- 1. Water the plant a day before repotting to reduce stress. 2. Gently remove the plant from its current pot.
- 3. Inspect the roots and trim any that are dead or rotting.
- 4. If root bound, gently loosen the root ball.
- 5. Place fresh potting mix in the new pot.
- 6. Position the plant in the new pot at the same depth it was previously growing.
- 7. Fill in with more potting mix, firming gently.
- 8. Water thoroughly and place in a bright, indirect light location. 9. Avoid fertilizing for about a month to allow the plant to adjust.

Transitioning to a new pot:

- Avoid dramatic increases in pot size, which can lead to overwatering.

- After repotting, maintain slightly higher humidity and avoid direct sunlight for a week to reduce transplant shock.

Pruning

1. Timing: Prune your Chinese Money Plant in spring or early summer, during its active growing season.

- 2. Frequency: Pruning is generally not necessary but can be done annually or as needed to maintain shape and size.
- 3. Purpose: Pruning helps maintain the plant's compact shape, removes damaged or yellowing leaves, and can encourage bushier growth.
- 4. Tools: Use clean, sharp scissors or pruning shears.
- **5.** Preparation: Sanitize your tools with rubbing alcohol to prevent the spread of disease.
- 6. Pruning steps:
 - 1. Remove any dead, damaged, or yellowing leaves at the base of the stem.
 - 2. If the plant is becoming leggy, cut back long stems to encourage bushier growth.
 - **3.** To control size, trim the main stem back to the desired height, just above a leaf node.
 - 4. Remove any crossing or crowded stems to improve air circulation.
- 7. Aftercare: Water the plant lightly after pruning and place it in a location with bright, indirect light.

8. Special considerations:

- Avoid removing more than 25% of the plant's foliage at once to prevent stress.
- Save healthy cuttings for propagation if desired.
- Be cautious not to damage the central growing point of the plant.



The Chinese Money Plant blooms infrequently, typically in spring or early summer. When it does flower, the blooms are small, white or pink, and appear on thin, reddish stems. The flowers are not particularly showy and are often overlooked. Optimal conditions for blooming include bright, indirect light and proper care. The blooming period is usually short-lived, lasting only a few weeks.

Pests and Diseases

Pests Common issues

Spider mites, Tiny webs on leaves, stippling or small yellow dots on leaves, overall plant decline, Increase humidity, spray with neem oil or insecticidal soap, wipe leaves with damp cloth regularly

Mealybugs, White, cottony masses on leaves and stems, sticky residue, yellowing leaves, Remove with cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol, spray with neem oil or insecticidal soap

Fungus gnats, Small flies around the plant, larvae in soil, yellowing leaves, Allow soil to dry between waterings, use sticky traps, apply neem oil to soil surface

Diseases Common issues

Root rot, Wilting despite moist soil, yellowing leaves, mushy stems, foul odor from soil, Remove affected parts, repot in fresh, well-draining soil, reduce watering frequency

Leaf spot, Brown or black spots on leaves, yellowing around spots, Remove affected leaves, improve air circulation, avoid overhead watering **Powdery mildew**, White, powdery coating on leaves, Improve air circulation, reduce humidity, apply fungicidal spray if severe

Special Features ÷

The Chinese Money Plant is known for its unique, round leaves that resemble coins, giving it its popular name. It's also prized for its ability to produce numerous offsets or 'pups,' making it easy to propagate and share with friends. The plant's compact size and attractive appearance make it an excellent choice for small spaces and modern interior designs.

Plant Benefits

While the Chinese Money Plant is not typically used for herbal or pharmaceutical purposes, it does offer some benefits as a houseplant. It can help improve indoor air quality by removing small amounts of pollutants. Additionally, like many houseplants, it may have mood-boosting effects and can contribute to a more relaxing

Additional Information

and aesthetically pleasing indoor environment.

The Chinese Money Plant has an interesting history. It was brought to Europe by a Norwegian missionary in the 1940s and was shared among friends and family, earning it the nickname 'Missionary Plant.' Its popularity has surged in recent years due to its attractive appearance and ease of care, making it a favorite among houseplant enthusiasts and interior designers alike.

🛞 Life Cycle

The Chinese Money Plant is a perennial that can live for several years with proper care. It goes through a cycle of active growth in spring and summer, followed by a period of slower growth or dormancy in fall and winter. During its active growth phase, it produces new leaves and may flower, though flowering is rare indoors. The plant reaches maturity in about 1-2 years, at which point it begins to produce offsets or pups that can be propagated to create new plants.

Are Chinese Money Plant Poisonous, Toxic

The Chinese Money Plant (Pilea peperomioides) is generally considered non-toxic to humans, cats, and dogs. However, as with any plant, ingestion may cause mild gastrointestinal upset in some individuals. While severe toxicity is not a concern, it's always best to keep plants out of reach of children and pets to prevent any potential issues. If ingestion occurs, monitor for any unusual symptoms and consult a healthcare professional or veterinarian if concerns arise. To prevent accidental ingestion, consider placing the plant in an area that's inaccessible to curious pets or young children.

🐞 Frequently Asked Questions

How often should I water my Chinese Money Plant?

Water your Chinese Money Plant when the top inch of soil feels dry. This is typically every 7-10 days, but can vary depending on environmental conditions.

What kind of light does a Chinese Money Plant need?

Chinese Money Plants thrive in bright, indirect light. They can tolerate some direct morning sun but should be protected from harsh afternoon sunlight.

How do I propagate a Chinese Money Plant?

Chinese Money Plants are easily propagated by separating the small offsets or 'pups' that grow around the base of the main plant. These can be potted up individually once they have their own roots.

Is the Chinese Money Plant toxic to pets?

No, the Chinese Money Plant is not toxic to cats or dogs. However, it's always best to prevent pets from chewing on any houseplants.

Why are my Chinese Money Plant's leaves turning yellow?

Yellowing leaves can be caused by overwatering, underwatering, or insufficient light. Check the soil moisture and light conditions, and adjust care accordingly.

How often should I fertilize my Chinese Money Plant?

Fertilize your Chinese Money Plant once a month during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer diluted to half strength.

Why is my Chinese Money Plant drooping? Drooping can be a sign of underwatering or overwatering. Check the soil moisture – if it's dry, water thoroughly. If it's wet, allow it to dry out before watering again.

How big does a Chinese Money Plant grow?

Chinese Money Plants typically grow to about 8-12 inches (20-30 cm) tall and wide, making them perfect for small spaces.

Do Chinese Money Plants need high humidity?

While Chinese Money Plants prefer moderate humidity, they can adapt to average indoor conditions. Misting or using a pebble tray can help increase humidity if needed.

How often should I repot my Chinese Money Plant?

Young, actively growing Chinese Money Plants may need repotting annually, while mature plants can typically go 2-3 years between repotting. Repot when the plant becomes root-bound or outgrows its current pot.

Can I grow Chinese Money Plant in my indoor space

China

Difficulty	Size	Light	Water	Flowering	Pet Safe	Air Purifier
Easy	Small	Medium	Medium	Yes	Yes	Low
Pilea peperomioides botanical details						
Common Name	Botanic	al Name	Family Name	Genus		Kingdom
Chinese Money Plant Pilea		peromioides	Urticaceae	Pilea	F	Plantae
Other Common Name	es Native	Area	Plant Type			
Pancake Plant, UFO Pla	ant, Yunnan	Province, Southern	Perennial			



Chinese Money Plant Care: What to Know

Find out how to take care of your Chinese money plant so that it stays healthy and happy. Pilea peperomioides is a pretty plant that is easy to grow. #HealthyHouseplants #ChineseMoneyPlant #PileaPepperomioides #IndoorGardening #PlantCare Video Transcript Hello and welcome to HealthyHouseplants.com, where we teach you all about gardening and the great indoors. If you'd ... Continue reading

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Missionary Plant, Lefse Plant

My Chinese Money Plant Plant Care Recommendations

- ✓ Perky Plant fertilizer: https://amzn.to/3RdLA00
- Seaweed extract: https://amzn.to/3z2CsFh ~
- Rooting hormone: https://amzn.to/3blXi0t
- ✓ Espoma fertilizer: https://amzn.to/3vPa9bs
- ✓ Worm compost: https://amzn.to/3HVL01u
- ✓ Full-spectrum Light Bulb-Large: https://amzn.to/3yR6VBu
- ✓ Full-spectrum Lighting: https://amzn.to/3qhhaiv
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