

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Fairy hair: a tillandsia hanging freely in the air

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: loose strand around 40 cm; the shop gives differing lengths of 30–40 and 40–50 cm. Decoration not included; not a to-scale product photograph.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Tillandsia usneoides

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Botanical classification	Tillandsia usneoides
Family	Bromeliaceae
Origin	Southern USA, Mexico, Central America and large parts of South America
Delivery size	Approximately 30–50 cm long; shop specifications differ · loose air plant
Growth and special feature	Epiphytic bromeliad with long fine branched hanging shoots and narrow scaly leaves

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Bright with filtered light.	Dark decorative positions do not suffice in the long term.
Water	Regularly wet the entire strand.	Mist applied only outside does not always reach the interior.
Drying	Hang loosely in circulating air after watering.	Permanently damp compacted bundles may die inside.
Support	Open holder or suitable clean branch, no soil.	The plant lives epiphytically.
Fertiliser	Very weakly during growth following suitable product instructions.	Nutrient salts should not accumulate.
Winter	Bright and frost-free, away from dry heated air.	Adapt water demand to actual conditions.
Bundle	Do not tie tightly or place on damp surfaces.	Inner shoots also require air.
Propagation	Loosely place strong living sections on a new support.	Dead threads do not form a new plant.

Knowledge that grows

A living curtain of fine shoots

Fairy hair first appears like moss or lichen. *Tillandsia usneoides* is actually a bromeliad with small narrow leaves on long branching shoots. Pale absorbing scales give the silvery appearance and allow moisture uptake. It grows epiphytically, using branches as support without tapping them like a parasite. The species is widespread across a large area of the Americas. The trade name Louisiana moss therefore describes only part of its story, not a restriction to one place of origin.

The offered strand remains manageable

Different lengths appear in the offer: around 30 to 40 cm in the title and around 40 to 50 cm in the details. Check the current specification before purchasing if a particular space must be filled precisely. It is a loose plant strand, not a metre-long garland or guaranteed delivery with a wall hanger. A small airy hanging arrangement initially suffices. Leave room below and behind so the fine shoots do not rest on a damp surface or keep being brushed when walking past.

A bright position without hot dry air

Bright filtered light is suitable. A dark hallway supplies too little energy even if the silvery strands look decorative there. Hot direct sun and dry heated air may rapidly dry the delicate structure. A summer stay outdoors in a bright sheltered place is possible before returning indoors frost-free in good time. Air movement is desirable, cold draughts are not. A tightly closed glass container often lacks necessary ventilation. Choose the hanging arrangement according to plant needs before considering free wall space.

Water must reach the whole plant

Regularly wet thoroughly with suitable soft water or briefly soak completely. Fine mist on outer threads may leave the inside of a dense strand dry. Where possible, remove the plant from its holder for watering. Then hang loosely, drain and allow to dry in circulating air. Permanently wet compacted bundles are as unsuitable as prolonged dryness. Check more frequently in warmth without treating a fixed interval as a guarantee. The name air plant does not mean ordinary dry room air provides all water and nutrition.

Keep loose and feed sparingly

The plant does not need a pot of compost. A clean untreated branch or suitable open holder can provide support. Do not tie tightly or glue into a dense block. During active growth, a suitable tillandsia or bromeliad fertiliser may be used at very weak strength according to product instructions. Do not build up fertiliser crusts or mix more strongly on speculation. Hold back when growth is limited. Occasional checks inside the bundle show whether air and water reach it evenly. Dead parts can then be gently loosened.

Extend patiently rather than artificially compress

Healthy living sections may be separated and laid on a new support. This allows vegetative propagation without soil or attempted seed sowing. Separate strong living pieces only and avoid unnecessarily tearing apart the entire plant. Small greenish flowers are possible but easily overlooked. With increasingly brittle brown threads, first check water distribution, heated air and light. A dense pretty bundle is no progress if its interior dies. A loose living strand with healthy continued growth is a better care goal.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop image: Spanish moss. Approximately 30–50 cm long; shop specifications differ · loose air plant. Shown supports or holders are decoration unless the shop expressly states them as delivery contents.

Good to know

Is fairy hair real moss?

No. *Tillandsia usneoides* is a bromeliad with fine leaves and shoots.

Is living-room air humidity enough?

Usually not. The plant needs regular water supply and must then be able to dry.

What length is delivered?

The shop states around 30 to 40 cm in the title and 40 to 50 cm in the details. Check the current delivery length before buying.

Must I plant fairy hair in soil?

No. It is hung loosely on a suitable support or holder.

The matching offer

[View plant in the shop](#)

Check the shop for the price, current availability and what is included.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer