



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

Plant Care Guide

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



Peperomia Watermelon

(Calathea makoyana)

Peperomia Watermelon, scientifically known as *Peperomia argyreia*, is a charming and easy-to-maintain houseplant. It derives its common name from the striking watermelon-like pattern on its leaves. This popular *Peperomia* variety is loved for its compact size and attractive foliage.



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Origin: Native to South America.

Care Level & Placement: Easy Care, Indoor in bright, indirect sunlight



Light

Provide bright, indirect light for your Peperomia Watermelon. Avoid direct sunlight, as it can scorch the leaves. If the plant doesn't receive enough light, its growth may become leggy.

Water



Water your Peperomia Watermelon moderately. Allow the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings. Overwatering can lead to root rot, so it's essential to let the soil partially dry before watering again. Maintain moderate indoor humidity levels, as this plant doesn't require high humidity.

Soil



Use a well-draining potting mix that includes perlite or sand for adequate drainage. Fertilize your Peperomia Watermelon once a month during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced, diluted liquid fertilizer. Reduce or eliminate fertilization in the dormant season (fall and winter).

Fun fact



Peperomia Watermelon is known for its unusual, watermelon-like leaf patterns. These patterns are a result of the plant's natural adaptation to the dappled light conditions found on the forest floor in its native habitat.



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Pet Friendliness

Peperomia Watermelon is considered non-toxic to cats and dogs. While it's generally safe, it's best to keep it out of your pet's reach to avoid any accidental ingestion.



Stress Signs

Drooping Leaves: If the leaves of your Peperomia Watermelon are drooping, it's a sign that the plant needs water. Water it moderately and ensure that excess water can drain from the pot.

Yellowing Leaves: Yellowing leaves can result from overwatering or poor drainage. Check the soil moisture, and if it's consistently wet, allow it to dry out before the next watering.

Leggy Growth: If your Peperomia Watermelon starts growing long, stretched stems with more significant gaps between leaves, it might be an indication that it's not receiving enough light. Move it to a brighter location to encourage more compact growth and vibrant foliage.



Botanical Family: Marantaceae

Botanical Name: Calathea makoyana

Common Name: Peacock Plant, Cathedral Windows, Peacock Feather



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