

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

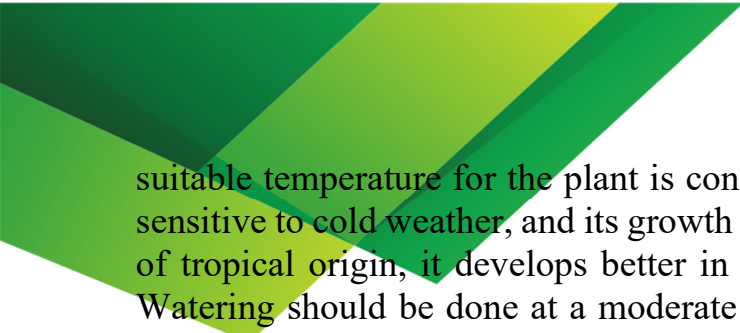
Tradescantia spathacea (Reo rəngarəng)

“*Tradescantia spathacea* is a decorative leafy tropical indoor plant. The plant belongs to the Commelinaceae family and is mainly distinguished by its colorful leaves. The upper side of its leaves shows green, cream, and pink stripes, while the underside is purple. This color variation gives the plant a very decorative and exotic appearance. The plant is known among the people as “Reo,” “variegated Reo,” or in English as the “Oyster plant.” Due to the special shape of its leaves, in some countries it is also known as “Moses-in-the-cradle.” It is considered one of the popular indoor plants because it is easy to grow in indoor conditions and retains its decorative appearance throughout the year. *Tradescantia spathacea* is a fast-growing and easily propagating plant. Its leaves are arranged in a rosette form, giving the plant a dense and decorative appearance. It can be grown both in pots and in garden and balcony conditions.



The natural origin of this plant is considered to be Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean basin. It is widespread in tropical and subtropical climate conditions. In nature, it mainly develops in warm, humid, and bright areas. Currently, it is cultivated as an ornamental plant in many countries around the world. It is especially grown outdoors in tropical and warm regions, while in other countries it is mainly kept as an indoor plant. In Azerbaijan, it is one of the decorative plants used in home and office interiors.

Tradescantia spathacea is a light-loving plant. In bright and indirectly lit places, its leaf colors become more vivid. In low light conditions, the color variation of the leaves may fade. Strong and prolonged direct sunlight can cause leaf burn. The most



suitable temperature for the plant is considered to be approximately 18–28°C. It is sensitive to cold weather, and its growth may slow down at low temperatures. Being of tropical origin, it develops better in warm and relatively humid environments. Watering should be done at a moderate level. Keeping the soil constantly too wet can cause root rot. It is recommended to water the plant after the soil has slightly dried. Well-drained and air-permeable soil is suitable for healthy growth.

This plant has a positive effect on people's psychological comfort due to its decorative appearance. Its green and colorful leaves bring vitality and aesthetic beauty to indoor environments. It is used to create a natural atmosphere in homes and workplaces. The plant absorbs carbon dioxide through the process of photosynthesis and releases oxygen, contributing to improved indoor air quality to some extent. It has been observed that people feel more relaxed in environments with green plants. At the same time, the plant's sap may cause skin irritation in some people. Therefore, caution is recommended during pruning or propagation.

Tradescantia spathacea is mainly used for decorative purposes. It is widely applied in the interior greening of apartments, offices, balconies, and various indoor spaces. The plant is especially popular in interior design due to its colorful leaves. In tropical regions, it is also grown as a decorative plant in gardens and parks. Because it grows quickly, it is often used in decorative compositions and group plantings.

Tradescantia spathacea gets its name from its tricolored leaf appearance. The plant is also known for its ability to propagate easily, rapidly producing new plants through side shoots. When properly cared for, it maintains its decorative appearance throughout the year.”

