

# CRYPTOCORYNE Caresheet

("Crypts")

**Plant difficulty: EASY - *Cryptocoryne* are the perfect aquarium plants for beginners**

## What are Crypts



The aquarium plant *Cryptocoryne* is a genus of freshwater aquatic plants belonging to the Araceae family. The typical *Cryptocoryne* habitat is slow moving freshwater rivers, streams, and creeks in forests. *Cryptocoryne* is **native to** India, Southeast Asia, and New Guinea. PetWave has *Cryptocoryne* varieties for sale.

*Cryptocoryne* are sturdy, hardy, and very easy to grow aquarium plants. Smaller variations of Crypts, such as, [Wendtii \*Cryptocoryne\*](#), can be planted in the mid and foreground to your aquarium. Larger varieties, including [Cryptocoryne Petchii](#) are perfect background aquarium plants for your aquascape! As a semi-aquatic plant, *Cryptocoryne* can be completely or partially submerged.

## What is *Cryptocoryne* aquarium plant used for

Crypt plants are amazing live aquarium plants for freshwater aquariums that help provide a habitat and breathable air for [tropical fish](#). *Cryptocoryne* freshwater plants make a great addition to a planted tank as they also help aerate your tank with oxygen, leading to happy healthy fish and overall high water quality. Find out even more secret [benefits of live aquarium plants](#) vs artificial aquarium plants.

Temperature	18 – 30°C
Light	Low
Ph range	6.0 – 8.0
Growth speed	Slow

## Cryptocoryne care

*As low light aquarium plants, Cryptocoryne are very easy to care for*

To boost the nutrients and benefits of having a Crypt aquarium plant, a liquid [aquarium plant fertiliser](#) should be used at least every two weeks.

Regular aquarium water [pH tests](#), and appropriate pH control [water treatment](#), are recommended to maintain the pH level between 6.0 – 8.0, particularly when setting up a new aquarium.

While the temperature range for *Cryptocoryne* plants is broad, a [glass aquarium thermometer](#) will help monitor the temperature of your planted aquarium.

Avoid planting your Crypt aquatic plant in an aquarium with fish prone to eating plants. Due to their strong roots, Crypts are suitable for large fish, including [Cichlids](#). Algae eating fish, such as, [shrimp](#), or [a sucking catfish](#), will help keep your *Cryptocoryne* leaves clean and healthy.

## How to dispose of *Cryptocoryne* aquarium plants

Introduced aquarium plants can cause [significant damage to Australia's natural ecosystem](#). Never dispose of Crypt plants where they could be washed into natural waterways or drains.



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## How to plant Cryptocoryne

*Do Crypts need substrate*

It is important to provide a 7-8cm layer of aquarium substrate at the bottom of your aquarium tank to protect your Cryptocoryne plants roots. Substrate is any form of loose material that an aquarium plants roots can grow in.

*Can Cryptocoryne grow in gravel? - Can Cryptocoryne grow in sand?*

Cryptocoryne plants can grow in a variety of substrate such as, [pebbles](#), rocks, [gravel](#), [sand](#), or aquarium soil. Plant your Crypt aquarium plant in substrate by burying its roots. Find out more information on aquascaping in our [how to set up a planted aquarium guide](#).

At PetWave we have Crypt live aquarium plants for sale in 5cm mesh pots, and in terracotta pots and urns.

*Why Cryptocoryne melt*

When submerged in a new aquarium, Cryptocoryne leaves may die off, Crypt wilt is also associated with changing conditions and water parameters. **Do not panic!** New Crypt leaves will regrow once the aquarium plant adjusts to new water conditions.

**Crypt melt recovery:** Keep the newly planted Crypt in the same position in a planted aquarium, and ensure stable water conditions through regular monitoring of tank water quality. Prevent Crypt melt by avoiding changes in lighting, fertilisation, and temperature.

*How to trim Cryptocoryne*

Trim any leaves that are rotting, melting, turning brown, or developing spots. To promote new growth, cut the leaf as close to the stem as possible. To minimise Crypt melt, Cryptocoryne should be given several weeks to root in their aquarium substrate and settle before trimming or pruning.

*How to propagate Cryptocoryne*

Propagating Cryptocoryne occurs by cutting off a section of a stem that has roots attached, and replanting the cut-off in aquarium substrate.

[Aquarium tongs](#) are a helpful tool when planting, handling, trimming, and replanting Crypt aquarium plants without putting your hands and arms in the tank.

