

Yard and garden: Caring for sansevieria

Iowa State University Extension

AMES — Sansevieria, also known as snake plant, St. George's sword or mother-in-law's tongue, is a resilient houseplant that is grown for its striking appearance and low maintenance needs.

Its tall, sword-like leaves and unique variegation make a beautiful addition to most indoor spaces. This hardy plant is known for its ability to thrive in a variety of conditions, making it an ideal choice for both novice and experienced gardeners.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach horticulturists answer questions on these highly adaptable indoor plants.

What types of sansevieria are commonly grown indoors?

The group of plants known as sansevieria is comprised of the species and cultivars formerly classified in the genus Sansevieria. Despite being reclassified to the genus Dracaena, this group of plants is still widely called sansevieria.

The most common species in homes is the

snake plant (Dracaena trifasciata), a species native to tropical West Africa. The long sword-like leaves grow from the ground in rosettes and come in a variety of colors and patterns.

One of the most popular varieties, laurentii, has striking gold bands running vertically along the leaf edge. Other varieties have unique patterns and colors in dark green, light green, white and silver. Popular varieties include 'Black Gold,' 'Moonshine,' 'Metallica,' 'Silver Queen,' 'Futura Robusta' and 'Bantel's Sensation.'

Bird's nest types, such as 'Hahnii,' have rosettes of much shorter leaves, typically less than eight inches long, forming a funnel shape.

Other species of sansevieria found at well-stocked garden centers include the African spear (Dracaena angolensis, syn: Sansevieria cylindrica) with long, stiff cylindrical leaves that grow in a fan pattern. Whale fin (Dracaena masoniana) has wide (eight-plus inches), stiff, dark green leaves. This species is often found in garden centers with just one or two large leaves.



Dracaena trifasciata

How do I care for sansevieria?

Sansevieria prefers bright, indirect light. This is light bright enough to cast a shadow but not directly in the sun's rays. Plants tolerate low light levels very well, although this can lead to muted leaf coloration and patterns.

Plant in a well-drained potting soil, such as cactus mix or potting soil amended with perlite. Water plants only after the soil has completely dried out.

The quickest (and sometimes the only) way to kill a sansevieria is to overwater it. Plants can go weeks, sometimes months, without water, but if

plants stay wet, root rot develops, causing leaves to turn yellow and collapse, eventually leading to plant death.

Wet conditions can be caused by frequent watering, using containers that don't have drainage holes or allowing water to sit in saucers or outer pots.

Grow plants in average home temperatures, although they prefer it a little warmer (70-90 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal). Avoid cold drafts, especially in winter.

Frequent fertilizing is not necessary, but using an all-purpose fertilizer at half or quarter strength in the spring promotes healthy growth.

How do I propagate sansevieria?

Sansevieria is easily propagated by leaf section cuttings and division. To propagate by cuttings, cut a leaf into three-inch to four-inch sections, dip the lower cut end in rooting hormone, and insert the leaf piece into perlite or other rooting media.

Place in a warm, bright, indirect light location with high humidity. Use a plastic dome or bag to maintain humidity. Check

frequently and moisten the media as needed. New roots will form, followed by a small plantlet after about two months. When the new plant is several inches tall, pot it in regular potting soil.

Cultivars with variegated leaf edges, such as laurentii, lose their interesting coloration when propagated by cuttings. The variegation in these cultivars is created from a chimera, which is an uncommon way for variegation to form.

To maintain the leaf pattern, propagate by division. Separate clumps or rosettes of leaves by cutting the thick underground rhizome, making sure each section has both roots and shoots.

Pot up the new plants immediately and give them good care until fully reestablished. While sansevieria doesn't mind being a bit crowded in its container, division helps manage excessively pot-

bound plants.

Is sansevieria toxic to pets or people?

Sansevierias are mildly toxic to humans and pets. Plants contain saponins, which cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and gastrointestinal discomfort. All species of sansevierias should never be ingested and should be kept out of reach of children, dogs and cats.

Do sansevierias flower?

It is rare for sansevieria to flower when grown as a houseplant. When provided with abundant light and good fertility, sansevieria may produce flowers.

Flowers form along a long stalk that arises from the base of the rosette. The cream-to-greenish-white tubular flowers have strap-like petals that curl back to reveal prominent stamens. The flowers typically have a sticky texture and a pleasant scent, especially at night, that is similar to vanilla or jasmine.

Opinion

Iowa House hits the ground running

By Iowa Rep. Thomas Gerhold

The Iowa Legislature began the first session of the 91st General Assembly Jan. 13, and all of us legislators look to pass good legislation for the people of Iowa.

On the 14th, Gov. Kim Reynolds gave her Condition of the State address in the Iowa House

Chamber. On the 15th, Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Susan Christensen gave her annual Condition of the Judiciary speech, and today [Jan. 16], Adjutant General Maj. General Stephen Osborn of the Iowa National Guard gave his

annual Condition of the Guard speech.

We have already had some early bills assigned to subcommittees, so we are hitting the ground running. Since this is an off-election year, we are scheduled for 110 days, which is May 2. Hopefully, we will



Thomas Gerhold

adjourn Sine Die on or before that date.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email or leave a message. You are our resource for ideas where we try to do what's best and the reason the state is one of the best in the country.

Thanks, and have a safe and warm weekend.

Opinion

Governor outlines plans in state address

By Iowa Sen. Annette Sweeney

Republicans have expanded their majority in both the House and the Senate. With a 67-33 majority in the House and a 34-15 majority in the Senate, the party is positioned for continued influence in Iowa's state government.

However, there was a slight reduction in this majority when Sen. [Chris] Cournoyer stepped down to assume the role of Lieutenant Governor.

Gov. Kim Reynolds, in her recent address, highlighted the state's strong condition, emphasizing Iowa's national leadership in key areas such as retirement attractiveness, millennial home ownership and fiscal responsibility.

She pointed to the state's efforts in tax cuts — totaling \$24 billion over 10 years — and praised the sustainability of these cuts, which she attributed to the state's ongoing government realignment efforts. These efforts, she said, have saved Iowa taxpayers over \$200 million by streamlining and reducing unnecessary regulations.

Gov. Reynolds also turned attention to education, following last year's improvements to reading education. She outlined plans to address math proficiency next, announcing upcoming legislation aimed at returning to proven methods of teaching math.

Additionally, she proposed a measure to

curb smartphone use in classrooms, citing the distraction they cause as one of the top challenges for teachers. This new policy would restrict smartphone use during instructional time, ensuring classrooms remain focused on learning and student development.

Another key proposal from Reynolds was a bill banning texting while driving, which she believes is crucial to reducing highway fatalities caused by distracted driving. Her speech also touched on the need for expanding child care and preschool programs through new grant initiatives.

Addressing healthcare, Reynolds spoke about the importance of increasing the number

of medical residencies in Iowa, announcing a partnership between HHS, Broadlawn, and the University of Iowa to secure \$150 million in federal funds. This investment is aimed at creating 115 new medical residencies.

She also stressed the need for more nurses and called for a review of the state's Medicaid reimbursement models. On the topic of cancer, Reynolds proposed more funding for research and the creation of an epidemiology team to investigate rising cancer rates in Iowa.

Gov. Reynolds concluded by urging lawmakers to act on these pressing issues, underscoring that these proposals are essential to Iowa's continued growth and prosperity.

Farm Bureau sets legislative priorities

Iowa Farm Bureau

WEST DES MOINES — Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest grassroots farm organization, will address key priorities including the modernization of the state's Grain Indemnity Fund, protecting property taxpayers and other

important policies impacting Iowa's farmers and rural communities during the 2025 legislative session.

Throughout the past year, Farm Bureau members from every county provided input on policies important to Iowa agriculture.

Farm Bureau will work toward the mod-

ernization of the Grain Indemnity Fund to adequately protect farmers affected by a grain elevator failure through no fault of their own. The Grain Indemnity Fund is a participant-funded safety net and an important risk management tool for farmers, but efforts are needed to adequately

reflect modern grain prices and crop production.

Among neighboring states with an indemnification fund, Iowa has the smallest fund level and is the only state not covering credit sale contracts, which represent nearly 40% of commercial sales in the state.

LEGAL NOTICES

January 13, 2025

The board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen and Jeff Tindle. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Moved by Bolen, 2nd by Roudabush to approve January 9, 2025 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried. 8:35 a.m. Brenda Daily, Central Iowa Community Services met with board to provide update to behavioral health service system. 9:00 a.m. Skip Lowe and Josie Beck with North Risk Partners met with board to provide semi-annual update on the county health insurance plan. Lowe indicated that he should have a renewal proposal within the next 5-6 weeks and to anticipate a 5% to 8% increase in premiums. 9:43 a.m. Simone Bates, The Record joined the meeting. 9:55 a.m. Tyler Nelson, Conservation Director met with board for monthly update. Nelson stated the conservation board meeting was held January 7, 2025 and provided the board with the minutes from that meeting. Nelson also discussed the conservation's proposed FY26 budget. 10:30 a.m. Drake Library, Brooklyn Library, and Montezuma Library representatives met with the board to provide an update on their services and programs and to discuss funding for FY26. Present: Karen Neal and Lee McFee, Drake Library; Josh Gerard and Katie Fuller, Brooklyn Library; and Christine Grimm, Montezuma Library. 11:00 a.m. Grinnell Veterans Memorial Commission representatives met with the board to provide an update on the monument. Back in 2021, the board committed \$20,000 in support of the City of Grinnell's Enhance Iowa-CAT Grant and the Grinnell Veterans Memorial Building Campaign. Present: Dr. Teresa Coon and Randy Hotchkin, Grinnell Veterans Memorial Commission; Nicole Brua-Behrens, Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation; and Adrienne Hardin, City of Grinnell. Since the memorial building plans fell through and plans are now for a monument, the CAT Grant process must be completed again for the new purpose. It is being asked of the Board to revise the commitment letter and rescind the \$20,000 commitment for the monument instead of the building. Board will consider this request at the next board meeting. Bolen stated she has a Board of Health meeting on Tuesday. 11:50 a.m. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Bolen to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried. Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

Jeff Tindle, Chairman

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (CHAPTER 635 - SMALL ESTATE)

Probate No. ESPR019931

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POWESHIEK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RAYMOND R. DALE, Deceased.

To all persons interested in the estate of Raymond R. Dale, deceased, who died on or about May 26, 2006:

You are hereby notified that on January 8, 2025, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

This estate is being administered as a small estate under Chapter 635 of the Iowa Code.

Dated January 10, 2025.

Stacey Dale-Schuetz, Administrator

10015 Franklin Street

Thornton, CO 80229

Sarah C. Barr

Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C.

235 Sixth Street S.E., P.O. Box 2107

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-2107

ATTORNEYS FOR THE

ADMINISTRATOR

Date of Second Publication: the 24th day of January, 2025.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

CASE NO. ESPR019929

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR POWESHIEK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA B. HALL, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Linda B. Hall, Deceased, who died on or about December 21, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on January 7, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Linda B. Hall, deceased, bearing date of October 2, 2024, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Jack L. Hall was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the

date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated January 8, 2025.

Jack L. Hall, Executor of Estate

Brooklyn, IA 52211

Thomas M. Buchanan, ICIS#: AT0001162

Attorney for Executor

Bloethe, Elwood & Buchanan Law Office

702 Third St, PO Box L

Victor, IA 52347

Date of second publication the 24th day of January, 2025.

TRUST NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST: RICHARD D. HUEDEPOHL & ESTHER M. HUEDEPOHL REVOCABLE TRUST

To all persons regarding RICHARD D. HUEDEPOHL, deceased, who died on or about February 25, 2024 and ESTHER M. HUEDEPOHL, deceased, who died on or about

October 29, 2024. You are hereby notified that the trustees listed below are the trustees of the RICHARD D. HUEDEPOHL & ESTHER M. HUEDEPOHL REVOCABLE TRUST dated on April 26, 2011. Any action to contest the validity of the trust must be brought in the District Court of Poweshiek County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of this notice if required or the decedent settlor, and to all heirs of the decedent settlor whose identities are reasonably ascertainable. Any suit not filed within this period shall be forever barred.

Notice is further given that any person or entity possessing or claiming an interest in trust must mail proof of the claim to the trustee at the address listed below via certified mail, return receipt requested, by the later to occur of four (4) months from the second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing of this notice if required or the claimant shall be forever barred unless paid or otherwise satisfied.

Dated on January 17th, 2025.

STEVEN D. HUEDEPOHL

P.O. BOX 147

VICTOR, IA 52347

MRCIA A. PLOUGH

8033 VENTOSO STREET

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78414

Michael R. Hom #AT0003569, Attorney for Trustee Moore, McKibben, Goodman & Lorenz, LLP

26 South 1st Ave, Suite 302,

Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

Date of second publication: the 31st day of January, 2025.

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730

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