

Nerve Plant (Fittonia)

Normally grown as a potted houseplant, nerve plant (*Fittonia* spp.) is a spreading evergreen perennial with delicately veined, deep-green, ovate leaves. Although the most popular vein color is silvery-white, you can also readily find varieties with veins in red, pink, white, and green. *Fittonia* typically grows to a height of 3 to 6 inches with a trailing spread of 12 to 18 inches. Although the slow-growing plant rarely flowers when grown as an indoor houseplant, it does occasionally bloom with insignificant reddish or yellowish-white spikes. In the right zone, the plant is sometimes grown as a creeping ground cover in filtered sun locations.

As a [tropical plant](#) that naturally grows in the humid, bright shade of tropical forests, this plant prefers similar conditions when grown as a houseplant. It dislikes full sunlight, preferring bright, indirect sun, such as that offered by north-facing windows. You should keep a nerve plant under fluorescent lights or near diffused light coming in from a sheer curtain. You can also keep a nerve plant in the [bathroom](#) even if there's low lighting.

Fittonia grows well in standard potting soil with a [peat moss base](#). It prefers a slightly acidic soil pH (6.5). The soil should retain some moisture but should also drain well.

