

# Ardisia crenata

*Christmas Berry, Spice Berry, Coral Berry*

Ardisia, also known as Coral Berry, is a houseplant that produces red berries during summer season. Though flowers of this plant are inconspicuous still they add to its beauty and can be commonly found from the onset of the summer season. Both flowers as well as berries are part of the plant for several months at a stretch; it also gives answer to why Ardisia is known as an evergreen plant. Although it's a slow growing plant still its height varies from 2-6 feet.

**Light:** Ardisia thrive in bright, sunny rooms, but don't like too much direct sunlight. Place them in rooms with south facing windows, but keep them out of direct sunlight.

**Water:** The plant should stay evenly moist, meaning the soil should never be completely dry or overly wet. Over-watering can lead to a whole host of problems. The amount of water your plant will need depends on a lot of factors: the amount of light it receives, the temperature of the room, humidity levels, among other things. A good rule of thumb would be to water the plant once a week and adjust according to how quickly the soil dries. Eventually you should be able to get into a watering routine based on the plant needs. Do not keep the plant in standing water for more than 15 minutes as this can lead to root rot and pests.



**Fertilizing:** Feed monthly in spring and summer with a slow-release fertilizer. If the leaf tips are brown, you could be over fertilizing.

**CAUTION:** Although there is no published literature supporting the theory that Ardisia is toxic, it is suspected that the berries and/or foliage are poisonous to pets and humans.