September 2021 Horticulture Report

Bromeliad aechmea fasciata

There are 255 different species of bromeliad, epiphytes from Central & South America. One of the more common ones sold in the U.S. is fasciata. It is easy to grow in pots in an orchid mix. I keep mine in the yard under high top shade from the end of spring frosts until fall frosts. During this time the light outdoors is perfect to form gorgeous spiky pink blooms with small purple bracts; these last until winter, when I cut them off. When the pot gets too crowded you can separate the plants in give some away. There are always smaller pups forming that you can replant as well.

As an epiphyte, nutrition comes from the small insects and plant matter outside rather than the potting soil. Always keep “the tank” in the center of each plant full of water when rainfall does not replenish it. About once a month you may want to moisten the soil in the container.