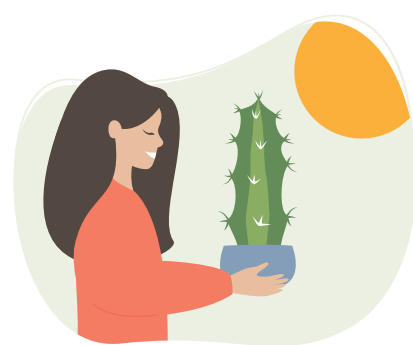


HOUSEPLANT CARE 101

THE ULTIMATE INDOOR PLANT CARE GUIDE

sunlight

Plants tolerant of low light may grow faster in brighter light, variegation and leaf color are often muted or lost in low light, and plants in low light require less water and fertilizer than the same plants in brighter conditions!



BRIGHT LIGHT

Prefer to bask in direct/indirect sunlight:

- no north window
- directly in east window
- 1–3 ft from south window
- 1–2 ft from west window

Bromeliads, Cacti, Calathea, Ficus, Palms (most), Spider Plants, Succulents

MEDIUM LIGHT

Require decent, indirect light quality:

- directly in north window
- 1–3 ft from east window
- 3–10 ft from south window
- 2–4 ft from west window

Dracaenas, Dieffenbachia, Monsteras, Orchids, Pothos, Philodendrons, Prayer Plants

LOW LIGHT

Can tolerate minimal light conditions:

- 1–3 ft from north window
- 3–5 ft from east window
- 10–18 ft from south window
- 4–10 ft from west window

Cast Iron Plants, Chinese Evergreens, Peace Lilies, Snake Plants, ZZ Plants

watering

Arid Plants: allow soil to dry out completely before watering

Cacti, Succulents, Snake Plants, ZZ Plants

Thirsty Plants: soil should remain moist, (not soggy); never let soil dry out completely

Alocasia, Calathea, Dieffenbachia, Ferns, Palms, Peace Lilies, Philodendrons



SIGNS THAT YOUR PLANT NEEDS WATER

- Pot feels light (weight test for plants in plastic containers)
- Soil is compacted; dry, crunchy, light in color
- Entire plant easily comes out of the container
- Plant is drooping; leaves look sad and limp
- Leaves are shriveled, wrinkled, or have curled edges
- Leaves are losing color or turning yellow/brown
- Plant has stunted growth (light can also be a cause)

Overwatering = #1 killer of houseplants; drainage holes are a must! Be sure to water less frequently during winter months (dormancy).

humidity

Arid plants thrive in drier conditions, but “thirsty” indoor plants need higher humidity than your home may provide:

WAYS TO BOOST HUMIDITY

- Run a humidifier
- Use a wet pebble tray or plant dome (terrarium)
- Group plants together
- Mist plants



soil



Use potting soil specific to your houseplant’s needs for best results.

MOST PLANTS

Well-aerated indoor potting soil that retains moisture, but drains quickly (add pumice or perlite to loosen/aerate heavy soil)

G&B Organics

AROIDS

High quality, fast-draining, loose soil with ample organic matter (add fine orchid bark or sphagnum moss if needed)

FoxFarm Ocean Forest

FERNS & WATER-LOVERS

Light, porous, indoor potting soil that retains water (peat moss or coir-based), but drains quickly (add pumice or perlite for increased drainage)

Malibu Compost Baby Bu’s

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Fast-draining, porous, sandy soil to prevent overwatering and root-rot. Make your own or purchase cactus/succulent soil

G&B Palm, Cactus & Citrus Mix

fertilizer

Apply monthly during growing season to promote plant growth; contains varying levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

G&B All Purpose, Malibu Compost, Joyful Dirt

Liquid Fertilizer: water-soluble nutrients quickly taken up by roots for rapid, short-term growth; powder/liquid concentrate mixed with water

Granular Fertilizer: nutrients released slowly to feed over longer period of time; mix directly into soil or scatter over top and water in

Organic Fertilizer: minerals and organic material from plant/animal sources; slow-release nutrients for controlled growth, strong roots, and long-lasting results; beneficial to soil health; generally won’t burn plants

Synthetic Fertilizer: chemically produced; readily available in various forms; cost effective; water-soluble and fast-acting; quick boost of nutrients for rapid, short-term growth; not for root development; not beneficial to soil health; can burn plants



repotting

Repot plants during growing season (Mar–Sep) to refresh soil, replenish nutrients, and support plant growth. Increase container size by 2 inches at most; some plants like to be rootbound.

SIGNS THAT IT’S TIME TO REPOT YOUR PLANT

- Plant is top-heavy; falling over
- Roots are growing through drainage holes
- Roots pushing plant up and out of container
- Plant is growing more slowly
- Soil dries quickly or pulls away from container sides
- Salt/mineral build-up on top or bottom of container

pests & diseases

If you’ve got houseplants with pests and/or disease problems, it’s best to isolate them from other plants until the issue is resolved.



SPIDER MITES

Signs: tiny white/yellow spots on leaves, yellow leaves, fine webbing

Solutions: spray with neem oil or Mite-X until pests are gone

MEALYBUGS

Signs: cottony/waxy deposits on plants, yellowing and dying leaves (new growth)

Solutions: spray with neem oil or insecticidal soap; continue until pests are gone

FUNGUS GNATS

Signs: presence of tiny mosquito-like bugs

Solutions: sprinkle mosquito bits on soil, avoid overwatering

APHIDS

Signs: yellowing, curling, misshapen leaves, sticky substance on leaves/stems, bugs on leaf undersides

Solutions: spray with neem oil or insecticidal soap; continue until pests are gone

ROOT ROT

Signs: slimy or dark roots, yellow lower/inside leaves, wilting, poor growth, death!

Solutions: remove from soil, wash roots, trim off rotting roots, spray with neem oil, repot in fresh dry soil, don’t overwater!

COLD DAMAGE

Signs: wilting, black leaves, death!

Solutions: remove dead foliage, move plant to warmer area

FUNGAL LEAF SPOT

Signs: circular brownish spots on leaves

Solutions: trim affected leaves, spray with neem oil, move to brighter light, lower humidity, improve air circulation

POWDERY MILDEW

Signs: circular powdery white spots on foliage, fluffy white fungus

Solutions: trim affected leaves, spray with neem oil, move to brighter light, lower humidity, improve air circulation

SUNBURN

Signs: bleached, pale, or yellowed leaf tops

Solutions: move plant to area with less sun