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Care Tips For Your Foliage Plants

Selecting a Plant

An important key to your success will be to start with a healthy plant. Avoid plants with off color or abnormally yellow foliage and check the undersides of the leaves for signs of pests. Plants that have that “neglected look” are best left.

Light

Your foliage plant will decline very quickly if placed in an area where light intensity is too low. If light intensity is too strong the leaves may sunburn. A few of the more common indoor foliage plants are listed according to their light needs on the back of this sheet.

Low Light Plants - Prefer light levels which normally exist in a northern and/or shaded window. You should be able to read comfortably in the area where the plant will be placed.

Medium Light Plants - Prefer light levels achieved when a plant is within 5-10 feet of a bright sunny window or directly in an east or south facing window that is partially blocked by buildings or trees. Your hand will cast a fuzzy but definite shadow when held over the spot where the plant will be placed.

High Light Plants - Prefer light from an unobstructed east, south, or west window. During the summer months it would be wise to draw a sheer curtain between the plants and the window to prevent sunburn. Your hand will leave a well-defined shadow when placed over the spot you've picked for the plant.

Very High Light Plants - Prefer light levels which provide at least 5 hours of direct sunlight during the winter and 3 hours during the summer. Be careful of excessive heat that may build up in west facing windows.

Watering

Over watering is a very common problem with houseplants. Water only when the plants need watering, not when your calendar says it is time to do so. Your plants will use water at a varying rate depending upon light and temperature conditions and plant size. The best way to check for watering is to touch the soil with your finger. When you do water, apply enough water so that the entire soil mass is moistened and some water drains from the drain holes in the bottom of the container. Never allow your plants to “stand” in water as this may lead to root rot. Finally, use room temperature water, never ice cold or hot, and water the soil, not the leaves. Check the back of this sheet for watering recommendations for a variety of foliage plants.

Temperature

Most foliage plants do well at normal indoor temperatures. If you're comfortable, the plant probably is too. However, watch that the plants are not exposed to cold or hot drafts and avoid excessively warm spots such as the top of your television. Avoid leaving plants on windowsills in extremely cold weather as the foliage may be frozen or chilled.

Care Tips For Your Foliage Plants ...

Humidity

Many homes have very low humidity levels, especially during the winter months. Setting your plants on trays of gravel that have been flooded with water can be very helpful. As the water evaporates into the air, the humidity is significantly increased around the plant. Contrary to popular opinion, misting your plants doesn't do any good. In fact it may do more harm than good by facilitating the spread of foliage diseases.

Fertilizer

Fertilizer residues from the growing cycle in the greenhouse will be sufficient for the first month. You may then begin to fertilize with any house plant fertilizer according to the label directions. Avoid fertilization as winter approaches.

Low Light Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Aglaonema	Chinese Evergreen	Moist
Aspidistra	Cast-Iron Plant	Moist
Chamaedorea	Palm	Moist
Davallis	Rabbits Foot Fern*	Moist
Dracaena	Corn Plant	Wet
Hemigraphis	Red Ivy*	Moist
Howeia	Kentia Palm	Moist
Monstera	Split Leaf Philodendron	Moist
Peperomia	Emerald Ripple*	Dry
Philodendron	Heart Leaf Philodendron	Dry
Sansevieria	Snake Plant	Dry
Syngonium	Nephtytis*	Moist

Medium Light Plants ...

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Cissus	Grape Ivy*	Dry
Clerodendrum	Bleeding-heart Vine*	Moist
Cordyline	Hawaiian Ti Plant	Moist
Cyperus	Umbrella Plant	Wet
Cyrtomium	Japanese Holly Fern	Moist
Dieffenbachia	Dumb Cane	Dry
Dracaena	Green Dracaena	Wet
Dracaena	"Warneckeii"	Dry
Dracaena	Gold-Dust Dracaena	Wet
Dracaena	Dragon Tree	Wet
Fatsia	Japanese Aralia	Moist
Ficus	Fig	Moist
Gynura	Velvet Plant*	Moist
Helxine	Baby's Tears	Moist
Hoya	Wax Plant	Dry
Hypoestes	Polka-Dot Plant	Moist
Maranta	Prayer Plant	Moist
Nephrolepis	Boston Fern	Moist
Pellionia	Watermelon Begonia*	Moist
Phoenix	Dwarf Date Palm	Wet
Pilea	Artillery Plant*	Moist
Pilea	Aluminum Plant*	Moist
Plectranthus	Swedish Ivy*	Moist
Podocarpus	Southern Yew	Moist
Polypodium	Polypody Fern	Moist
Pleomele	Green Pleomele	Wet

Medium Light Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Acuba	Gold Dust Plant	Dry
Adiantum	Maidenhair Fern	Wet
Aeschynanthus	Lipstick Plant*	Moist
Alternanthera	Joseph's Coat	Moist
Ardisia	Coral Ardisia	Wet
Asparagus	Asparagus Fern	Moist
Asplenium	Bird's Nest Fern	Wet
Brassaia	Shefflera	Dry
Callisia	Striped Inch Plant*	Moist
Ceropegia	Rosary Vine*	Dry
Chrysalidocarpus	Areca Palm	Moist
Chlorophytum	Spider Plant*	Moist

Medium Light Plants ... cont

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Rhapis	Lady Palm	Wet
Rhoeo	Moses in the Bulrushes	Moist
Salaginella	Rose of Jericho	Moist
Senecio	German Ivy*	Moist
Setcreasea	Purple Heart*	Dry
Spathiphyllum	White Flag	Dry
Tradescantia	Wandering Jew*	Dry

Very High Light Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Aloe		Dry
Codiaeum	Croton	Dry
Coleus*		Wet
Crassula	Jade Plant	Dry
Saxifraga	Strawberry-geranium*	Dry

High Light Plants

Latin Name	Common Name	Water
Acalypha	Chenille Plant	Moist
Aphelandra	Zebra Plant	Moist
Araucaria	Norfolk island Pine	Moist
Begonia	Rex Begonia*	Moist
Baloperone	Shrimp Plant*	Dry
Beaucarnea	Elephant Foot Tree	Moist
Carissa	Natal Plum	Moist
Chamaeropsis	European Fan Palm	Moist
Cissus	Kangaroo Vine*	Moist
Citrus	Calamondin	Dry
Dizygotheca	Spider Aralia	Moist
Fatshedera	Aralia Ivy*	Moist
Euphorbia	Crown-of-thorns	Dry
Hedera	Ivy*	Moist
Iresine	Bloodleaf	Moist
Mimosa	Sensitive Plant*	Moist
Pittosporum	Mock Orange	Dry
Polyscias	Ming Aralia	Moist
Sedum	Burro's Tail*	Dry
Tolmiea	Piggy-back Plant*	Moist
Yucca	False Agave	Dry

* - Indicates that plant can be used in hanging containers



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