



# HOUSEPLANTS

General information: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/houseplants/#how>

**Houseplants** need soil in a container, light, water, and air. Use good potting mixture in a container with drainage.

Most true houseplants are understory plants from the rainforest. They usually grow under other plants so they are adapted to lower light conditions than our outdoor garden plants. That is why they can do well indoors. Desert plants or outdoor plants being overwintered indoors may need supplemental light.

**Light** has three qualities – intensity, quality and duration. **Too much light** causes sunburn, curled tips, light colored leaves, brown splotches, wilting, weak spindly growth and reaching for light. **Too little light** causes weak spindly growth, reaching for light, small leaves, long internodes, leaf loss, variegated plants turn green, and poor flowering. How much light is needed depends on the plant, location, and time of year.

**Standard cool white fluorescent bulbs** are good enough supplement for most houseplants. Do not use incandescent bulbs as they generate heat.

Plants need **air** but watch drafts, frosty windows, heat vents, etc. **Humidity** is good, but not misting. It tends to attract dust and disease. Instead group plants and use humidity trays.

**Water** when needed, not on a schedule. Feel the soil. Avoid softened water if possible. Use distilled water, rain water, lake water, etc. Flush well if using softened water. Some plants are sensitive to fluoride in tap water. **Too much water** causes root rot, yellow leaves, wilting, Oedema (bumps) and adventitious roots. **Too little water** causes wilting and dry/brown tips.

**Insects and diseases** are common since a house is in such an artificial environment. Clean and quarantine new plants. If you have insects, identify the exact problem and use the proper pesticide. Always check to make sure the product solves your problem. Read the directions, follow the directions. Great information at:

Pest information: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/houseplants/#pests>

Potential cuttings to overwinter as houseplants:

<b>Angelonia</b>	<b>Gaura</b>	<b>Ornamental Sweet Potato</b>
<b>Argyranthemum</b>	<b>Geranium</b>	<b>Osteospermum</b>
<b>Ageratum</b>	<b>Helichrysum</b>	<b>Pentas</b>
<b>Alternanthera</b>	<b>Heliotrope</b>	<b>Petunia</b>
<b>Bacopa</b>	<b>Impatiens</b>	<b>Rose</b>
<b>Begonia</b>	<b>Iresine</b>	<b>Rosemary</b>
<b>Calibrachoa</b>	<b>Lantana</b>	<b>Thyme</b>
<b>Coleus</b>	<b>Lavender</b>	<b>Variegated Glechoma</b>
<b>Fuchsia</b>	<b>Mints</b>	<b>Verbena</b>
		<b>Vinca Vine</b>

### **Easiest Houseplants to grow:**

1. Pothos - Araceae family
2. Spider Plant
3. Mother-in-Law's Tongue - Sansiveria
4. Dracaena Marginata
5. Umbrella Tree - Schefflera
6. Philodendron
7. Dumb Caane - Dieffenbachia
8. Rubber Tree - Ficus Elastica
9. Chinese Evergreen - Aglanoema
10. Christmas Cactus - Epiphylla
11. Peace Lilly - Spathiphyllum
12. Jade Plant and other succulents

### **Low Light Houseplants:**

1. Pothos - Araceae family
2. Mother in Law's Tongue - Sansiveria
3. Chinese Evergreen - Aglanoema
4. Peace Lilly - Spathiphyllum
5. Cast Iron Plant - Aspidistra
6. Pony Tail Palm - Beaucarnea recurvate
7. Parlor Palm - Chamaeddorea elegans
8. Cornstalk - Dracaena deremensis 'Janet Craig'
9. Cornstalk - Dracaena fragrans 'Massengeana'

10. Philodendron scandens - heart leafed
11. Philodendron selloum
12. Arrowhead vine - Syngonium spp.
13. ZZ plant - Zamioculus samiafolia

### **University of Utah's Common Poisonous Houseplant List:**

1. Canna Lilly
2. Dieffenbachia
3. Easter Lilly
4. Peace Lilly
5. Philodendron
6. Poinsettia
7. Pothos
8. Rubber tree
9. Umbrella Tree

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