



HOUSEPLANTS DEPARTMENT

HOUSEPLANT INSTRUCTIONS

By Dee Beckman

When choosing a houseplant, first determine what type of light you have. Make sure the area gets enough light. Does the light change throughout the day or has the light changed with the season.

TYPES OF LIGHT

High Light - **Full sun**, direct sunlight for 3 to 6 hours or **bright light** indirect sunlight for 6 to 8 hours a day

Medium Light - **Full sun**, direct morning sunlight for 2 to 4 hours or **bright light** indirect sunlight 4 to 6 hours or 12 to 16 hours of artificial light (office)

Low Light - **diffused light** indirect sunlight for more than 3 to 4 hours

No light - diffused indirect light 3 hours or less, full shade

***TIP** - If you can read this paper in this light (the location the plant will be in) **without** turning on a light, it is a low light location. If you have to turn on a light to read, then it is considered a no light location.

TEMPERATURE

Nearly all, tropical plants will flourish if the temperature is kept within the 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Most houseplants will grow quite happily in rooms that are a little too cool for human comfort. There are exceptions to the rule; many flowering plants and some foliage houseplants need much cooler conditions with a maximum night temperature of 60 degree Fahrenheit.

HUMIDITY

Tropical Houseplants require adequate humidity especially in the winter months when the air is particularly dry. Create an aura of humidity around the plant by placing the plant on a pebble tray or saucer that is four inches or larger than the base of the pot, fill with gravel and water. Make sure the plant doesn't sit in the water. Misting the undersides of the leaves will also help.

WATERING

DRY IN WINTER PLANTS - Desert cacti and other succulents should be treated as a moist/dry plants during the active growth season from spring to fall. During the winter compost should be allowed to dry out almost completely.

MOIST/DRY PLANTS - Most houseplants belong in this group. Water thoroughly and allow the top third of the soil to dry down each time between watering. This drying out of the surface between watering is especially important during the resting period from fall till mid spring. During the summer months the soil may dry out faster.

MOIST AT ALL TIMES PLANTS – Most flowering plants belong to this group. The soil is kept moist but not wet, at all times. Water thoroughly, when the soil surface becomes dry. But not too frequently to keep the soil permanently saturated. There is no rule to tell which plant belongs into this group so look up your plant in any plant book, for its individual needs.

WET AT ALL TIMES PLANTS - Very few plants belong in this group. Mostly water plants like Papyrus and Rushes. Water thoroughly and frequently enough to keep the soil wet with out drying out. AZALEAS and PEACE LILYS belong in this group.

***TIP** Roots need air as well as water, which mean that the soil should be moist but not saturated. DO NOT LET THE ROOTS/POT SIT IN WATER FOR MORE THAN A COUPLE OF HOURS, DRAIN EXCESS WATER FROM THE TRAY.

FERTILIZER

Feed with a 20-20-20 all-purpose fertilizer, half strength about every other watering, to once a month. Less often in the winter, when the day length is shorter. These figures can change depending with the location of the plant, the type of pot, the type of soil the plant is in, the time of year and the weather conditions. Plants don't utilize as much moisture on gray days as they do on sunny days. Best to "feel" the soil to determine moisture content or use a moisture meter.

REPOTTING

The plants are in pots that are the right size for that plant at this time. The only reason why you should transplant **your plant is that it is drying out too fast for your watering schedule** or that the pot is cracked by the roots expansion. If so, now is the time to go one size bigger in pot size (2" larger in diameter at the most). **Do not repot unless you have to. Revised 01-20-07**

What to do after the plant has been repotted or transplanted.

Water in the plant thoroughly immediately, the only exception would be if it was a Cactus or other Succulent, and then allow the plant to sit for about 3 day before watering. "Watch your watering", after the plant has been transplanted the plant may take longer to dry out. Make sure the soil dries down between watering but until the roots penetrate that layer of new soil the root ball may dry out quicker giving a false reading when trying to gage the soil moisture. The outer layer of soil may be wet but the root ball may be dry.

WITH YOUR RECEIPT THE HOUSEPLANTS (RED DOT ITEMS AND BONSAI EXCLUDED) ARE GUARANTEED FOR 45 DAYS. THIS GUARANTEE IS VOIDED IF THE PLANT IS REPOTTED BY OTHER THAN OUR HOUSEPLANT PERSONNEL.