

TIPS FOR HEALTHY HOUSEPLANTS

1. Read the tag that comes with the plant for light, water, soil and fertilization guidelines to see if the plant is “right” for your space. Research your plant if no tag is available.
2. Be aware of plants that are toxic to humans and pets. Keep them out of reach of children and pets.
3. It is best to water on an “as needed” basis rather than on a set schedule. In general, plants should be watered when the top ½ - 1 inch of soil feels dry to the touch. It is better to underwater than overwater.
Avoid splashing water onto the leaves and stems as this could encourage disease and leaf spotting.
4. Pots with drainage holes are preferred to allow excess water to filter out of the pot. Remember to place a saucer under the pot to protect surfaces.
5. Access to the correct lighting is important for healthy growth and varies from plant to plant. Bright light is considered to be light that has no barriers such as curtains or blinds and is usually found in a sunny southern or western-facing window. Indirect lighting is light that passes through a filter such as a curtain or blind or is reflected. East-facing windows and the interior of rooms with full light provide indirect light. Low light conditions come from partially shaded and north facing windows.
Find out what lighting your plant prefers for optimal growth.
6. Potted plants need to be fertilized to restore the limited supply of nutrients. Check the instruction labels for strength and frequency. When plant growth is minimal, usually in late fall and winter, no feeding is required.
7. Monitor your plants for signs of disease or pests. Identify the problem and try to remedy it as soon as possible. It may be as simple as changing your plant’s location or its watering schedule. Remove any dead, unhealthy or yellowed leaves.
8. Periodically clean your plants. Dust collects on the leaf surfaces. Smooth leaves can benefit from a gentle shower of room temperature water or wiping with a soft cloth. Hairy leaves can be “dusted” with a soft paint brush. Remove any faded flowers to encourage new blooms.
9. Propagate by dividing the root ball or taking cuttings when your plant becomes overgrown. Share your “babies” with friends.

Garden Folklore

Never say “thank you” when given a plant or cutting. Some say it will bring bad luck or that the plant will wither and wilt and not bloom. Some other options...

How thoughtful!

It will remind me of you.

I'm happy to have this plant!

This is beautiful! I'll do my best to take care of it!