

To make sure your houseplants thrive, there are a few important things to consider.

Light

Know what kind of light exposure you have in the spot you want to put your houseplant. Consider the direction that the window faces; be aware of trees or other structures that might block windows and reduce sunlight.

Water

Water your houseplants thoroughly only when the soil a few inches deep in the pot dries to the touch. Use your finger or a moisture meter. Be careful not to keep soil soggy-wet all the time or let plants sit in water; over-watering is the #1 killer of most houseplants.

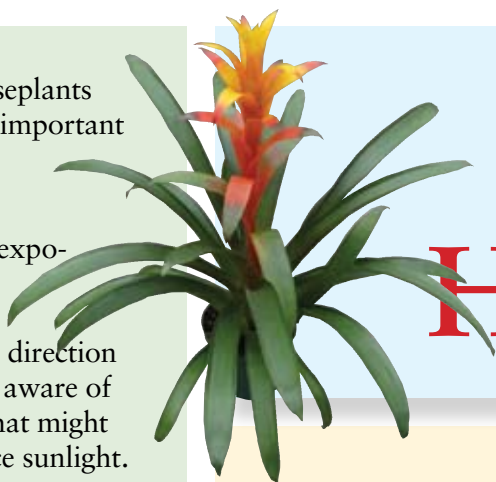
Indoor Temperatures

Houseplants like the same indoor temperatures that we do, but they don't like extremes. Avoid places on or near radiators and appliances that give off heat; they will cause the soil and leaves to dry out. They don't like cold drafts, either; avoid air conditioner vents and, in winter, doors that open to the outdoors. Lengthy exposure to cold air can harm or kill a houseplant.

Fertilizer

Houseplants should be fertilized according to this schedule:

- Light feedings starting in February
- Full feedings monthly from April through September
- No feeding is needed October through January.



Foolproof Houseplants

Looking for an easy-care houseplant?

Here are some great ones for beginners and busy people alike. These low-maintenance plants will thrive even if you occasionally forget to care for them.

Easy houseplants that work well in:

Full Sun

Snake Plant
Cactus and Succulents

Low Light Locations

Cast Iron Plant
Chinese Evergreen
Corn Plant
Heart-Leaf
Philodendron
Peace Lily
Pothos
Snake Plant
ZZ

Medium to Bright (Indirect) Light Locations

Anthurium
Arrowhead Plant
Bromeliad
Corn Plant
Heart-Leaf
Philodendron
Peace Lily
Pothos
Snake Plant
Spider Plant

ANTHURIUM

Striking glossy green, elongated heart-shaped leaves with red, pink or white shiny heart-shaped flowers make these must-haves; new varieties are introduced every year.



ARROWHEAD PLANT

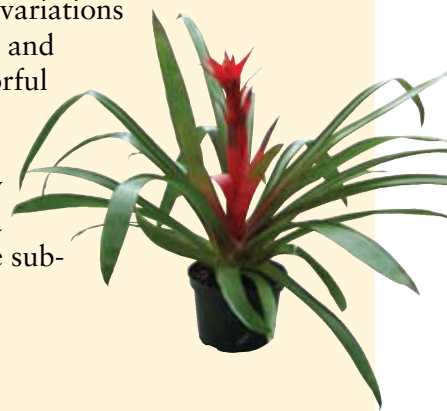
(*Syngonium podophyllum*)

Bold, arrow-shaped green leaves that are sometimes tinged silver or pink. Older plants trail or can be trained to climb on a support; trim back as needed.



BROMELIADS

Available in a wide variety of wide sword-like to thin, fine-textured leaves with a multitude of variations of green, gray and multi-colored centers and patterns. Many sport dramatically colorful spike-shaped flowers that last months. Grow in medium to bright light. Some prefer to grow in potting mix, but many are epiphytes (air plants) that grow on a slab of bark or driftwood, needing to be submerged weekly in water.



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CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

A large group of plants, with or without sharp spines, having fleshy leaves and stem for storing water in arid climates. All they want is lots of direct sunlight and well-drained soil. Let them go completely dry between waterings.



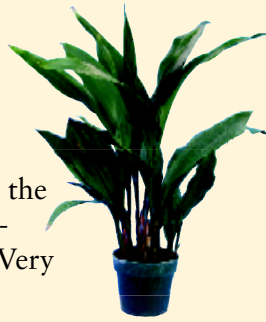
waterings at other times. If wilted, water immediately and they'll perk up again. New variegated varieties require more light than dark green ones.



CAST IRON PLANT

(*Aspidistra elatior*)

This tough houseplant doesn't like sunlight and will tolerate outright neglect. Virtually indestructible as the name implies, it's great for a north-facing window or lowlight spots. Very happy in artificial light, too.



POTHOS

(*Epipremnum aureum*)

Long, vining stems with glossy heart-shaped leaves trail over the side of the pot. Trim them as you see fit. Because pothos thrives without much sunlight, it's the perfect choice for artificially-lit settings, like your office.



CHINESE EVERGREEN (*Aglaonema*)

Smooth, glossy, sometimes variegated or mottled leaves. Tolerates low light like a champ. They come in various sizes, from small to large.



SNAKE PLANT

(*Sansevieria trifasciata*)

A virtually indestructible houseplant with upright, sword-shaped leaves. This is the ultimate low-maintenance plant. Tolerates low light and neglect. Water sparingly – only once or twice over the winter – to avoid rot. Variegated varieties require a bit more.



CORN PLANT (*Dracaena*)

Upright plants (some really do look like corn plants) with strap-like leaves, often edged in white or red. If they grow too large, simply decapitate them. Don't worry – they'll come back. They prefer bright, indirect light.



SPIDER PLANT

(*Chlorophytum comosum*)

Requires bright to moderate sunlight and slightly moist soil. Spider plants are so easy that they don't really have any other requirements. They come in a variety of sizes and work well in hanging baskets and on plant stands.



HEART-LEAF PHILODENDRON

(*Philodendron scandens*)

Trails over the side of the pot with glossy, heart-shaped leaves. Tolerates low light but thrives much better with more sunlight. Trim them as you see fit.



Z Z PLANT

(*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*)

Rows of dark green, glossy, elliptic leaflets on upright, fleshy leafstalks create the palm leaf-like effect of this easy houseplant. Thrives in low light conditions and requires little water. Keep away from direct sunlight.



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