



Clinton Parkway Nursery & Garden Store

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Houseplant Care

Soil

For houseplants, any basic soil will do. It is better for your houseplant to have a soil rich in nutrients and micronutrients. However, with the exception of a few plants, it is important for the house plant's soil to drain, but retain some moisture, therefore avoiding the clay-like soils that may be found outside or pure sand. When repotting, only go about 1-2 inches bigger in pot size, in order to avoid stunting your houseplant's growth, or adding to the shock of being repotted. In addition, when repotting a root bound plant, break up the roots on the bottom and the sides so that it will grow into its new space, instead of continuing in the shape of its old pot. We recommend FoxFarm Ocean Forest Planting Mix, or if you love blooms, FoxFarm Strawberry Fields Planting Mix.

Light

The amount and type of light needed varies greatly from plant to plant. There are essentially three types of light:

Bright: 4+ hours of bright light in an unobstructed window, that faces south or southeast.

Plant Examples: ▪ Cactus ▪ Citrus ▪ Croton ▪ Flowering Maple ▪ Herbs ▪ Hibiscus ▪ Crassula Ovata (Jade) ▪ Orchids ▪ Peperomia Purple ▪ Bay ▪ Succulents ▪ Ficus ▪ Bromeliad

Medium: Only a 3-4 hours a day in an east or west window, where the light will either come in the early morning or late afternoon.

Plant Examples: ▪ African Violet ▪ Begonia ▪ Dracaena ▪ English Ivy ▪ Fig ▪ Nerve Plant
▪ Peperomia ▪ Schefflera ▪ Ponytail Palm ▪ Fiddle Leaf Fig ▪ Scindapsus ▪ Rubber Plant
▪ Ming/Fabian Aralia ▪ Hoya ▪ Podocarpus ▪ Xanadu ▪ Monstera ▪ Money Tree ▪ Prayer Plant

Low: Plants get some light, but no direct sunlight. It is important to keep these plants well away from any windows, but NOT anywhere near a southern facing window. It is best to keep in a room that has a north, east, or northeast facing window, or potentially no window.

Plant Examples: ▪ ZZ ▪ Sansevieria ▪ Cast-iron Plant ▪ Aglaonema ▪ Dieffenbachia ▪ Dracaena ▪ Lady Palm ▪ Parlor Palm ▪ Peace Lily ▪ Philodendron ▪ Peace Lily ▪ Ferns

If you have less light or window space than you need, consider artificial light from a grow light. We recommend a SunBlaster 6400k light.

Temperature

The reason that some plants can only be houseplants in your particular zone is due to temperature. Though the desired temperature varies from plant to plant, keeping plants away from drafty areas, heat/cooling systems, and poorly insulated windows/walls is a general rule. Extreme heat or cold can burn, freeze, or induce dormancy out of season. The usual recommended temperature of your house, for your houseplants, ranges in the 60-70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Watering

There is no one-size-fits-all regimen for watering houseplants. It is, however, the general rule to water your plant's soil, not the actual plant. Plants with fuzzy or sensitive leaves should be watered from the saucer, as it tends to rot the leaves. If the soil in your plants looks wet, it is probably not yet time to water again. Wet is not the same as moist. A good way to test the dryness is by sticking your finger in the soil to about two inches. If the top two inches are dry, it is probably, time to water. If the soil has pulled away from the edges, it is probably time to water your plant. If you have a plant that is finicky, it may be helpful to use a moisture meter or thirsty light in order to notify you when it is time to water again. In the winter, the air in your home becomes increasingly drier. Generally, houseplants enjoy moisture in the air, specifically topicals. In order to simulate this, a spritzing or running a humidifier would do the trick, and your plants will thank you. Make sure to use a fine spritzer, so that big water droplets are not sitting on your plant's leaves, which invites fungus and rot. Overall, it may take some time to get to know your specific plant and what it likes in your specific space.

Fertilizer

As your potting soil loses its nutrients, so does your plant. In the growing seasons of spring and summer, it is important to the growth of your plant to provide food/nutrients. This can be accomplished with compost or an all-purpose fertilizer, with a ratio of 1-1-1. Some plants may like more or less Nitrogen, Phosphorous, or Potassium. When the fall season is approaching, it is best to taper off feeding your houseplant, in order to allow for the plant to naturally go dormant for the winter. Though the plants live in your home and have regulated temperatures, they still recognize the seasons going on outdoors. We recommend ferti-lome Garden Cote fertilizer, as it is a slow-release granular that will last for the entire growing season, meaning that you will only have to feed your houseplants one time per year. If you would like to feed more often, we recommend FoxFarm Grow Big Fertilizer.