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# Indoor plants

An expert  
guide  
to the  
planting  
and care of  
Foliage  
Plants



**GardenCare**



## An introduction to Indoor Foliage Plants

Indoor foliage plants, grown for their decorative leaves, generally grow to large portions and last a long time in the home provided that they are properly cared for. The practical uses are vast and varied, bringing a touch of nature into the indoor living environment. Moreover, they are a practical and affordable way of transforming an ordinary home into a rich living oasis where tension and boredom are dispelled.

### Position

Foliage pot plants require variable light intensities from bright sunlight to low light positions. Ensure that you find the right plant for your particular light situation. Not all pot plants can endure poor light. Artificial light from fluorescent tubes or special grow light bulbs can improve plants' indoor performance. Keep plants away from spotlights as they can be burnt from the heat.

Size and scale is of paramount importance in creating the right effect with interior plantscaping. Often a single, large plant is more dramatic than a group of

small plants. Before making your final choice, always confer with the experts at your local Gardenshop.

### Watering

In a nut shell, every plant has different watering requirements, influenced by a wide range of factors. More houseplants are killed through generous over-watering and waterlogging than any other cause. Water requirements are greatest in summer and lowest in winter. Alter frequencies accordingly.

The best way to water is to place plants in bath or shower where you can rinse down foliage as well as saturate the rootball until water appears through drainage holes. Leave plants to dry and drain thoroughly for at least half an hour before returning to rightful position.

### Plants' Feeding

All potted plants depend on you for their food and fertiliser. The best time to apply it is immediately after watering and flushing out the pot.

Numerous options in terms of type of fertiliser are available, each with its own specific application rate

and frequency. NITROSOL, SEAGRO or MULTIFEED are recommended. Nutrient uptake is greater in warmer weather - hence increase fertiliser dosage in mid-summer and cease feeding in the middle of winter.

### Maintenance Ailments

Most plants need regular re-potting into larger containers to maintain healthy growth. Autumn is the best time to accomplish this task. Pot into a container only slightly larger than the present one, and always use indoor potting soil.

Inspect regularly (weekly) for signs of ill health. Remove yellowing or drying leaves on an ongoing basis. Ferns and other tropical plants from naturally humid, damp growing conditions benefit permanently from standing on a drip tray of damp pebbles, - this increases the humidity around the plants.

Generally pests are usually a problem only if the ventilation in the rooms is inadequate. The most common pests are Scale, Mealy bug, Aphids and Red Spider mite. BAYSOL PLANT INSECTICIDE, OLEUM or GARDEN GUN are recommended.

Happy Gardening!