



Aylett Nurseries
The Complete Garden Centre

Houseplants

Information Leaflet No. 65



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Here at Aylett Nurseries, we have a vast selection of beautiful indoor plants to suit your needs all year round. Whether it is for home or the office, flowering or foliage it must be remembered that all indoor or 'House plants' are outdoor plants in their native country, where they have the correct light, air and humidity for success.

If you are in need of any extra advice or have a specific enquiry, please do not hesitate to ask for advice from our houseplant experts at Aylett Nurseries. Also look out for our Secrets of Success information cards with useful growing tips.

We are proud growers of Poinsettias and Cyclamen for Christmas and you will find many different varieties in a range of sizes all grown here, so no plant miles.

WATERING:

Never over water your plants. More plants are killed with kindness than by any other cause, therefore do not water a plant that is already moist, as a general rule most houseplants should only be watered once the surface has dried out. You can feel the condition of the compost with your fingers or by the weight of the pot. Always use water at room temperature and not straight from the tap, a good idea is to keep a watering can full in the kitchen.

An exception to this rule is the Azalea which is best dipped in a bucket of water (rainwater) and should always be kept moist so that 3/4" of stem above the compost shows darker brown, almost black.

Plants such as African Violets, Gloxinias and Cyclamen do not like water given to them indiscriminately from above especially if water is allowed to sit in the crown or axis of the leaves this will cause rotting.

Watering is best done in the morning. Less watering is necessary in winter when growth has slowed down with the shorter length of day.

Cactus and Succulents, of course, only need a little water, but in the summer growing season you will need to water more frequently. More cacti are killed by under watering than overwatering providing they have good drainage.

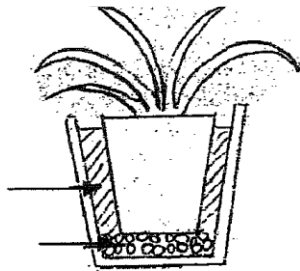
POSITION:

Most living-room conditions are not ideal and care should be taken in positioning any plant, avoid the top of the television and the window sill between glass and a drawn curtain - the first is the hottest and the second the coldest in winter.

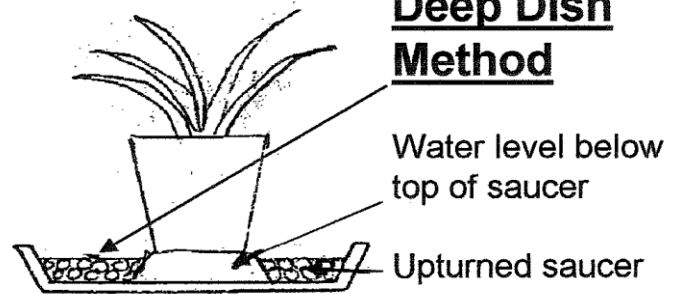
Bearing this in mind, and avoiding draughts, you are ready to site your plants. Each room will give places that are bright; or bright and sunny; which are in good or indirect sunlight; or which receive very little light. You must choose the right plants for the chosen spot. Shade areas might be described as out of direct sunlight but not in a dark corner. Further on in this leaflet we give a brief list of plants suitable for certain positions.

HUMIDITY:

Pot in a pot



Deep Dish Method



The best way to increase humidity is to use a pot within a pot or saucer filled with Hydroleca.

In this way moisture will rise around the leaves and stems of the plants, thereby creating a micro climate.

Misting a plant can provide a temporary increase in humidity. Use an 'Aylett Nurseries' mister to deposit a coating of fine rain-water droplets over and around the whole plant. Do not carry this out in full sunlight and always ensure water is at room temperature.

DRAUGHTS:

Most plants do not like draughts, although they do appreciate some ventilation. If a plant is ailing, try moving it to an alternative position. It might work wonders.

FEEDING:

The nutrients (food) in a pot full of compost are rapidly exhausted for two reasons. One, that the plant is using it up, and two, that much is flowing out of the drainage holes when the compost is watered. The nutrients in the compost will generally last six to eight weeks from re-potting.

After this time you must replace the food, but this should only be done when the plant is in growth between April and September. When a plant is showing bud or flower or fruit a high potash feed should be used i.e. Tomato feed. During the growing season we use a houseplant feed for foliage plants. Use fertilisers as recommended by the manufacturers.

CLEANING:

Dust is an enemy of plants in that it clogs up the pores in the leaf and stops your plant breathing. It also spoils the plant's appearance. It is necessary to remove this layer of dirt. Leaves should be dusted lightly with a soft cloth, and in extreme cases using a damp cloth or cotton wool pads.

The glossy sheen of a new leaf is quickly lost as the plant ages. We carry a range of polishing materials such as Leafshine, wipes or sprays, but the leaves must be treated carefully and not bruised. Very young leaves should not be cleaned or polished. Not all plants can be leaf shone, e.g palms and ferns, please ask for advice.

REPOTTING:

This should be done when necessary in spring. There are a number of proprietary of composts, we recommend a Houseplant compost, or a Multi-purpose compost. Some plants require special compost, i.e. Cacti are re-potted into cactus compost and Azaleas into ericaceous compost. Therefore check your plant's needs before starting to re-pot.

Always choose a pot one size larger than the existing pot. Too large a pot will cause the plant undue stress, and over-watering can easily occur.

PESTS AND DISEASES:

From time to time your houseplant may be suffering from a problem that is affecting its health and appearance. Our team are always on hand to give advice. You can always e-mail a picture for our experts to help with diagnosis or perhaps it's time to start again and treat yourself to a new plant, remember houseplants do not last forever.

PLEASE NOTE IF DO HAVE TO SPRAY ALWAYS : check the insecticide or fungicide bottle for the recommended strength of spray and confirm that there is no warning against spraying that particular type of plant. Several applications may be necessary to cure the problem.

Always follow the instructions on the bottle.

AIR PLANTS

Air plants also belong in the category of Bromeliads. These plants are able to grow without any soil as in their natural surroundings in Central and South America they grow perched on rocks and trees and in crevices. Their roots are only used for support. Air plants usually need to be misted daily but this will differ according to temperature as humidity levels change. On cold days they do not need to be misted as frequently as on warm sunny days. Other cultural requirements are good indirect light, and good air circulation is also an important factor. Air plants make very attractive displays when mounted on shells, coral, driftwood, etc.

HOUSE PLANTS FOR A PURPOSE

Plants that like full sun - Plants which will generally tolerate the sunniest and hottest parts of the house.

Amaryllis, Cactus (except Christmas and Easter Cactus), Geraniums, Miniature Roses, Passiflora, Yucca.

Plants for a part sunny position - Plants which thrive in bright light, but not in direct, strong sunlight.

Aphelandra, Azalea, Begonia, Beloperone, Bromeliads, Campanula, Chlorophytum, Coleus, Cyclamen, Dizygotheca, Dieffenbachia, Ficus Elastica, Ficus Benjamina, Fuchsia, Hibiscus, Hoya, Hydrangea, Hypoestes, Impatiens (New Guinea), Jasminum, Kalanchoe, Monstera, Orchids, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Persian Violet, Philodendron varieties, Pilea, Poinsettia, Primula, Saintpaulia, Sansevieria, Stephanotis, Streptocarpus, Succulents, Syngonium, Tradescantia varieties, Yucca.

Plants for a semi-shady position - Plants which thrive near windows receiving sun in the morning and late afternoon, and in the brighter parts of the home or office.

Asparagus Fern, Begonia Rex, Codiaeum, Dracaena, Ferns, Ficus, Hedera, Helexine, Pilea, Tradescantia,

Plants for a shady position - e.g. Shady hallway or unlit corner. It is still best to move plants to a more well lit position for a few weeks if their normal position is very shady.

Aglaonema, Aralia (green), Aspidistra, Asplenium, Chamaedorea, Chamaedora Elegans, Cissus, Cyperus, Dracaena (some varieties), Fatshedera Lizei, Fatsia japonica, Ferns (some indirect light needed), Ficus Pumilla, Hedera (green), Helxine, Kentia Palm, Maranta varieties, Monstera, , Philodendron, Rhoicissus, Selaginella, Sansevieria, Schefflera, Scindapsus Aureus, Syngonium,

Plants for windowsills - During the winter months plants should not be trapped behind the curtains at night, as the cold air can cause damage. Plants should be removed from the windowsill at night.

North Facing -

Aspidistra, Cissus, Cyperus, Fatsia Japonica, Ferns, Ficus Pumila, Ivy, Maranta, Philodendron Scandens.

South Facing -

Aloe, Cacti, Lithops, Oleander, Pelargonium / Geranium, Sansevieria, Succulents,

East & West Facing -

Suitable for most plants, including flowering and variegated, e.g. Begonia, Beleperone, Chrysanthemum, Cineraria, Cyclamen, Dieffenbachia, Hypoestes, Pilea, Tradescantia, Venus Fly Trap.

HOUSE PLANTS FOR SPECIFIC ROOMS

Kitchens - Main problems are high humidity and warmth.

Bromeliads, Begonia varieties, Chlorophytum, Columnea, Dracaena varieties, Fern varieties, Fittonia, Hoya, Monstera.

Bathrooms - main problems are high humidity and fluctuating temperatures.

Well Lit Bathrooms -

Anthurium, Aphelandra, *Asparagus Sprengeri, Caladium, *Cyperus, Fittonia, *Helxine, Saintpaulia, *Scirpus.

Poorly Lit Bathrooms -

Aglaonema, *Aspidistra, Asplenium Nidus, *Chlorophytum, *Ferns, Philodendron Scandans, *Scindapsus Aureus, Spathiphyllum, Syngonium.

* Plants suitable for use in bathrooms which are unheated for much of the day.

Hallways - Main problems likely to be poor light and fluctuating temperatures.

Asparagus Sprengeri, *Aspidistra, Fatsia Japonica, Ficus Pumila, *Hedera (green), Helxine, *Philodendron Scandens, *Rhoicissus, Sansevieria, *Selaginella, Tradescantia.

* Plants suitable for lower light conditions. Remainder require a reasonable degree of light.

Sitting Rooms - In well lit sitting rooms with a constant temperature most plants will thrive. Take into account any that do not like high light levels. These should be placed in a more shaded area of the room.

Conservatories – These plants thrive in bright conditions and will add structure to a conservatory display. In a south facing conservatory they will need some protection for the direct sunlight.

Anthurium, Hibiscus, Strelitzia, Zamioculus, Codiaeum, Beaucrnia, Cactus, Succulents, Aloe, Citrus, Stephanotis.

Offices - Main problems likely to be low humidity, high temperatures and neglect.

Aglaonema, Bromeliads, Cacti, Chlorophytum, Dracena Deremensis, Ficus Elastica, Monstera, Philodendron varieties, Sansevieria, Scindapsus Aureus.

HOUSEPLANTS ARE YOUR NATURAL AIR CLEANER

The following houseplants that have been scientifically proven to have powerful, air purifying effects.

Spathiphyllum, Dracaena, Areca Palm (Dypsis lutescens), Ivy (Hedera Helix), Nephrolepis exalata (boston fern), Calathea, Phlebodium (Blue Star) fern, Sanseveira..

These plants absorb Co2, improve air humidity, and purify the air of harmful gases as well as being beautiful and healthy

Many of these plants carry the 'Air so pure' trademark so they can be easily identified for their beneficial properties.

We always have a very good selection of Orchids that make very rewarding houseplants. please see our separate leaflet no 67 for their care.

Please have your plant wrapped before you leave our shop to make sure it doesn't catch a chill on the way home

This leaflet is available in alternative formats.

Please ask a member of staff or

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Updated March 2016