CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - SUFFOLK COUNTY

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Growing Conditions for Indoor Plants

The following information on light, water and temperature is used in the table below which gives basic guidelines for the care of numerous indoor plants commonly grown in the home.

Light (The minimum light requirements of the various species):

- ***High* (H)*:*** Bright, direct light or sunlight through unobstructed south, east, or west window. Within 4 feet of window. 300 footcandles or greater.
- ***Medium* (M)*:*** Bright, indirect light,

  4 – 10 feet from an east, south, or west window. No direct sunlight. Directly in front of an unobstructed north window. 100 – 300 footcandles.
- ***Low* (L)*:*** 10 feet or more away from a

  window – no direct light. Encompasses the greatest area of most interiors where plants are to be included. Directly in front of an obstructed north window. 25 –100 footcandles.

Watering Requirements:

- ***Moist* (M)*:*** Indicates the plant requires frequent watering – soil surface should not be dry.
- ***Dry* (D)*:*** Infrequent watering. For pots 6" diameter or less, soil surface should be dry to the touch before rewatering. For containers of greater diameter, media should be dry 1-2" below the

  surface. *(When water is required, apply throughly until excess drains out the bottom.)*

Temperature Requirements:

- ***Cool* (C)*:*** Temperature of 60^0 F. with variations from 50^0 F to 70^0 F. Night temperature, 50^0 F to 60^0 F.
- ***Warm* (W)*:*** Temperature of 75^0 F with variations from 65^0 F to 85^0 F. Night temperatures, 65^0 F - 75^0 F. (Temperatures at night should decrease about 10^0 F from normal day temperatures.)

Growing Conditions for Common Foliage Plants

Scientific Name	***Common Name***	***H***	***M***	***L***	***M***	***D***	***C***	***W***
Adiantun raddianum	Maidenhair fern		♦	♦	♦		♦	
Agave spp.	Century plant	♦				♦	♦	
Aglaonema (spp.) *modestum*	Chinese evergreen			♦	♦			♦
Aloe barbadensis	Medicine plant	♦				♦	♦	
Araucaria heteropohylla	Norfolk Island pine	♦			♦		♦	
Ardista crenata	Coralberry	♦			♦		♦	
Asparagus setaceus 'Sprengeri"	Asparagus fern	♦			♦		♦	
Aspidistra elatior	Cast-iron plant			♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Asplenium nidus	Bird's-nest fern			♦	♦		♦	
Brassaia actinophylla	Umbrella tree		♦			♦	♦	
Calathea makoyana	Peacock plant		♦		♦			♦
Caryota urens	Fishtail palm	♦	♦		♦			♦
Chamaedorea elegans	Parlor palm			♦	♦			♦

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Scientific Name	***Common Name***	***H***	***M***	***L***	***M***	***D***	***C***	***W***
Chamaedorea erumpens	Bamboo palm			♦	♦			♦
Chlorophytum comosum	Spider plant		♦		♦			♦
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens	Areca palm	♦	♦		♦			♦
Cissus antarctica	Kangaroo vine		♦			♦		♦
Cissus rhombifolia	Grape ivy			♦		♦	♦	
Citrus spp.		♦			♦		♦	
Clusia rosea	Signature plant		♦			♦	♦	
Codiaeum variegatum and vars.	Croton	♦			♦			♦
Coffea arabica	Coffee tree		♦		♦		♦	
Cordyline terminalis	Ti plant	♦				♦	♦	
Crassula argentea	Jade plant	♦				♦	♦	
Cycas revoluta	Sago Palm		♦			♦		♦
Cyperus spp.	Umbrella plant		♦		♦		♦	
Cyrtomium falcatum	Holly fern			♦	♦		♦	
Dieffenbachia spp.	Dumb cane	♦	♦			♦		♦
Dizygotheca elegantissima	False aralia	♦			♦			♦
Dracaena fragrans ‘Massangeana’	Corn plant		♦	♦		♦		♦
Dracaena reflexa	Pleomele	♦				♦		♦
Epipremnum arueum and vars.	Pothos			♦		♦		♦
Fatshedera lizei	Fatshedera		♦		♦		♦	
Fatsia japonica	Japanese aralia		♦		♦		♦	
Ficus spp.	Fig, rubber plant		♦		♦			♦
Fittonia verschaffeltii	Nerve plant			♦	♦			♦
Hedera helix	English ivy	♦	♦		♦		♦	
Howea forsterana	Kentia palm			♦	♦		♦	
Hoya carnosa	Wax plant		♦	♦		♦		♦
Iresine herbstii	Bloodleaf	♦			♦			♦
Livistona chinensis	Fan palm		♦		♦			♦
Maranta leuconeura	Prayer plant		♦		♦			♦
Monstera deliciosa	Split-leaf philodendron		♦		♦			♦
Nephrolepis exaltata	Boston fern		♦		♦		♦	
Pandanus veitchii	Screw pine	♦				♦		♦
Peperomia spp.			♦			♦		♦
Persea americana	Avocado	♦			♦			♦
Philodendron selloum	Saddle-leaf philodendron			♦		♦		♦
P. scandens oxycardium	Heart-leaf philodendron			♦		♦		♦
Phoenix roebelenii	Dwarf date palm		♦		♦			♦
Pilea cardierei	Aluminum plant	♦			♦			♦
Pittosporum tobira ‘Variegata’	Pittosporum	♦				♦	♦	
Platycerium spp.	Staghorn fern		♦		♦			♦
Plectranthus australis	Swedish ivy			♦	♦			♦
Podocarpus marcophyllus	Podocarpus		♦		♦		♦	
Polypodium spp.	Polypody		♦		♦		♦	
Polyscias balfouriana	Polyscias	♦	♦		♦			♦
Rhapis excelsa	Lady palm		♦	♦	♦		♦	

Scientific Name	***Common Name***	***H***	***M***	***L***	***M***	***D***	***C***	***W***
Rhoeo spathacea	Oyster plant		♦			♦	♦	
Rumohra adiantiformis	Leatherleaf fern		♦		♦		♦	
Sansevieria trifasciata	Snake plant		♦			♦	♦	
Schefflera arboricola	Umbrella tree (schefflera)		♦			♦		♦
Spathiphyllum spp.	White flag			♦	♦			♦
Sphaeropteris cooperi	Tree fern	♦			♦		♦	
Syngonium spp.			♦		♦		♦	
Tolmiea menziesii	Piggyback plant		♦		♦		♦	
Tradescantia (incl. *Zebrina*)	Wandering Jew	♦				♦		♦
Yucca elephantipes	Yucca Plant	♦				♦	♦	

Growing Conditions for Common Flowering Plants Grown Indoors

Common Name	***H***	***M***	***L***	***M***	***D***	***C***	***W***
Azalea, Begonia, Chrysanthemum, Cyclamen, Lilies, Poinsettia, Primula	♦			♦		♦	

Growing Conditions for Common Bromeliads

Scientific Name	***Common Name***	***H***	***M***	***L***	***M***	***D***	***C***	***W***
Aechmea miniata discolor	Vase plant	♦				♦		♦
Aechmea fasciata	Urn Plant	♦				♦		♦
Billbergia nutans	Queen’s-tears	♦				♦		♦
Billbergia pyramidalis		♦				♦		♦
Cryptanthus spp.	Earth-star	♦			♦			♦
Noeregelia carolinae ‘Tricolor’		♦				♦		♦
Tillandsia cyanea		♦				♦		♦
Tillandsia ionantha		♦				♦		♦
(All of the Bromeliads listed above require high light conditions during the winter to flower)								

Resource *Growing Conditions for Indoor Plants*, by Russell C. Mott, Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, 6/82.

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