



TROPICAL PLANTS

The selection and care of houseplants depends on 2 main factors. The location of the plants in your home and the time you want to invest in your plants will help to determine the right choice for you. The locations chosen for your plants are determined mostly by the amount of light available. Plants are affected by the amount of light, the color of light, and how long it lasts. They are generally categorized as low, medium, or high light plants. High light usually refers to a southern or western exposure. Medium light usually means a western or eastern exposure. Morning sun in an eastern window or evening sun in a west window will provide a few hours of sun each day. Low light usually refers to an eastern or northern exposure or to a room's interior. The majority of houseplants are easy to grow as long as you maintain a regular schedule of watering and fertilizing and frequently check for insects and diseases. Selecting plants with a higher susceptibility to these pests will require more time and a higher interest level. After determining what levels of light your home provides and how much time you want to invest in the care of your plants, our greenhouse staff can help you select the right plant for your needs.

Some Favorites:

Aglaonema commutatum - Chinese Evergreen

Light: low light to medium light

Water: let soil dry out between waterings

Fertilization: once a year is sufficient in low light (10-10-10)

Pests: relatively disease and insect free

One of the best low-maintenance plants.

Epipremnum aureum - Pothos or Devil's Ivy

Light: high light; low light fine sacrificing variegation

Water: allow soil to dry to 2 inches below surface

Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: problem free; possible mealybugs and scale

Vining plant that tolerates neglect.

Chlorophytum comosum - Spider Plant

Light: medium light

Water: let the soil dry out between waterings Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: watch for mites and scales

Most effective in a hanging basket.

Spathiphyllum wallisii - Peace Lily

Light: low light to medium light; high light inhibits bloom

Water: let dry out slightly; in high light keep soil moist

Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: seldom a problem

Tolerates most conditions; low maintenance.

Dieffenbachia maculata - Spotted Dumb Cane Light: medium light

Water: allow the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings

Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: mealybugs and spider mites

Easy to grow and keep healthy.

Ficus - Fig

Light: all levels all light; resists frequent changes

Water: let soil dry out slightly between waterings

Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: scales are problem on tree forms

Weeping Fig, India Rubber Tree, Fiddle-Leaf Fig, Creeping Fig

Brassaia actinophylla (Schefflera) - Umbrella Plant

Light: medium light

Water: water just enough to keep soil from drying out completely

Fertilization: three times in summer only

Pests: mealybugs can be a problem; scale, mites, and aphids possible

A good, solid, reliable houseplant.

Palms

Light: medium to filtered bright light

Water: let soil dry out between waterings

Fertilization: three times in summer (10-10-10)

Pests: scales, spider mites, and mealybugs

An attractive favorite; low-maintenance.

Questions or Comments: info@pleasantvalleyic.com

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