

General Care for Houseplants

- These are **estimates** to help you succeed in houseplant care.
- **Every environment is different** - You may have to do more -or- less than recommended.

Helpful rules of thumb:

How much and how often you will need water depends on:

Light, Temperature, & Humidity.

- Higher Light/Warmer/Drier = More Watering
- Lower Light/Cooler/More Humid = Less Watering

Watering:

Volume varies depending on which type of plant you have.

Most plants like the soil thoroughly saturated at the time of watering & then it's a matter of whether the plant likes to be consistently moist (ferns) or dry out in between waterings (succulents/cacti see specific care slip).

Watering volume also depends on the size of your plant & the size of the pot its planted in. This could be anywhere from 1/4 cup to several cups of water.

Very dry soil becomes water repellent. Water will run through the pot but the plant won't get its fill. You can leave excess water in the saucer until the plant soaks it up, or if watering in the sink you may need to repeat a few times in order for the soil to thoroughly saturate. Discard any leftover water if you notice it in the saucer several hrs after you watered.

A note on Tap Water - Most plants have a sensitivity to the "extras" we add to our tap water. Ideally, let the water sit out overnight, or at least 20 minutes before watering. You can also use filtered water, but be careful of distilled as it can tend to leach nutrients away from plants.

FERTILIZING:

Only fertilize your plants when they are actively growing, generally at 1/2 the recommended dose.

For most plants you can accidentally damage them by over fertilizing. Start low and work your way up to the recommended solution on the bottle.

Keep in mind the fresh soil will already have enough nutrients for your plant to get started.

BROWNING & YELLOWING FOLAIGE:

Browning or yellowing can indicate:

- Natural dieback of foliage, which can be trimmed off or removed.
- Under-watering
 - You will know if your plant is **under-watered** if it is droopy and the soil feels dry to the touch or visibly dry.
- Over-watering
 - If the plant is **over-watered** the plant may look droopy but the soil will feel overly saturated or be visibly wet.
- Over-fertilizing.

If you notice any of the above:

- Adjust your watering schedule by watering more frequently for under-watered or allowing over-watered plants to dry out somewhat before watering again.
- If you have fertilized and noticed discoloration of the foliage after then cut back or stop fertilizing that particular plant.

LIGHT:

Plant generally get categorized into **Low, Medium, & Bright Light** to try to keep it simple

- however -

In reality, light is a spectrum.

Most plants do better in a well lit room, but some can tolerate lower light conditions.

Tips to help you in your space at home:

- **East facing windows** offer you the early morning sunlight this could be anywhere from low light to medium bright.
- **West facing windows** offer you the hot end-of-day light. This can be intense when the light comes in, but depending on the layout of your space you may not get this light directly until the end of the day. This can also be on the spectrum of low light to bright.
- **South facing windows** offer the whole afternoon day length of light. Most plants will do well in this exposure so it will only depend on how close you can have your plant to the windows.
- **North facing windows** offer you the least amount of direct light. Almost no direct light comes from north facing windows with some exceptions of a small amount in the morning or a small amount in the evening.

Keep in mind:

- Most plants do not do well in a corner or tucked away from sunlight.
- Trees & buildings may obstruct your exposure, changing the dynamics listed above.
- Multiple windows facing different directions change the dynamics listed above.

TOXIC/NON-TOXIC PLANTS:

We have a list of plant offerings on the range of toxic to non toxic.

These plants will have their own watering & light needs.

Most non toxic plants will not be large floor plants and many will not be low light tolerant.

We want you to succeed!

We will do our best to assist with selection, but you know your space best.

Losing a few (or many!) houseplants is a normal part of the process as you learn what plants your space will support.

We do not accept plant returns!

When in doubt do a little research on where your plant is from and try to replicate this as best you can in your home environment.

It can be fun to read about the plants history and you can always email questions with pics to:

houseplants@motherearthgarden.com