



# Year Round Houseplant Care



Bringing home the tropics

# What tropical Plants Want: Tropical Conditions!

## TROPICAL CONDITIONS

- High Humidity -60% to 80%
- Year round warmth with small temperature fluctuations
- Minimum temperature of 18 degrees, generally between 20 and 28 degrees.
- Bright, indirect sunlight
- Lots of rain, well draining soil

## HOUSEPLANT CONDITIONS

- Moderate Humidity 40-60%
- Year round warmth with small temperature fluctuations
- Min. Temp of 18 degrees, high of 28
- Bright, indirect sunlight
- Regular watering with room temp. water



# How to Provide The Best Growing Conditions For Your Tropical Plants

<https://www.gardeningetc.com/news/indoor-gardens-are-in-high-demand>

# Warm Temperatures

1. Provide consistent warm temperatures between 20-28 degrees. Avoid placing plants in a cold room, below 18 degrees, day or night, or in a draft.

**Some cold tolerant plants include:**

**Cyclamen, Sansevieria**

**Pilea (not a tropical plant)**

**ZZ plant**

**Christmas Cactus**

**English Ivys (not tropical)**

**Cast Iron Plant**

**Inch Plant**

**Citrus Trees**

**Japanese Aralia**

**Norfolk Pine**

# Avoid Temperature Variations

2. Hot in the sun during the day, but cold and drafty at night



# Light Requirements

## 3. Most tropical plants prefer bright indirect sunlight

- Hoya
- Monstera
- Fiddle Leaf Fig
- Rubber Tree
- Money Plant
- Pothos
- Philodendron
- Ferns
- Snake plant
- ZZ plant



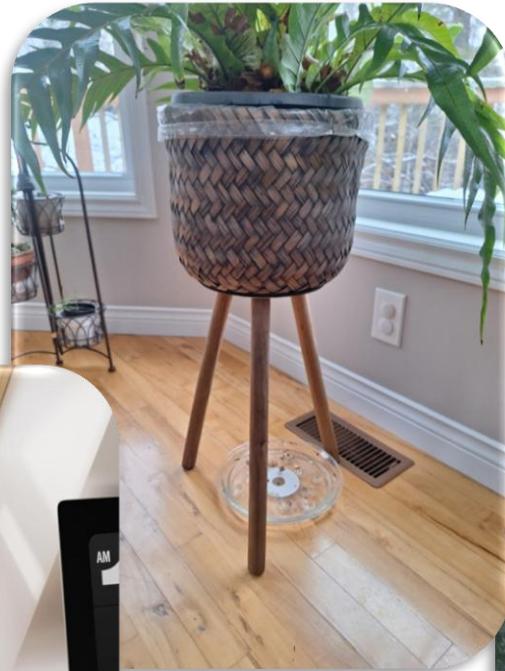
# Christmas Cactus is a Tropical Plant Too

- native to the rainforests of Brazil
- grows as an epiphyte on trees
- likes humid conditions.
- needs bright, indirect light, humidity, and well-draining soil



# Humidity

## 4. Provide Moderate Humidity of 40-60%



# Succulents –not all alike

- All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti
- While *some prefer full sun, others do best in bright indirect sunlight*
  - Snake Plant (*Dracaena trifasciata*)
  - ZZ Plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*)
  - String of Pearls (*Curio rowleyanus*)
  - String of Hearts (*Ceropegia woodii*)
  - Sweetheart Hoya (*Hoya kerrii*)
- Some like higher humidity levels than others
  - Sweetheart Hoya (*Hoya kerrii*)

# Plant Problems

Most houseplant problems are caused by over or under watering and improper light conditions.

Review Growing Instructions

# Water and Light

## Watering

- In most cases, wait until the top 2 inches are dry-check with your finger or use a moisture metre.
- Water deeply, setting in a bowl to catch excess water if needed.
- Allow 15min for the soil to soak up water from the bottom
- Push a chopstick all the way to the bottom of the pot to loosen soil...
- Use room temperature water from a container.

## Light

- Light is a plant's food source.
- Direct sunlight or bright indirect light, they do need more than a shadowy corner or shelf.
- Afternoon sun can be hot and damaging to many plants.
- Position plants within a few feet of a window
- Careful with positioning plants on windowsills-they can get very hot

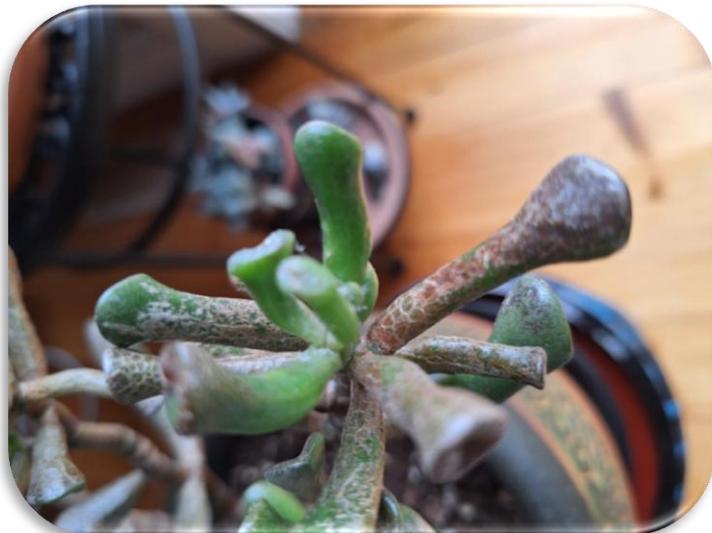
# Low Light

Light is a plant's source of food



# Temperature Stress

- Caused by a location that gets too hot, or location that gets too cold
- And Big temperature fluctuations



# Tips:

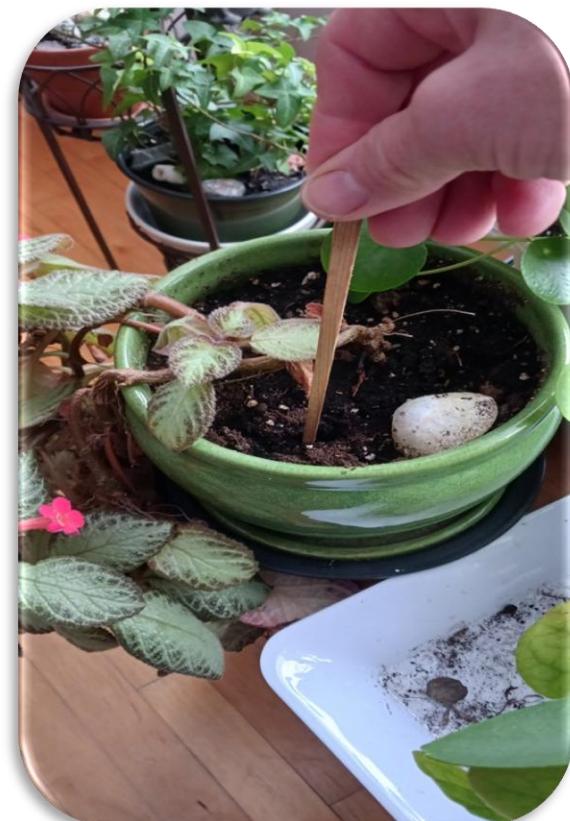


Water in the sink or  
shower for deep  
hydration



Add a grow  
light in dark  
corners

Loosen soil with a chopstick

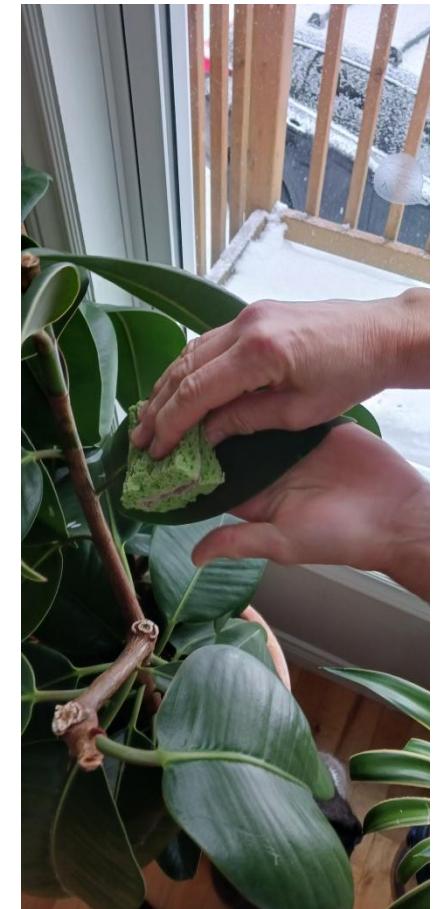


# Tips

- Use room temperature water that has been allowed to 'air out' the chlorine from treated water.



Gently wipe  
down leaves  
to remove  
dust buildup-  
top and  
bottom



# Fungus Gnats

- They like moist soil and decaying organic matter.



# Spider Mites cause Stippling



## STIPPLING

You may not be able to see spider mites,  
but you can see the damage they cause

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

# SCALE



Scale - indoors

Visit >



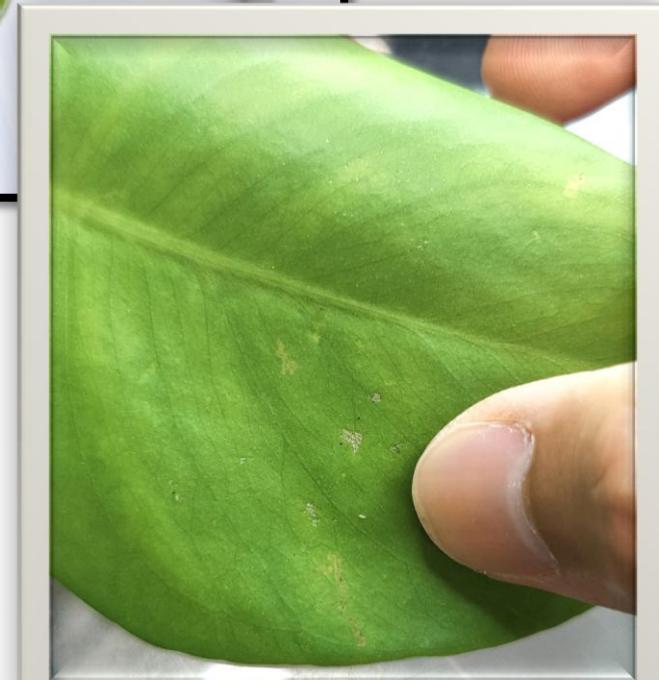
Times Herald-Record

Brown scale can be difficult to detect

# Mealy Bugs and Thrips



La Résidence



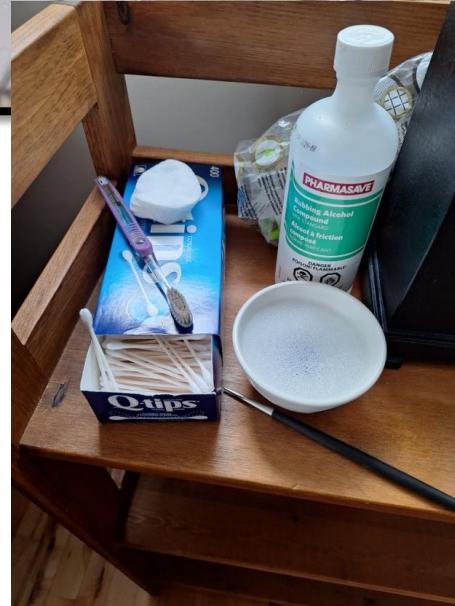
# Thrips

It looks like a speck of dirt

<https://www.houseplantjournal.com/thrips/>



# Getting Rid of Mealy Bugs and Thrips



# Review

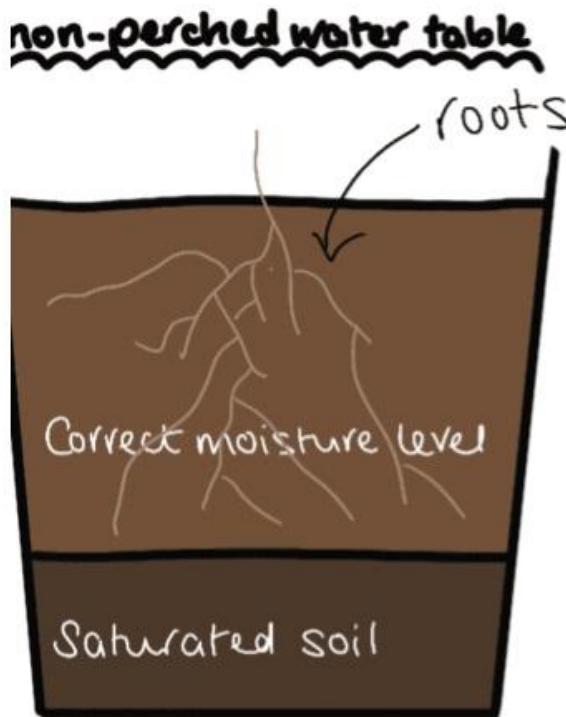
- Think about your light and space, temperature and humidity before choosing a plant.
- Choose a healthy plant and expect an adjustment period at home
- Water properly – aeration, soak through, avoid leaves, room temperature, let stand first so chlorine can gas off

# Review

- Fertilize when they are growing-mostly in spring and summer
- Check for pests and disease when you water. Controlling pests means repeated applications
- Keep leaves clean, top and bottom

# A Perched Water Table

Why you shouldn't add rocks to the bottom of a pot



# Questions

- I have a bird of paradise that is getting brown leaves, what can I do?
- What you do when water just goes right through the soil?
- I have an office with a window into an atrium so little light, what are good plants?

# Bird of Paradise

- <https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-grow-strelitzia-1902742>



# Questions

- Dealing With Scale on Jade Plants
- Pests & How to Handle
- Christmas Cactus Diseases