



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

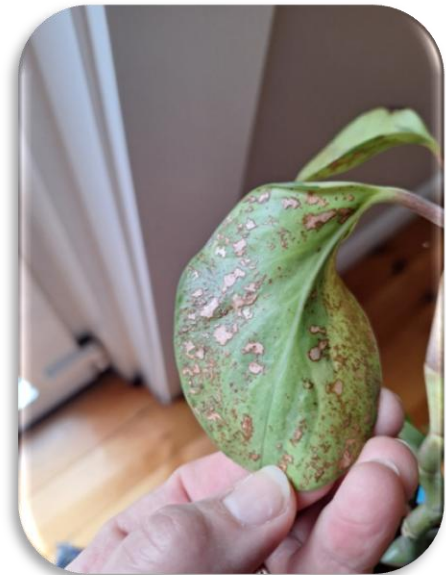
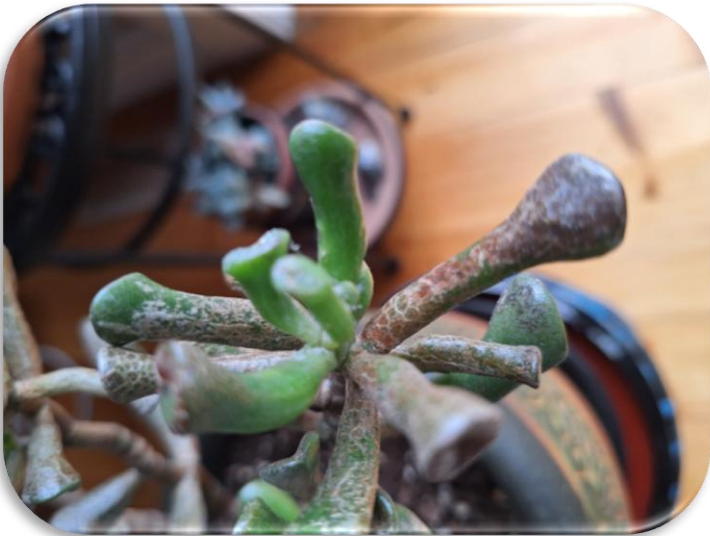
Low Light

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:

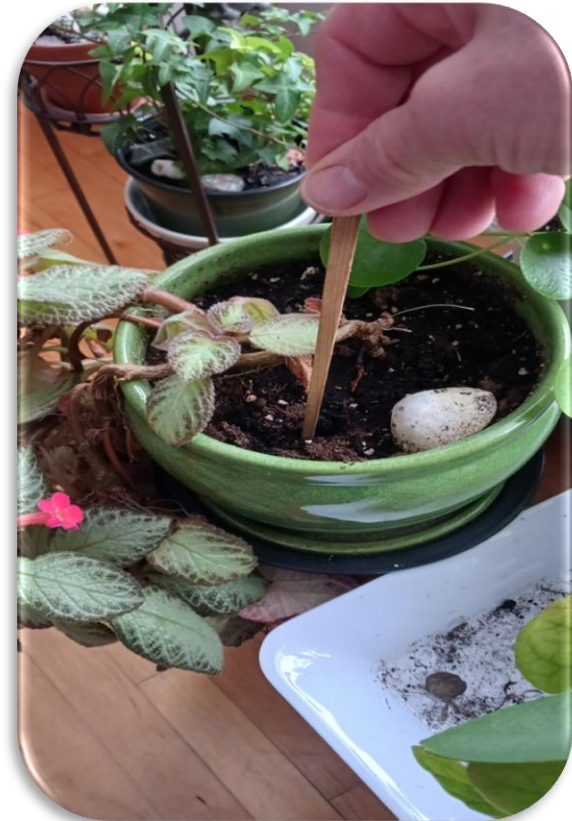


Water in the sink or
shower for deep
hydration



Add a grow
light in dark
corners

Loosen soil with a chopstick

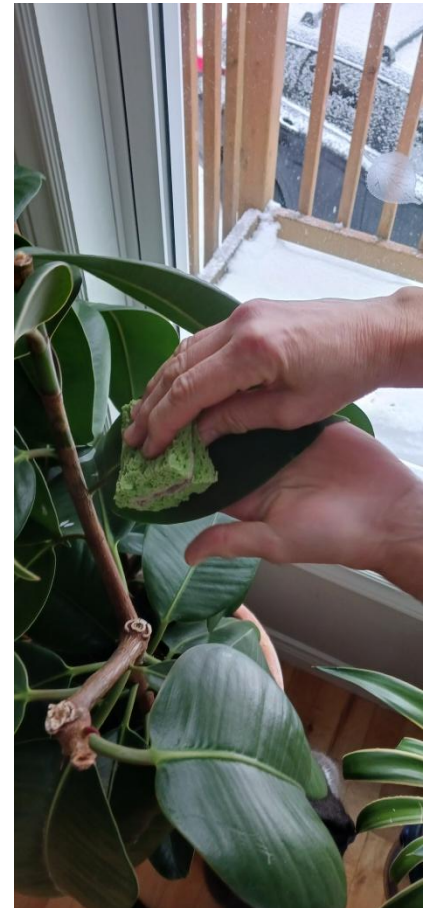


Tips

- 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 >](#)

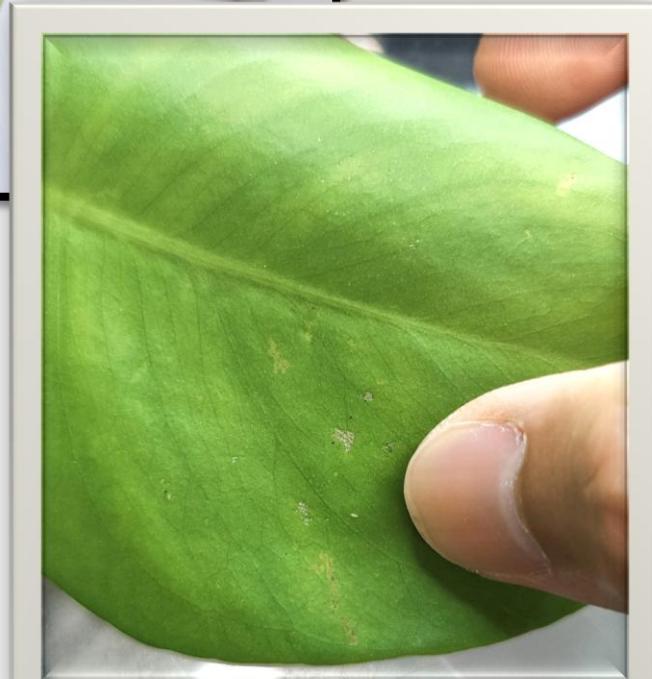


Times Herald-Record
Brown scale can be difficult to detect

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

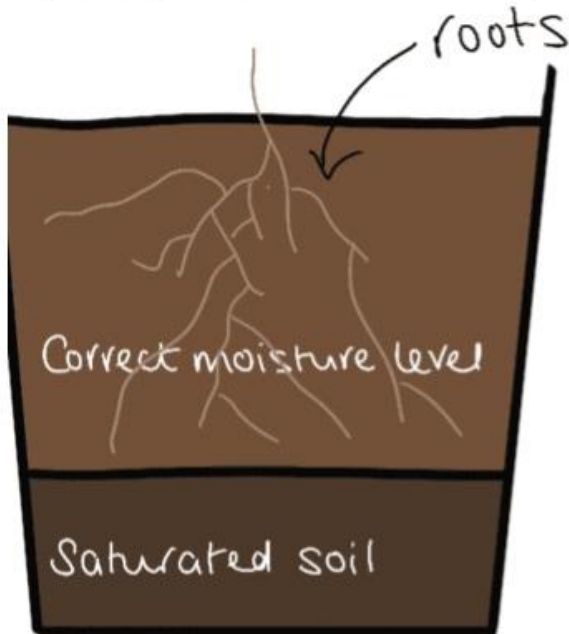
Review

- 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

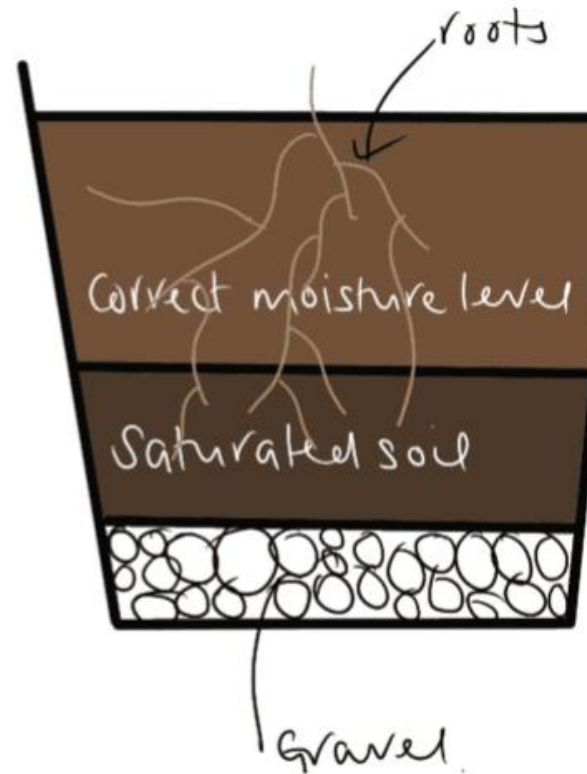
A Perched Water Table

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

non-perched water table



Perched water table



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