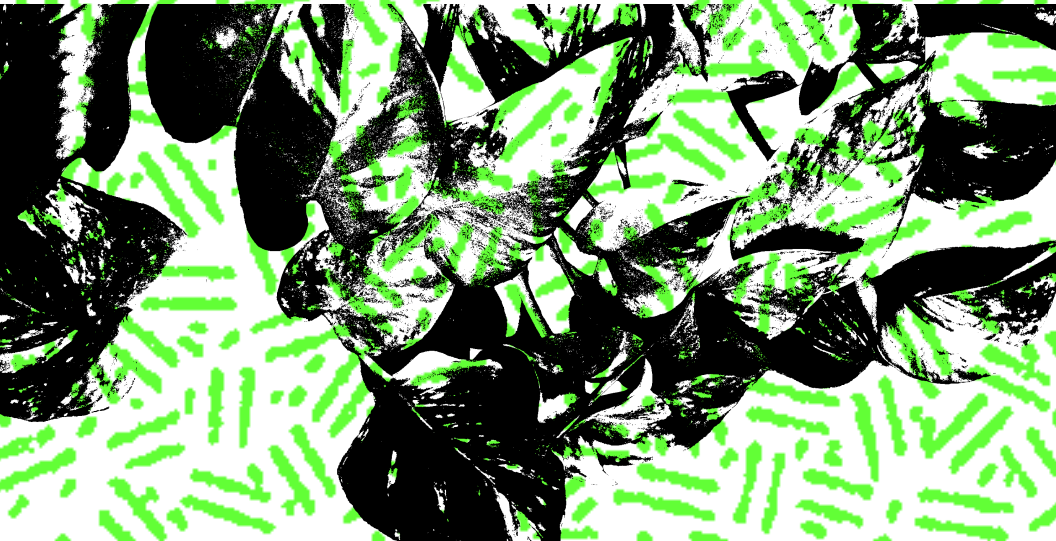





a beginner's
guide to
houseplants





Here are some good beginner plants organized by light requirements!

BRIGHT LIGHT + DIRECT SUN:

Succulents - Jade, Aloe Vera, String of Pearls, Burros Tail

Cactuses - Barrel Cactus, Christmas/Thanksgiving/Easter Cactus, Euphorbia, Rat Tail Cactus

BRIGHT INDIRECT LIGHT:

Golden Pothos, Neon Pothos, Marble Queen Pothos, Tradescantia Zebrina or "Wandering Dude", Snake Plant, Heart Leaf Philodendron, Philodendron Brasil, Philodendron Micans.

LOW LIGHT TOLERANT:

Spider Plant, Peace Lily, ZZ Plant



Bringing A New Plant Home

Have a rough plan: Think about the amount of light in your home and where you have space for a plant to thrive.

Get the basic info: Check the plant's tag for the name and light requirements. If there's not a tag, you can ask the seller for the name or use a plant ID app to look it up online.

Consider pets: Do a quick internet search to make sure the plant is not toxic to any animals in your home.

Quarantine: Keep the new plant away from existing houseplants for a couple of weeks so you can thoroughly check for and treat any pests the new plant might have brought with it.



Potting



CHOOSING A POT

Drainage: #1 rule of choosing a pot is making sure it has at least one good drainage hole. You want water to fully drench the soil and for any excess to drain out of the bottom. When plant roots sit in wet soil for an extended time they can develop "root rot" or mushy, decaying roots.

Size: You'll want to choose a pot that is the same size or slightly larger than the plant's current pot. You can look at the roots and determine if they are dense and crowded, or loose and still have room to grow.

Pot material: Most plant pots will be terra cotta, ceramic, or plastic. Terra cotta pots are great for beginners because they absorb extra moisture in the soil and allow oxygen to flow to the plant's roots.

Tip: If you have a cute pot you want to use but it doesn't have a drainage hole, you can use a smaller plastic pot that fits inside the decorative pot.

WHAT YOU NEED



- potting can get very messy, so laying down some newspaper or a tarp helps a TON with cleanup
- putting soil in an extra pot or bucket makes it much easier to scoop and fill the new pot
- a measuring cup or big kitchen spoon works great to fill soil in around the roots
- a cheap makeup brush or large paint brush are great for dusting excess soil off the rim/sides of your pot

WHEN TO RE-POT

Some plants like to grow large in a small pot, and others have fast-growing roots that need to expand. Consult info specific to your plant on this one!

SOIL MIXTURES

Most house plants come from either tropical or desert climates and do best with a soil that mimics their native environment. Garden stores carry pre-mixed soil specialized to specific kinds of plants, but you can also add ingredients to amend regular potting soil.

Light

TYPES OF LIGHT



DIRECT SUN

Sun is shining directly into a window and onto the plant. Usually from South or West facing windows.

BRIGHT INDIRECT LIGHT

Close to a sunny window, receiving bright light but no direct sun. Or an East facing window with gentle morning sun + indirect light through mid day.

LOW LIGHT

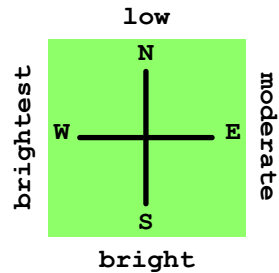
~10 feet from a bright window, or in a North facing window. A good test to see if the light is too low: Can you comfortably read a book in that spot?

INSUFFICIENT LIGHT

If you can't read a book in that spot, a low light plant might survive there, but it won't really thrive.

Consider your windows:

Think about what direction your windows face and which plants they can support.



Rotate your plants: Plants grow toward their light source, so rotating them about 90° every week or two can keep them from growing lopsided.

Signs of bad light: Burned leaves = too much light. "Reaching" or long scraggly stems = not enough light.



Watering



Remove dead leaves: Pick out dead leaves and debris sitting on the soil's surface. Decomposing leaves attract pests like fungus gnats that can damage the plant.

Make sure it needs water: Look for signs that it's ready for a drink like leaves drooping/curling, or the top 1-2 inches of soil being dry. If the soil is still wet, the plant does not need to be watered. Overwatering can lead to root rot or make your plant vulnerable to pests.

Generally, houseplants only need to be watered every 1-2 weeks. They typically need a bit more water in the spring/summer, and less water in the fall/winter.

Water thoroughly: Make sure the soil gets completely drenched and water drains out of the bottom. If the top of the soil is having trouble absorbing water, you can "bottom water" by submerging the bottom of the pot in a few inches of water for a while - until the soil is saturated.

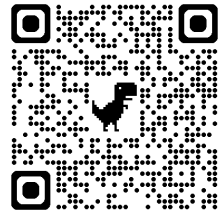
Signs of over-watering: Mushy stems, fungus gnats, leaves yellowing and softening from the middle.

Signs of under-watering: Extreme drooping, stems thinning, soil shrinking up in the pot, leaves browning and getting crispy from the tips.

**I hope this zine is helpful!
Big thanks to everyone who helped
with Houseplant Skill Share!**



Mom's Closet



Visit
tulsaskillshare.com
for more info
and resources!

Weekly Plant Chore Checklist

1. Clear dead leaves and debris from soil
 2. Remove dying leaves
 3. Water
 4. Rotate ~90°
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