

Monstera Plant

Ideal Location: Thrives in bright, indirect sunlight. Suitable for living rooms, but avoid direct sunlight, which may scorch the leaves.

Watering: Keep soil moist, but not waterlogged. Typically water once a week, but adjust based on humidity and temperature. Yellow leaves might indicate overwatering.

Rescue Tip: If the plant looks sickly, first check for root rot due to overwatering. Trim any brown or yellow leaves to encourage new growth. Consider repotting if the soil stays too wet.

Care Tip: Monstera leaves collect dust. Regularly wipe them gently with a damp cloth to keep the plant healthy and help it photosynthesize efficiently.

Remember, each Monstera has its unique needs, closely observe its growth to understand what it's trying to tell you!



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Succulent

Ideal Location: Succulents are native to desert habitats and thrive in bright, sunny environments. Shade them from direct sun through glass . Perfect for Kitchens and Bathrooms where they can draw moisture from the environment.

Watering: In Spring and Summer water whenever the compost starts to dry out. Keep almost dry in Winter, overwatering is the biggest killer as they will gain moisture from the environment on rainy days.

Rescue Tip: If displaying indoors turn the pots occasionally to ensure even growth and so that the sun does not burn them. Using cold water may result in a sudden loss of leaves.

Care Tip: Water sparingly in Winter as this is when the plant is resting. Given them some fresh air every now and then.

Remember: Even though succulents are easy to look after they do not like to be neglected!



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Rhipsalis

Ideal Location: This unusual plant originates from South America, it likes warm environments and can be taken outside for some fresh air on warm, sunny days.

Watering: Water well when it grows its small white flowers and berries. Mist the air around the plant weekly and it will draw the moisture it needs.

Rescue Tip: Trim off damaged stems. Soft, droopy foliage means that it has been over watered, allow to completely dry out.

Care Tip: Feed once a month between April to September. Do not move the plant once it has started flowering.

Remember: This will not like a draughty location so make sure it is not placed near open windows during the colder months. This is a trailing plant so it will prefer to be hung or in a place where it can trail naturally.



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Calathea/Maranta

Ideal Location: There are many varieties of Calathea and they do require some TLC! They do often have intricate markings and colours and they will fade if placed in direct sunlight. They prefer a warm, humid room.

Watering: They prefer soft water and always keep the compost moist. Mist every two to three days.

Rescue Tip: Avoid draughts and sudden changes of temperature. Brown leaves or leaf fall mean the air is too dry. Yellow, curled leaves means it is underwatered.

Care Tip: Needs a warm, draught free spot in the home and do not use leaf shine, clean the leaves with a damp sponge.

Remember: In their natural habitat these plants grow under the tree canopy of the tropical rain forest, hence its need for a warm, humid atmosphere.



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Aloe Vera

Ideal Location: These prefer a sunny windowsill but require protection from direct sun in summer as the leaves will burn.

Watering: Water every two weeks in summer. Misting is not necessary but they do appreciate some fresh air and a spell outside. These are an undemanding plant and can thrive on a certain amount of neglect. Feed monthly in summer using diluted cactus feed.

Rescue Tip: Soft wilting leaves are a sign of overwatering. Allow to dry out.

Care Tip: Avoid water sitting in the centre of the rosette. During winter months reduce watering and stop feeding.

Remember: These often have spiny or serrated edges so handle with care! They do produce tall, impressive flower spikes. The healing properties of the gel found in the leaves have been used in countless remedies and skin care products for years!



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Ficus Benjamina

Ideal Location: These prefer a sunny spot like a conservatory or porch. They are most commonly a sage green colour with variegated leaves.

Watering: They prefer tepid water and allow the compost to dry out slightly between watering. Mist weekly in the warm, summer months.

Rescue Tip: If the leaves are dropping it means it is in a draught. Needs a minimum winter temperature of 13 degrees C /55 degrees F. Sudden loss of leaves means that the compost waterlogged or it is in area that is too dark.

Care Tip: They dislike draughts and being moved so think about where this plant is placed. Once these are in a happy place they do prefer to stay there!

Remember: Often called a weeping fig and the leaves do naturally slope downwards. They are tall, graceful plants that can grow up to 2m tall.



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Phalaenopsis Orchid

Ideal Location: Originating from Tropical Asia these prefer a warm, light environment on a windowsill or near natural light.

Watering: Water in the morning with distilled water. Do not let the plant sit in water. Around an egg cup of water every week during summer is sufficient. Mist the air around them weekly.

Rescue Tip: Drooping, floppy leaves mean a lack of light.

Care Tip: After flowering cut back the green spike to the nearest node. If the spike does not re-flower but turns brown then let the plant rest. Feed monthly and reduce watering and keep cool. Move into a warmer spot once a new spike appears, resume watering and feeding as before. Orchids need good ventilation but avoid draughts. .

Remember: Use a specialist orchid feed.



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Peace Lily

Ideal Location: The Peace Lily or *Spathiphyllum* if you prefer its botanical name originates from Tropical America and South East Asia, it likes warm rooms but not in direct sunlight. They do purify the air so are ideal for bathrooms, kitchens and also for bedrooms.

Watering: Water regularly and keep the compost moist but not waterlogged. It likes humidity so mist regularly to keep the leaves hydrated. Feed every two weeks between Spring and Autumn.

Rescue Tip: Wilting leaves means it is too dry so let it stand in some water and drink. Yellowing leaves means it is in too much light. No flowers means it is too dark and not enough feed so this does take some TLC!

Care Tip: These will last for years if they are looked after and are in the right spot so keep in a warm semi-shaded room. Clean the leaves with a damp cloth and protect from cold and draughts.

Remember: Remove flower stems after they have bloomed and reduce watering during Autumn and Winter and stop feeding. Resume as normal in early Spring.



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Anthirium

Ideal Location: The Anthirium originates from Central & South America so likes a sunny conservatory or porch and thrives in warm environments.

Watering: Water little and often and always keep the compost moist. Anthiriums like humidity so mist daily.

Rescue Tip: Yellowing leaves mean that it is either too cold or too dry or too wet so they are a little temperamental!

Care Tip: They do not like full sun but will need bright light in order for it to flower. Feed in Summer only once every two weeks. Any roots seem above the surface should be gently pushed under the soil.

Remember: Although relatively easy to keep as a foliage plant, a minimum temperature of 70 degrees and high humidity increases the chance of producing flowers.



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Curio

Ideal Location: The Curio or String of Pearls as it is sometimes called originates from Namibia and grows naturally on rocks in full sun! It likes sunny rooms and is perfect for a hanging pot in a conservatory as they trail and need space.

Watering: Keep the compost moist Spring to Autumn and reduce watering in Winter.

Rescue Tip: If the beads turn brown it means they are sun scorched so protect from sun on extremely hot days. If the beads start to rot it means they are over watered.

Care Tip: The strings are fairly brittle and do break easily so handle with care. Trim from time to time to keep the plant in check and in shape.

Remember: The tiny beads are its leaves which do retain water and is crucial for its survival. This makes them relatively easy to look after.



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Hydrangea

Ideal Location: Hydrangea plants are best either in a pot outside planted in the garden. If you are given one as a gift during the colder months keep inside to protect from frost and plant outdoors in the Spring.

Watering: Keep the compost moist Spring to Autumn and reduce watering in Winter.

Rescue Tip: Wilting leaves mean they are too dry so immerse the compost and pot in water and wait for the bubbles to stop which means it has had a good drink.

Care Tip: After flowering trim the shoots back to about half their length to a pair of leaves or buds. To keep the blue variety from changing colour use ericaceous compost.

Remember: These do take a lot of watering in sunny weather if they are planted outside.



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Fern

Ideal Location: There are many varieties of Fern but they all mostly prefer a bright, semi shaded room away from direct sunlight.

Watering: Compost should be moist but not water logged and avoid getting water onto the leaves as they will go mouldy, try to water the compost or let drink from the bottom of the plant pot. Water more sparingly in Winter. They do like humidity so mist the air around them daily with tepid water.

Rescue Tip: If looking straggly the leaves can be cut back to compost level where it will regrow. Avoid using leaf shine.

Care Tip: If the leaves drop this means it is too dry so give it a mist and let it drink from the bottom. Keep away from draughts and direct heat, so not near a radiator as it will dry out too quickly. Feed weekly in Spring and Summer.

Remember: These do form small plantlets on runners which can be removed and potted to make a new plant!



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Calla Lily

Ideal Location: The Calla Lily or Zantedeschia if you prefer the posh name originates from South Africa. It prefers humid environments with light shade. This stunning plant flowers bold colours from white to a near black/plum shade.

Watering: Compost should be kept moist in Spring and Summer and it should be misted every 2 to 3 days or use a pebble tray. Stand the plant on damp pebbles to create humidity around the plant.

Rescue Tip: If the leaves are soft and wilting and the flowers droop it means it is too dry. Let it drink from the bottom of the pot and it should bounce back!

Care Tip: Feed every two weeks whilst flowering. It will not tolerate drying out so it does take some looking after!

Remember: These do fairly well if planted in a garden particularly around ponds and water sources as they will take the moisture from around them and they do like fresh air.



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Lipstick Plant

Ideal Location: The Aeschynanthus or Lipstick Plant as it is more commonly known originates from the humid tropics of the Malay Peninsula. They love humidity so require a spot in the house that has a lot of moisture in the air. Kitchens or bathrooms are ideal places! They naturally trail so are ideal for a hanging pot.

Watering: Do not overwater but ensure that the compost is moist. Mist the air around the plant in the morning to help it to remain moist.

Rescue Tip: Over watering can lead to root rot and fungus so water the compost rather than the leaves. They do like some fresh air on sunny days!

Care Tip: They will not like sudden changes in temperature so keep away from windows in very cold Winter weather. If it gets too cold it will drop its leaves. Feed with diluted plant feed when it is flowering.

Remember: In its native tropical habitat it is found growing from tree branches. Provided the plant gets enough warmth, humidity, and filtered sunlight, you'll enjoy a prolific display of flowering through much of the year.



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Air Plants and Terrariums

Ideal Location: Terrariums or bottle gardens are glass containers that provide a microclimate for the plants within. A variety of air plants including Tillandsia and succulents are commonly used. The glass container will trap the moisture in the air so they prefer a bright spot but away from direct sun as the glass will magnify the heat.

Watering: Water cautiously as the sand or gravel will retain the water, lightly mist the sand rather than the plant itself. They will require misting a couple of times per week in extreme dry weather.

Rescue Tip: Unlike other plants Tillandsia cannot get moisture from roots and rely on the moisture in the air. If they look very dry you can take them out of the terrarium and give them a bath for an hour in a saucer of water then put back.

Care Tip: They will not like sudden changes in temperature. Due to their epiphytic way of life, these plants will not grow in soil but live on the branches of trees, and on rocks in deserts. Do not over water!

Remember: Be creative with unusual glass pots and vases and use coloured sand and shells to decorate!



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