

Growing Conditions for Indoor Plants

The following information on light, water and temperature is used in the table below which gives basic guidelines for the care of numerous indoor plants commonly grown in the home.

Light (The minimum light requirements of the various species):

- **High (H):** Bright, direct light or sunlight through unobstructed south, east, or west window. Within 4 feet of window. 300 footcandles or greater.
- **Medium (M):** Bright, indirect light,
4 – 10 feet from an east, south, or west window. No direct sunlight. Directly in front of an unobstructed north window. 100 – 300 footcandles.
- **Low (L):** 10 feet or more away from a
window – no direct light. Encompasses the greatest area of most interiors where plants are to be included. Directly in front of an obstructed north window. 25 – 100 footcandles.

Watering Requirements:

- **Moist (M):** Indicates the plant requires frequent watering – soil surface should not be dry.
- **Dry (D):** Infrequent watering. For pots 6” diameter or less, soil surface should be dry to the touch before rewatering. For containers of greater diameter, media should be dry 1-2” below the surface. (*When water is required, apply thoroughly until excess drains out the bottom.*)

Temperature Requirements:

- **Cool (C):** Temperature of 60° F. with variations from 50° F to 70° F. Night temperature, 50° F to 60° F.
- **Warm (W):** Temperature of 75° F with variations from 65° F to 85° F. Night temperatures, 65° F - 75° F. (Temperatures at night should decrease about 10° F from normal day temperatures.)

Growing Conditions for Common Foliage Plants

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>W</i>
<i>Adiantum raddianum</i>	Maidenhair fern		♦	♦	♦		♦	
<i>Agave</i> spp.	Century plant	♦				♦	♦	
<i>Aglaonema</i> (spp.) <i>modestum</i>	Chinese evergreen			♦	♦			♦
<i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	Medicine plant	♦				♦	♦	
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island pine	♦			♦		♦	
<i>Ardisia crenata</i>	Coralberry	♦			♦		♦	
<i>Asparagus setaceus</i> ‘Sprengeri’	Asparagus fern	♦			♦		♦	
<i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	Cast-iron plant			♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Bird’s-nest fern			♦	♦		♦	
<i>Brassaia actinophylla</i>	Umbrella tree		♦			♦	♦	
<i>Calathea makoyana</i>	Peacock plant		♦		♦			♦
<i>Caryota urens</i>	Fishtail palm	♦	♦		♦			♦
<i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	Parlor palm			♦	♦			♦

Scientific Name	Common Name	H	M	L	M	D	C	W
<i>Chamaedorea erumpens</i>	Bamboo palm			♦	♦			♦
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Spider plant		♦		♦			♦
<i>Chrysalidocarpus lutescens</i>	Areca palm	♦	♦		♦			♦
<i>Cissus antarctica</i>	Kangaroo vine		♦			♦		♦
<i>Cissus rhombifolia</i>	Grape ivy			♦		♦	♦	
<i>Citrus spp.</i>		♦			♦		♦	
<i>Clusia rosea</i>	Signature plant		♦			♦	♦	
<i>Codiaeum variegatum</i> and vars.	Croton	♦			♦			♦
<i>Coffea arabica</i>	Coffee tree		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Cordyline terminalis</i>	Ti plant	♦				♦	♦	
<i>Crassula argentea</i>	Jade plant	♦				♦	♦	
<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	Sago Palm		♦			♦		♦
<i>Cyperus spp.</i>	Umbrella plant		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	Holly fern			♦	♦		♦	
<i>Dieffenbachia spp.</i>	Dumb cane	♦	♦			♦		♦
<i>Dizygotheca elegantissima</i>	False aralia	♦			♦			♦
<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> ‘Massangeana’	Corn plant		♦	♦		♦		♦
<i>Dracaena reflexa</i>	Pleomele	♦				♦		♦
<i>Epipremnum arueum</i> and vars.	Pothos			♦		♦		♦
<i>Fatshedera lizei</i>	Fatshedera		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Fatsia japonica</i>	Japanese aralia		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Ficus spp.</i>	Fig, rubber plant		♦		♦			♦
<i>Fittonia verschaffeltii</i>	Nerve plant			♦	♦			♦
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	♦	♦		♦		♦	
<i>Howea forsterana</i>	Kentia palm			♦	♦		♦	
<i>Hoya carnosa</i>	Wax plant		♦	♦		♦		♦
<i>Iresine herbstii</i>	Bloodleaf	♦			♦			♦
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Fan palm		♦		♦			♦
<i>Maranta leuconeura</i>	Prayer plant		♦		♦			♦
<i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	Split-leaf philodendron		♦		♦			♦
<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>	Boston fern		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Pandanus veitchii</i>	Screw pine	♦				♦		♦
<i>Peperomia spp.</i>			♦			♦		♦
<i>Persea americana</i>	Avocado	♦			♦			♦
<i>Philodendron selloum</i>	Saddle-leaf philodendron			♦		♦		♦
<i>P. scandens oxycardium</i>	Heart-leaf philodendron			♦		♦		♦
<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	Dwarf date palm		♦		♦			♦
<i>Pilea cardierei</i>	Aluminum plant	♦			♦			♦
<i>Pittosporum tobira</i> ‘Variegata’	Pittosporum	♦				♦	♦	
<i>Platycerium spp.</i>	Staghorn fern		♦		♦			♦
<i>Plectranthus australis</i>	Swedish ivy			♦	♦			♦
<i>Podocarpus marcophyllus</i>	Podocarpus		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Polypodium spp.</i>	Polypody		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Polyscias balfouriana</i>	Polyscias	♦	♦		♦			♦
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	Lady palm		♦	♦	♦		♦	

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<i>Rhoeo spathacea</i>	Oyster plant		♦			♦	♦	
<i>Rumohra adiantiformis</i>	Leatherleaf fern		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>	Snake plant		♦			♦	♦	
<i>Schefflera arboricola</i>	Umbrella tree (schefflera)		♦			♦		♦
<i>Spathiphyllum</i> spp.	White flag			♦	♦			♦
<i>Sphaeropteris cooperi</i>	Tree fern	♦			♦		♦	
<i>Syngonium</i> spp.			♦		♦		♦	
<i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>	Piggyback plant		♦		♦		♦	
<i>Tradescantia</i> (incl. <i>Zebrina</i>)	Wandering Jew	♦				♦		♦
<i>Yucca elephantipes</i>	Yucca Plant	♦				♦	♦	

Growing Conditions for Common Flowering Plants Grown Indoors

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>W</i>
Azalea, Begonia, Chrysanthemum, Cyclamen, Lilies, Poinsettia, Primula	♦			♦		♦	

Growing Conditions for Common Bromeliads

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>W</i>
<i>Aechmea miniata discolor</i>	Vase plant	♦				♦		♦
<i>Aechmea fasciata</i>	Urn Plant	♦				♦		♦
<i>Billbergia nutans</i>	Queen's-tears	♦				♦		♦
<i>Billbergia pyramidalis</i>		♦				♦		♦
<i>Cryptanthus</i> spp.	Earth-star	♦			♦			♦
<i>Noeregelia carolinae</i> 'Tricolor'		♦				♦		♦
<i>Tillandsia cyanea</i>		♦				♦		♦
<i>Tillandsia ionantha</i>		♦				♦		♦
<i>(All of the Bromeliads listed above require high light conditions during the winter to flower)</i>								

Resource *Growing Conditions for Indoor Plants*, by Russell C. Mott, Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, 6/82.

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