



IMPROVE YOUR INDOOR ENVIRONMENT WITH HOUSEPLANTS

wwe®

BASIC CARE FOR INDOOR PLANTS

Select the right plant for the growing conditions

Match the plant's needs (water, fertilizer, grooming) to your gardening style

For pet-friendly houseplants, visit aspc.org

- **Pet Friendly Indoor Gardening**

For child-friendly houseplants, consult your pediatrician and Children's Hospitals' websites

- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

- **University of North Carolina**

Display safely

- High shelf, hanging basket, out of reach (challenging for cats that leap and kids that climb)
- **Prevent Cats from Digging in Houseplants**
- Chunk or marble mulch, aluminum foil mulch, scat mats

CONSIDER

LIGHT

- **Best Windows for Growing Indoor Plants**

- An east or west-facing window usually provides adequate light for most plants
 - High light plants within two feet of an east or west-facing window
 - South-facing in winter
- North-facing window or up to six feet back or off to the side of an east or west-facing window for low light plants
- Rotate plants growing in lower light to higher light every few weeks
- Turn regularly for more even growth
- Use artificial lights to expand options and increase success
 - **Selecting Artificial Lights for Indoor Gardens**
- Remember shears, awnings and trees can impact the light reaching the plants
 - Each home is different, so adjust plant locations as needed
- ***Must Have High Light***
 - Cacti and Succulents
 - Most flowering plants
 - **Norfolk Island Pine**
 - **Croton**
 - Sago Palm

Utility-friendly Tree Planting Tips from We Energies

Trees growing too close to power lines can cause sparks, fires, power outages and shock hazards. To avoid these problems, plant trees that won't interfere with power lines when fully grown. Small ornamental trees or shrubs that will not exceed 15 feet in height such as serviceberry, dogwood and low-growing evergreens are best to plant around power lines. Trees such as maple, basswood, burr oak, white pine or spruce grow more than 40 feet high and should be planted more than 50 feet from any overhead power lines.

And don't forget to call 811 at least three days before planting to check the location of underground services.

Learn more utility-friendly planting tips at we-energies.com.



- **Tolerate Low Light**
 - Philodendron
 - Pothos
 - Chinese Evergreen
 - Cast Iron Plant
 - Snake Plant
 - ZZ Plant
 - Parlor Palm
 - Low Light Houseplants

JOIN ME!

January 27th @ 6:30 p.m. CST

Low Maintenance Houseplants for Low Light Situations

MOISTURE

- Watering Tips for Houseplant Care
- Water thoroughly and pour off excess that collects in the saucer
 - Tepid water is best
 - Allow top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents
 - Or check the bottom drainage hole
 - Water moisture lovers when top few inches of soil is barely moist
 - Use pots with drainage holes
 - Double pot if this is not possible
 - Don't allow plants to sit in excess water
- Rewetting overly dry soil
 - Water from above, then set bottom of pot in sink or saucer of water
 - Or water and wait a few minutes and water again
 - Reviving Drought Stressed Houseplants

Landscaping Around We Energies Utilities

Plants and other landscaping features can interfere with utility equipment and cause safety risks. Remember to:

Maintain equipment visibility: Use techniques that camouflage rather than hide utility equipment. Hearty grasses and/or flowers are preferred. They provide aesthetic improvements and grow back quickly should equipment access be necessary.

Ensure easy access: When fencing is used, choose a split-rail type, which can be easily dismantled when equipment access is needed. Be sure fences are located more than 3 feet from transformer sides and no permanent fence post is located in front of transformer door.

Keep proper clearance: When woody shrubs or bushes are used, place them more than 3 feet from transformer sides and more than 10 feet from its door. Keep future growth in mind for the size of shrubs or bushes.

Learn more utility-friendly planting tips at we-energies.com.

- Tips for those that overwater
 - Use clay pots that breath, allowing soil to dry out more quickly
 - Select a quality potting mix that drains well
 - Grow moisture loving plants
 - Papyrus
 - Spike Moss
 - Peace Lily
 - Baby Tears
 - Ferns
 - Houseplants That Tolerate Moist to Wet Soil
- Tips for those that tend to underwater
 - Plastic or glazed pots that hold moisture
 - Supplemental watering devices
 - DIY Self-Watering Systems for Houseplants
 - Hydroponics and self watering pots
 - Grow drought tolerant plants
 - Cacti & Succulents
 - Pony Tail
 - ZZ Plant
 - Cast Iron Plant
 - Snake Plant

HUMIDITY FOR TROPICAL PLANTS

- Most tropical plants prefer 75-80%, our homes offer half of that
- Cooler temperatures in winter boost humidity
- Group plants together - as one transpires the others benefit
- Grave trays - saucer or shallow container with pebbles
 - Excess water collects below pot and evaporates around plants
- Terrariums and Wardian Cases
 - Closed for moisture and humidity loving plants
 - Open for cacti and succulents
 - Build a Tropical Paradise or Dramatic Desert In a Terrarium



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/ radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on over 115 TV and radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes the twice monthly "Gardeners' Questions" newspaper column and a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

TEMPERATURE

- Most plants tolerate room temperature (65-75° F), even a bit cooler than we like
 - Don't trap plants between curtain and window
 - May need to move plants back a bit from drafty window in winter
 - Chill damage - dark, slimy water soaked patches on stems and veins
- Higher the temperatures, the lower the humidity
- Avoid drafts of hot and cold air
 - Furnace and air conditioner vents
- Cacti and succulents like it cooler, soil drier and tolerate lower humidity in winter
- **Avoid Cold Damage to Indoor Plants**

JOIN ME!

February 3rd @ 6:30 p.m. CST

Organic Control for Houseplant Pests

FERTILIZER

- **Fertilizing Houseplants**
- Most newly purchased plants are set for several months
- Let your plants be the guide
- Only fertilize actively growing plants (March - November)
- Dilute solution of fertilizer labeled for indoor plants
 - Err on conservative side - you can always add more
 - Slow release/organic forms release small amounts of nutrients over time

TRANSPLANTING

- **Transplant Potbound Houseplants**
- Most plants only need transplanting once every few years
- Late winter before active growth is best time to transplant
- Dealing with settled soil
 - Lift plant, add new potting mix at bottom of pot

- Signs your plant needs a bigger pot
 - Water quickly runs out the drainage holes when watered
 - New growth is stunted
 - Roots fill the pot and encircle the root ball
- Only move into a pot one size larger
 - Oversized pots hold moisture and can lead to root rot
- Adjust watering cycle after repotting
- **Root Prune Instead of Moving Indoor Houseplants to a Larger Pot**

SUMMER PLANTS OUTDOORS

- **Houseplants Move Into the Garden for the Summer**
- Wait until night temperatures are in the high 40's to low 50's
- **Moving Plants Outdoors**
 - Acclimate plants when moving out and back indoors in fall
 - Consider risk of bringing insects back indoors in fall
 - Quarantine and monitor for pests
 - Nylon stocking over pot trick
- Vacation care
 - **Vacation Care for Houseplants**
 - Plant sitter
 - Self watering pots
 - DIY wicking systems
 - **DIY Self-Watering Systems for Houseplants**
 - Set in sink/tub with an inch of water, elevate pots above water, cover with clear plastic - placed in bright indirect light

WINTER CARE

- **Houseplants Move in for the Winter**
- **Helping Winter Stressed Houseplants**
- **Winter Care for Cacti and Succulents**
- Plant stands and more

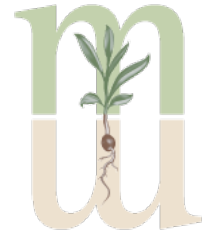


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Melinda's Garden Moment nationally syndicated TV and Radio segments

[Birds & Blooms](#) magazine

Books

- [Midwest Gardener's Handbook](#)
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