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How to Care for Spider Plants



Photo Credit: t50/Shutterstock

Botanical Name: *Chlorophytum comosum*

Plant Type: House plant

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Growing Spider Plants: Watering, Lighting, Propagation, and Pests

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

Last Updated: October 17, 2024



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Spider plants produce a rosette of long, thin, arched foliage that is solid green or variegated with white. These easy-to-grow houseplants look especially lovely in a hanging basket and were a favorite in Victorian-era households. Here's how to grow spider plants in your home!

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About Spider Plant

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During the summer, spider plants may produce tiny white flowers on long

[NASA once highlighted spider plants](#) for their reported air-purifying ability, though a large number of plants would be required to reap any benefits in the home. Nonetheless, they are a classic and attractive plant to add to your space, and every little bit helps! [Learn more about air-purifying houseplants.](#)

Read Next

- [The 10 Best Houseplants for Purifying Indoor Air](#)
- [How to Care for Inch Plants \(Tradescantia\)](#)
- [Shady Characters: 10 Best Flowers and Plants For Shade Gardens](#)

PLANTING

- Grow in a soil-based, well-draining [potting mix](#). Spider plants like even moisture; they don't like to be too dry or too wet.
- Keep plants in bright to moderate **indirect** sunlight. Spider plants do

which can burn their leaves, causing brown tips and spots.

- Spider plants grow fairly quickly and can easily become pot-bound. Plan to repot a spider plant about every other year.
- Spider plants can be grown outdoors as annuals during the summer. They look especially good along the edge of a container or bed, as long as they are kept out of direct sunlight.

GROWING

- During initial growth, water occasionally; once fully developed (within one year), water moderately.
- In the spring and summer months, keep the soil moist to encourage growth. Do not let the soil dry out too much.
- Maintain average room tempera-

ture and humidity. Spider plants

and 80°F (13–27°C), which makes them a great indoor houseplant.

- Fertilize twice a month in the spring and summer; however, avoid overfertilization.
- See more [Houseplant Growing Tips](#).



*Photo by Olga
Prava/Shutterstock*

Types

- The most common varieties are the variegated forms:
 - **‘Vittatum’** has green foliage with a single off-white stripe down the center of each leaf.
 - **‘Variegatum’** is the inverse of ‘Vittatum’, with an off-white stripe running along the edge of each green leaf.

HARVESTING

- Healthy spider plants may eventually produce pups, offshoots from the adult plant that can be removed and replanted to start new plants. For the best results, allow pups to reach approximately 2 inches in diameter before removing them from the mother plant.

Alternatively, set the still-attached pups into pots of soil placed next to the mother plant. Once the pups have rooted themselves into the soil, they can be cut loose from the mother plant.

Learn more about [propagating spider plants and other houseplants to share with your friends.](#)

GARDENING PRODUCTS



PESTS/DISEASES

- Spider plants are prone to **tip burn**, which can be caused by dry soil, low humidity, or a buildup of salt and chemicals found in some public tap water. Keep the soil slightly moist. Avoid watering with fluoridated or chlorinated water, and cut off brown tips if they do occur.
- To get rid of the brown discs on the leaves, use your fingernail to scrape

- **Mealybugs**
- **Scale**

WIT AND WISDOM

- Spider plants also go by the names airplane plant, ribbon plant, and spider ivy.
- Spider plants are originally from South Africa.
- Keep spider plants on your desk to reduce indoor pollutants. Check out [other great ideas for houseplants to bring to the office.](#)
- A favorite among veterinarians, spider plants are safe for cat-friendly and dog-friendly households. [Learn about more cat-safe indoor plants.](#)

HOUSEPLANT GUIDES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

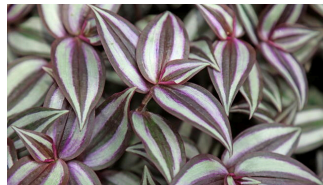


Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found each other. She leads digital content for the Almanac website, and is also a certified master gardener in the state of Indiana. [Read More from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

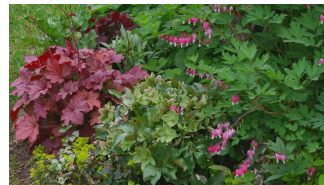
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COMMENTS

ADD A COMMENT

Zia-ur-Rehman (not verified) 6 months 2

weeks ago

Amazing guide.

Thanks for the knowledge.

Here is also a site you can visit for plants guides.

<https://thegrowgarden.com>

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REPLY

Jeanne (not verified) 10 months 3 weeks

ago

I've had my spider plant for 15 years. I've had to repot it several times with no problems. I recently reported again but it split into two large sections so I thought I would repot them separately (2 different pots). They are not looking very good & I'm afraid

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated

REPLY

Terry (not verified) 1 year 8 months ago

Why are my leaves brown on the edges

REPLY

The Editors 1 year 7 months ago

Hi Terry,

There are a few factors that could cause your spider plant leaves to brown on the edges. One of the reasons is that your plant is too dry. Allowing the soil to dry out too much between waterings prevents your plant from taking up the water it needs to thrive. It is best to keep the soil moist and

midity levels are too low, or it has received too much fertilizer.

REPLY

Cynthia (not verified) 1 year 8 months ago

Hi,

I put my many spider plants in the backyard while I was away for a month. It apparently rained quite a bit, and got pretty hot. They survived, but many leaves have brown spots like rust. Should I cut the rust off?

REPLY

The Editors 1 year 8 months ago

Hi Cynthia-

You may be able to scrape off the spots with your fingernail. Try that first. If not, you can certainly cut them off.

REPLY

Missy (not verified) 1 year 9 months ago

Hi there i live in MN and I have my spider plant in a pot on my porch which get direct hot sunlight and it couldn't be thriving any better. Ive had to repot it twice since March and the pups don't stop growing. I got this plant at my mothers funeral and I don't want to do anything to kill it. My question is should I bring it in or let it be? Thanks in advance.

Ps. Its my one and only plant. And my first one ever:)

REPLY

Sara (not verified) 7 months 2 weeks ago

It sounds like your spider plant is absolutely thriving! That's amaz-

value. Given that you're in MN, I'd definitely recommend bringing it inside once the temperatures start dropping. Spider plants are pretty resilient, but they don't do well with frost or extreme cold. Indoors, it should continue to grow beautifully, especially if it's getting good sunlight. Also, if you ever want to switch things up or add to your plant collection without the upkeep, Designer Plants (<https://designerplants.com.au/>) has some fantastic artificial options that look just as good as the real deal!

REPLY

The Editors 1 year 9 months ago

Hi Missy,

Thanks for sharing. It is wonderful

While it is thriving at the moment, just be careful not to allow it to get too much direct sun, as extended exposure can result in leaf scorch.

Spider plants are typically grown as houseplants, but do enjoy time outdoors during the warm season. But as soon as the weather begins to change in the fall and temperatures begin to cool, you should plan to bring it inside to overwinter as a houseplant and follow the growing tips outlined above.

REPLY

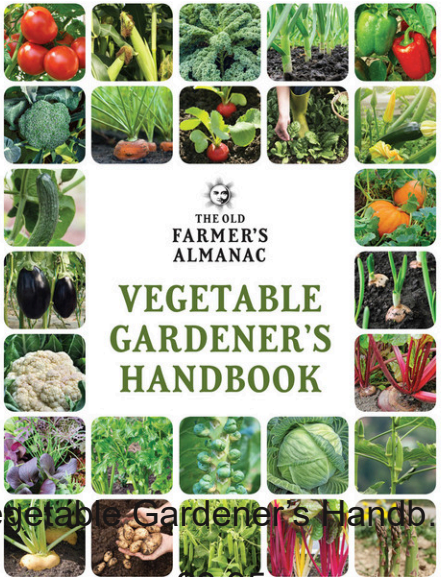
Kim Ruth (not verified) 1 year 3 months ago

I live in California in 9B. My spider plants live outside year around

REPLY

MORE COMMENTS

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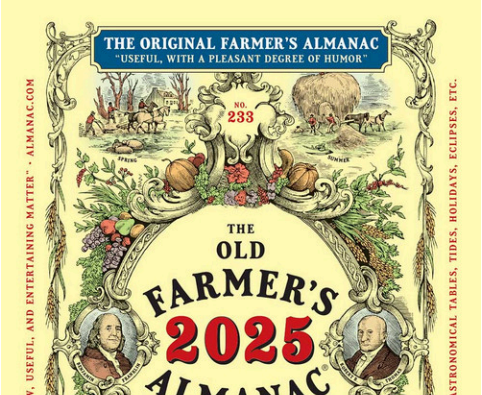
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