



# DEADLINES & DRY LEAVES

A GUIDE TO  
Keeping plants alive in  
college

# Hello!

This guide is for students who might love the idea of plants but don't want the stress of keeping them alive.

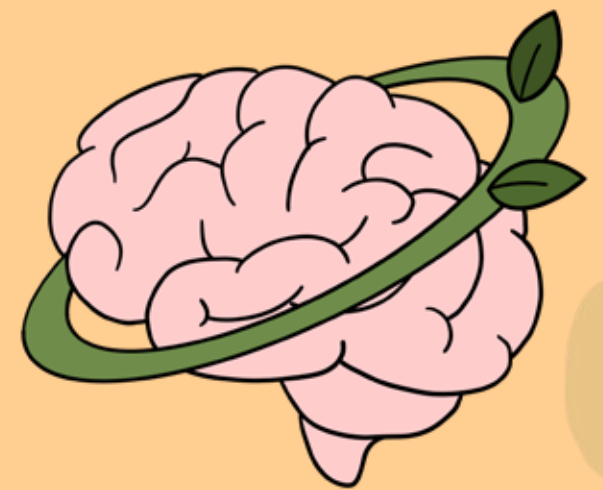
A small note on:

## Why should students try growing plants?



- Connect with nature  
Break from screens, feel grounded

- Boost mental health  
Reduces stress, improves focus



- Build life skills  
Patience, responsibility, care
- Learn by doing  
Intro to science, sustainability



- Stronger community  
Share, connect, grow together



I get it—college life is chaos. But plants? They don't have to be.

Let's get started with



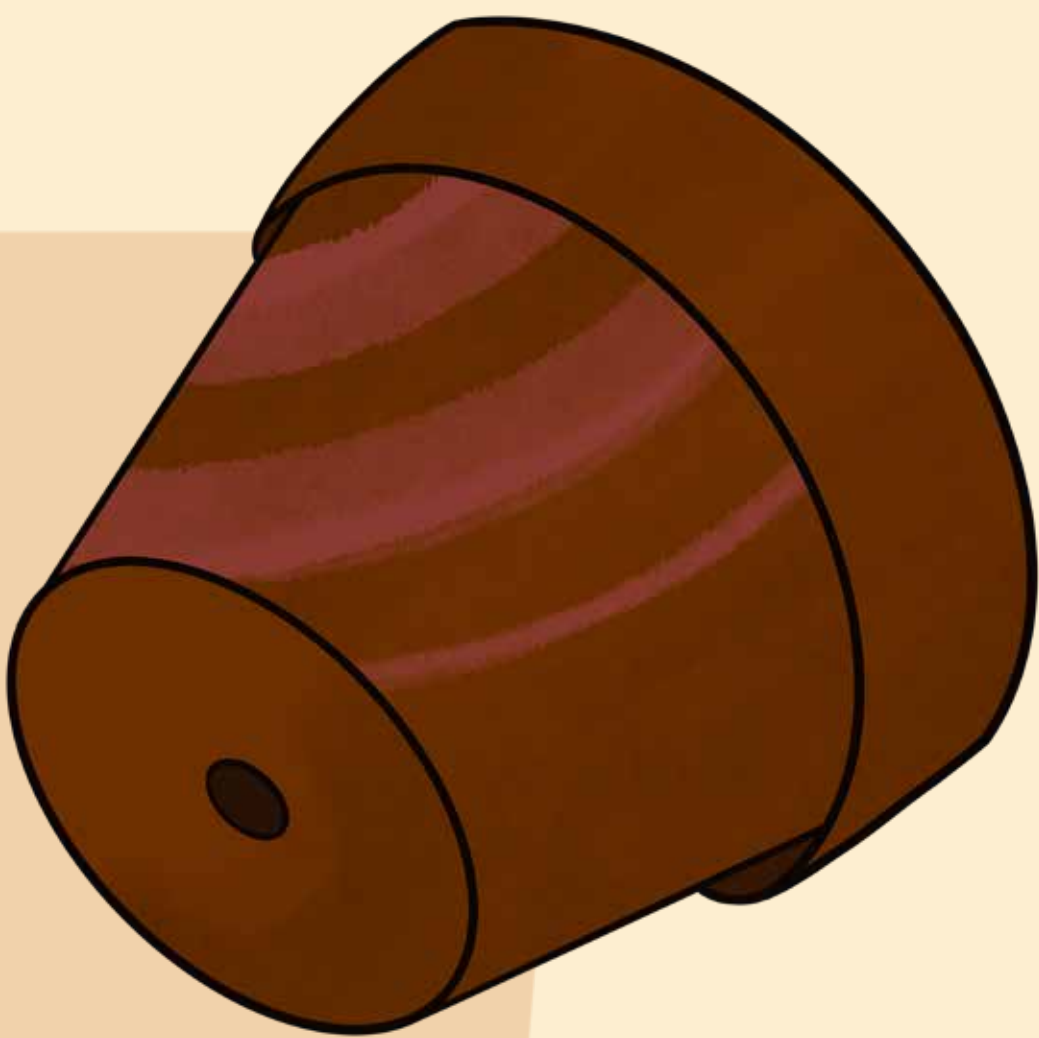
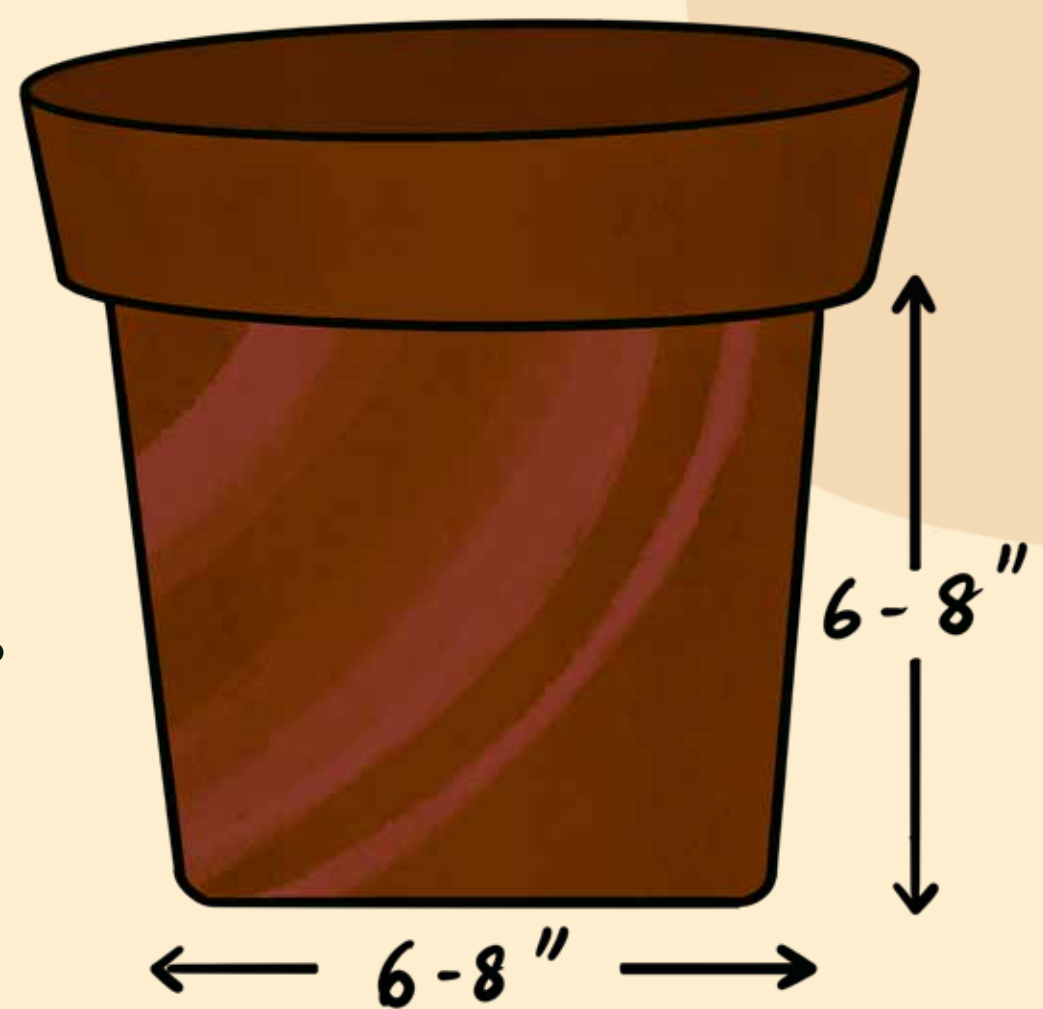
## Money plant

Money Plants help **reduce the impact of radiation** from digital screens and also **remove harmful indoor toxins**

# Pick the Perfect Pot

Choose a medium pot  
(6–8 inches wide and deep).

**Bigger pots = more growth.**



Plastic, ceramic, and  
terracotta all work well.

**Must have drainage holes**  
to avoid soggy roots.

# Build a Cozy Bed for the Roots

Use **regular potting soil** combined with peat moss, perlite, or coco coir.

**Fill loosely**—don't press the soil down

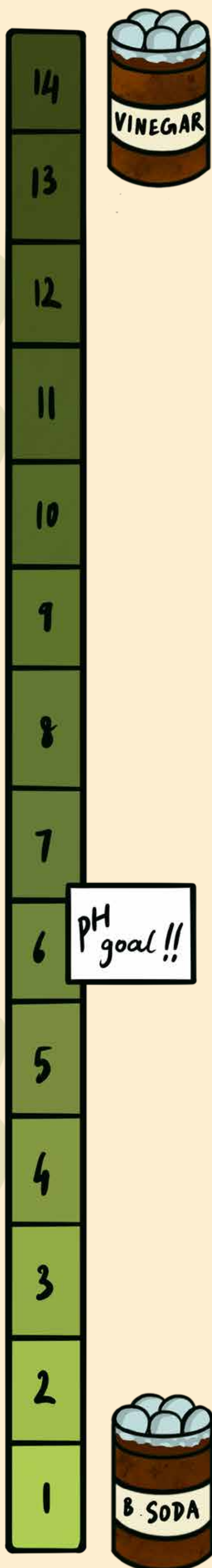


*Optional:* pebbles and charcoal at the bottom improve drainage.

**Skip dense soils**, they trap water and suffocate roots.



# Getting the pH Just Right



Ideal pH of soil for money plant is **between 6.1 and 6.8**

To check pH:

The vinegar and baking soda test!

If your soil fizzes on adding vinegar, it is alkaline, If it fizzes on adding baking soda solution, your soil is acidic.  
No reaction? Your soil is likely neutral, which is ideal for most plants.

**Too acidic?**

Mix in



crushed  
eggshells



garden lime

**Too alkaline?**

Mix in



compost



peat moss



# Keep it Cozy

Loves warmth: 15–27°C.

Below 10°C?  
Leaves get cranky

Prefers bright, indirect light.

Too much sun = scorched leaves  
Too little sun = slow growth



Place your plant  
near a window  
with filtered  
sunlight, like  
behind a sheer  
curtain.



# Thirsty or Not?

Water every 7–10 days.

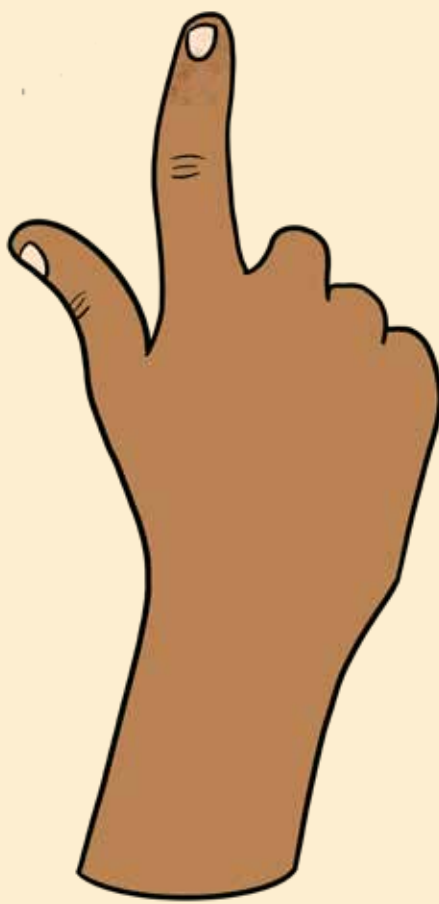
Water when the top 1-2 inches of soil feels dry.



Finger clean and dry?

**TIME TO WATER!!**

Water enough so that a little drains out the bottom, but never let it sit in standing water.



## **Yellowing leaves?**

Could be overwatering—cut back on watering and check drainage.



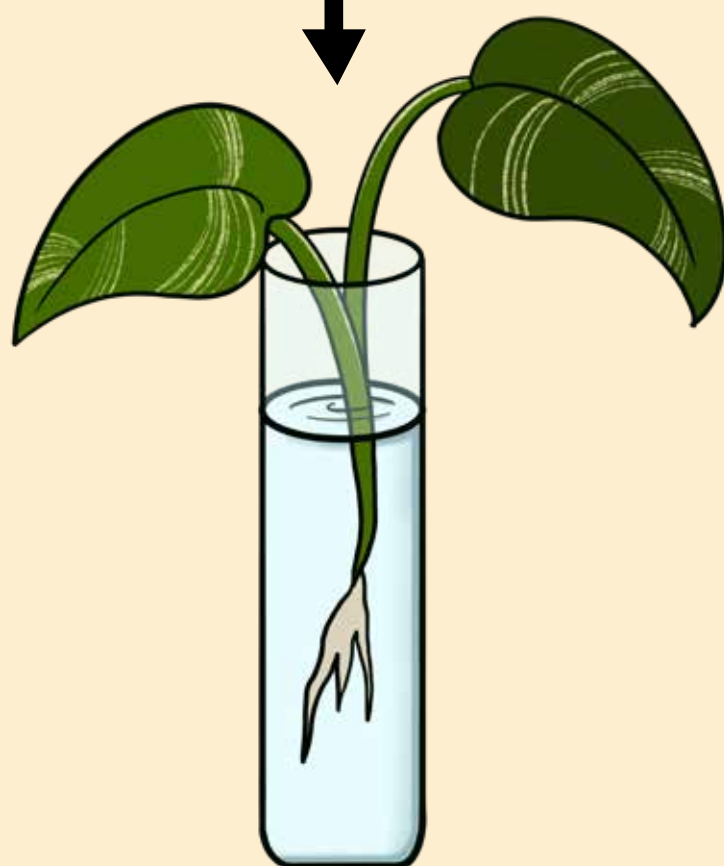
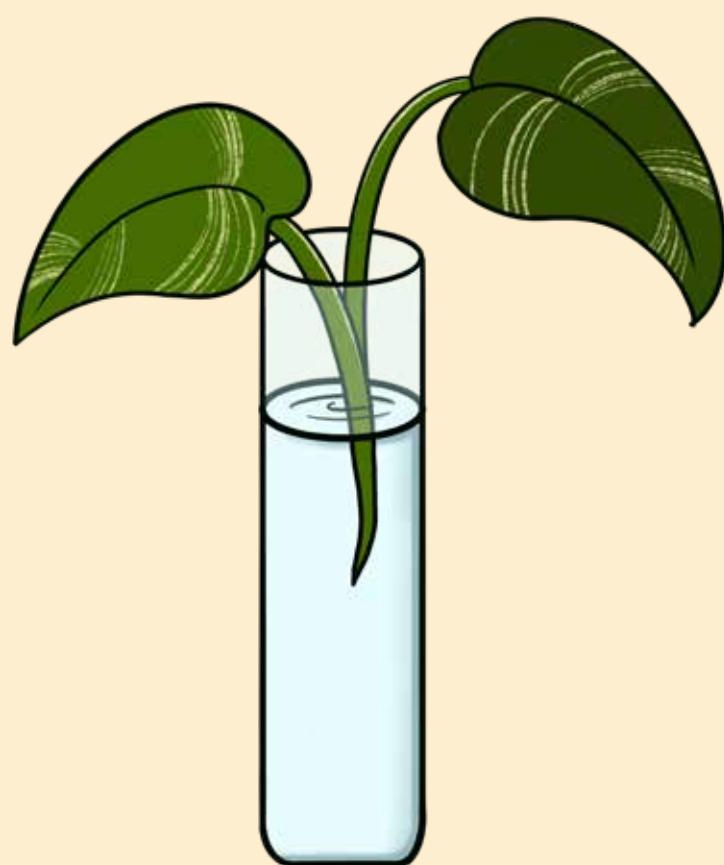
## **Droopy leaves?**

Could be underwatering—give it a good drink.



# How the Journey Begins

Grow a stem  
with 2-4 leaves in  
water or moist soil



Roots in  
2-3 weeks

**Transfer  
into a pot**



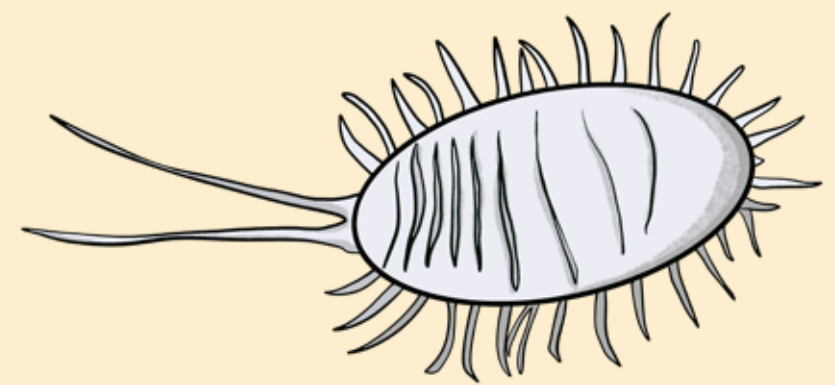
Grows to full size in  
6-12 months



# Tiny Trouble-Makers

Watch for these pests.

They usually appear when the plant is **overwatered** or has **poor airflow**.



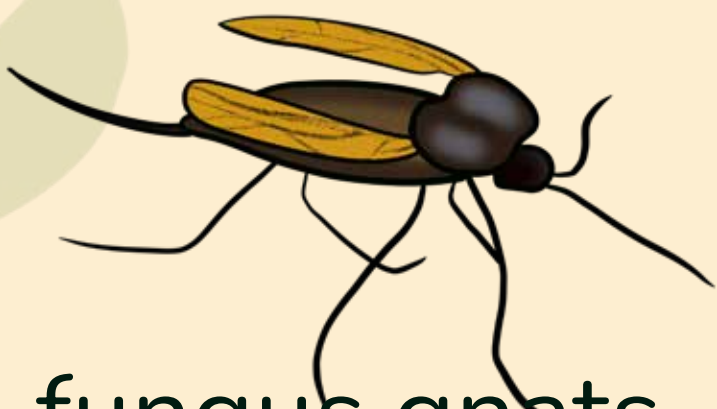
mealybugs

Tiny **white cotton-like pests** that suck sap and weaken the plant.



spider mites

Nearly invisible bugs that **spin fine webs** and cause **speckled yellow leaves**.



fungus gnats

Small black flies that hover around moist soil and lay eggs in it.





Dab bugs with rubbing alcohol on a cotton swab.



Spray with neem oil or mild insecticidal soap.



Let the top soil dry out to keep gnats away.

## Black spots? Fungal Trouble.

Trim off damaged parts.



Sprinkle **cinnamon** lightly on the top layer of soil.

Avoid overwatering.

# Feeding the Plant Right

Use a balanced liquid fertilizer monthly in spring and summer.

**Don't fertilize in winter** — the plant rests then.



Try worm castings, compost tea, or a piece of banana peel buried under the soil for gentle, organic nutrients.



Soak one banana peel in one liter of water overnight. Then use about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 cup of this banana water per plant the next morning.

Do this once a month during the growing season to **boost potassium** naturally.

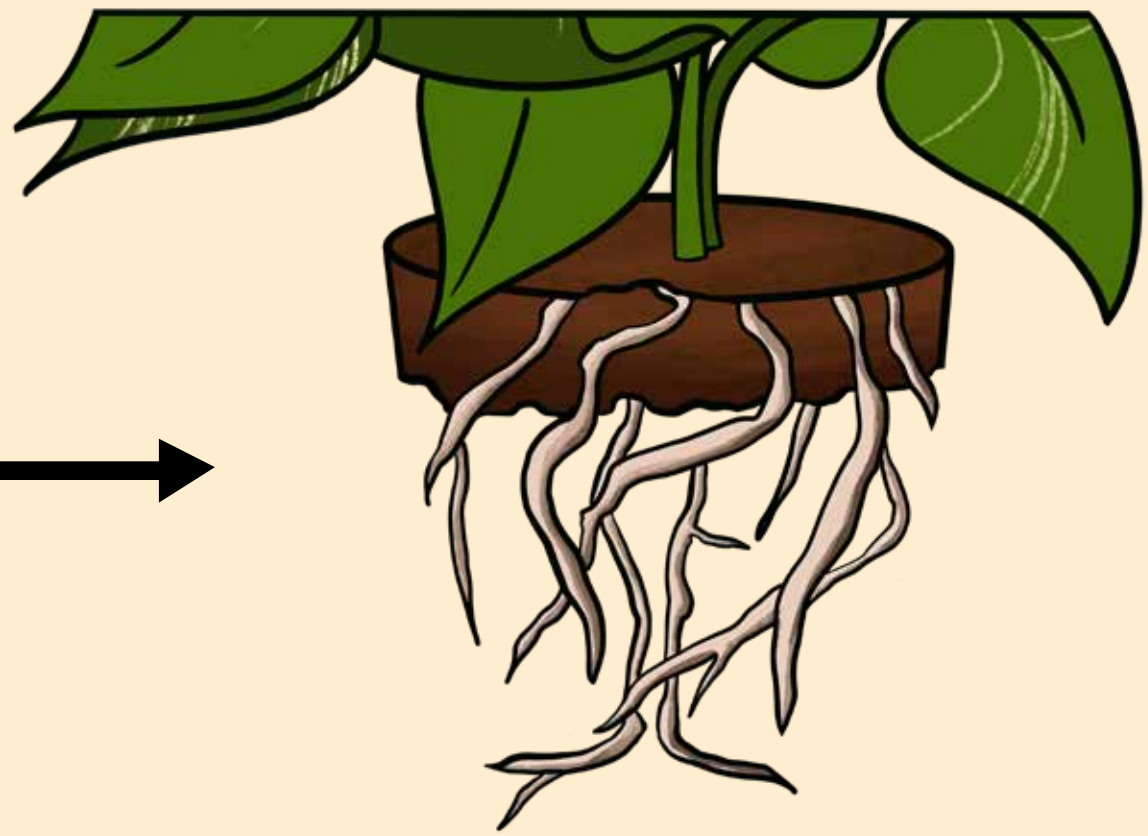
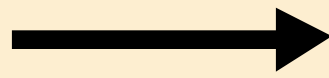


Time  
for a  
New  
Home?

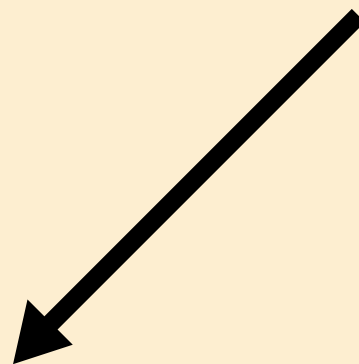
Every 1–2 years,  
or  
When you see roots poking  
out the bottom,  
or  
If growth seems slowed or  
soil stays wet too long.



Gently take the plant out



Loosen roots



Place in fresh potting  
mix in a slightly  
bigger pot  
(2 inches deeper)

**Your money plant is ready to thrive with you**—through all-nighters, exam stress, and last-minute assignments.

Keeping plants alive isn't as hard as it seems.

**PICK A SPOT,  
PLANT,  
LET IT GROW!!**

Bring some green into your space. Your desk (and your brain) will thank you.