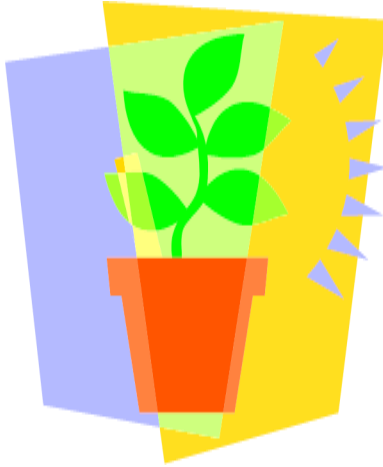


# HOUSEPLANTS

## LIGHT INTENSITY & DURATION



Plants need light to grow so the spot you choose for your houseplant will determine its success. Light intensity and duration are affected by such things as the angle of sunlight through a window, trees or curtains inside and out of the room, and reflective surfaces like mirrors or bright walls. Most houseplants are tropical and therefore prefer bright, indirect natural light. Cacti and some succulents are the exception. They thrive in hot, direct sun year-round.

The amount of light a space receives differs greatly season to season. A rainy winter day at noon may provide 1/20<sup>th</sup> the brightness of the height of summer. Thus it may be necessary to move your plants to more light in winter, or shadier locales in the summer.

**Too much light** causes foliage to burn at the edges, or become colorless and wilt.

**Too little light** can make a plant leggy and cause leaf loss. If you are unable to move the plant to a more ideal location in your home, artificial light may be used to supplement (the lighting must be bright enough to stimulate photosynthesis).

## LIGHT LEVELS

**LOW:** far from any windows, barely enough natural light to read by.

**MODERATE:** areas around sunless windows or 5-8 feet from a sunny window; easy for most plants to adapt to this light.

**BRIGHT INDIRECT:** within 5 feet of a window that gets direct sun, but no direct rays on the foliage; preferable to most.

**SOME DIRECT SUN:** less than 5 hours of direct sun daily (such as an east or west-facing windowsill or a few feet away from a south-facing window; plants on western sides may need protection from heat in the summer); flowering plants and herbs do well here.

**FULL SUN:** at least 4-5 hours of direct sun each day. In summer, only cacti and succulents can handle this.



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# LIGHT REQUIREMENTS OF COMMON HOUSEPLANTS

## LOW:

*Aglaonema*-Chinese Evergreen,  
Silver Queen  
*Aspidistra*-Cast-iron Plant  
*Sansevieria*-Snake Plant  
*Zamioculcas Zamiifolia*-Eternity  
Plant

## MODERATE:

*Acrostichum*- Leather Fern  
*Adiantum*- Maidenhair Fern  
*Asplenium/Spleenworts*-Mother  
Fern  
*Calathea*- Peacock Plant  
*Chlorophytum*- Spider Plant  
*Cissus*- Grape Ivy, Kangaroo Vine  
*Dieffenbachia*- Dumb Cane  
*Dracaena*- Corn Plant  
*Epipremnum*- Pothos, Taro Vine  
*Maranta*- Prayer Plant  
*Nephrolepis*- Boston Fern, Sword  
Fern  
*Nephtytis*- Butterfly Plant  
*Palmae*- Palms (ask about specific  
varieties)  
*Polypodium*- Rabbit's Foot Fern  
*Sansevieria*- Snake Plant  
*Spathiphyllum*- Peace Lily  
*Strobilanthes*- Persian Shield  
*Tradescantia*- Wandering Jew, Inch  
Plant  
*Zebrina*- Purple Wandering Jew

## BRIGHT INDIRECT:

*Adiantum*- Maidenhair Fern  
*Alocasia*-Elephant Ear  
*Anthurium*- Flamingo Flower  
*Araucaria*-Norfolk Island Pine  
*Bertolonia*- Jewel Plant  
*Billbergia*- Friendship Plant  
Button Fern  
*Calathea*- Peacock Plants,  
Zebra Plant  
*Ceropegia*- String of Hearts, Rosary  
Vine  
*Chlorophytum*- Spider Plant  
*Clivia*- Kaffir Lily  
*Colocasia*- Taro, Elephant Ear  
*Cyathea*- Tree Fern  
*Cyclamen*  
*Dieffenbachia*-Dumb Cane  
*Dizygotheca elegantissima*- False  
Aralia  
*Fatsia Japonica*- Japanese Aralia  
*Ficus*- Figs, Rubber Plant  
*Fittonia*- Net Leaf  
*Gardenia*  
*Graptophyllum*- Caricature Plant  
*Gynura*- Purple Passion, Velvet  
Plant  
*Heliconia*- Lobster Claws  
*Hoya*- Wax Plant  
*Hypoestes*- Polka Dot Plant, Freckle  
Face  
*Mimosa*- Sensitive Plant  
*Monstera*- Swiss Cheese Plant  
*Musa*- Banana  
*Nepenthes*- Pitcher Plant  
*Peperomia*  
*Pilea*- Creeping Charlie, Friendship  
Plant  
*Platyserium*- Staghorn Fern  
*Rhipsalidopsis*- Easter Cactus  
*Saintpaulia*- African Violet  
*Schefflera*- Amantie Stump  
*Schlumbergera*- Christmas Cactus  
*Selaginella*- Club Moss  
*Tillandsia*

## SOME DIRECT SUN:

*Acalypha*- Chenille Plant,  
Copperleaf  
*Alpinia/Costus*- Ginger  
*Begonia*  
*Strelitzia*- Bird of Paradise  
*Caladium*  
*Caryota*- Fishtail Palm  
*Clerodendron*- Glorybower  
Coffee Plant  
*Columnnea*- Furry Goldfish Plant  
*Cryptanthus*- Earth Stars  
*Cyanotis*- Teddy Bear Vine  
*Darlingtonia/Sarracenia*- Pitcher  
Plant  
*Datura*- Angel's Trumpet  
*Dionaea*- Venus Fly Trap  
*Gardenia*  
*Iresine*- Blood Leaf, Beefsteak  
*Nepenthes*- Pitcher Plants  
*Oxalis*  
*Stapelia*- Carrion Flowers  
*Sedum*- Donkey's Tail (Burro's Tail)

## FULL SUN:

*Abutilon*  
*Agave*  
*Allamanda*- Golden Trumpet  
*Aloe*  
*Citrus*  
*Crassula*- Jade Plant  
*Echeveria*- Hen & Chicks  
*Euphorbia*- Crown of Thorns,  
Poinsettia  
*Gerbera* Daisy  
*Hibiscus*  
*Jasmine*  
*Kalanchoe*  
*Pelargonium*- Geranium

