



With so many options to choose from, any beginner can have a long-lasting indoor garden.

## The Best Houseplants for Beginners

So you think you can kill even an artificial plant? Before you give up indoor gardening, check out some of the more forgiving and resilient varieties of living houseplants. There's really no substitute for a healthy houseplant, whether you want one for house, apartment or office. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.

In addition to their beauty, houseplants offer us the chance to care for and nurture a growing thing. Plants help keep the indoor environment clean, aiding in oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange. They're also easier to clean up after than a pet. Speaking of pets, if you share your home with children or pets – find out if the plant you're considering is poisonous.

### General Care

Just because these plants are "low-maintenance" doesn't mean that you can ignore them. Like any plant, they need:

- Sufficient water and humidity
- Reasonable temperatures
- Occasional feeding and grooming
- Adequate light

The plant tag will have the details. Here's some general information:

#### Water

Plants need a thorough watering, even if it's delivered irregularly. Water thoroughly, not just an occasional drop or two as you pass by. Add room-temperature water until it flows out of the drainage hole in the bottom of the container.

#### Humidity

Many indoor plants have tropical origins. They're raised in greenhouses where the air is moist. After they're purchased, they move to the relative desert-like atmosphere of the home or office. Some can adapt to the drier climate, but most would benefit from some extra humidity. At home, place plants in the kitchen or bathroom where the humidity is normally higher. Grouping plants is also a way to grab extra humidity from the air. Another method is to get a saucer, put a layer of marbles in the bottom, and partially fill the saucer with water. Place the container on top of the marbles. Don't let the pot sit in the water — the idea is to capture evaporating moisture, not wick it into the root system and cause root rot.

#### Temperature

Like people, plants have their comfort levels. They also have critical temperature minimums and maximums. In general, temperatures between 65° F and 75° F during the daytime are best. Temperatures about ten degrees cooler at night are best. Heating and air conditioning systems can wreak havoc on houseplants. Try not to place houseplant near ventilation outlets or in drafty areas. Use blinds or curtains to regulate direct light from windows.

#### Fertilizing

Don't overdo it — remember these are the plants for non-plant people. A little bit of feeding goes a long way. Use a diluted houseplant fertilizer. A plant that gets enough light and water should be able to feed itself.

## Grooming

Wipe the leaves if they're dusty to keep them clean and able to breathe. Another purpose of regular grooming is to keep an eye open for pests and diseases.

## Light

Unless you plan to use artificial lighting, your existing light conditions may be the biggest factor in what houseplant you choose. Each window in your home provides different light levels, whether facing north, south, east or west. Curtains and blinds alter incoming light. Flowering plants and those with colored leaves usually need higher light levels than plants with green leaves.

## Houseplants for Beginners

No matter what your living space, try one of these. The plants are grouped by light requirements:

- **Low light** — Prefer or can tolerate minimum light. North-facing windows are a good place for one of these. The interior locations of the house (coffee tables for example) offer a good environment as well.
- **Medium/Indirect Light** — Bright light but no direct sun is the rule for these. West- or south-facing windows are great — just keep them a foot or two from the window itself.
- **Bright/Direct** — Here are the sun worshippers. Put them on the windowsill facing south or west.

Plant	Light Requirements	Features and Why We Like Them
<a href="#">Cast Iron Plant</a> <i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cold tolerant.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Chinese Evergreen</a> <i>Aglaonema</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tolerates dry air.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Dracaena</a> <i>Dracaena</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many varieties to choose from.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Kentia Palm</a> <i>Howea forsteriana</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unlike most palms this one tolerates dry, heated air.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Philodendron</a> <i>Philodendron</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vining habit works in hanging baskets as well as containers.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Snake Plant</a> <i>Sansevieria</i>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Insect resistant.</li></ul>
<a href="#">African Violet</a> <i>Saintpaulia</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Great combination of foliage and almost constant blooms.</li><li>• Likes humidity.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Dumb Cane</a> <i>Dieffenbachia</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several varieties to choose from.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Ficus</a> <i>Ficus</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seldom needs repotting.</li><li>• Many varieties of shapes and sizes.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Fishtail Palm</a> <i>Caryota mitis</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tolerates lower light better than most palms.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Lady Palm</a> <i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can tolerate cooler indoor temperatures.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Peperomia</a> <i>Peperomia</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Semi-succulent leaves.</li><li>• Can tolerate lack of water.</li></ul>
<a href="#">Pothos</a> <i>Epipremnum aureum</i>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vining habit.</li><li>• Tolerates irregular watering.</li></ul>

<a href="#">Rubber Plant</a> <b>Ficus elastica</b>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seldom needs repotting.</li> <li>• Variety of forms.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Schefflera</a> <b>Brassaia</b>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glossy leaves.</li> <li>• Likes high humidity.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Spider Plant</a> <b>Chlorophytum comosum</b>	Medium/Indirect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good hanging basket plant.</li> <li>• Produces stems that in turn can be potted to produce new plants.</li> </ul>
<b>Aloe</b> <b>Aloe barbadensis</b>	Bright/Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleshy succulent leaves have a nice texture.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Cactus</a> <b>(Various)</b>	Bright/Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The epitome of easy care.</li> <li>• Don't let any preconceived notions limit you. There are countless attractive variations of this sturdy plant.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Croton</a> <b>Codiaeum</b>	Bright/Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of foliage colors available.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Ponytail Palm</a> <b>Beaucarnea recurvata</b>	Bright/Direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow-grower.</li> <li>• Bulb base stores water.</li> </ul>

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