



HOME & GARDEN

HOME AND GARDEN INFORMATION CENTER • 12005 HOMEWOOD ROAD • ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

Indoor Plant Tips - December 2008

Culture

- Be careful not to over-water houseplants. Growing media soil should be allowed to dry out between watering.
- Unless your indoor plants are growing under optimum, high light conditions do not fertilize them during the winter months.
- High quality soilless mixes contain peat moss, vermiculite and perlite and should be used for re-potting. These mixes contain fertilizer that will meet a houseplant's nutritional requirements for 2-3 months. Avoid buying and using any products described as "potting soil".
- Keep Holiday plants away from dry, drafty locations. Do not place near heat vents, doorways or drafty windows. Increase humidity around plants by placing them on a tray lined with pebbles, shallowly filled with water. Make sure the water does not enter the drainage holes. For information on caring for Poinsettias, go to (HG 30).

Indoor Pests

- A variety of pests may attack houseplants. Fungus gnats are small, harmless, black flies that hover around the growing media. They breed in and feed on moist media and can be controlled by allowing the media to dry out between waterings.
- Monitor houseplants for mealy bug, spider mites, aphids, whitefly and thrips. If spider mites are a problem consider spraying with a houseplant insecticide. Periodically rinse off plants with water to keep dust from accumulating and mites from becoming a problem.

Have a pest or gardening question?
Call The Home and Garden Information Center
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