



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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Seasonal and Indoor Plant Tips

Culture

- Most houseplants benefit from being moved outdoors for the summer. Do not move them directly into the sun or they will be badly burned or killed. Move them to a shady location to help acclimate them to outdoor conditions. After a few weeks out doors those that can tolerate full sun such as palms and banal plants may be moved to the sun. For a uniquely pleasing combination combine houseplants with flowering annuals in container plantings.
- This is a good time to take and root stem and leaf cuttings and to re-pot plants that are out-growing their containers. Be careful not to over-water houseplants. Growing media should be allowed to dry out between watering. Begin fertilizing houseplants again once you notice them putting on new growth.
- When repotting plants, avoid overly large containers. Plants roots often drown because of the large amount of water held by the greater volume of growing medium. High quality artificial mixes contain peat moss, vermiculite and perlite and should be used for re-potting. Avoid buying and using any products described as “potting soil”. Re-pot into clean containers and be sure to wash out any fertilizer salt residues.
- Low light is a common cause of houseplant failure. Some recommended plants for low-light conditions include Chinese evergreen, peace lily, snake plant and dracaena.

Insects

- Fungus gnats are small, black insects that hover around plants. They breed in and feed on moist media and can be controlled by allowing the growing 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 labeled horticultural oil or soap and pyrethrum mix. If the plants are large do your spraying outdoors.

Have a pest or gardening question?
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