



FOLIAGE PLANTS for the home or office

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Foliage plants can be used in the home to design a living environment that compliments any decor. Whereas in the office, plants can create a pleasant atmosphere for work or put clients and customers at ease in a place of business.

Conditions in some homes and office buildings make it impossible to use live foliage plants. However, by following a few suggestions on selection and care, many people can enjoy the beauty offered by these plants.

Selection

Look for plants with lustrous green foliage and strong, stout stems. Avoid ones which have obviously dropped lower leaves or appear wilted.

Examine the tips and leaf margins carefully. Do not select those which appear burned or water soaked.

Choose a plant with a size and shape that conforms to the area where it will be placed in the home.

Care

Remove or punch holes through any decorative foil or wrapping on the pot. Although these may be attractive, foil wrappings impede drainage and hold water. This may cause roots to rot and plants to deteriorate quickly.

Keep plants out of drafts. Excessively hot, dry air from heating ducts or appliances reduces the plants' keeping quality. Also avoid cold drafts. Most foliage plants cannot tolerate cold or rapid temperature changes.

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Keep the plant where temperatures remain above 60° F. Temperatures between 65° and 70° are ideal.

Place the plant in good light but not direct sun.

Most foliage plants use a moderate amount of water and should be checked daily. Keep the soil moist but do not overwater. When watering allow some water to run out of the bottom of the pot.

For more specific information on many commonly grown foliage plants, see the plant selection table below.

Name	Mature size	Light level	Water
Artillery plant (<i>Pilea microphylla</i>)	pot, hanging plant	medium	moist
Boston fern (<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i> <i>bostoniensis</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Bromeliads many species	pot, hanging plant	medium	moist
Ceriman or Mexican breadfruit (<i>Monstera deliciosa</i>)	pot plant	low	moist
Chinese evergreen (<i>Aglaonema commutatum</i>)	pot plant	low	moist
Common philodendron (<i>Philodendron oxycardium</i>)	pot, hanging plant	low	dry
Corn plant (<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> <i>massangeana</i>)	floor, pot plant	low	wet
Dragon tree (<i>Dracaena marginata</i>)	tree, floor plant	medium	wet
Dumb cane (<i>Dieffenbachia amoena</i>)	floor, pot plant	medium	dry
Dwarf date palm (<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>)	floor, pot plant	medium	wet
Emerald ripple (<i>Peperomia caperata</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	low	dry
European fan palm (<i>Chamaeropsis humilis</i>)	tree, floor plant	high	moist
Fiddle leaf fig (<i>Ficus lyrata</i>)	tree, floor plant	medium	moist

Name	Mature size	Light level	Water
Golden aglaonema (<i>Aglaonema</i> 'Pseudo-bracteatum')	pot plant	low	moist
Green dracaena (<i>Dracaena deremensis</i>)	floor, pot plant	medium	wet
Hawaiian ti plant (<i>Cordyline terminalis</i>)	tree, floor, pot plant	medium	moist
Nepthytis (<i>Sygonium podophyllum</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	low	moist
Norfolk Island pine (<i>Araucaria excelsa</i>)	tree, floor, pot plant	high	moist
Orchids many species	pot, hanging plant	very high	moist/dry
Pewter plant (<i>Aglaonema roebelinii</i>)	pot plant	low	moist
Prayer plant (<i>Maranta leuconeura</i>)	pot, hanging, plant	medium	moist
Rubber plant (<i>Ficus elastica</i> 'Decora')	tree, floor, pot plant	medium	moist
Schefflera (<i>Brassia actinophylla</i>)	tree, floor pot plant	medium	dry
Self-heading philodendron <i>Philodendron</i> hybrids	floor, pot plant	medium	moist
Spider plant (<i>Chlorophytum</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Swedish ivy (<i>Plectranthus australis</i>)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Wandering Jew (<i>Zebrina</i> species)	pot, hanging, terrarium plant	medium	moist
Weeping Java fig (<i>Ficus benjamina</i> <i>exotica</i>)	tree	medium	moist
White flag (<i>Spathyphyllum</i> 'Mauna Loa')	pot plant	medium	dry
White striped dracaena (<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> 'Warneckeii')	pot plant	medium	dry

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