

Guide
to indoor plants
and herbs

vitra.



Introduction

page 3



Full sun

Plant profiles
from page 8



Semi-shade

Plant profiles
from page 14



Lots of light, no direct sunlight

Plant profiles
from page 20



Shady but bright, no direct sunlight

Plant profiles
from page 27



Shady and dark, no direct sunlight

Plant profiles
from page 33



Herbs kitchen, terrace and balcony

Plant profiles
from page 39

Care and propagate

from page 46

In order to offer more than just a selection of high-quality, decorative plant pots, we have also thought about what might be planted in them. In this brochure, you will find tips on which plants are most suited for use in the Terracotta Pots and the best conditions for them.

We have separated the plants into six groups based on location and position requirements and included pictures of them in the new Vitra Terracotta Pots. Based on the position requirements, we then present a few plants that can be combined together.

These plant profiles provide information on the plants' origin, how large they grow and how long they live, where they should be placed and what location requirements they have, the temperatures and growing media required for them to thrive, how often they need to be fertilised and watered and even how to propagate them.

Attached to this document is information and tips on room climate and how to water, feed and repot plants. The final part contains advice on growing and propagating houseplants.





Cephalocereus senilis



Opuntia ficus indica



Cycas Revoluta

Clay pots: Yes or no?

The classic tapered pot in traditional terracotta is a timeless favourite. On the other hand, this porous material does not suit every type of plant as it absorbs a lot of water from the soil and thus from the plant itself. This problem is avoided with the Terracotta Pots thanks to a glazed finish on the inside, allowing the plant to benefit from the full volume of water. The glaze also prevents the formation of white lime deposits typically seen on clay pots.



Sukkulenten



Asplenium nidus

Full sun, semi-shade, lots of light, bright or shady – what do all these recommendations mean? Our aim is to shed some light on the different definitions when deciding where to put your plant.

Full-sun south-facing windows



Rooms with a lot of sunlight include those with south-facing windows. Cacti and succulents in particular will feel at home here.

Yucca palms also thrive in sunny positions, and strelitzias too adore direct sun.

Pay attention to whether your plant enjoys direct sun all day or only for a few hours at a time, and position it accordingly.

Semi-shade morning or evening sun



East- or west-facing windows are the perfect locations for many plants suited to partial shade.

Rubber trees, many Philodendron species, begonias and the candelabra tree cactus do really well in this type of environment.

Be careful of windows with radiators in front of them and check whether your plant likes the stream of warm air – if it does, it can be placed in an elevated position and some distance from the heat source, or set directly on the floor.

Lots of light, no direct sunlight



Rooms lit indirectly through skylights or large glass fronts that do not face directly into the sun are perfect for the fiddle-leaf fig, elephant's ear, or ferns and palms.

Uniform ambient light also helps plants to grow evenly in all directions.

Many of these plants like high levels of humidity, so a conservatory or bathroom with natural light is another good option.

Shady but bright, no direct sunlight



This description covers most rooms that do not have large windows. The light often comes from one side and the plants will tend to grow in that direction.

You can help to compensate for this by rotating your plant and checking to see how it copes.

In the winter months, the amount of ambient light will be greatly reduced, and some plants will react to this change by dropping their leaves. This is where plant lamps can be really useful.

Shady and dark, no direct sunlight



There are a few plants that thrive in darker locations. Zamioculcas, peace lilies and bow hemp are the most well-known.

Dark green devil's ivy, a few Calathea plants, the climbing Philodendron verrucosum or the Aglaonema are also suitable for such spots.

However, the less light there is, the more slowly the plants will grow due to a reduction in photosynthesis.

Conservatories and bathrooms, rooms with high humidity levels



Many plants like higher humidity levels than are usually found in our homes. For such plants, conservatories and bathrooms are a good location, provided that the light conditions are also suitable.

If no bathroom or conservatory is available, humidifiers can be used to raise the humidity levels in the air – more about this in the appendix.

Full-sun
south-facing windows



①

Strelitzia

Bird of paradise
Strelitzie

Origin: South Africa

Size: 80 cm–2 m in height, depending on variety, can take 3–5 years until first flowering

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, lots of light and warmth, can be kept outside from May to September

Temperature: 18–24°C in summer, 8–12°C in winter

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water around once a week, always keep soil moist, should never be allowed to fully dry out but leave the top layer of soil to dry slightly between waterings

Feed: Feed with a general purpose fertiliser once a month from March to October

Propagation: Can be propagated by division and from shoot cuttings, and also from seed but this is difficult and takes a long time



②

Cycas Revoluta

Japanese sago palm
Palmfarn

Origin: Japan, South-East Asia

Size: 2–3 m in height, 1–2 m spread, grows quite slowly and produces a new leaf rosette every 1–2 years

Lifespan: Perennial, may reach over 200 years old

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, requires approx. 3–5 hours of sunlight per day. Very sensitive to strong midday sun. Provide light from all sides if possible, warm and bright, no draft

Temperature: Can also be kept outside if temperatures are above 20°C; around 15°C in winter, not below 10°C

Growing medium: Potting or cactus soil

Water requirements: Water evenly throughout the year, leaving the top layer of soil to dry out between waterings; in winter, soil can be left dry for 2 weeks at a time

Feed: Feed with a weak organic liquid fertiliser every two weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed but this is very difficult and only recommended for experts

Notes: Considered to be very challenging; one of the oldest plants in the world



③

Crassulaceae

Succulents
Dickblattgewächse

Origin: Deserts, mountains, coasts, jungles, South and Central America, Africa, Sri Lanka

Size: Can be up to 12 cm tall depending on species

Lifespan: Varies greatly, mostly around 4 years, rarely more than 10

Position requirements: Full sun, lots of light, south-facing window

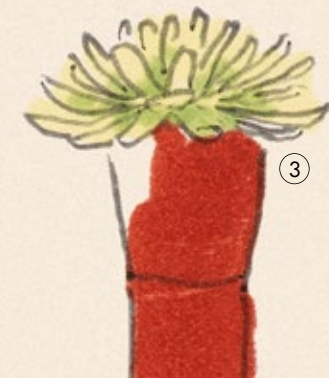
Temperature: Can stand temperatures over 35°C, likes cooler temperatures in winter and at night (5–10°C); some are even frost-hardy

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: : Around every 1–2 weeks from spring to autumn, water regularly but sparingly when substrate is dry. In winter, water occasionally and sparingly

Feed: Feed with weak cactus fertiliser every 3–4 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds, shoots and leaf cuttings





⑩

Yucca elephantipes

Spineless yucca
Yucca

Origin: Central America, Gulf Coast

Size: 2–3 m in height, grows around 30 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, can be outside from May to October

Temperature: Warm in summer, around 10°C in winter, tolerates temperatures down to -8°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Around once per week from spring to autumn, once per month is sufficient in cooler periods; only water when top layer of soil is dry. Water infrequently but thoroughly

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant liquid fertiliser every 2 weeks from May to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from stem cuttings

Notes: Many palms can be bought second hand as they live for a very long time

⑧

⑧

Echinocactus grusonii

Golden Barrel Cactus
Goldkugelkaktus

Origin: Mexico, grows on coastal hillsides

Size: 20–130 cm in height, 20–80 cm spread; may take 30 years to reach full size

Lifespan: Perennial, may reach over 100 years old

Position requirements: Full sun, bright, warm, can be kept outside in summer

Temperature: Between 20°C and 30°C in summer, will tolerate 6°C to 10°C in winter

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Softened water, water it thoroughly at regular but relatively long intervals when the soil is completely dry. Water very sparingly in winter

Feed: Feed with liquid cactus fertiliser every 2–3 weeks from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed

Notes: Threatened with extinction. If left at cooler temperatures over the winter (6–10°C), it grows in a more rounded shape. If kept in normal heat, it grows in more of a column shape. Cacti can be purchased from specialist cactus growers

⑦

Opuntia ficus indica

Indian fig opuntia
Feigenkaktus

Origin: America, different types from Argentina to Canada, dry subtropics

Size: 3–5 m in height, 1.5–2 m spread, quick growing

Lifespan: Perennial, can reach over 80 years old

Position requirements: Full sun, warm, air humidity max. 60%, can also be kept outside in the sunshine in summer; bright and dry in winter

Temperature: 18–25°C in summer, 6–8°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Lime-free water, around every 14 days in summer, once a month in winter; only water when substrate surface is dry

Feed: Feed with liquid cactus fertiliser every 4 weeks from May to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or leaf cuttings

Notes: Cacti can be purchased from specialist cactus growers



⑫

Crassula Ovata Jade Plant

Origin: South Africa, rocky/dry regions

Size: 50–100 cm in height, grows 5–20 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun or semi-shade, does not like air from heating systems; in summer by a window or on a balcony/patio, in winter cool but bright, if possible

Temperature: 20–30°C in summer, around 10°C in winter

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Water abundantly on warm days, once or twice per week; water more infrequently during cool periods. In winter, the soil can be left to dry out over several days; only water when substrate is dry

Feed: Feed with succulent/cactus fertiliser once a month from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot or leaf cuttings

Notes: Many trees can be bought second hand as they live for a very long time



⑨

Aloe Vera Aloe vera

Origin: Warm, dry regions, Arabian Peninsula

Size: 40–90 cm in height and spread, reaches full size after 5–10 years

Lifespan: Perennial, can live for 25 years or more

Position requirements: : Full sun to semi-shade, warm, south-facing window, can be kept outside in summer

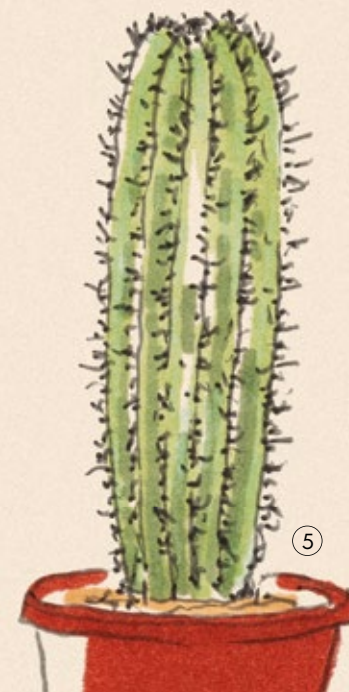
Temperature: 20–25°C, tolerates temperatures down to 5°C

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Water sparingly, checking around once a week, and allow soil to dry out between waterings

Feed: Feed with succulent/cactus fertiliser every 6–8 weeks from May to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoots, seeds or leaf cuttings



⑤

Pachycereus pringlei «cardon» Mexican giant cardon

Origin: Mexico

Size: 1–4 m in height, can reach up to 18 m tall in the wild

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, lots of light and warmth, can be kept outside in summer, avoid high air humidity

Temperature: 20–35°C all year round, not below 10°C

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Water around once a week, does not require much water, tolerates drought, allow soil to fully dry out between waterings

Feed: Feed with cactus fertiliser once a month from April to October

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or shoot cuttings or by division



⑩

Kalanchoe beharensis

Elephant's Ear Kalanchoe

Origin: Madagascar, dry

Size: Can reach up to 3 m in height; 50–100 cm in a pot

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, at least 2 hours direct sunlight daily, can be placed outside in summer but must be acclimatised to these conditions beforehand

Temperature: Room temperature or above (up to around 30°C) all year round, can be kept cooler in winter at around 15°C

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Stores water, only water it when soil has almost dried out. Water thoroughly but infrequently from spring to autumn, and sparingly in small amounts in winter

Feed: Feed with cactus fertiliser every 8 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip cuttings or offsets



⑪

Euphorbia tirucalli

Pencil cactus

Origin: Madagascar, South and East Africa, dry areas, savannahs

Size: 40–80 cm in height, 30–50 cm spread, grows up to 50 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, warm, south-facing window

Temperature: 18–25°C in summer (warmer is possible), not below 12°C in winter

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: In summer, approx. every 7 days; in winter, approx. every 14 days, does not need much water but keep lightly moist; water when the top layer of soil is slightly dry

Feed: Feed with cactus fertiliser every 2–4 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot cuttings

Notes: Has been widely imported for a long time



⑥

Corokia cotoneaster

Wire Netting Bush

Origin: Forests of New Zealand

Size: 1–2 m in height and spread, reaches full size after 5–10 years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, good ventilation, can be kept outside in summer, but should be brought inside in winter

Temperature: Around 15°C in summer, 5–10°C in winter

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water every 14 days or so, keep moderately moist but not too wet; water when the soil surface has dried out. Survives with less water in winter

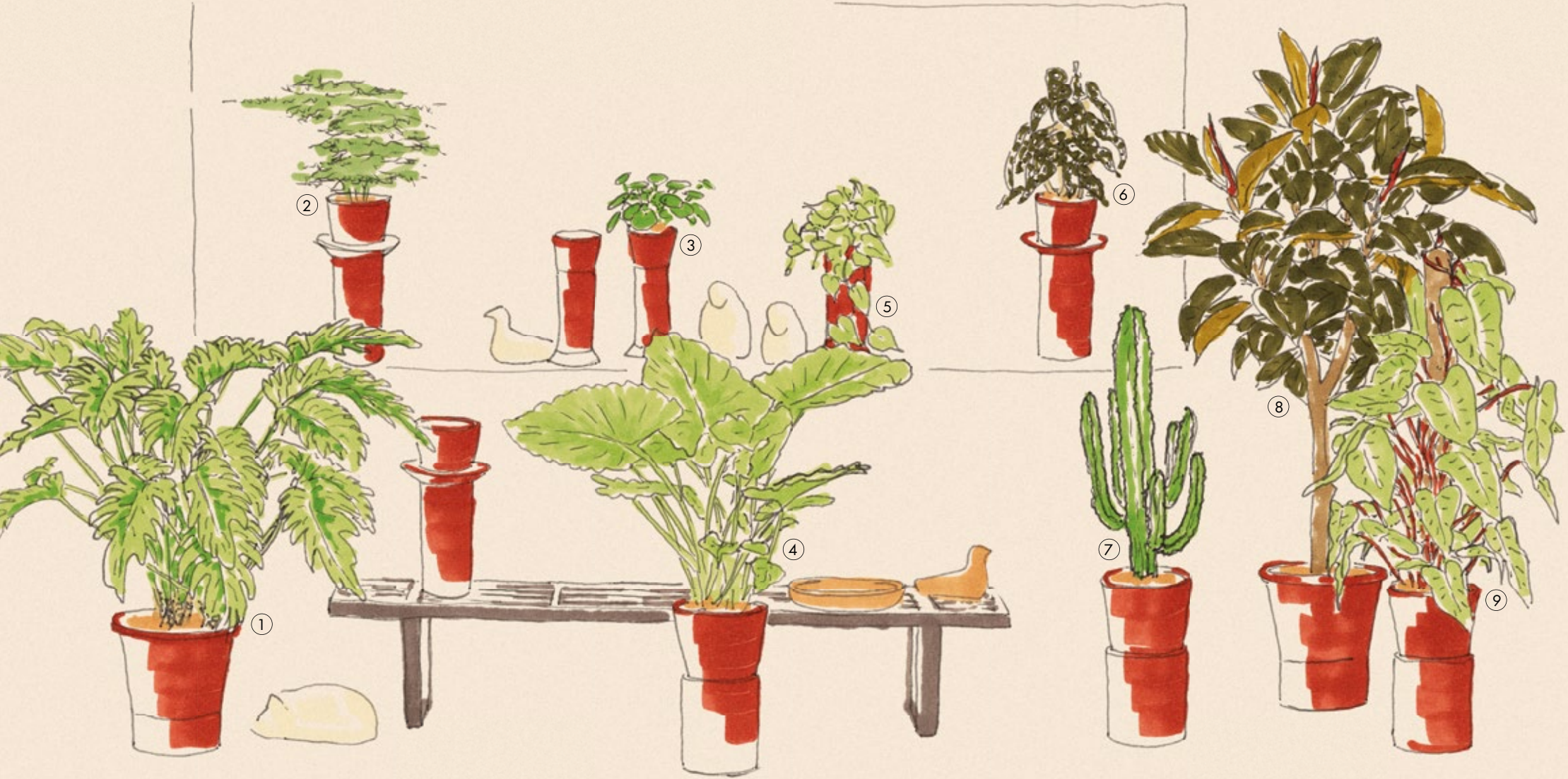
Feed: Feed with a general purpose fertiliser every 2 weeks from April to September; do not feed when in flower

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or shoot cuttings

Notes: Has not long been available in Europe



Semi-shade morning or evening sun



①

Philodendron Xanadu Winterbourn

Origin: Rainforests of Central and South America, Caribbean islands

Size: 80–130 cm in height, 50–100 cm spread, quick growing, up to 10 cm per week during growing period

Lifespan: On average, 20 years

Position requirements: Semi-shade, east- or west-facing window, no midday sun, high air humidity, can be kept outside in the shade in summer

Temperature: Room temperature all year round (20°C) not below 18°C, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water approx. once a week when the top layer of soil is slightly dry, keep substrate lightly moist

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser every 14 days from April to August, and once every 2 months from September to March

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot cuttings and seed

Notes: Air purifying effects (formaldehyde, benzene), dust leaves from time to time

⑩

Asparagus densiflorus «sprengeri» Asparagus fern

Origin: South-East Africa and Asia, humid and warm forests

Size: 30 cm–1 m in height, 40–60 cm spread, quick growing

Lifespan: Perennial, over 10 years

Position requirements: Bright to semi-shaded, can be kept outside in a sheltered spot in summer

Temperature: Optimal 20–25°C, not below 10°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant or potting soil

Water requirements: Does not tolerate drought, keep evenly moist, water when top layer of soil is slightly dry; if indoor air is dry, spray leaves with water from time to time

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser for herbaceous plants once a week from April to September and once a month from October to March

Propagation: Can be propagated by division



⑦

Euphorbia trigona African milk tree

Origin: Africa, Namibia (hot and dry)

Size: 1–2 m in height, 30–60 cm spread, quick growing, can reach 1.5 m in 5–6 years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light, tolerates semi-shade, east- or west-facing window, no midday sun

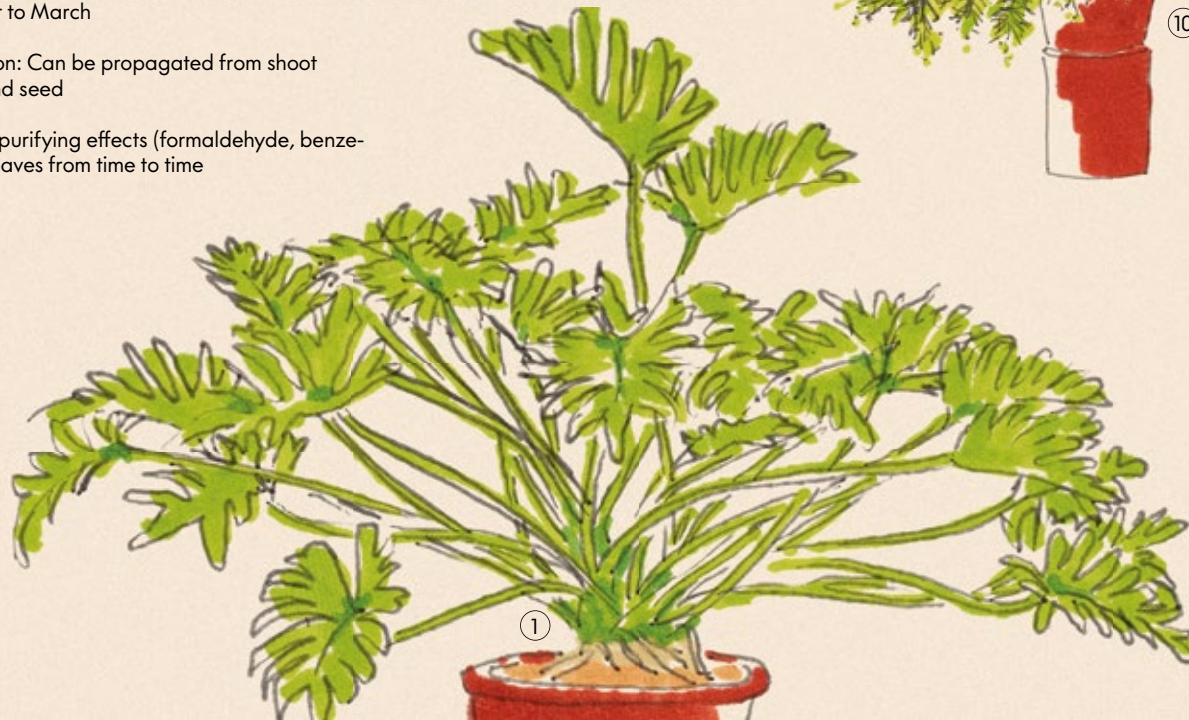
Temperature: 18–25°C in summer, can be kept outside during summer; dormant from October to February, still in bright natural light, but with temperatures no lower than 12–15°C, not hardy

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: At regular but relatively long intervals, allow soil to completely dry out between waterings; water sparingly in winter

Feed: Feed with cactus fertiliser every 10 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot cuttings





⑨
Philodendron Red Emerald
 Red Emerald

Origin: Tropical regions of Colombia

Size: 1–1.8 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, grows as a climbing or hanging plant

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light to semi-shade, no midday sun, should not be kept directly by the window, avoid air from heating systems, can be kept outside in summer

Temperature: 20–22°C all year round, not below 18°C in winter

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water regularly, keep soil constantly moist and do not allow to dry out, but allow the top layer of soil to dry between waterings

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 14 days from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from cuttings

⑤
Philodendron scandens
 «Micans»

Origin: Jungle, Mexico, Caribbean

Size: 1–2 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, grows as a climbing or hanging plant

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Bright, semi-shaded, east- or west-facing window, can also be in a fully shaded but bright position

Temperature: Warm all year round, 20–25°C, not below 10°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water regularly when top layer of soil is dry, should never be allowed to fully dry out

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 14 days from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf cuttings



⑧
Ficus elastica «Abidjan»
 Rubber Plant «Abidjan»

Origin: East Indies, Indonesia, tropics and subtropics

Size: : 1–2 m in height, 80 cm–1 m spread, grows quite slowly, sometimes takes 15 years to reach full size, looks similar to a tree after just 3–4 years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light, but tolerates semi-shade, warm, avoid drafts, can be kept on a balcony or patio in semi-shade in summer

Temperature: Room temperature, not below 18°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water moderately around once a week, only when the surface substrate is dry

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to September

Propagation: : Can be propagated from tip cuttings

Notes: To promote branching, always cut above a bud or axil when pruning; after a short time, new shoots will emerge from these growing points. Has an air-purifying properties



③

Pilea peperomioides

Chinese money plant

Origin: China, provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan

Size: 30–40 cm in height, 40–50 cm spread, its size can double within one year, reaches full size after approx. 5 years

Lifespan: Up to around 10 years

Position requirements: Bright to semi-shaded, east- or west-facing window, no drafts; grows towards the sun so it must be turned often

Temperature: 15–18°C, even down to 5°C in winter

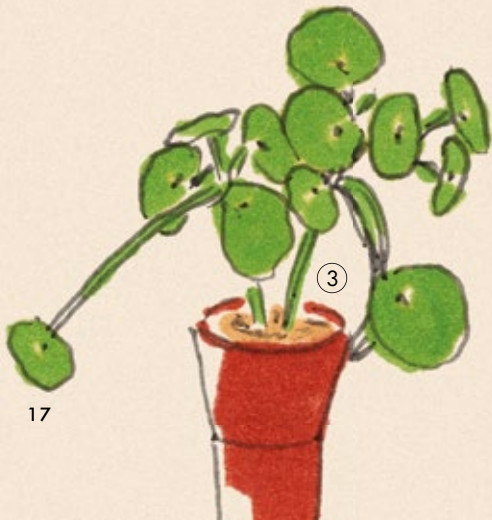
Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water weekly, keep substrate lightly moist, do not get water on the leaves

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to September and every 4–5 weeks from October to February

Propagation: Can be propagated from cuttings

Notes: Requires support when larger, has air-purifying properties



④

Alocasia Gageana

Elephant Ear

Origin: Tropical areas of Asia

Size: 1–1.5 m in height, 50–70 cm spread, grows relatively quickly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Semi-shade, warm, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories or bathrooms

Temperature: Room temperature up to 25°C all year round; can (but does not need to) be kept cooler in winter (not below 15°C)

Growing medium: Houseplant soil



Water requirements: Water regularly and thoroughly, requires high soil moisture, always keep moist. Water a little less in winter. Water as soon as the top layer of soil is dry, spray regularly with water

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to October

Propagation: Can be propagated by dividing the rhizome

⑪

Chamaedorea elegans

Parlour palm

Origin: Central America, mountain regions of Mexico and Guatemala

Size: : 50 cm–2.5 m in height, 40 cm–1.5 m spread, grows 20–30 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Bright to semi-shaded, no midday sun, can also be kept outside in the shade from June onwards

Temperature: Around 20°C in summer, 12–15°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Every 3–4 days, requires lots of water, keep evenly moist, must not be allowed to dry out. Water approx. every 2 weeks in winter, keep the substrate moist

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser at half strength every 2 weeks from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed and shoots



⑥

Begonia maculata

Polka dot begonia

Origin: Forests of Brazil

Size: 80 cm–1 m in height, 30–50 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Bright, semi-shaded, no midday sun, no air from heating systems, high air humidity is beneficial but not required, no drafts

Temperature: 20°C or above, not below 15°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water every 3 days or so in summer, keep the roots moist, allow the soil to dry out between waterings, water requirement is very variable. Adjust as required in winter. Spray leaves occasionally

Feed: Feed with a liquid houseplant fertiliser every 2–4 weeks

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip or stem cuttings

Notes: Requires support to grow upwards



②

Asparagus setaceus

Asparagus fern

Origin: Tropical East Africa, shaded woodland

Size: 30–60 cm in height, 30–60 cm spread, quick growing

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, bright

Temperature: 18–22°C in summer, 10–15°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant or potting soil

Water requirements: Does not tolerate drought, keep evenly moist; water when top layer of soil is slightly dry; if indoor air is dry, spray leaves with water from time to time

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser every 14 days from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated by division



Asparagus setaceus



Lots of light,
no direct sunlight



④

Hoya kerii

Hoya hearts

Origin: Tropical South-East Asia

Size: Climber; 50 cm–3 m in height, 50 cm–1.5 m spread, fully grown after 2–7 years, first flowers generally after 2–3 years

Lifespan: Perennial, up to 30 years

Position requirements: Lots of light, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 18–25°C in summer, 10–15°C in winter

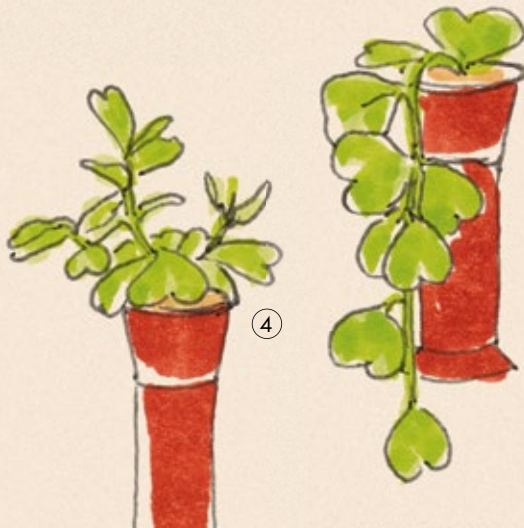
Growing medium: Houseplant or cactus soil

Water requirements: Softened water, check every 10–14 days, soil should be allowed to dry between waterings

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 3–4 weeks from March to October

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf cuttings or layering

Notes: Suitable for beginners



②

Alocasia Portodora

Elephant Ear «Portodora»

Origin: South-East Asia, Bengal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar

Size: 1.5–2 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, grows relatively quickly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light, no direct sunlight, warm, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–25°C, over 15°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Requires lots of water, keep constantly moist; wait until the top layer of soil is slightly dry before watering. Water less in winter

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser once or twice a month from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or rhizomes



⑤

Ficus Lyrata Fiddle leaf fig

Origin: Tropical regions of West Africa

Size: 2–4 m in height, 80 cm–1 m spread grows 30–45 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial, 1–5 years

Position requirements: Lots of light but no direct sunlight, avoid drafts, turn or change positions every now and then, leaves should not touch walls

Temperature: Approx. 25°C in summer, not below 15°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water approx. every 5 days in summer, keeping the soil constantly moist; water when top layer of substrate is dry. Around every 14 days in winter

Feed: Feed with a liquid herbaceous plant or flower fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to October and every 6 weeks from November to February

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or tip cuttings

Notes: Dust leaves weekly



⑥

Philodendron «Imperial Red»

Origin: Tropical regions, Central and South America

Size: 1–1.8 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, 60–90 cm in the first year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light but no direct sunlight, east- or north-facing window, likes high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–22°C in summer, not below 15°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water approx. once a week, keep lightly moist; water when substrate is slightly dry

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf cuttings

Notes: Requires support as size increases



⑧

Polyscias Fruticosa (Ming) Ming Aralia

Origin: Pacific region, tropical Asia

Size: 70 cm–2 m in height, 60–90 cm spread, grows relatively slowly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Bright to semi-shaded, no direct sunlight, high air humidity is recommended but not obligatory, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–22°C, at least 16°C in winter, hardy

Growing medium: Well-drained, humus-rich soil, pH of 6, for example standard soil

Water requirements: Every 2 weeks, or weekly for larger plants, even soil moisture; water when top layer of soil is slightly dry

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to September and once a month from October to February

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf and shoot cuttings or seed

Notes: Use air humidifier or spray regularly with softened water



③

Phlebodium Aureum Bluestar Blue star Fern

Origin: Tropical and subtropical regions of North, Central and South America

Size: 50 cm–1 m in height, 30–50 cm spread, reaches full size after approx. 5 years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light but no direct sunlight, high air humidity is recommended but not obligatory, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: Approx. 20°C, a little cooler in winter by not below 12°C, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water approx. once a week, substrate should always be slightly moist

Feed: Feed with flower fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to October and once or twice between November and February

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or by splitting the root crowns



⑦

Platycerium bifurcatum Staghorn fern

Origin: Tropical regions of South America, Africa, South-East Asia and Australia

Size: 50 cm–1 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, slow growing

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Bright, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20°C or above, not below 16°C in winter

Growing medium: Orchid potting mix

Water requirements: Water approx. once a week, until soil is soggy, water again when substrate has almost dried out, root ball must not be allowed to fully dry out, air humidity of at least 50%. Water less in winter

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 3–4 weeks from April to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or shoot cuttings

Notes: Challenging in terms of positioning and watering, will not tolerate dark areas in rooms



①

Nephrolepis exaltata Boston fern

Origin: Tropical forests, mostly in Central America and Africa, often as an epiphyte in swampy areas

Size: 60 cm–1 m in height, 60 cm–1 m spread, grows 20–25 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light but no direct sunlight, warm, likes high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms, avoid drafts and air from heating systems

Temperature: Approx. 20°C all year round, not below 18°C, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Approx. every 2–3 days, spray leaves occasionally, requires relatively high air humidity

Feed: Feed with liquid flower fertiliser weekly from March to October and no more than every 4 weeks from November to February

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or shoots or by division





9

Dypsis lutescens Areca Palm

Origin: Tropical Madagascar

Size: 2–3 m in height, 1–1.5 m spread, grows 15–25 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial, around 10 years on average

Position requirements: Lots of light, no direct sunlight, no drafts, high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: Around 20°C all year round, young plants not below 18°C, can tolerate 15°C when more mature, no fluctuating temperatures

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Keep moist at all times, needs a constant water supply; less water needed at cooler temperatures, water as soon as top layer of soil is dry, prefers to be watered little and often

Feed: Feed with liquid flower fertiliser weekly from March to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or shoot cuttings

Notes: Air-purifying properties

10

Anthurium crassinervium «Jungle Bush»

Origin: Tropical South America, Venezuela, Colombia

Size: 80 cm–1 m in height, 60–80 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 18–24°C in summer, not below 12°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water once or twice a week, keep watered and do not allow to dry out

Feed: Feed with liquid foliar fertiliser every 6 weeks throughout the year

Propagation: Can be propagated by division, from stem cuttings or seed

Notes: Showering briefly with lukewarm water removes dust and revives your plant; soil should not be dry when fertiliser is applied



11

Hydnophytum formicarum

Ant plant

Origin: Philippines, Malaysia, Sumatra

Size: Tuber reaches around 25 cm in height, full plant 50–60 cm in height, grows quite slowly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Lots of light, no direct sunlight, warm, high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: Room temperature, 15–20°C in winter

Growing medium: Orchid potting mix

Water requirements: Keep soil constantly moist; water as soon as top layer of soil is dry. Spray regularly

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser every 14 days from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed



Hydnophytum formicarum

Shady but bright,
no direct sunlight



③

Oxalis Triangularis

False shamrock

Origin: Tropical South America, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina

Size: 15–20 cm in height, 20–30 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, north- or east-facing window sill, can be kept outside in summer in a sheltered spot

Temperature: Room temperature – not above 21°C and not below 11°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Requires sufficient moisture, allow top layer of soil to dry before watering

Feed: Feed with flowering plant fertiliser every 2–3 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from rhizomes

⑤

Alocasia zebrina

Zebra plant

Origin: Tropical and subtropical forests of South-East Asia, Philippines

Size: 1–1.5 m in height, 50–70 cm spread, quick growing

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, loves high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–25°C, can tolerate temperatures under 18°C for short periods

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Lots of softened water, keep substrate permanently moist, do not allow the roots to fully dry out but let the top layer of soil dry between waterings

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser once or twice a month from March to October

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from rhizomes or seeds

Notes: Place under shower briefly from time to time



⑦

Monstera Deliciosa

Swiss cheese plant

Origin: Tropical forests of Central and South America

Size: 50 cm–3 m in height and spread, grows 30–60 cm per year, spreads quickly in all directions

Lifespan: Perennial, up to 40+ years

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, warm, also tolerates shady places, but the leaves do not develop well in these environments, suitable for conservatories or bathrooms

Temperature: Approx. 21°C in spring and summer, 16–18°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Keep slightly moist, it is better for it to be too dry than too wet; water as soon as the top layer of soil is dry

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser at half strength every 2 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip and stem cuttings or shoots

Notes: Requires support as size increases; wipe leaves on both sides with a damp cloth from time to time



②

Rhaphidophora tetrasperma

Monstera Minima

Origin: Thailand, Malaysia

Size: 50 cm–2 m in height, grows as a climbing or hanging plant, requires support to climb, grows up to 60 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, min. air humidity 50%, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 16–24°C all year round, not below 15°C, not above 27°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Around once a week, keep constantly moist; water regularly when top layer of soil is slightly dry

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to October

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot cuttings

Notes: Requires support to climb; place under shower briefly from time to time



④

Asparagus setaceus

Asparagus fern

Origin: Tropical East Africa, shaded woodland

Size: 30–60 cm in height, 30–60 cm spread, quick growing

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, bright

Temperature: 18–22°C in summer, 10–15°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant or potting soil

Water requirements: Does not tolerate drought, keep evenly moist; water when top layer of soil is slightly dry; if indoor air is dry, spray leaves with water from time to time

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser every 14 days from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated by division



⑨

Pachira aquatica

Money Tree

Origin: Central America, Mexico, Peru, Brazil

Size: 1–2 m in height, 50 cm–1 m spread, grows 20–30 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial, may reach up to 15 years old

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, relatively high air humidity, suitable for conservatories or bathrooms, can be kept outside in summer in a position sheltered from wind and rain

Temperature: 18–22°C in summer, a little cooler in winter but not below 12°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water regularly, but allow the soil to completely dry out each time, does not require much as it stores water in its stem. Water infrequently/hardly at all in winter

Feed: Feed with general purpose fertiliser every 2 weeks from May to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds and tip cuttings

Notes: Spray occasionally to ensure the required air humidity. Reaches up to 20 m in height in the wild; is related to the baobab



⑩

Pilea peperomioides

Chinese money plant

Origin: China, provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan

Size: 30–40 cm in height, 40–50 cm spread, its size can double within one year, reaches full size after approx. 5 years

Lifespan: Up to around 10 years

Position requirements: Bright to semi-shaded, east- or west-facing window, no drafts; grows towards the sun so it must be turned often

Temperature: 15–18°C, even down to 5°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water weekly, keep substrate lightly moist, do not get water on the leaves

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to September and every 4–5 weeks from October to February

Propagation: Can be propagated from cuttings

Notes: Requires support when larger, has air-purifying properties



⑪

Rhapis excelsa

Lady palm

Origin: Subtropical forests, China, Indonesia

Size: 1.5–2 m in height, grows 20–30 cm per year under optimal conditions

Lifespan: Perennial, around 50 years

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, tolerates shade well, and can be placed outside in summer in a semi-shaded position

Temperature: 15–20°C; in winter 5–10°C is sufficient but it can also be kept at room temperature

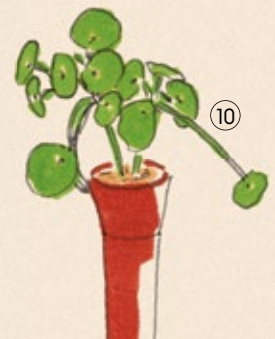
Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water every 6–8 days or so for plants in brighter locations and less for plants in shade, maintain even soil moisture, should not be allowed to dry out

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 weeks from May to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or rhizomes

Notes: Air purifying properties, spray regularly and place under shower briefly once or twice a year



⑥

Chlorophytum comosum Spider plant

Origin: South Africa, tropical regions

Size: 30–60 cm in height, 30–60 cm spread, grows relatively quickly, reaches maximum size in a few years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight

Temperature: Approx. 20°C in summer, can also be kept outside; not below 10°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water regularly from spring to autumn and keep soil moist; water when soil is slightly dry. Water less in winter

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser weekly from March to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoots or by division

Notes: Good plant for beginners, easy to maintain; air-purifying properties. Leaves grow downwards. If they come into contact with a table or the ground, the tips may turn brown.



⑫

Polyscias scutellaria «fabian» Shield aralia

Origin: Tropical rainforests of Asia

Size: 1–1.5 m in height, 40–60 cm spread, grows approx. 8 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright with no direct sunlight or in semi-shade, likes high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: Approx. 20°C all year round, not below 16°C

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water with softened water once or twice a week, keep moderately moist at all times; water as soon as soil begins to dry

Feed: Feed with liquid general purpose fertiliser every 2 weeks from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip cuttings

Notes: Spray occasionally



⑧

Anthurium crassinervium «Jungle Bush»

Origin: Tropical South America, Venezuela, Colombia

Size: 80 cm–1 m in height, 60–80 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady but bright, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 18–24°C in summer, not below 12°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water once or twice a week, keep watered and do not allow to dry out

Feed: Feed with liquid foliar fertiliser every 6 weeks throughout the year

Propagation: Can be propagated by division, from stem cuttings or seed

Notes: Showering briefly with lukewarm water removes dust and revives your plant; soil should not be dry when fertiliser is applied



Shady and dark,
no direct sunlight





②

Philodendron verrucosum incensi

Origin: Rainforests, Central and South America, grows on large trees

Size: 1–2 m in height, up to 1 m spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Tolerates dark and shady positions without direct sunlight, but pattern fades in these conditions; loves bright, semi-shade, warm, no drafts, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 15–21°C all year round

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Keep evenly moist, water regularly and thoroughly when top layer of soil is slightly dry. Never allow to fully dry out. Adjust as required in winter

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser monthly from April to October

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip cuttings

③

Sansevieria «fernwood» Snake Plant «fernwood»

Origin: West Africa, Nigeria, Congo

Size: 25 cm–1.5 m in height, slow growing, takes years to reach full height

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Tolerates shady and dark spots without direct sunlight, warm, not demanding but prefers semi-shaded or bright positions

Temperature: Approx. 22°C, does not like fluctuating temperatures, not below 15°C in winter

Growing medium: Cactus soil mix

Water requirements: Water sparingly every 2 weeks from April to August depending on temperature and location, allow soil to dry out between waterings; in winter, water approx. every 4–6 weeks, less water is better than too much

Feed: Feed with half-strength cactus fertiliser monthly from April to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf cuttings, rhizomes or shoots

Notes: Good plant for beginners

⑥

Sansevieria Snake plant

Origin: Tropical Africa, warm and dry climate

Size: 60 cm–1.5 m in height, grows 10–30 cm per year

Lifespan: Perennial, can live for more than 25 years

Position requirements: Tolerates dark and shady spots without direct sunlight, with dark leaves, must be kept warm

Temperature: 20–24°C in summer, not below 15°C in winter

Growing medium: Cactus or houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water sparingly every 2 weeks from April to August depending on temperature and location, allow soil to dry out between waterings; in winter, water approx. every 4–6 weeks, less water is better than too much

Feed: Feed with cactus fertiliser monthly from April to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from leaf cuttings, rhizomes or shoots

Notes: Good plants for beginners, types with light leaves need more light





8

Aglaonema

Chinese evergreens

Origin: Tropical and subtropical regions of Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka

Size: 50 cm–1.2 m in height, 50 cm–1.5 m spread, very variable depending on variety, fully grown after approx. 5 years

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Tolerates dark and shady spots without direct sunlight, lots of warmth, high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms, requires sufficient space

Temperature: 20–25°C in summer, not below 18°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Room-temperature, softened water, always keep soil evenly moist but never wet; water when the top layer of soil is dry. Water less in winter

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser every 14 days from April to September

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from shoots

Notes: Position should not be changed too often, spray regularly except in winter, air humidifier recommended

5

Calathea orbifolia

Orbifolia prayer plant

Origin: Tropical forests of Brazil, tropical South America

Size: 50 cm–1 m in height, 30–40 cm spread, moderate growth

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Dark and shady, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–26°C from March to September, not below 16°C during the dormancy period until the end of January, not hardy

Growing medium: Rhododendron soil

Water requirements: Water approx. twice a week in summer, always keep soil moist, let top layer of soil dry. Water every 7–14 days in winter

Feed: Feed with a lime-free fertiliser every 2 weeks from March to October and monthly from November to February

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from shoot cuttings or rhizomes

Notes: Air humidifier is recommended, challenging in terms of positioning and watering



5

④

Calathea lancifolia Rattlesnake plant

Origin: Tropical rainforest, Brazil

Size: 60–80 cm in height, 30–50 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Tolerates dark and shady positions without direct sunlight, but pattern fades in these conditions; loves bright, semi-shade, warm, no drafts, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 20–25°C all year round, not below 18°C in winter

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Keep substrate constantly moist, water regularly and thoroughly when top layer of soil is slightly dry. Adjust as required in winter

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser monthly from April to August

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from shoot cuttings or rhizomes

Notes: Spray regularly, air humidifier recommended



⑨

Spathiphyllum Vivaldi Peace Lily

Origin: Tropical forests of Central and South America, Colombia and Venezuela

Size: 30–80 cm in height, 30–50 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial, 3–5 years

Position requirements: Semi-shaded to shady and dark, no direct sunlight, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: 18–25°C in summer, not below 16°C in winter, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Softened water, around once a week, keep substrate slightly moist, never allow roots to fully dry out; water when the top layer of soil is dry

Feed: Feed with weak liquid fertiliser weekly during the flowering period (April to September) and every 3 weeks from October to March

Propagation: Can be propagated by division

Notes: Air-purifying properties



⑦

Epipremnum pinnatum Centipede tongavine

Origin: Tropical regions, South-East Asia, Australia, Pacific islands

Size: 50 cm–2 m in height, hanging or climbing plant, grows quickly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Shady and dark, no direct sunlight, for varieties with dark foliage, no drafts, prefers high air humidity, suitable for conservatories and bathrooms

Temperature: Approx. 20°C all year round, not below 16°C in winter, not hardy

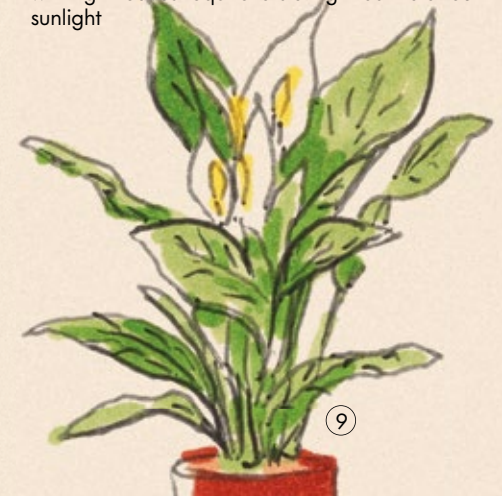
Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Around once a week, keep evenly and slightly moist, can tolerate periods of drought; water when the top layer of soil is dry. Approx. every 2 weeks in winter

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 14 days from March to August, can also survive without fertiliser

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoots or tip and shoot cuttings

Notes: Very resilient, highly versatile, good for beginners; spray leaves occasionally. Varieties with light leaves require lots of light but no direct sunlight





①

Aspidistra elatior

Cast-iron-plant

Origin: Forests of China and Japan

Size: 60 cm–1 m in height, 40–60 cm spread

Lifespan: Perennial, sometimes over 50 years

Position requirements: Shady position of any brightness, without direct sunlight, north-facing window is ideal, does not need very much light but grows slower in darker conditions

Temperature: 19–25°C, not below 10°C, not hardy

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Water thoroughly and regularly around every 10–14 days, likes high air humidity; water when the top layer of soil is dry

Feed: Feed with liquid herbaceous plant fertiliser monthly from April to October

Propagation: Can be propagated by dividing the rhizome

Notes: Place under shower briefly or wipe leaves with a damp cloth

⑩

Zamioculcas

Emerald Palm

Origin: Forests of East Africa

Size: 40–60 cm in height, can theoretically reach 1 m in height, grows around 15 cm per month

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Likes lots of light but can tolerate dark shady positions, no direct sunlight

Temperature: Approx. 20°C, do not keep below 18°C for long periods

Growing medium: Houseplant soil

Water requirements: Every 2 to 3 weeks, too little is better than too much; only water when soil is very dry. Can survive if dry for 1 week in summer and 4 weeks in winter

Feed: Feed with herbaceous plant fertiliser every 2 months from March to October

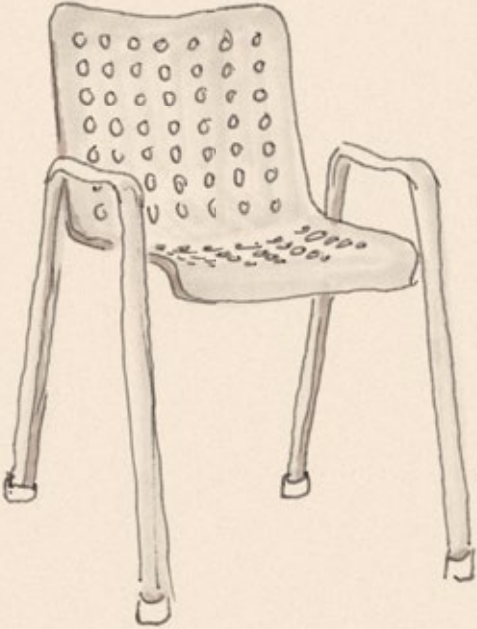
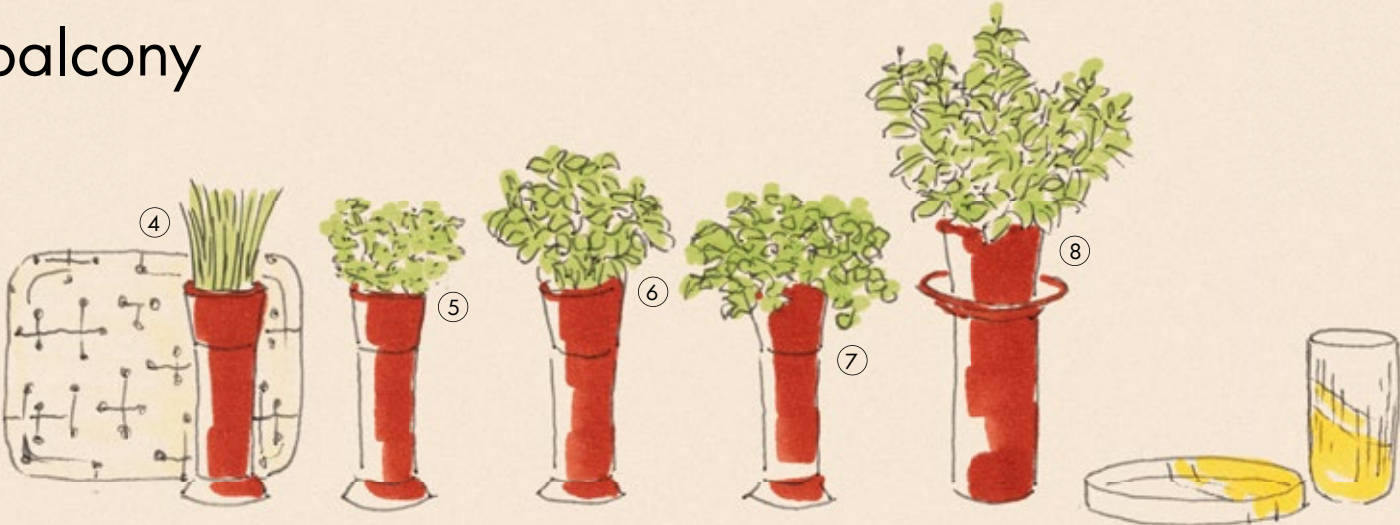
Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from leaf cuttings

Notes: Suitable for beginners, very easy to maintain





Herbs kitchen, terrace and balcony



①

Laurus Nobilis Bay laurel

Origin: Spread from Near East to Mediterranean region

Size: 60–250 cm in height, grows 15–30 cm per year, should be regularly pruned

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, patios, balconies and conservatories, protect well in winter

Temperature: Not below -7°C, hardy down to -7°C

Growing medium: Herb soil

Water requirements: Does not need a lot of water. If soil is dry, water until completely moist again

Feed: Feed with slow-release fertiliser in spring. Feed with liquid fertiliser only if leaves lose colour

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoots, tip cuttings or layering

①

③

Salvia officinalis Sage

Origin: Mediterranean region and North Africa

Size: 30–50 cm in height, varies depending on variety

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, bright, warm, heat-tolerant, protected from rain and wind, balcony and patio, can overwinter outside

Temperature: Approx. 20°C, but can withstand more, hardy down -40°C

Growing medium: Herb soil

Water requirements: Does not need a lot of water. If soil is dry, water until completely moist again. Tolerates drought without problem

Feed: Feed with a little liquid fertiliser every 2–4 weeks from March to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed, tip cuttings or by division

Harvesting: Can be harvested all year round by picking young leaves before flowering intensifies the flavour – this is the optimum time for harvesting and drying

②

Salvia rosmarinus Rosemary

Origin: Mediterranean, coasts and rocky slopes

Size: 50 cm–1 m in height and spread, grows relatively slowly

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, bright, warm, heat-tolerant, protected from rain and wind, in winter down to -10°C outside or around 5–10°C inside

Temperature: Around 20°C in summer, but can tolerate higher temperatures, hardy down to -10°C

Growing medium: Herb soil

Water requirements: Does not need a lot of water. If soil is dry, water until completely moist again. Tolerates drought without problem

Feed: Requires barely any fertiliser; when required, fertilise in spring with a little compost or horn shavings

Propagation: Can be propagated from shoot cuttings or seeds, but propagating from seed is difficult and slow

Harvesting: Can be harvested year round, picking individual leaves or cutting off whole shoots

②

⑤

Petroselinum crispum Parsley

Origin: South-East Europe, Mediterranean region

Size: 30–60 cm in height

Lifespan: Biennial plant. Grows 30 cm in the first year and forms rosettes, grows a 60 cm flower stalk in the second year on which umbel flowers form. This is where the seeds form in autumn, after which growth stops

Position requirements: Full sun to semi-shade, protected from wind, balcony, garden or patio

Temperature: 12–16°C, not over 22°C, hardy

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water regularly, keep soil slightly moist at all times and only water when top layer of soil is dry

Feed: A little liquid fertiliser once a month

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds, which can be taken from the flowers

Harvesting: Can be harvested continuously from late spring, becomes inedible after flowering

④

Allium schoenoprasum Chives

Origin: Eurasia, indigenous plant, still grows wild in marshes today

Size: 20–50 cm in height

Lifespan: Perennial, can live for over 20 years with good maintenance

Position requirements: Full sun, bright, balcony, garden or patio, in a cool, frost-free place from October, preferably not in a warm indoor environment

Temperature: Tolerates temperatures down to -25°C

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water regularly, keep soil slightly moist at all times

Feed: Feed with organic slow-release fertiliser twice between March and September

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from seed

Harvesting: Can be regularly harvested from March to October, leaves should be at least 15 cm and no more than 25 cm tall, cut to a height of 2 cm

⑥

Ocimum basilicum Basil

Origin: Tropical areas of Africa, Asia and South America

Size: Up to 40 cm in height, grows 6–8 cm per week

Lifespan: Perennial in a pot, annual in the garden

Position requirements: Full sun, warm location, balcony or patio

Temperature: Approx. 20°C, should be brought inside to overwinter at 15–20°C

Growing medium: Potting or herb soil

Water requirements: Water daily in summer, should always be kept moist. A little less in winter, but must never dry out

Feed: Organic slow-release fertiliser

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed, by division, or for perennial varieties, from shoot cuttings

Harvesting: Can be harvested after around 8 weeks, always take whole stalks and not just leaves

⑦

Coriandrum sativum Coriander

Origin: Mediterranean region, Middle East, Egypt, Morocco, etc.

Size: 30–70 cm in height

Lifespan: Annual

Position requirements: Full sun, warm, protected from wind, should be shaded if in positions in full sun

Temperature: 12–22°C, not hardy

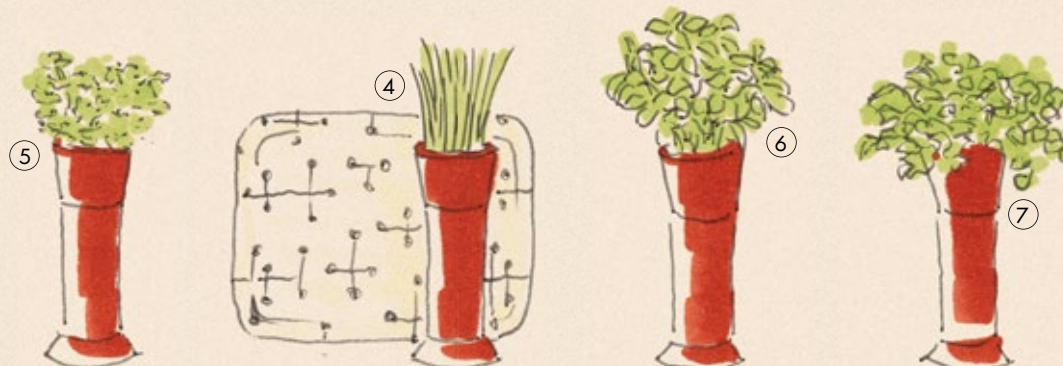
Growing medium: Potting soil

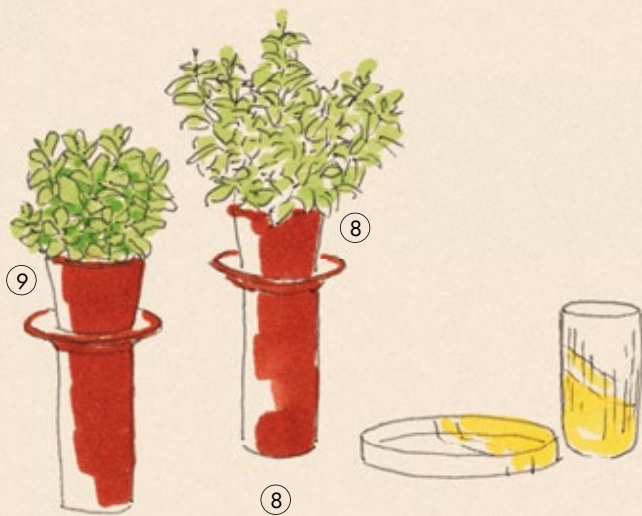
Water requirements: Water regularly, keep soil slightly moist at all times and only water when top layer of soil is dry

Feed: Does not require fertiliser, but a liquid fertiliser may be applied once a month

Propagation: Can be propagated from seed or by division

Harvesting: Harvest shortly before flowering in June, picking individual leaves or cutting off whole shoots; seeds can be harvested shortly before they are fully mature in August/September





⑨
Mentha
Mint

Origin: Mediterranean region, Near East, marshes and shorelines

Size: Small and bushy, up to 1 m in height depending on species and variety

Lifespan: Around 5 years, and 10 years if planted in the ground

Position requirements: Semi-shade, on balconies or patios, not indoors

Temperature: Hardy down to around -15°C, cover soil with brushwood or mulch for protection

Growing medium: Herb or potting soil

Water requirements: Water on hot summer days, likes moist soils. Only water on frost-free winter days as mint can quickly die of thirst in frozen soils

Feed: Feed with compost or granulated cattle manure in spring

Propagation: Can be propagated by division or from shoots and tip cuttings

Harvesting: Can be harvested approx. 30 days after planting, from spring until the first frost

⑧
Aloysia citrodora
Lemon verbena

Origin: South America, Uruguay, Chile, Peru

Size: 60 cm–1.5 m in height depending on variety

Lifespan: Perennial

Position requirements: Full sun, warm, patios, balconies, can overwinter outside in temperatures just below freezing

Temperature: Hardy down to -5°C but if temperatures fall to around 4°C, should be brought inside (temperatures around 10–16°C)

Growing medium: Potting soil

Water requirements: Water regularly, keep soil slightly moist at all times and only water when top layer of soil is dry

Feed: Feed with liquid fertiliser every 14 days from April to August

Propagation: Can be propagated from tip cuttings or seeds

Harvesting: Leaves can be harvested as required, ideally just after flowering begins when the aroma is at its most intense

⑩
Thymus
Thyme

Origin: Mediterranean, different varieties also in Asia, North and West Africa

Size: 10–40 cm in height

Lifespan: Perennial, 6 years on average

Position requirements: Full sun, bright, warm, protected from rain and wind, balcony and patio

Temperature: 16–20°C, hardy down to -20°C

Growing medium: Herb soil

Water requirements: Does not need a lot of water. If soil is dry, water until completely moist again. Tolerates drought without problem

Feed: Does not require fertiliser, but a little compost can be mixed into the pot when planting

Propagation: Can be propagated from seeds or tip cuttings or by division

Harvesting: Can be harvested continuously; the best time is before the flowering period between May and October





Origin of houseplants

Sustainably grown plants (often organic) are relatively easy to find when it comes to herbs or kitchen plants. However, it is still very difficult with houseplants – the plant passport information on the growing pots is not always entirely clear. The passport lists the last dealer. It does not clarify whether the rhizome, cutting or offshoot was imported.







The origin of rare plants or of plants that grow slowly or are difficult to grow from seed should be of particular interest. Plants are still simply being dug up and cuttings taken in virgin forests. One especially egregious example is the illegal picking of cacti and succulents in California.

Ask where the plants come from and force the industry to act sustainably.



Cephalocereus senilis

Before buying a houseplant, ask yourself a few questions:

-  Will the plant suit me?
-  Can I provide the right location for the plant?
-  Am I prepared to deal with the plant's specific needs (temperature, humidity, watering, fertilising, plant soil, repotting)?
-  Is the plant of sustainable origin?
-  Can I buy the plant 'second hand'?
-  Can I grow the plant myself?

The appendix contains information on how to propagate houseplants. The relevant details are listed under each plant profile.



Asparagus densiflorus «sprengeri»



Pilea peperomioides



Anthurium crassinervium
«Jungle Bush»



Chlorophytum comosum

Temperature

Considering the origin of most houseplants, it comes as no surprise that a temperature of 18–24 °C is ideal and they tend to thrive inside our homes. But this is only if we know a few of their preferences and look after them accordingly. Here are a few simple tips:



Radiators dry out the air

Find out if your plant can be placed near a radiator. This is a spot that will be warmer and above all much drier than elsewhere in the room.



Avoid drafts

Avoid any drafts from open windows or doors, and place your plant slightly away from the main airflow.



Roots are being heated by underfloor heating

Underfloor heating heats the pots from underneath and can cause the roots to get too warm, so raise your plants slightly off the floor.

Winter rooms with cooler temperatures

In winter, some plants stop growing while others, such as cacti, like it a little cooler and will reward you with good growth and a bloom the following season.

Humidity

Most houseplants are used to tropical climates and are therefore happiest in 50–60% humidity. If you have a bathroom with daylight, you can place these plants there – using the shower will help create humid conditions. However, many houseplants can tolerate a little less humidity. Here are a few simple tips to create the ideal environment:



Plant groups create their own microclimate

Arrange plants in groups and they will create their own microclimate. They release moisture through their leaves by means of transpiration.



Use a humidifier

Humidifiers are the safest way to create a humid climate and come in a variety of sizes and designs.



Spray your plants

Spraying plants with lime-free water three times a day produces the same effect. Give your plants a shower every now and then.



Give your plants a shower or a bath

Placing dishes of water on a heat source should only be a temporary solution, as they can be the ideal place for pathogens to develop in the longer term.

Watering

The guideline values for watering suggested in the plant profiles depend on temperature and season and may differ from the actual water requirement. As a general rule: the cooler it is, the less water the plants need.

The finger test

The finger test is the most reliable way to find out if a plant needs water: use your fingers to feel the soil at a depth of 2–3 cm. Your plant only needs watering if the soil is dry and falls loosely off your fingers.

Use soft or lime-free water.

Using soft water is what plants like best (some do not like lime at all). Soft water includes, for example:

- + Rainwater
- + Filtered water
- + Tap water that has been stagnant for at least 3 days

- Distilled water! This water does not contain any useful minerals

Water too infrequently rather than too often.

As a rule of thumb, fill about a quarter of the pot with water. This allows sufficient water to reach the roots.

1/4



Too much watering results in waterlogging and causes the roots to rot.

Most plants like it when the soil dries out a little. Persistently wet soil prevents the roots from absorbing oxygen and causes them to rot.

Make sure that the drainage hole is always free so that excess water can drain away easily.

The columns of the Terracotta Pots are also glazed on the inside and collect the water beneath the pot. 15 minutes after watering – when the soil has drained – empty out the excess water to avoid creating breeding grounds for pathogens.



It is best to water in the morning.

This fortifies the plants as they commence photosynthesis.

Water slowly!

Use an indoor watering can with a long neck and a small opening to water the soil slowly and directly.



Fertilising

In nature, a nutrient cycle constantly replenishes the soil. Dead plant material, earthworms etc. all contribute to these complex processes. This cycle does not exist for houseplants.

As a rule of thumb, the faster your plant grows, the more often it will need fertiliser or the bigger the dose of fertiliser needed. Soil will become exhausted at least every three years, even if you use fertiliser. That is when you will need to repot your plant.

Fertilising is not an emergency treatment for your plants, but part of their regular, routine care.

It boosts their growth and flowering, and makes them resistant to diseases.



Experience shows that a mixture of coffee grounds, eggshells and wood ash provides the most important micronutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and has a weak acidic effect.

The nutritional requirements of plants vary greatly depending on their origins. Cacti require different nutrients from green leafy plants. Similarly, different substances are needed to encourage abundant flowering.

Nitrogen contributes to strong, green leaves and phosphorus is important for the formation of flowers and fruits, while potassium helps cell division in the roots.

Organic and mineral fertilisers

Organic fertilisers are processed by micro-organisms, while mineral fertilisers dissolve through contact with water or are applied in liquid form, enabling them to seep into the soil and be directly available to the plant.



Liquid fertilisers

Most liquid fertilisers are all-in-one products and contain nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and micronutrients. This means that your houseplants immediately receive all the nutrients they need when watered at the roots. When buying fertiliser, make sure it contains the right amount of nutrients for your plants. All-in-one fertilisers for cacti, flowering plants, green plants, orchids etc. are all available on the market.



Slow-release fertiliser

Slow-release fertilisers are also usually all-in-one fertilisers, and generally come in the form of sticks or small pellets and are effective for 2 to 3 months. These are inserted 2–3 cm deep in the soil and release nutrients whenever the plant is watered. Make sure you buy the right fertiliser for your plant.



Direct fertiliser

Foliar fertiliser, which is applied onto the leaves of a plant, is an example of a direct fertiliser. It contains micro-organisms that stimulate leaf strength, prevent disease and deliver nutrients that are absorbed directly by the leaf.

Not all soil is the same

Good potting soil contains sufficient nutrients to meet the needs of different plants. Some plants grow quickly and need plenty of nutrients, while others require fewer nutrients to form healthy roots. Some potting soil stores a lot of water, others much less – again, you need to consider the needs of the plant. Because not all soil is the same!



Seeding & cutting soil and herb soil

When sowing and in the first weeks of germination, the fine sprouts are unable to use nutrients. The potting soil must therefore be low in nutrients, and fine and loose as this helps make the young plant stable and strong.

Herbs do not need many nutrients for healthy growth. Many popular garden herbs such as thyme, oregano and rosemary originate from the Mediterranean region, where they grow in dry, nutrient-poor soil.



Houseplant soil/potting soil

High-quality houseplant soil contains a broad mix of nutrients tailored to the needs of the plants. Nitrogen, magnesium and iron are particularly important for beautiful green foliage. A good soil must not soak up the water like a sponge, but must remain loose and permeable to air even after watering. For the sake of the environment, make sure you use peat-free soil.



Orchid potting mix

Orchids are tropical perennial plants. Since they do not get enough light on the ground of the tropical rainforests, they grow high up in the branches of trees. There is no soil there, so orchids get their nutrients from the deposits in the branch forks and the moist tree bark. This is why orchid potting mixes look different from all other types of soil.



Cacti and succulent soil mix

Cacti and succulents are true survivors, able to colonise hostile places in their stony and sandy natural habitats. The ideal soil mix for these plants is structurally stable for a particularly long time, so that the heavy, fleshy plants remain supported and do not topple over to one side. The fertiliser in the soil is adapted to the needs of cacti and succulents and is particularly mild.

The right pot for your plants

As a rule of thumb: when repotting, the new pot should be about 2 cm bigger than the previous one. The inner diameters of the Terracotta Pots are:

- XS – 11 cm
- S – 16 cm
- M – 22 cm
- L – 29 cm

Happy repotting!



How to propagate plants

In our plant profiles you will find information on how to grow your favourite plants yourself – either from seed, offshoots, cuttings, leaf cuttings, rhizomes or by dividing the plant.

Seeds

Growing from seed is the most time-consuming method. You will be able to find the seeds you want online and in well-stocked specialist stores. To create optimal conditions, you will need potting soil. Keep it moist, possibly covering it with transparent film to create a humid climate and then airing it once a day.



Shoot cuttings

A cutting is a part of a plant that is severed so that it will form roots and grow into a new independent plant. The shoot should be cut under a leaf node (in the case of Monstera with aerial roots) and be at least 8 cm long. Allow roots to sprout in a water glass.



Offshoots

Some plants form offshoots to propagate. The best known for this is the green lily. It forms a few new small plants with roots on long shoots, which can be pre-sprouted in a water glass and then planted in the ground.



Tip cuttings

A tip cutting is a plant shoot from the top of a stem or branch. It must generally have at least 3 nodes in order to develop into a new plant. The lowest bud should be placed in water and/or potting soil to form new roots.

Leaf cuttings

A simple and effective method for propagating begonias is through leaf cuttings. This will give you a better chance of successfully propagating the plant than using seeds that dry out quickly.



Shoot section

The side shoots of e.g. cacti or succulents, which can form a new plant when put into soil, are called shoot sections.



How to do it with cuttings

In spring, most plants are in the middle of their growth phase. They will be producing new shoots and will recover well from a cutting being taken. The cuttings then also have enough strength to grow.

Remove most of the leaves, so the new plant can concentrate on rooting. To make the cutting cling to the soil, you can put it in a glass of water in a bright place until it takes root.



You can speed up the subsequent rooting process by creating darker conditions, for example by wrapping the glass in paper.



When enough roots are formed, plant the shoot in small pots containing potting soil. For succulents, use a cactus soil mix. These need moisture, warmth and light, but not direct sunlight. To provide ideal conditions for the young plant and increase humidity, put a transparent film or the cut-off top of a PET bottle over it (air briefly every day) or use a mini-greenhouse until new green shoots have appeared. Some new plants take root after a few weeks, while others take a few months. Once the plant is well rooted and sufficiently strong, it can be repotted.

Layering

A layering method can be used to propagate plants with long flexible shoots. To do this, direct a shoot into another pot and cover a bud with soil. New roots will form after some time, and the new shoot can then be separated from the mother plant.

Rhizomes

The rhizome is a mostly underground and horizontally growing plant stem formed by many herbaceous plants. You can separate the rhizome from the parent plant and grow it as a new plant.



Dividing

For rejuvenation or propagation, many plants can also be divided. To do this, dig up the plant, shake off the soil and carefully separate the plant into two or three parts. Now put each part back into the soil and care for it as usual.



Terracotta Pot XS - extra small

130 5"
120 4 3/4"
350 13 3/4"
Ø135 Ø5 1/4"



Terracotta Pot S - small

180 7"
165 6 1/2"
470 18 1/2"
Ø250 Ø9 3/4"



Terracotta Pot M - medium

235 9 1/4"
220 8 3/4"
415 16 1/4"
Ø235 Ø9 1/4"



Terracotta Pot L - large

330 13"
290 11 1/2"
350 13 3/4"
Ø330 Ø13"





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Goupiil 2023