

UAF Indoor Plant Program - Plant Care Tips

Updated 10/21/19

- Position/location: Determine best light for the specific plant before placing.
- Rotate plants to avoid uneven growth; leaves are drawn to the light
- Keep plants away from drafts, ducted heat or A/C outlets
- Use only lukewarm/tepid water for watering plants and clippings
- PLEASE do not over water plants! Over watering is often the cause of disease or death to plants. Before watering, always meter to the plant roots where it really matters. Some plants require more watering in summer.
- To mist or not to mist? Contrary to lore, squirting foliage with water is not an efficient way to increase humidity for houseplants. A humidifier works better, or you can set the plant on a dish of pebbles and add just enough water to touch the bottom of the pot. Misting does, however, help keep leaves clean and fresh, and it's a good way to provide moisture to cuttings that are slowly developing new roots. Use soft water (water low in minerals) when misting, and make sure it's no cooler than room temperature. Mist in the morning whenever possible, and never mist plants that are exposed to full sun.
- Stake plants young/early so their spine/stock grows straight. Mature plants that aren't staked may require extreme pruning (separating plant head from roots). Transplanting without roots success rate is about 50/50; some do not root well in water
- Use plastic coated twist ties for securing plants to stakes; tie loosely so plant has room to grow. Monitor staked plants & loosen ties as the plant grows.
- Transplanting (repotting) and/or pruning may cause some plants to go into shock for a couple of weeks; most will survive while some may expire. Massage the roots from the soil of the old pots. Roots may need to be trimmed to fit the new pot but do not bend or wind the roots. Roots need air space so do not

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Table 1: Indoor plant problems, causes, and treatments

Symptoms (what you see)	Possible causes	Treatment (corrective action)
Spindly, stems grow abnormally long. Leaves lack color, are undersized and may fall off.		