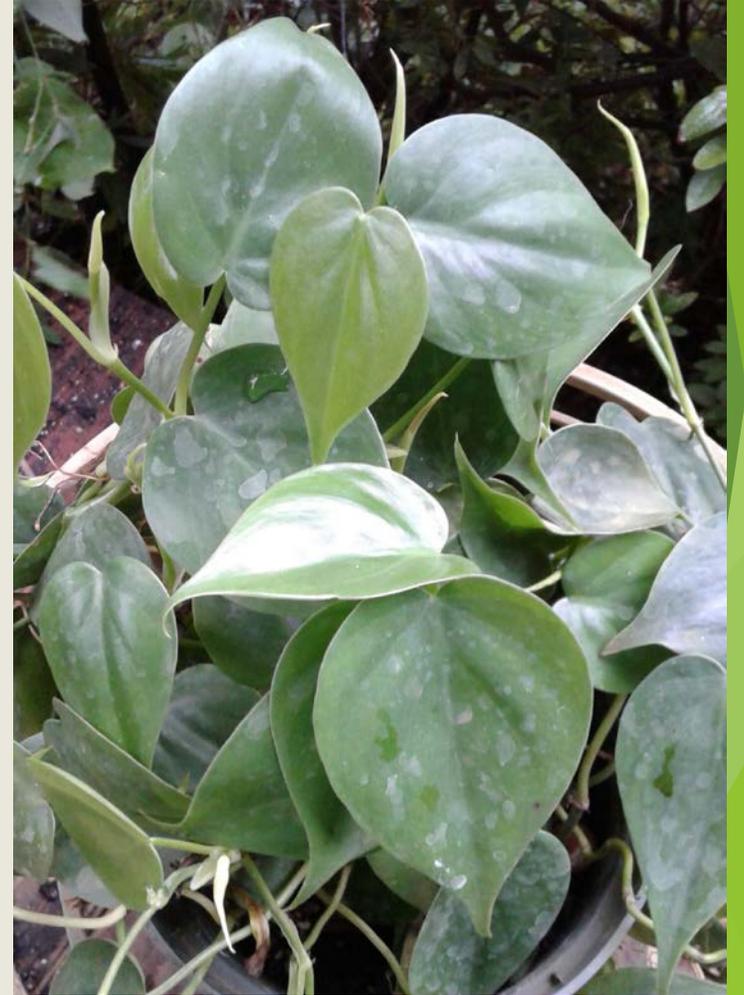


# Houseplants Why Raise Them.



Presented by

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# PURCHASING

- ▶ Consider first:
- ▶ Placement: Light the most important for food production.  
Low light? Medium light? High light?
- ▶ Size: Small? Large? Will it be easy to move.
- ▶ Airflow: Is there a vent that can over heat or chill the plant?
- ▶ Air quality: Am I trying to clean the air or just look nice?



# Check your light intensity

To check light intensity: In a given spot place an object there and observe the shadow. The more defined the shadow the more intense the light.

Southern exposure normally bright light

East and West medium light ( although some west exposure may be as bright as a south facing window.)

North low light.

Factors such as trees outside the window and time of year also affect light quality.



# Plants are living things they have needs too

- ▶ Light: You can measure the light with a meter or pay attention to which direction the window face. South more light, north less light, east morning sun, west setting sun.
- ▶ Water: again you can use a meter. Plants don't like wet feet. Watch out for Soluble salts.
- ▶ Fertilization: important because the soil can't replenish in a pot. The soil should be replaced by half every 2 years.



# Clean up the “Sick building syndrome” with houseplants! 😊

- ▶ The “NASA CLEAN STUDY” in association with the Associated Landscape Contractors of America.
- ▶ 1. Certain houseplants provide a natural way of removing toxic agents from the air. Benzene, Formaldehyde and Trichloroethylene These pollutants are found in carpets, cigarette smoke, freshly painted surfaces just about anything in a modern household that isn't just plant based.
- ▶ 2. Potting soil micro-organisms remove Benzene from the air as do some species of plant.
- ▶ 3. Research suggest 1 plant per 100 square feet or 15 to 18 plants for an area of 1800 to 2000 square feet.
- ▶ 4. The super performer of plants that clean air is the spider plant.

# Transporting House Plants

- ▶ Consider: Is it a long drive? Time of the year?
- ▶ Just like animals and children your plants shouldn't be left in the car for an extend. Time heat and cold will damage them.
- ▶ They can and will get sunburn in the back seat of the car if not shaded.



# Acclimatization

- ▶ Don't walk your plants!!!! They need time to adjust!
- ▶ Except some changes when you bring them home.
- ▶ They like to vacation outside but not for a day; they will get sunburned and wind burned when placed outside if not done properly. You want to harden them off by placing in heavy shade and moving them slowly into brighter light.



# Know your container and size it right!

- ▶ Unglazed or clay offer the best aeration for plant roots.
- ▶ A drainage hole is a must!
- ▶ Saucers are alright but do not leave standing water in the saucer. If more humidity is needed use a deeper saucer and place rocks in it and place pot on the rocks keeping the plant out of the water.
- ▶ Right size is vital. Resist the urge to use big pots. Like a small child the shoe (pot) must fit. You send the wrong message if the pot is too big. It either can't get the water or all it does is grow roots.

Only go up 1 size when repotting.

Every few months water deeply to wash out the soluble salts.



# Cultural Control

- ▶ 1. Exclusion: Isolate new plants from existing plants for at least a month.
- ▶ 2. Sanitation: Always use clean pots. If reusing clean with bleach and rinse well.
- ▶ 3. Select plant types that are relatively free from attack by insects.
- ▶ 4. To remove insects with mechanical control wash leaves and stems by hand with Dawn original and a soft cloth. Rinse cloth repeatedly while washing.
- ▶ 5. If it's really infested get rid of it before it spreads to the other plants. If it is special now go to insecticides.



Thank you!  
May the houseplant be with you! 🌿

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