



## **Rainbow Gardens Basic Care For Houseplants**

Basic needs for houseplants are: light, water, well-draining container, potting soil, and correct temperature.

### **Light requirements for houseplants:**

High light houseplants need to be placed directly in east to west facing windows.

Medium light houseplants need to be placed in south facing windows.

Low light houseplants need to be placed in north facing windows, or several feet away from windows that are east, west, or south.

While some houseplants can enjoy some time outside when the weather is warm, never leave them in direct sunlight or they will most likely suffer sunburn.

Light is one of the most important elements that a houseplant needs to grow and remain healthy. Light produces the energy that plants use to produce food. Lack of light causes houseplants to either grow leggy (stretching for the light), or decline in vibrancy.

## **Water requirements for houseplants**

Stick your finger into the soil down to the second knuckle. If it feels dry, water your houseplants. If it feels wet, don't. It's really that simple.

Water houseplants until the water runs out the drainage holes at the bottom of the pot. This ensures you have watered the entire root ball of your houseplants.

If your houseplants are sitting in saucers to protect your floor surfaces, make sure to empty the saucer no more than a couple of hours after watering.

## **Containers requirements for houseplants**

Your pots need to have a way for the water to drain so that your houseplants don't sit in soggy soil and suffer root rot.

The more drainage holes the better in your pots.

Houseplants can be potted up in all different types of containers. Plastic, pottery, pails, clay, it really doesn't matter as long as there are sufficient drainage holes in them. Extra holes can be drilled in most of these if needed (with care).

## **Potting soil requirements for houseplants**

-Do not pack your soil tightly when planting. Soil should be loose and well-draining.

-Do not use topsoil, compost, or soil from the garden in your pots. These products are too heavy and tend to get compacted. Your potted houseplants will suffer.

-Do use quality brand bags specifically labeled "potting mix". Quality soil gets you quality results for your houseplants.

-Do add a little perlite, vermiculite or peat moss if the mix in the bag still seems a little heavy.

## **Temperature requirements for houseplants**

Houseplants are mostly native to the tropics so they don't like or tolerate cold and freezing temperatures.

The general rule of thumb for temperature of houseplants is to avoid temperatures below 45 degrees. But there could be some plants that are even more sensitive to cold. Research houseplants you are buying.

Keep houseplants away from drafty spaces, or heat and air conditioning ducts that cause temperatures to fluctuate.