

A FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE FROM GARDENS & GARDENING

Houseplant Care *Cheat Sheet*

Light, water, humidity and pet-safety for 17 of the most popular houseplants — one chart to pin up and check at a glance.

17 PLANTS · LIGHT & WATER NEEDS · PET SAFETY RATINGS



How to read this sheet

LIGHT

"Indirect" means bright in the room but out of direct sun rays — a few steps back from a sunny windowsill, or behind a net curtain. "Low light" still needs daylight, just not a bright spot.

WATER

Always check the compost with a finger before watering — it's more reliable than any schedule, since light, heat and pot size all change how fast it dries out.

HUMIDITY

Average suits most living rooms. **High** means the plant will do best in a kitchen, bathroom, or with a pebble tray or occasional misting nearby.

DIFFICULTY

Easy forgives a missed watering. **Moderate** wants a bit more routine. **Tricky** is fussier about humidity or consistency — save these for once you're confident.

FEEDING, IN ONE RULE

Most houseplants are happy with a balanced liquid houseplant feed, diluted as the label says, about once a month from April to September. In autumn and winter, growth slows right down — skip feeding altogether, or cut right back.

IF YOU SHARE YOUR HOME WITH PETS

Toxicity ratings on the next page follow the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control plant database. "Toxic" plants can cause anything from mild mouth irritation to vomiting if chewed or eaten — always worth placing out of reach regardless.

If a pet eats any part of a plant, contact your vet straight away, or call the UK Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509 000 (charges apply).

17 houseplants at a glance (1 of 2)

PLANT	LIGHT	WATER	HUMIDITY	DIFFICULTY	PETS
Spider Plant <i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Bright to low, indirect	Let top 2–3cm dry out between waters	Average	● Easy	Pet-safe
Snake Plant <i>Dracaena trifasciata</i>	Low to bright, avoid full sun	Let dry out fully (every 2–4 weeks)	Low — fine	● Easy	Toxic
Pothos <i>Epipremnum aureum</i>	Low to bright, indirect	Let top 3cm dry out between waters	Average	● Easy	Toxic
ZZ Plant <i>Zamioculcas zamiifolia</i>	Low to bright, indirect	Let dry out fully (every 3–4 weeks)	Low — fine	● Easy	Toxic
Peace Lily <i>Spathiphyllum wallisii</i>	Low to medium, indirect	Keep lightly moist — droops dramatically when thirsty	High	● Easy	Toxic
Swiss Cheese Plant <i>Monstera deliciosa</i>	Bright, indirect	Let top 3–5cm dry out between waters	High	● Moderate	Toxic
Rubber Plant <i>Ficus elastica</i>	Bright, indirect	Let top layer dry out between waters	Average	● Moderate	Toxic
Aloe Vera <i>Aloe barbadensis</i>	Bright — direct sun is fine	Let dry out fully; it's a succulent	Low — fine	● Easy	Toxic
Heartleaf Philodendron <i>Philodendron hederaceum</i>	Medium to bright, indirect	Let top 2–3cm dry out between waters	Average to high	● Easy	Toxic

Continued on the next page →

17 houseplants at a glance (2 of 2)

PLANT	LIGHT	WATER	HUMIDITY	DIFFICULTY	PETS
Chinese Money Plant <i>Pilea peperomioides</i>	Bright, indirect — rotate the pot	Let top layer dry out between waters	Average	● Moderate	Pet-safe*
Boston Fern <i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>	Medium, indirect	Keep evenly moist — never let it fully dry	High	● Tricky	Pet-safe
Cast Iron Plant <i>Aspidistra elatior</i>	Low to medium — tolerates deep shade	Let dry out between waters	Low — fine	● Easy	Pet-safe
Parlour Palm <i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	Low to medium, indirect	Keep lightly moist	Average to high	● Easy	Pet-safe
Fiddle Leaf Fig <i>Ficus lyrata</i>	Bright, indirect — keep it in one spot	Let top 3–5cm dry; always drain fully	Average to high	● Tricky	Toxic
Moth Orchid <i>Phalaenopsis</i> spp.	Bright, indirect	Soak weekly, then drain completely	High	● Moderate	Pet-safe
Calathea / Prayer Plant <i>Calathea</i> / <i>Maranta</i> spp.	Medium, indirect	Keep lightly moist — rainwater if possible	High	● Tricky	Pet-safe
English Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	Medium to bright, indirect	Let top layer dry out between waters	Average to high	● Easy	Toxic

* Chinese Money Plant isn't listed in the ASPCA database; no toxicity has been reported, but check with your vet if your pet is a curious nibbler. Ratings follow the ASPCA Animal Poison Control database, correct as of October 2026 — always double-check before buying if you have pets.

Keep track of what works for your plants

Log watering dates, feeding and repotting for every plant you own in your free Gardens & Gardening journal — so you always know what each one needs next.



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