

# Garden Smart...Garden Easy...

## Indoor Gardening: Houseplants



The cultivation of houseplants may be the ultimate in accessible gardening, since it is a year round form of enjoyment. It is not weather-dependent; house interiors are climate controlled. Houseplants are available in a wide variety, they are relatively inexpensive and easy to care for, and provide a satisfying winter hobby for those who garden outdoors, as well as for those who are physically limited.

Pots of houseplants may be placed wherever convenient, provided they receive sufficient light. Some plants, however, thrive in low light. Others provide the benefit of removing pollutants from indoor air. Some are prized for their flowers, others for attractive foliage.

Minimal bending and stooping are required for the care of houseplants. Although there are tools especially designed for working with plants in containers, they are not necessary. Ordinary kitchen utensils will serve, plus a pair of small clippers with short, pointed blades.

Many plants from the outdoor garden make good houseplants. For some varieties, especially tender perennials, the whole plant may be wintered indoors. This enables the gardener to grow plants that actually require a warmer growing zone. For others, cuttings will grow into new plants to go into the outdoor garden when weather permits. This is an economical way to provide plants for the next growing season.

Propagation of new plants is not difficult. Sharing with friends and neighbors is a great way to give and receive new plants.

Plants can be placed on a windowsill or low table to facilitate gardening from a chair. A table or kitchen counter covered with newspaper becomes a potting bench. For anyone, particularly the physically challenged, houseplant cultivation provides maximum return for minimum effort, always available at your convenience, never hampered by bad weather, never requiring strenuous digging or shoveling.



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