

INDOOR PLANT CARE



**STARKE
AYRES®**

GARDEN CENTRE

www.starkeayresgc.co.za

- ESTABLISHED 1877 -

Most indoor plants are easy to maintain if they are suited to their environment and are given reasonable care. Only choose plants that will suit your conditions. The more you know about your plants, the easier it will be to grow them successfully.

LIGHT



Plants need light to photosynthesise.

Ensure that plants have sufficient light, but avoid direct sunlight, especially in Summer.

The amount of light varies from high to medium and low light.

HUMIDITY



Only spray with a mist of water if the room temp exceeds 18° C.

Mist foliage plants daily. Do not mist spray the flowers.

Stand pot on a humidity tray- a shallow dish filled with pebbles or gravel and water.

TEMPERATURE



Ideal temperature: 18° – 24° C.

Many plants will tolerate slight temperature fluctuations.

Good air circulation is necessary, but avoid strong draughts.

PLANTING



Water evaporates more quickly through porous material, e.g. clay pots.

Pots must have drainage holes- don't allow water to stand in outer pot covers or saucers.

Use a well-drained potting mix, e.g. Master Super Mix, which is ideal for most indoor plants.

FEEDING



Feed plants once or twice per month. The faster the plant grows, the more plant food it will need.

Reduce feeding during the plant's resting period.

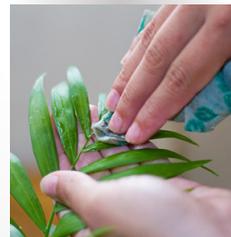
Use a liquid fertilizer eg: Nitrosol, Hortisol, Phostrogen.

WATERING



Water plants well (until water runs out of the drainage holes). Push finger tip into the soil and if soil feels dry to the touch, water again or water flowering plants from below by standing the plant in water. Over-watering is the primary cause of plant fatalities. The higher the light and temperature, the more water is needed.

CLEANING



Remove dust by gently spraying foliage with water or wipe with damp cloth or cotton wool.

Hairy leaves, e.g. African Violets, may need a soft brush to remove dust.

Remove yellow and dead leaves.

Pinch out growing tips to encourage bushiness.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS



Brown leaf tips or margins: Soil dryness or excessive fertilizing

Yellowing, dropping leaves: Poor light, cold, over-watering, pollution or insect infestations

Weak growth, pale foliage: Too much light, lack of feeding or root problems

Small leaves, spindly growth: Insufficient light

PEST CONTROL



Healthy plants are more resistant to infestations.

Poor growing conditions can lead to infestations of Mealy bug, Scale, Thrips, Whitefly or Red spider mite. To improve the plant's health spray with a suitable insecticide.

Poor drainage or excess moisture may lead to fungal problems. Use a suitable fungicide.

WHY



Plants can perform a functional, emotional psychological, or aesthetic duty.

Plants act as visual screens and sound diffusers in open-plan spaces and help soften hard architectural surfaces to nondescript surfaces.

Plants help improve workers morale and efficiency.

