

Boston Fern



- **Position:** bright, indirect light
 - **Soil:** good potting compost
 - **Rate of growth:** average
 - **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)
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- **Home care:** Keep the compost moist (but not waterlogged) at all times, but this can be cut back a little in winter, and place in a bright spot away from direct sunlight. These ferns love a humid atmosphere, so mist the leaves regularly with water and/or place the pot on pebbles in a tray filled with water. Maintain temperatures above 10°C in winter and avoid summer temperatures above 25°C. Repot in spring when the plant becomes root-bound.

Bamboo Fern



- **Position:** bright but indirect light
- **Soil:** good potting compost
- **Rate of growth:** slow growing
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

A graceful, attractive palm with closely growing upright stems and long arching linear leaves, that makes a handsome focal point for any room. Still one of the most popular houseplants and it's easy to see why as it is so versatile and easy to look after.

- **Home care:** Water regularly through the growing season with soft water or rain water but let the surface of the soil dry out slightly before rewatering. Reduce watering through the winter months. These plants need humidity so mist the leaves regularly, or stand on a tray of damp pebbles. Although they like a warm atmosphere don't place it near a radiator or heat source, and choose a brightly lit spot but not in direct sun.

Variegated Spider Plant



- **Position:** bright but indirect light
- **Soil:** good potting compost
- **Rate of growth:** fast-growing
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

This houseplant is incredibly popular as it is so easy to grow - just place it in a well-lit spot, water, and watch it grow! As it matures it develops stems, each of which has a baby plant at its tip. These can be pegged down into compost, and when rooted the stem can be cut and you will have another plant - great for jumble sales or gifts for friends!

- **Home care:** Water freely when in growth, but keep drier in winter. Mist the leaves every so often with water to increase humidity and make sure the winter temperatures stay above 8°C. Repot when it has outgrown its pot in winter.

Peace Lily



- **Position:** bright but indirect light
- **Soil:** good potting compost
- **Rate of growth:** fast-growing
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

The 'peace lily' is a popular, easy to care for houseplant, and it is easy to see why with the white blooms offset against the long glossy green leaves. These blooms can start in spring and last for several months, slowly fading to green. Not only do these stylish plants look good but they also have the added benefit of cleansing the air.

- **Home care:** Keep the compost moist to the touch but do not overwater. Mist the leaves regularly, and clean them with a damp cloth to prevent a build up of dust. Keep away from cold draughts or direct sunlight.

Aloe Vera



- **Position:** bright but indirect light
- **Soil:** good potting compost, well drained
- **Rate of growth:** slow
- **Flowering period:** early summer generally
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

Often referred to as the first aid or medicinal aloe, this plant has been grown for its healing properties for many years - and is now often used in cosmetics and alternative medicines. It's an evergreen succulent with fleshy, serrated-edged leaves, which form in a stemless rosette, and if you're lucky, it can produce clusters of greenish yellow flowers.

- **Home care:** Water moderately when growing, and sparingly when dormant through the winter months. Feed with a balanced liquid fertiliser 2-3 times during the growing season.

Hahn's Sansevieria



- **Position:** ideally bright, with some full sun, but will also tolerate shade
- **Soil:** good potting compost
- **Rate of growth:** slow
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

Closely related to, but lower-growing than the more readily available mother-in-law's tongue, 'Hahnii' is often referred to as the bird's nest sansevieria. That's because the shorter, lower-growing leaves are more splayed - and form a low rosette. The colouring is good too, being a rich green that is somewhat banded and irregularly mottled with a darker shade. Super-easy to grow, it will tolerate neglect and will even thrive in shadier corners of your home.

Please note: it is quite common for these plants to have small nicks or scars on their leaves. This does not affect their long-term health or vigour in any way.

- **Home care:** The main thing to avoid with this plant is overwatering, so only water (avoiding the crown) when the compost gets quite dry. In winter you can cut back even more and only water every month or two and keep temperatures above 10°C. Repot every few years when the roots start to split the pot.

Parlour Palm



- **Position:** bright but indirect light
- **Soil:** good potting compost
- **Rate of growth:** slow
- **Hardiness:** tender (indoors only)

A sought-after plant during the Victorian era, and still in demand today, this relatively compact palm is easy to grow, but will also help filter the air inside your home. It's relatively slow growing, but it has an elegant profile, so it's ideal for adding a bit of pizzazz to side tables or shelves.

- **Home care:** Place in a bright spot and keep well watered during the growing season, making sure the excess water can drain away freely. Mist the leaves regularly with water to help maintain the humidity and feed with a balanced liquid fertiliser from late spring to late summer. Keep drier and avoid temperatures dipping below 10°C in winter.