

garden spot

# Plan ahead in buying house plants

Happy New Year! Soon all the decorations and debris of the holidays will be cleared away and we can take stock of our house plants. This might be a good time to toss out

some of the more bedraggled ones and buy something new and exciting to get us through these winter months. Before you go shopping for a plant, carefully consider the conditions in your



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home, particularly where you want to put a new plant.

Is the light coming from the north, south, east or west? Is the area on the dark side most of the time? Is there an abundance of bright light? Is your home dry or more humid? Do

you have a garden room or greenhouse? Do you have time to care for a plant with special needs, or would one that needs less care be more suitable?

Many books are available that include information about these needs. The library is a good resource, or your favorite bookseller will be happy to advise you about a good book.

Before you go on a "house plant shopping spree," become acquainted with the plants that may interest you. Take the book when you go shopping,

because some plants may catch your eye and not be at all the one that will thrive in the conditions in your home. Our local nurseries have so many plants from which to choose, we can be easily distracted.

If you are in the market for a flowering plant, be aware of the length of time the bloom is attractive. Also, bloom color is an important factor and can either look perfectly at home, or look like a sad mistake.

When you visit the nursery or florist, don't pick up the first plant that attracts you, but rather browse around the whole store for a while. Take your time and enjoy the experience.

Have a budget in mind before you begin. Large plants are often more expensive than their smaller brothers or sisters and they may have problems adjusting from their store home to yours when they have been acclimated to that store. It's also fun and sometimes a chal-

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