

Philodendron Is Durable House Plant

Philodendrons grow better than most other house plants under the adverse conditions in modern houses, according to a Michigan State University horticulturist.

The plants generally thrive in filtered light. Philodendrons require a relatively warm location (65-70 degrees). The soil mixture should be well drained and uniformly moist. A relatively high humidity is recommended, Carlson said.

Philodendrons thrive in pots and tubs that are well drained and not too large for the size of the plant.



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The Green Thumb

Keep Holiday Plants Moist

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

House plant care: Those plants you receive for the holidays will give you a lot more mileage, especially if you see that they get a uniform supply of moisture. Let's start with the poinsettia. This plant likes plenty of light, a day temperature of around 72 degrees F. and not less than 60 degrees at night. Drooping leaves is a common complaint now, and is caused by poor light, high temperature, too much water, not enough water or drafts. Cold draft is the plant's worst enemy.

Some of the newer varieties are vigorous growers and have to be watered two or three times a day in the home. Avoid any practice that injures the roots such as over-watering, heavy feeding, or breaking roots when transplanting. Don't be surprised if your plant lasts all summer.

THE FLORIST'S or greenhouse azalea makes a good show around the holidays and after. Azaleas like an acid soil, so if you happen to live in a hard water area, keep in mind that hard water rapidly lessens the acidity each time you water your azaleas. To overcome this, you can use rain water, or water that has been boiled for a few minutes and allowed to cool.

If this is not possible, apply a pinch of alum or 1/4 teaspoon of dusting sulfur to the surface of the soil every three weeks. Vinegar is good for azaleas, one teaspoon to a quart of water, applied two or three times a month.

Azaleas need lots of moisture and a bright window, even after they have flowered. After blooming, keep plant moist (never dried out), then in May put in a sunny window. When shirt-sleeve weather comes, put the plant, pot and all, in a shady spot in the garden. Prune back any leggy shoots until July, so you'll have a nice bushy plant. As for the soil use pure peat moss or a mixture of sand and peat. Florists use 100 per cent peat.

VARIEGATED Euonymus: We're all familiar with so-called evergreen bittersweet (which is actually Euonymus radicans vegetus - to me far prettier than the real bitter sweet), but did you know there's a variegated type, with green and white leaves?

GREEN THUMB BONUS: Still dreaming about landscaping your home? Better send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my illustrated bulletin, "Tips on Landscaping." This booklet was made by nurserymen for home gardeners, and you should have a copy for your Green Thumb Library. Be sure to enclose a No. 10 envelope for your copy.

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