

Houseplants

Providing the right light conditions for your houseplant can be a touchy situation. Too much direct sunlight can cause foliage to burn; too little light can cause a plant to stretch, appear “leggy” or not produce blooms. Animals can develop slight irritations up to lethal reactions to ingesting houseplants. The following chart can help.

Low Light – enough light in a room to read comfortably, but has little or no direct sunlight. This is normally the interior of a room away from windows.

Medium Light – indirect light all day with maybe a couple hours of direct light in early morning or late afternoon. This light intensity is appreciated by most houseplants.

Bright Light – several hours of direct morning or later afternoon sunlight, but not direct mid-day sun. Flowering plants, herbs, succulents and cacti like this type of light. It can be too much for some foliage plants.

Intense Light – four or more hours of direct sunlight, preferably mid-day.

| COMMON NAME | SCIENTIFIC NAME | LIGHT REQUIREMENT | PET IRRITANT |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------|
| African violet | Saintpaulia ionantha | bright | No |
| Aloe Vera, Medicine plant | Aloe barbadensis | Bright | Cats, dogs |
| Aluminum plant, Friendship plant, Baby’s tears | Pilea | medium to bright | No |
| Amaryllis | Hippeastrum | bright | Cats, dogs |
| Amaryllis, Belladonna lily | Amaryllis | medium | Cats, dogs |
| Anthurium, Flamingo Lily, Pigtail plant | Anthurium | low to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Arrowhead vine | Syngonium podophyllum | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Banana tree plant | Musa | medium to bright | No |
| Begonia | Begonia spp | medium (foliage) bright (flowering) | Cats, dogs |
| Bromeliad | Bromeliad | medium (spineless foliage) bright (silvery leaves or sharp spines) | Cats, dogs |
| Burro’s Tail, Stonecrop | Sedum | bright | No |
| Cactus | Cactaceae | bright to intense | Cats, dogs |
| Caladium, Taro | Caladium | medium | Cats, dogs |
| Cape ivy, wax vine | Senecio spp | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Chinese evergreen | Aglaonema | low to medium | Cats, dogs |
| Coffee plant | Polyscias guilfoylei | bright | Cats, dogs |
| Coleus | Coleus and Solenostemon spp | bright to intense | Cats, dogs |
| Copper Leaf plant | Acalypha | medium to bright | No |
| Croton | Croton | bright to intense | Cats, dogs |
| Cyclamen, Sowbread | Cyclamen | bright | Cats, dogs |
| Dracaena, Gold Dust plant, Corn plant, Ribbon plant | Dracaena | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Dumb cane, Mother-in-law plant | Dieffenbachia | medium, tolerates low | Cats, dogs |

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|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Echeveria | Echeveria | bright | No |
| Elephant ear | Alocasia, Colocasia | medium | Cats, dogs |
| English and Algerian ivy | Hedera Helix | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Fiddle-leaf fig, Benjamin fig, Rubber plant, Weeping fig | Ficus | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Flowering maple | Abutilon | medium to bright | No |
| Ginger plant | Alpinia zerumbet | medium to bright | No |
| Heart-leaf, Split-leaf, Fiddle-leaf Philodendron | Philodendron spp | medium to bright, some tolerate low | Cats, dogs |
| House bamboo | Bambusa multiplex and Phyllostachys aurea | bright | No |
| Kalanchoe, Jade, Mother-of-Millions | Crassula | bright | Cats, dogs |
| Moses-in-the-Cradle, Oyster plant | Rhoeo spathacea | Low to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Moss-fern, Spike-moss, Irish moss | Selaginella | medium to bright | No |
| Norfolk Pine | Araucaria heterophylla | medium | Cats, dogs |
| Orchids - Cane, Tiger, Moth | Orchid; Dendrobium and Phalaenopsis | medium to intense | No |
| Peace lily | Spathiphyllum | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Peacock plant, Zebra plant | Calathea | medium to bright | No |
| Peperomia | Peperomia | medium to bright | No |
| Polka-dot plant | Hypoestes | bright | No |
| Ponytail palm | Beaucarnea | medium to intense | No |
| Pothos, Devil's ivy | Epipremnum aureum | low to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Prayer plant | Maranta leuconeura | medium to bright | No |
| Rex Begonia | Cissus | Low to medium | No |
| Saffron Spike Zebra plant | Aphelandra | medium to bright | No |
| Sago Palm, Fern Palm | Cycas and Zamia species | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Schefflera, Umbrella plant, false aralia | Schefflera and Brassia spp | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Shamrock plant | Oxalis | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Snake plant, Mother's Tongue, Good-luck plant | Sansevieria | low to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Southern yew, Buddhist pine | Podocarpus macrophyllus | medium to intense | Cats, dogs |
| Spider plant | Chlorophytum comosum | low to bright | No |
| Sprengeri, Emerald Feather fern, Foxtail fern | Asparagus Fern | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Staghorn fern | Platynerium | medium | No |
| Strawberry begonia | Saxifraga stolonifera | bright | No |
| Stromanthe | Stromanthe sanguinea 'Triostar' | medium | No |
| Sweet bay, Bay Laurel | Laurus nobilis | intense | Cats, dogs |
| Ti plant, Good-luck plant | Cordyline | medium to bright | Cats, dogs |
| Velvet Elvis, Creeping Charlie, Candle plant | Plectranthus | medium to bright | Cats |
| Wandering Jew | Tradescantia | bright | No |
| Wax plant, Porcelain flower | Hoya | medium to bright | No |
| Zebra aloe | Haworthia | bright | Cats |