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YARD 'N' GARDEN



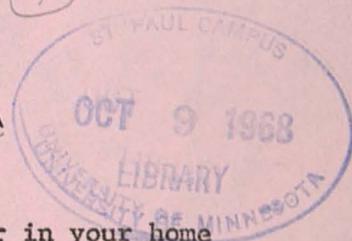
EXTENSION
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HOUSE PLANTS



Frost is on the way and house plants can bring a splash of color in your home during the winter. Growing plants in the home is a popular pastime. Plants are now considered essential in interior decorations.

Most plants, with the exception of African Violets and their kin, require as much sun as they can receive during the winter. So place them in or near a sunny window. If this isn't possible, lights from a desk or pole type lamp can give the plant additional light.

The pot or container should always have a drain hole for excess water to escape. Plants should be watered when the surface of the soil begins to feel dry. But more plants are killed by over-watering than under-watering. And, more plants are injured or killed from excess fertilizing than from a lack of nutrients.

From time to time, leaves must be cleaned. A soft damp cloth or soft brush will help. If possible, turn a gentle stream of water on the foliage and wipe dry.

Most homes in the United States are too warm and dry for plants. Most plants grow well in a day temperature of 65 degrees to 75 degrees, but night temperatures should be lower by about 10 degrees F. Cool sun porches, and cool sunny spare bedrooms are frequently excellent places for plants to thrive.

For more information see your county agent for Extension Bulletin #274 "Care of House Plants." You can also get a copy by writing to the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn., 55101.

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