



The spot you choose for your houseplant will determine its success; plants need light to grow. Light intensity and duration are

affected by such things as the angle of sunlight through a window, trees or curtains inside and out of the room, and reflective surfaces like mirrors or bright walls. Most houseplants are tropical and therefore prefer bright, indirect natural light. Cacti and some succulents are the exception to this; they thrive in hot, direct sun year-round.

The amount of light a space receives differs greatly season to season. A rainy winter day at noon may provide 20 times less brightness than in the heat of the summer.¹ It may be necessary to move your plants to more light in winter, or shadier locales in the summer.

Too much light causes foliage to burn at the edges, or become colorless and wilt.

Too little light can make a plant leggy and cause leaf loss. If you are unable to move the plant to a more ideal location in your home, artificial light may be used to supplement (the lighting must be bright enough to stimulate photosynthesis).

Light Levels

LOW: far from any windows, barely enough natural light to read by.

MODERATE: areas around sunless windows or 5-8 feet from a sunny window; easy for most plants to adapt to this light.

BRIGHT INDIRECT: within 5 feet of a window that gets direct sun, but no direct rays on the foliage; preferable to most.

SOME DIRECT SUN: less than 5 hours of direct sun daily (such as an east or west-facing windowsill or a few feet away from a south-facing window; plants on western sides may need protection from heat in the summer); flowering plants and herbs do well here.

FULL SUN: at least 4-5 hours of direct sun each day; in summer, only cacti and succulents can handle this.

List of Common Plants

LOW:

Aglaonema-Chinese Evergreen, Silver Queen
Aspidistra-Cast-iron Plant
Dieffenbachia-Dumb Cane
Sansevieria-Snake Plant
Zamioculcas zamiifolia-Eternity Plant

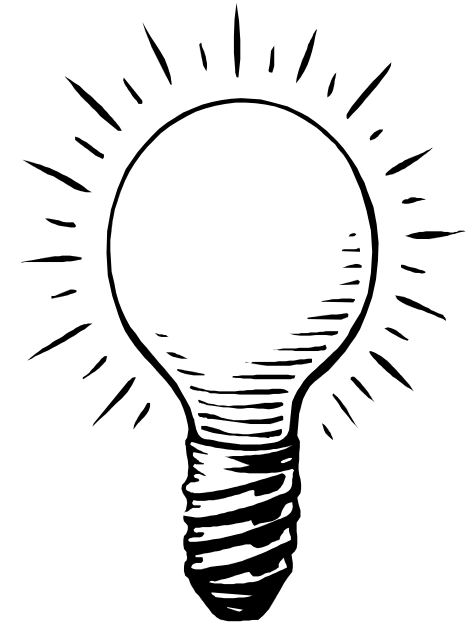
MODERATE:

Acrostichum- Leather Fern
Adiantum- Maidenhair Fern
Aglaonema- Chinese Evergreen, Silver Queen
Alocasia
Alternanthera-Parrot & Calico Plant
Araucaria-Norfolk Island Pine
Asplenium/Spleenworts-Mother Fern, Bird's Nest Fern
Calathea- Peacock Plant
Chlorophytum- Spider Plant
Cissus- Grape Ivy, Kangaroo Vine
Dieffenbachia- Dumb Cane
Dionaea- Venus Fly Trap

Dracaena- Corn Plant
Epipremnum- Pothos, Taro Vine
Globba Winitii
Graptophyllum- Caricature Plant
Heliconia- Lobster Claws
Maranta- Prayer Plant
Nepenthes- Pitcher Plants
Nephrolepis- Boston Fern, Sword Fern
Nephtytis- Butterfly Plant
Palmae- Palms (please ask about specific ones)
Pilea- Creeping Charlie, Friendship Plant, Aluminum Plant
Polypodium- Rabbit's Foot Fern
Sansevieria- Snake Plant
Spathiphyllum- Peace Lily
Strobilanthes- Persian Shield
Tradescantia- Wandering Jew, Inch Plant, Spiderwort
Zebrina- Purple Wandering Jew

BRIGHT INDIRECT:

Adiantum- Maidenhair Fern
Amorphophallus- Devil's Tongue
Anthurium- Flamingo Flower
Bertolonia- Jewel Plant
Billbergia- Friendship Plant
 Button Fern
Calathea- Peacock Plants, Zebra Plant
Callisia- Striped Inch Plant, Wandering Jew
Ceropegia- String of Hearts, Rosary Vine
Chlorophytum- Spider Plant
Clerodendron- Glorybower
Clivia- Kaffir Lily
Coleus
Colocasia- Taro, Elephant Ear
Cryptanthus- Earth Stars
Ctenanthe
Cyanotis- Teddy Bear Vine
Cyathea- Tree Fern
Cyclamen
Darlingtonia/Sarracenia- Pitcher Plant



LIGHT
INTENSITY
AND
DURATION

PORTLAND
NURSERY

H O U S E P L A N T S

Disygotheca elegantissima- False Aralia
Drosera- Sundews
Fatsia Japonica- Japanese Aralia
Ficus- Figs, Rubber Plant
Fittonia- Net Leaf
Gardenia
Gynura- Purple Passion, Velvet Plant
Hedera- Ivy
Hoya- Wax Plant
Hypoestes- Polka Dot Plant, Freckle Face
Mimosa- Sensitive Plant
Monstera- Swiss Cheese Plant, Mexican Breadfruit
Musa- Banana
Nepenthes- Pitcher Plant
Nephtytis- Butterfly Plant
Peperomia
Platycerium- Stag's Horn Fern
Rhipsalidopsis- Easter Cactus
Saintpaulia- African Violet
Schefflera- Amantie Stump
Schlumbergera- Christmas Cactus
Selaginella- Resurrection Plant, Rose of Jericho
Setcreasea- Purple Heart
Streptocarpus- Cape Primrose

SOME DIRECT SUN:

Acalypha- Chenille Plant, Copperleaf
Alpinia/Costus- Ginger
Begonia
Caesalpinia/Strelitzia- Bird of Paradise
Caladium
Caryota- Fishtail Palm
Clerodendron- Glorybower
 Coffee Plant
Columnea- Furry Goldfish Plant
Cryptanthus- Earth Stars
Curcuma- Turmeric
Cyanotis- Teddy Bear Vine
Cycads
Datura- Angel's Trumpet

Gardenia
Iresine- Blood Leaf, Beefsteak
 Rhododendron/Azalea
Setcreasea- Purple Heart
Stapelia- Carrion Flowers
Sedum- Donkey's Tail (Burro's Tail)
Tillandsia

FULL SUN:

Abutilon
Aeschynanthus- Lipstick, Goldfish Plant
Agave
Allamanda- Golden Trumpet
Aloe
Aphelandra- Zebra Plant
 Asparagus Fern
Citrus
Codiaeum- Croton
Crassula- Jade Plant
Echeveria- Hen & Chicks
Euphorbia- Crown of Thorns, Poinsettia
 Gerbera Daisy
Hibiscus
Hydrangea
Iresine- Blood Leaf, Beefsteak
 Jasmine
Justicia/Jacobinia- King's Crown
Kalanchoe
Oxalis
Pelargonium- Geranium
 Rose
Solanum- Jerusalem Cherry
Tillandsia

REFERENCES

Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Houseplants, 1984 ed.
The Houseplant Expert, 1998 ed., by Dr. D.G. Hessayon