**Five Easy Houseplants Worth Trying**

If you’ve tried and failed to get houseplants to thrive, you just might have selected plants that are exceptionally finicky. You can get your indoor gardening “fix” with any of the following five typically easy-to-grow plants provided you give them the right location and monitor closely how you water them.

If you have a sunny window location, try nurturing a **Spider plant** (*Chlorophytum comosum*). Its long green and white striped leaves arch gracefully over a flower pot, and when it’s particularly happy, tiny “pups” or “spiderettes” boasting little white flowers dangle down from the mother plant. Spiders form large, tuberous roots that store tremendous amounts of water, enabling them to survive lackadaisical watering schedules.

Another gem is **Devil’s Ivy**, also known as **Pothos** (*Epipremnum aureum*). It prefers full sun indoors but can tolerate a slightly shadier spot. The more sun it gets, the more colorful its leaves will be. When its tendrils grow too long, they can be cut back. Devil’s Ivy tends to be a heavy feeder and can benefit from a regular, diluted solution of your favorite houseplant fertilizer.

If you’re looking for a very low maintenance plant, try a **Jade plant** (*Crassula ovata*). Its succulent leaves store significant water, making it easy to care for provided it has plenty of light and well-drained soil. It doesn’t like to be overwatered or placed near direct heating vent flows or cold drafts. Before you bring a jade plant home, make sure it’s free of mealybugs, little insects that look like tiny tufts of cotton.

If you don’t have a spot for a sun-loving plant, a good option is one of the cultivars of **Snake plant** (*Sansevieria trifasciata*). While originally named for their long, tongue- or spear-shaped leaves of alternating light and dark bands, there are now many cultivars available, including some with multiple color and stripe variations and both short and long leaves. Snake plants tolerate lower light conditions than many other houseplants. They are slow growers that need little care. They can become top heavy as they mature so transplanting them as they grow into deep containers will keep them upright.

Another plant that tolerates a lowlight spot is the **Peace Lily** (*Spathiphyllum spp.*) The term “lily” is a misnomer because this plant is not related to lilies. There are more than 40 species in the “peace lily” genus. Their long, straplike leaves are traditionally deep green, but newer cultivars offer some variation. While most houseplants suffer when overwatered, Peace Lilies are particularly sensitive to it. Too much water will cause their leaves to turn yellow, starting at the base and moving up the plant.

The best way to water most houseplants is to apply water to the soil in several locations around the pot until excess water drains out of the pot’s bottom and into its saucer, indicating the soil has been moistened all the way through. Allow the water to drain and then discard any extra water after a half-hour or so as necessary. Unfortunately prescribing specific amounts of water to apply to houseplants and at what intervals is not possible in a general statement. There are many variables that impact the amount of water a plant can effectively use, including the plant’s size, the health of its root system, the composition of its container, and the room temperature and light intensity of its location.

For more information on this or any other gardening topic, call the Master Gardeners at 541-548-6088 or go to our website [www.gocomga.com](http://www.gocomga.com) and click on the KPOV tab on the orange bar. This has been Gardening: Get Good at It on KPOV, The Point.

**Resource:**

Sanchez, Nicole, (2019). “Five Easy Houseplants Worth Trying,” <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/11191/five-easy-houseplants-worth-trying.pdf> (Accessed September 2021)