

HOUSE PLANT TIPS FOR WINTER CARE

THE 10 GOLDEN RULES

- 1. Don't drown them –roots need air as well as water, keeping the soil soaked at all times means certain death for most plants. Learn to check soil moisture before dumping more water on them.**
- 2. Give them a rest- nearly all plants need a rest in winter, which means less water, less feeding and less light than in the active growing period.**
- 3. Accept the loss of 'temporary' plants – some popular gift plants, such as cyclamen, gloxinia, azalea or kalanchoe will die down in a matter of weeks. You've done nothing wrong – these types are flowering pot plants which are only grown for flower and not expected to last forever.**
- 4. Give them extra humidity – The atmosphere of a centrally-heated room in winter is as dry as desert air. The best method is using a pebble tray, but a humidifier, pot of water on the wood stove and misting work to.**
- 5. Treat trouble promptly – Expert or beginner, trouble will strike some time. One or two scale insects or mealy bugs are easily picked off; an infestation may be incurable. Overwatering is not fatal at first, but kills when prolonged. Learn to recognize the early signs of trouble**
- 6. Group them together – Nearly all plants look and grow better when grouped together.**
- 7. Learn to repot – After a year or two most plants begin to look sickly; in many cases the plant simply needs repotting into a larger container.**
- 8. Choose wisely – The plant must be able to flourish in the home you provide for it. Even the expert can't make a shade-lover survive in a sunny window.**
- 9. Have the proper tools – Buy a watering can with a long, narrow spout, drip trays to keep water off the furniture, a bottle of liquid fertilizer, a safe pest killer will keep the plants looking healthy.**
- 10. Check the plants specific needs – What are the lighting needs, how large will it grow, is it high maintenance, will it flower easily under your conditions**