

Harper's Houseplant Guide

Suggestions on When to Water Houseplants

1. Water when the pot has partially dried out. This means when the soil looks and feels dry, not only on the surface, but half an inch down.
2. Water when the pot feels very light. Wet soil is heavy.
3. Water if the pot gives a hollow, ringing sound when tapped with a wooden ruler.
4. If plant droops and soil is wet, root ball may be compacted. Submerge plant completely until all bubbling stops, and then allow plant to dry out.
5. Water when plant droops unless the soil is obviously wet already. A flagging plant in wet soil may have been damaged by over-watering, and it should be allowed to dry out almost completely before more water is poured into the pot. Spraying of the foliage while the soil is drying out may also help.
6. Always water plants from the top and flush thoroughly to prevent salt burn.
7. When watering, do so thoroughly. Allow water to rush through the pot several times. Do not allow the plant to stand in water.
8. Always water from the top to leach salts from soil.

Signs of Distress and Their Causes

1. Variegated leaves turning green. Plant needs more light.
2. Leaves becoming pale and new shoots spindly. The plant needs more light or fresh soil.
3. Leaves browning at tips or edges. The air is too dry, hot, or they are salt burned.
4. Stickiness of leaves or stems. The plant is being attacked by aphids or scale insects.
5. Fine webs among leaves. The plant is being attacked by red spider mites.
6. Little or no growth in spring or summer. Plant needs feeding or repotting.
7. Pot drying out very quickly between watering. The soil has almost all been replaced with roots and needs repotting.
8. Leaves flaccid. May be caused by too much sun on plant.
9. Leaves flaccid, soil dry. Plant needs a thorough watering.
10. Leaves flaccid, soil wet. The roots are probably rotting because of over-watering. Examine roots, if not completely rotted the plant can be cut back to the sound part of the root and the plant root repotted in fresh soil.

11. Sudden dropping of several leaves. Plant has received a shock. Causes: Considerable rise and fall of temperature, cold water watering, draught, gas or change of position.
12. Succession of leaves yellowing and falling. May be over- or under-watering, too low a temperature, gas, or red spider mites.
13. Leaves yellowing but remaining firm and not dropping. The plant is an acid-lover which is being given hard water, or has been potted in soil mixture containing lime.

Additional information maybe found in "How to Grow Healthy Houseplants."

Due to variation of atmospheric conditions in the home, we cannot guarantee houseplants.

Our mums, azaleas, and dish gardens make excellent gifts for special occasions!

Harper's Nurseries and Landscape Co.

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