

S M A L L  G R E E N
gardens inside



House Plant Care

Beautiful terrariums, unusual plants & pots for your home

Any questions or for more information email me at janet.fox@smallandgreen.com

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gardens inside

All plants have a symbol on their labels denoting the type of care they need to keep them at their best:

S – a succulent or cactus plant

HH – a house plant that likes to have misted leaves and a more humid environment

HD – a house plant that prefers to keep its leaves dry

S – Succulents and Cacti

Most plants have a dormant phase during winter, so keep watering to a minimum and the compost very dry. The exception is *epiphytic* plants. These grow on trees absorbing moisture from the surrounding air and they require watering all year round. With succulents, keep an eye on the leaves – if they start to shrivel it's a sure sign that the plant needs water. **IF IN DOUBT, DON'T WATER!**

In the growing season (spring to autumn), water **ONLY** when the compost of your plant has completely dried out. Allow the water to completely drain away before going back in its decorative pot. Never leave it sitting in water. Plants that are in the small concrete pots without drainage holes, water carefully using a pipette to give only a few drops at a time.

Feed with a cactus/succulent feed from spring to autumn making sure you follow the dilution instructions carefully!

Check your particular plant's needs for where to keep your plant and how much light/direct sun it can tolerate.

HH – House plants that like more humidity

Watering: spring – autumn allow the compost to dry out slightly, reducing in winter. Mist the leaves of the plants regularly, every day or so, all year round. **BEWARE** of over-watering!!! This can kill your precious plant.

Feeding: during the growing season feed regularly with a liquid houseplant food following instructions carefully. As a general guide don't feed at all in winter but if your plant is showing signs of significant growth you can carry on

feeding but try to use an even more diluted feed than normal. Keep your houseplant out of direct sunlight as this might scorch their leaves

HD – House plants preferring dry leaves

Watering: spring – autumn allow the compost to dry out slightly, reducing in winter.

Feeding: during the growing season only – late spring to early autumn, and with a liquid houseplant fertilizer. In winter reduce feeding unless your plant is showing signs of significant growth when I would use a more diluted feed than normal. (Some plants are greedy feeders i.e. *Begonias* so check before feeding.) These houseplants like humidity but don't like water falling directly onto their leaves. (i.e. *Saintpaulias* and *Begonias*), simply mist the air around them regularly, and water them from underneath by placing in a shallow filled sink of water to soak for about 15 minutes before replacing back in their decorative pot.

Keep your houseplant out of direct sunlight as this might scorch their leaves

Care of *Oxalis triangularis*

These are long lived, grown from a rhizome. Water when the compost is dry. They open in response to light (nictinastic), so keep in a well lit spot, but not direct sunlight, turning so they don't lean towards the light. Every 2-7 years they can go dormant, if this happens **STOP** watering, let the soil dry out, put aside where you can keep an eye on it. After a few weeks a leaf will emerge and you can resume the watering and feeding regime.

Enjoy your house plant!

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