



Low Light House Plants



Nothing brightens and softens up a room like a thriving green plant. While some people have a natural knack for keeping plants alive, it's not always that easy for everyone else. One of the biggest problems with indoor houseplants, is finding the right plant for the light level you have in your home.

There are several excellent candidates for your darker spots, and they are pretty easy to care for plants as well. Some of these plants will grow quite large, so make sure you have enough space before buying one. A cute little plant in the store may grow large enough to require a room of its own.

Chinese Evergreen (Aglaonema sp.)

The leaves are large (1 foot long) and often variegated, though you can select varieties with different patterns or plain dark green. The plant itself grows in a clump of upright leaves on short stems, and can grow to 3-feet tall.

Snake Plant (Sansevieria sp.)

This plant is also known by the other common name of Mother-in-Law's Tongue. The Snake Plant is a very dramatic looking plant, with long stiff leaves that stand straight up from the base of the plant. Most varieties have stripes or other variegation patterns, in yellow or silver. They are a desert plant, so don't overwater. Let the soil dry out between waterings. The leaves can grow between 2 and 3 feet in height.

Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum sp.)

The Peace Lily offers you a gorgeous and huge white flower as well as large, dark green leaves. The single-petaled flower will rise up above the leaves for an attractive view. Not only will it grow in low light, it's considered an excellent plant for cleaning toxins out of your air. The Peace Lily prefers damp soil and shouldn't be left to dry out completely between waterings. These plants will also grow between 2 and 3 feet high.

Devil's Ivy or Pothos (Epipremnum sp.)

A smaller climbing plant, particularly suited for hanging baskets or table-top pots. Its leaves are green and mottled yellow, though other colours can be found as well. When the runner vines get too long or unkempt, feel free to keep in pruned to a manageable size.

Cast Iron Plant (Aspidistra sp.)

The leaves are usually plain green, and will grow to about 2 feet in length. It's a tough and sturdy plant (hence the name) and will grow in almost any conditions. A nice choice for someone with a brown thumb.

Zamioculcas Zamifolia (ZZ Plant)

This is a low growing houseplant with succulent stems and oval, waxy leaves. It prefers low light, shady areas and average temperatures. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings. ZZ Plants have nodules on their roots that store water, allowing them to tolerate quite a bit of neglect.

Philodendron

These popular houseplants actually prefer low light. If placed in bright lights the glossy green leaves quickly burn and turn a translucent brown. Philos can be left to spill out of a hanging planter or trained to climb up a mossy stick, a trellis, or any other sturdy support.

Maidenhair Fern (Adiantum)

Delicate and beautiful foliage plant whose pale green foliage contrasts with their black stem. Offer maidenhair ferns lightly shaded positions in a warm room.

Staghorn Fern

Bears spectacular fronds, usually divided at the ends into antler like lobes. The fronds are of two distinctive types, sterile fronds at the base of the plant and spore bearing fertile fronds above. The fertile fronds are the showy ones.

Corn Plant (Dracena fragrans 'Massangeana')

A solid looking plant. On top of the stout trunk there is a crown of glossy leaves which are about 4" wide. The Corn Plant prefers damp soil and shouldn't be left to dry out completely between waterings.

Dracena (Dracena deremensis 'Janet Craig' and 'Warneckii')

A slow growing species reaching 4' or more when mature. Janet Craig is all green while Warneckii bears its white bands close to the edge.

Prayer Plant (Maranta)

The outstanding feature is their outstanding foliage, bearing coloured veins or prominent blotches in a background which ranges from near white to almost black. Plants in the Maranta group require protection from direct sun, high air humidity and avoidance of cold draughts. Keep soil moist. Mist leaves regularly.

Spider Plant

Quick growing with attractive arching leaves and in spring and summer the cascading wiry stems produce small white flowers followed by tiny plantlets. Left on the mother plant, these plantlets grow and give an attractive display, especially in a hanging basket.

Although the above mentioned plants are good for medium to low light conditions, they will not do well in rooms with NO windows. All plants require a certain amount of light in order to grow. Although some may do better in rooms with no natural light, they will remain in good condition for up to a year or a little more, with proper maintenance.

With low light situations, the plants may benefit from

- lower room temperatures
- reducing watering
- reducing fertilizing
- rotation plants

Some indications of low light problems:

- leaf colour pales
- variegation is lost
- new leaves are smaller
- leaf shape may remain in juvenile state
- general growth becomes leggy and spindly
- leaves may yellow and fall off



www.dykhofnurseries.com

Dykhof Nurseries & Florist

serving the north shore since 1957

460 Mountain Highway, North Vancouver 604.985.1914