



Inside this issue:

*Bringing in your
Plants for the
Winter* 1

*Why you should
clean and wash
your plants* 1

*How to Safely
clean and wash
your Houseplants* 2

*How to repot your
houseplant* 3

*What is the mean-
ing of light levels
for our plant* 3

*Indoor Plants
for Varying
Light Conditions* 4

*Plants that clean
the air and Solu-
tion to* 5

*How to bring in
your houseplants* 6

Bringing in your Plants for the Winter

Your favorite houseplants have been outside in the garden or on the patio all summer long. Now you need to decide which ones you have space for and/or which are the most important to you. Tropical plants will suffer a setback when the night temperatures drop sharply at this time of year. Some

may require a little maintenance. Set up an area in the yard to get them ready to bring inside. You may need to prune them and check them for insects and diseases. Repot any that have outgrown their containers. Throw or give any away that are not as important to you. Return them indoors in time for them to

readjust to their indoor environment before the heat is turned on. There will be some leaf loss or the browning of leaf edges on a few of your plants. They are just letting you know they are trying to get used to the lower light levels and lower humidity indoors. [Read more on what to do on page 6.](#)

Why you should Clean and Wash your Plants

Washing, dusting your houseplants! Why? You probably think you have enough to clean & dust. So why would you want to clean plants.

It doesn't take long for dust to accumulate on furniture, curtains, blinds and knick-knacks especially in the winter. Plants are no different, they get dusty too. It's actually more important to clean your plants if you want to keep them in good health. One reason is: plants take care of us and our health by removing toxins in our air caused by

various things like household cleaner fumes, new carpet smells etc. [I have more info on this, listing what plants can help remove certain toxins later in this newsletter.](#)

They turn them into nutrients to help them grow without any harm to themselves.

The other reason is : they can't grow if the dust is blocking the sunlight. They need sunlight to photosynthesize, that's how they feed themselves. Without it the plant becomes stressed and a stressed plant is more

susceptible to insects and diseases. So by dusting or washing them your plant will be happier and healthier.

This sounds like a lot of work initially but it really will help your plants in the long run. [Find out how inside this newsletter.](#)

Schedule of Events in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota

Oct 12-13, 2007

Fall Fest

Green Bay, WI

Join the Northeast WI MGA for the 2nd annual Fall Fest featuring the sale of fall blooming plants (mums, kale, aster), and spring flowering bulbs. Vendor booths with fall harvest items, baked goods, craft items, garden art, and much more. Friday, noon to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay. For more information or to register contact Debi at (920)-465-8512.

Oct 13, 2007

Fall Harvest Festival

Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Family-oriented fun from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, at (920) 993-1900.

Oct 13, 2007

Bulb-alicious

Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay, WI

What could be more low maintenance than a bulb? The flower is already formed, simply plant during the autumn and then enjoy in spring! Well it is almost that easy! Join GBBG Director of Horticulture Mark Konlock from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in a hands-on bulb extravaganza. Take a look at the bulbs that will be part of the Garden's spring 2008 display, learn some secrets used at GBBG, answer questions, and plant some bulbs. This is a hands-on, outdoor activity, so dress appropriately. \$9 (\$4 members), pre-registration required. For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920) 490-9457 or by fax at (920) 490-9461.

Oct 13, 2007

Autumn Leaves & Apple Cider

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI

Want to consider fall color when selecting trees and shrubs? Sip apple cider as you stroll with Olbrich Horticulturist Christian Harper from 9 to 10:30 a.m., and see the fall color palettes of both common and unusual trees and shrubs. Learn how you can select and maintain these fall beauties for your home landscape. \$10 (\$8 members) by Oct 4. For more information or to register, contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

Oct 13, 2007

Making Spring Bulbs Bloom Indoors

MN Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN

Hands-on workshop from 10:00 a.m. to noon. \$45 (\$35 members). For more information contact the Education Department, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, P.O. Box 39, Chanhassen, MN 55317-0039 at (952) 443-1422.

Oct 13, 2007

Plant Propagation Made Easy

Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL

For more information or to register, contact the Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe IL 60022 at (847) 835-8261.

Oct 13-14, 2007

African Violet Show and Sale

Madison, WI

African violets will be on display and for sale at Olbrich Botanical Gardens from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The sale will include African violets, Streptocarpus and other gesneriads. Leaves, started plants, soil, pots and hand-outs with growing tips will be available. For more information call (608) 833-5552.

<http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/> and click on upcoming events.

October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



How to Safely Wash your Houseplants

The first step in a good cleaning is to wipe down the pots to remove dirt and/or salt buildup. When dusting the plants be careful: Over cleaning can remove important cells that are necessary to the health of the plant, so wipe gently.

To clean the leaves of:
Large accent plants:

Use two sponges or put an old pair of socks on, one for each hand.

Dip them in a bucket of warm soapy water.

Gently wipe down both sides of the leaf.

Smaller plants:

Use luke warm water and put the plants either in the

sink or the shower. Dip the plants in soapy warm water. Use a plastic bag to cover the pot to keep the soil in.

Add 1/4 t. dish soap per qt. of water to spray the dust or insects off.

Fuzzy Leaves:

For plants like African Violets use a soft paint brush to remove the dust. Once plants are clean, you can use a disposable duster to keep the dust from building up.

Add shine with a commercial plant-shine product.

1- Hold the spray bottle about a foot above the plant and spray a fine mist over the leaves.

2- Never spray plant-shine products on the underside of leaves. Specialized stomata cells on the bottom of leaves could be damaged.

3-Do not spray in the sun. This could also damage the leaves. Let the plant dry in the shade.

4-Do not use any shine product to frequently so as not to clog the pores of the plant

5- If you prefer not to use a commercial leaf shine product, my grandmother always shined her plants with milk.

REPOTTING HOUSEPLANTS **(Is it Time to repot?)**

When the plant is too large for the pot, your plant will start looking like it wants to tip over. You will try to something to keep it from doing that but nothing seems to work.

This is a good time to repot.

When root start sticking out of the top and the bottom of the pot. This is also time to re-pot.

If your plant just don't look as happy as at used to and you have never repotted it. This is the time to repot.

Sometimes when you purchase a new plant it needs repotting. You might know this if the plant wilts every time you go to water it and you know you just watered it a few days ago. The place you bought it from might not have repotted it from the time they received it or first grew it.

Here are some important steps in re-potting:

* Lightly tap the plant out of the pot. If you can't get the plant out of the pot you might have to break it.

*If you find the roots are matted, gently loosen them. If the roots are hard to pull, you might have to cut them in a few spots, then pull – called scoring.

*Replant into a container only 1" to 2" larger than the original. Use any kind of pot as long as it has good drainage. Clay pots absorbs extra water, plastic pots hold it in. So if you tend to over water your plants use a clay pot.

*Use cheese cloth, old nylons or landscape fabric to keep pests from entering the drainage hole.

* Use a top quality houseplant potting soil and add some worm castings to the soil.

* Water thoroughly after transplanting.



Is my pot to big?

What is the meaning of light levels for your indoor plants

Every one who has written books or reports on plants has a different term when talking about light levels. They tend to use their favorite. Is it sunlight, bright light, medium or lowlight? Or is it shady, filtered, intense, indirect, or reflected?

Let me try to make it easy for all of us.

LOW LIGHT-This is an area where you could read comfortably, but isn't much brighter. It's an area located toward the middle of the room with west or south windows, near a north window, or an east corner of the room. There isn't any sunlight directly on the plants. A few plants will tolerate it for months and even years, if taken care of correctly.

MEDIUM LIGHT- Areas with lots of artificial lights on all day, like an office. A east window or a light curtained window of a west or south area. A very bright room where the plant is placed several feet from a sunny window.

HIGH LIGHT- Plants that need 5-6 hours of direct sun on them and then bright light the rest of the day. This would be southeast, south and southwest. Most of your flowering patio plants that you bring in for the winter would be in this category.



Is this a low light area?
YES

Indoor Plants for Varying Light Conditions

LOW LIGHT PLANTS- These plants will tolerate and adapt to low light. But can also take medium light.

- CHINESE EVERGREEN
- CALATHEA
- POTHOS
- PRAYER PLANT
- DRACAENA WARNEKII
- BUTTON FERN
- DRACAENA LEMON-LIME
- PHILODENDRONS
- SANSEVIEREA-SNAKE PLANT
- CORN PLANT
- NEANTHEBELLA PALM
- RUBBER PLANT
- BAMBOO PALM
- PEPPEROMIA
- NEPHTHYIS-ARROWHEAD VINE
- MONSTERA (split-leaf Philly)

MEDIUM LIGHT PLANTS-

- SPIDERPLANTS
- ENGLISH IVY
- ALLI FIG
- HAWAIIAN SCHEFFLERA
- CHINESE FAN PALM (ARBORCOLA)
- FIDDLELEAF FIG
- DATE PALM
- SAGO PALM
- BOSTON FERN
- CHRISTMAS CACTUS
- SCHEFFLERA
- CYCLAMEN
- WANDERING JEW
- AFRICAN VIOLETS
- REX BEGONIA
- GRAPE IVY
- NORFOLK ISLAND PINE
- SWEDISH IVY
- DRACAENA MARGINATA

HIGH LIGHT PLANTS-

- HIBISCUS
- WEeping FIG
- GARDENIA-FILTERED SOUTH
- JASMINE
- MANDAVILLA-DIPLADENIA
- BOUGAINVILLEA
- PASSION VINE
- BANANA TREE
- ARECA PALM
- STEPHANOTIS VINE
- CROTON
- ALL CITRUS
- CACTI-SUCCULENTS



High light plants may need to be checked for watering more often.

Newsletter sign up

Sign up for: **Patty's Plants next months newsletter at:**

E-mail - patty@pattysplants.com

Some of the Topics in Octobers newsletter:

- *Time to dig up your tender plants and bulbs
- *Planting hardy bulbs for a beautiful spring
- *Geranium Questions on How to Over winter
- *Hibiscus Indoors
- *Saving Elephant Ears
- *Step by Step on how to Plant Bulbs
- *Defending your garden from deer and other critters

**For information on the above plants visit me at: www.pattysplants.com
You may also e-mail me with a question about any of these plants at any time.**



Plants that Clean the Air

Most people think the plants in the home are giving them their breathing problems. Sometimes maybe but this is not always the case. Houseplants can be very beneficial in our lives. They purify and renew our stale indoor air by filtering out toxins, pollutants and the carbon dioxide we exhale - replacing them with life sustaining oxygen! Although it should be safe to presume that all plants are capable of removing toxins from our air, research by NASA showed that some house plants are more efficient in filtering out toxins than others. Philodendrons, Spider plants, and Pothos were found to be the most efficient in the removal of formaldehyde. Gerbera Daisies and Chrysanthemums were found to be effective in the removal of benzene, a known carcinogen. As a rule of thumb, allow one houseplant per 100 square feet of living area. The more vigorous the plant, the more air it can filter. Keep in mind that plants will not do much to alleviate tobacco smoke or dust in the air.

Aglaonema sp. Chinese Evergreen
Aloe barbabensis Aloe Vera, Burn plant
Areca palm
Boston ferns
Chlorophytum comosum Spider Plants
Chrysanthemum sp. Mums
Date palm
Dieffenbachia sp. Dumbcane
Epipremnum sp. Golden Pothos
Ficus sp. Ficus
Gerbera sp. Gerbera Daisy
Hedera sp. Common English Ivy
Philodendron sp. Heart leaf philodendron
Spathiphyllum sp. Peace Lily



**Breath easier
with houseplants**

Plant solutions for :

New carpet, household cleaners, water repellents, are all formaldehyde pollutants. Try these plants: Spider Plant, Golden Pothos, Dracaenas and Palms.

Tobacco smoke, gasoline, detergents, plastics are all Benzene pollutants. Get these plants: English Ivy, Peace Lily, Dracaenas and Mums.

Dry cleaning, paints, varnishes and adhesives are Trichloroethylene pollutants. Plants like Dracaenas, Peace Lilies, Mums and Gerbera Daisies may help.



**Even cleaning products
can cause toxins**

BRINGING HOUSEPLANTS INDOORS FOR THE WINTER

Depending on where you live, it's 'time to start getting your plants ready to move back inside for the winter. Because conditions differ greatly between the inside and outside of your home you need to acclimate them slowly when bringing them back in. Sudden changes in temperature, light, and humidity can be traumatic to plants, resulting in yellowed leaves, dieback, wilting, and unfortunately they could even die. You will need to bring your plants indoors before nighttime temperatures dip below 45 degrees F. Most tropical plants will suffer damage at temperatures below 40 degrees F, a few at 50 degrees F. Ask yourself if the plants are worth saving? Is it replaceable? Did it cost a lot or did you get a full summers of enjoyment out of it?

First, get ready for the move indoors.

1: Watch the lighting. To ensure that plants will get adequate light this winter. Plants use light as an energy source to create food, they need it to live/grow. When they don't have enough it's like they've been put on a starvation diet. They'll survive but may not look as good. So decide which room is best, study the amount of light it gets before you bring your plant in. Washing windows will help too.

2: Collect your supplies. Sterilized potting soil, containers, see #5 ect.

3: Put up ceiling hooks or shelves. Make the shelf wide enough to accommodate trays.

4: Make humidity trays. Line the trays with waterproof material, fill with gravel, and place the pots on top. Keep the gravel moist. Or get an humidifier.

5: Purchase plant lights. Use florescent or special plant lights.

Second, check plants for insects and diseases.

1: Check the outside of the pot for signs of slugs or unwanted inhabitants. Slugs, earthworms, ants or other insects can burrowed in the soil. Earwigs, centipedes ect.

2: Soaking the pot in a tub of lukewarm water for about 15 minutes. Will force insects out of the soil. Can use a solution of insect control preferably a natural or organic product, or a homemade dish soap soak. It's best when the soil is on the dry side.

3: Scrub the pot. Slugs could be stuck to the bottom of the pot. Place a piece of wire screening over the drainage hole to keep pests out next year. Use mild dish soap with brush, a weak solution of bleach or vinegar.

4: Repot using a good indoor potting soil. The main insects that you might encounter are mealy, aphids, scale, spidermites& whitefly

5: Prune if needed. Dust off or wash off with a damp cloth.

6: Repot. Use sterilized potting soil and worm castings. I always put worm casting in my soil when repotting. It slowly gives plants the natural nutrients they need.

Third, Prevent shock

1: Expose plants gradually to reduced lighting. Move to a shadier location before

bringing in. The better you acclimate the plant the less leaf drop it will have.

2; Expect some leaves to fall off. It's best if they've been outside in high light to put them in similar light indoors like a south window or under plant lights on a timer for 16 hours a day.

3: New leaves will form. As the plants readapt to the lower light. Brown leaf edges and leaf drop could just mean the plant needs to adjust to lower light and humidity levels indoors.

. Don't over water!

1: They won't require as much water. Outside in summer, meant you probably had to water your container plants every day, inside they won't need as much.

2: Make sure they are dry to the touch. Use a wooden dowel or chopstick. Stick it in, if it comes out wet with dirt on it , it's not time to water.

3: Don't water if cloudy or rainy. One week might be different from the next. On a sunny week your plants may dry out faster than on a cloudy week. Don't water at the same day of the week every week because plants will dry out differently in the areas you have them in depending on the weather even indoors.

4: Diseases. These can look like watering problems and be associated with the way they are watered. The main ones –powdery mildew, stem rot, dry rot, black sooty mold. brown spots with yellow rings, dry tips.

Finally

1: Boost of fertilizer. You can use a weak solution. In bright light, it may continue to have active growth. Unless you repotted with worm castings, then you shouldn't have to give your plants anything all winter.

2: Soil containing fertilizer. Again you won't have to fertilize all winter.

