## **Patty's Plants**

### **Norfolk Island Pines**



Troubleshooting Problems with Norfolk Island Pines

#### What causes the branches to droop?

Severe drooping is usually caused by extreme temperatures. This could also be a sign of over or under-watering.

#### Why do green needles fall off?

This is usually in response to over-watering.

#### What causes some of the needles to yellow or brown and drop?

When Norfolk Island pines are kept too hot and dry, needles towards the inside will yellow, then turn brown and drop off. They will not re-form.

#### Is there a reason it doesn't seem to grow?

It most likely needs repotting. This could be a sign it's time to fertilize.

# If the branches look thin and weak and the plant is drooping more than normal, what is wrong?

This is an indicator that the plant is not getting enough nutrition. You may need to increase the frequency of feeding. It also could mean it's not getting enough light.

#### What causes the lower branches to dry up?

If it is a larger, older plant, it is natural. When this happens to young (less than 4 feet tall) plants, it might be due to insufficient light or over-watering.

#### Why are the branches on one side so much lighter in color?

Too much direct sunlight can bleach the foliage on the side of the plant closest to the window.

#### What causes the sticky spots?

If they are white, it is probably an insect called mealy bugs. They are sucking insects that look like little patches of white cotton. If the sticky spots are green, that is another insects called an aphid. Both can be effectively treated with pyrethrins or insecticidal soap. Mealy bugs can also be wiped off with a Q-Tip dipped in rubbing alcohol.

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