

TOPIC : “GROWING BEAUTIFUL INDOOR PLANTS”

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- Interiorscaping is a new inner city industry – especially vertical gardens - as an offshoot of landscaping. Research shows the benefits of plants inside buildings – healthy as well as aesthetically pleasing. NASA lists 1 Dracaenas, 2 Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily) 3 Statice as improving air quality and are the hardiest and easiest to care for.
- Indoor plants don't exist in Nature but some adapt well indoors. Take care choosing low light forest plants – some come from moist and some from dry environments.
- The best displays of indoor plants are rotated to a shade house to rest. It's a good idea to have two of the same plant to rotate – three months inside and three months outside.
- Flowering plants inside need plenty of water. One of the best family of plants for indoors are Araceae (Philodendrons) and Anthuriums – these plants were first used inside in Europe in the 1860's imported from South America.
- Madonna Lily needs stacks of water – best to sit in a dish or saucer of water. Clean regularly to remove build up of salts etc.
- Dieffenbachia, Aglaonema are good indoor foliage plants.
- African Violets, Cape Primroses need warm water sparingly- don't wet leaves – use wick method or sit in dish/saucer of water for plant to draw up when needed.
- Lipstick Plant, Gold Fish Plant – some flower all year round and some are seasonal. These are also Epiphytes which grow on trees like orchids and don't get a lot of water but like the humidity in the bathroom.
- Dracaenas survive with little water – there are about thirty species and hybrids.
- Peperomias tolerate dry air and need minimum water.
- Palms from jungle areas have been used for many years indoors e.g. Parlour Palms from South America – low light, high humidity.
- Kentia Palms from Lord Howe Island have been exported world wide for over 100 years – low light, low humidity. Lady Palms are all green or green and gold.
- Bromeliads flower from three to eight months and like a dry, shady area and will tolerate competition from tree and shrub roots in garden and are good indoors.
- Aspidistra known as Cast Iron Plant, very tough. Large clumps can be divided not too small.
- Orchids can be brought indoors when flowering but don't grow and flowers don't last long.
- Green Island Fig can be bonsaid and will grow in full sun and in shade where it is glossier and a deeper green. It's a shrub with a tree look.
- Moreton Bay Chestnut(Black Bean)-good indoors as is Maiden Hair Fern in saucer of water.
- Dust is biggest enemy of indoor plants – blocks up pores in leaves. Hose off or out in rain.
- Plants under stress indoors are susceptible to attack by mealy bugs, spider mites, scale insects. Keep water and humidity balanced. Half metho and half water can treat attackers.
- White Oil will kill Bromeliads. Not good practice to use indoors as dust will stick to leaves. Better to use soapy water. Wetting Agents are detergents so washing up water is good for plants and soil. Use Wetting Agents to treat soil especially in Summer to keep soil moist.
- Magnetised water is absorbed better by plants–better for hydrating in small water clusters – changes the molecular structure of water. GROWFLOW MAGWRAPS are available on line or from John King at Eumundi. Improves hydration for humans. \$130 for 25mm size pipe.
- Companion Natural Fungicide is available at Fernlands. **END.**