



## Healthy Houseplants FAQ's

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Whether a new plant parent, or an experienced green thumb, frequently asked questions about houseplant care are answered here!

### **When do I need to re-pot a plant?**

- Although a plant can be repotted at any time of the year, the most optimal time to re-pot is during the growing season; the spring and summer months.
- Since tropical plants tend to like their roots on the crowded side, you only need to re-pot once the roots start to grow out of the drainage holes, or the plant is showing signs of stress. If your plant's leaves are turning yellow, brown, or becoming bleached, it may be getting too much light. If the plant is leggy and reaching for light (stretching), it may need more light.

### **How do I select a new pot?**

- Pot size is important. Tropical plants prefer to have crowded root systems. It is recommended to select a pot that is max 1-2 inches wider than the diameter of it's current pot, whether it is a plastic growers pot, or a ceramic pot or planter. Once size and drainage have been considered, choose a pot that you love – think look, colour, and feel.

### **Are drainage holes needed?**

- Since the most common plant problem is overwatering, drainage holes are recommended for optimal growth and success.
- If a decorative pot has drainage holes, you can pot directly into it.
- If the decorative pot does not have drainage holes, it is recommended to keep the plant in a plastic grower's pot and simply place the grower's pot into the decorative pot. Moss can be used to hide or disguise the grower's pot.
- When it's time to water, simply place the grower's pot into a sink, water thoroughly, allow to drain, and then place back inside the decorative pot.
- Plants can be potted directly into pots with no drainage (i.e. succulents) however, be cautious and water sparingly so as not to overwater the plant and cause root rot.

### **What type of soil does my plant need?**

- Regular indoor potting mix is suitable for most tropical plants.
- For succulents or cacti, we recommend using a specific soil blend with a higher sand content that Cannon Nurseries carries. This blend promotes a healthier plant.
- Cannon Nurseries also sells soils specific to Violets and Orchids; this is recommended as they require growing mediums that differ from regular indoor potting soil.

## How often should I water?

Understand your plants. Different plants have different watering requirements, however, a general guideline is that most houseplants prefer to dry out slightly between watering. Rather than relying on a 'water once a week' method, it is important to feel the soil to ensure the soil is dry enough before watering. Depending on the plant, the temperature, and the humidity, water frequency will change throughout the year.

- Always feel the soil, or lift the pot before watering – overwatering is the #1 problem for houseplants. The first 1-2" of soil should be dry, or the pot should feel light when lifted.
- If the pot has drainage holes, place the pot in the sink or onto a drainage saucer and water thoroughly – until water is flowing out of the drainage holes.
- Allow water to drain from the holes before putting plant back into it's decorative pot – DO NOT ALLOW THE PLANT TO SIT IN WATER
- If there are no drainage holes in the pot, water sparingly to prevent root rot.
- Water the soil directly and avoid the foliage. This helps to prevent diseases and allows the water to reach the roots where it's needed.
- Some plants such as Violets, Gardenia, Azaleas, and Cyclamen prefer to be watered from the bottom. Do this by placing the potted plant in a drainage saucer, a small bucket or a bowl for 5 minutes, and allow the plant to soak up the water.
- Succulents and Cacti need to be watered less than foliage plants. Allow the soil to dry out completely before watering.
- Avoid using extremely hot or cold water – room temperature water is ideal for most houseplants.
- Heat and cold affect houseplants; do not place your plants near a heating register as it may dry them out too quickly. Placing too close to a cold window may also damage your plant.

## When should I fertilize my plant?

- Fertilizing should be done during the growing season. When the days become longer in the spring, you can start fertilizing. Follow the directions on the product for instructions. When the days become shorter, and there is less sun, you can stop fertilizing.

