

## Goddess Gardener Recommended House Plants

Sadly, two of my favorite indoor plants that are easy to grow, attractive, and flourish for years are on the poisonous list: Peace Lily (known to be an air cleaner) and pothos (a great climber or trailer). Below I'm listing houseplant suggestions that I grow. I leave it to you to double-check for toxicity that would affect your family or animals.

**Orchid:** I've never met an orchid that I didn't love. The bad rap that orchids receive as being fussy is a myth. Basically, read the plant tag for best results, provide a few drops of water weekly, and ignore them. Mine are continuously reblooming.

**Bromeliad:** Super simple to grow, long-lasting, low maintenance, and minimal watering needs. Before the flower dies, the plant will produce offsets, called pups, around the base.

**Snake Plant:** Referred to as "Mother-in-Law's Tongue" tolerates low light and minimal moisture. This plant is almost impossible to kill.

**Spider Plant:** Known as the "Airplane Plant," this plant is perfect for beginners. It's easy to care for, produces long, cascading stems, and is great for hanging baskets or trained to a trellis.

**Philodendron:** Foliage comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Prefers moist soil and vines to eight feet or more.

**Parlor Palm:** Add a bit of the tropics to your office. Great in dim light. Only prune dead fronds. Don't overwater.

**Fiddle Leaf Fig:** Slow growing to 15 feet or more. This plant prefers east-facing windows. Water only when the top inch of the soil is dry and never feed during the winter months.

**Aloe:** Every home needs an aloe plant for medicinal purposes. If you get a burn or a cut, snip a piece of aloe to soothe the area. Aloes prefer to be root-bound in sandy soil and require very little water.

**Croton:** Growing in warm, humid climates outdoors, crotons may reach 8 feet, but indoors, they offer an explosion of color in a small pot when ideal temperatures above 60 degrees are maintained. Place pebbles with water under the pot to increase humidity.

These favorites are all relatively low maintenance and will thrive in a variety of environments. They are terrific choices for beginner indoor gardeners as well as those with more experience. As always, when you make a purchase, carefully read the plant instructions tag and follow directions. The number one cause of house plants failing to succeed is overwatering.

No matter what your lifestyle, add a touch of hassle-free greenery to your home and enjoy a full house of indoor nature to keep you happy, healthy, and gardening rain or shine.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



These are the pups and their flower of a variegated bromeliad.



Take cuttings of spider plants to make more pots of plants.



Aloe is a must-have succulent in every household.

Photos Cynthia Brian