

CARE CARDS

Common Houseplant Care Cards

Ten species, one card each. Cut them out or keep the sheet by the watering can.

Monstera deliciosa

Origin	Southern Mexico to Panama; climbs rainforest trees
Light	Bright indirect; a little morning sun
Water when	Top third dry
Mix	Chunky aroid mix: bark, perlite, coir
Pot	Pot 1 to 2 in wider than root ball, drainage essential
Food	Balanced feed at half strength while growing
Seasons	Slows sharply in winter; new leaves small in low light
Watch for	No splits in new leaves: most likely not enough light

Pothos (Epipremnum aureum)

Origin	Solomon Islands; trails and climbs
Light	Moderate to bright indirect
Water when	Top half dry; leaves curl slightly when thirsty
Mix	General mix with extra perlite
Pot	Snug pot; drainage
Food	Light feed monthly in spring and summer
Seasons	Tolerates dim winters; growth pauses
Watch for	Yellow lower leaves: usually kept too wet

Snake plant (Dracaena trifasciata)

Origin	West Africa; dry rocky ground
Light	Bright preferred; tolerates low
Water when	Fully dry all the way through
Mix	Cactus mix or gritty blend
Pot	Heavy pot (top-heavy); drainage
Food	Rarely; twice a year is plenty
Seasons	Nearly dormant in winter; water very little
Watch for	Mushy base: root rot from wet soil

Fiddle leaf fig (Ficus lyrata)

Origin	West African lowland rainforest; canopy tree
Light	Bright with some direct sun
Water when	Top third dry, then deep soak
Mix	Well-drained loam
Pot	Step up slowly; hates moves
Food	Balanced feed monthly in growth
Seasons	Drops leaves after moves or drafts
Watch for	Brown spots spreading from center: most likely overwatering

Philodendron (heartleaf & hybrids)

Origin	Central and South American forests
Light	Moderate to bright indirect
Water when	Top third dry
Mix	Aroid mix
Pot	Snug; drainage
Food	Half-strength monthly in growth
Seasons	Steady; less water in winter
Watch for	Leggy stems: reaching for light

Spider plant (Chlorophytum comosum)

Origin	Southern Africa; grassland edges
Light	Bright indirect; tolerates less
Water when	Top inch dry; tuberous roots store water
Mix	General mix
Pot	Roots push up: repot when crowded
Food	Light feed; avoid fluoride-heavy water
Seasons	Babies appear with long days
Watch for	Brown tips: dry air, salts or fluoride

ZZ plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)

Origin	East Africa; seasonal drought
Light	Low to bright indirect
Water when	Fully dry; rhizomes hold water
Mix	Gritty, fast-draining
Pot	Snug; rhizomes may crack thin pots
Food	Rarely
Seasons	May not grow at all in winter; that is fine
Watch for	Yellowing stems: almost always too much water

Peace lily (Spathiphyllum)

Origin	Colombian and Venezuelan forest floor
Light	Moderate indirect; blooms with more
Water when	Just before it droops; surface dry
Mix	Peaty, moisture-holding mix
Pot	Likes being slightly snug
Food	Monthly, gentle
Seasons	Fewer blooms in low winter light
Watch for	Brown tips: tap water salts or inconsistent water

Moth orchid (Phalaenopsis)

Origin	Southeast Asian trees; epiphyte
Light	Bright indirect; never hot sun
Water when	Roots silver and pot light: soak
Mix	Bark only, no soil
Pot	Clear pot helps you read roots
Food	Weak orchid feed most waterings
Seasons	Blooms after a cool autumn spell
Watch for	Wrinkled leaves: roots died from staying wet

Succulents & aloe

Origin	Arid regions worldwide
Light	Very bright; some direct
Water when	Fully dry; leaves soften slightly
Mix	Cactus mix with extra grit
Pot	Shallow, unglazed, drainage
Food	Rarely; diluted in spring
Seasons	Winter rest with much less water
Watch for	Stretched, pale growth: not enough light

Water when the soil says so, not the calendar. The amounts and timing here are how each plant is built, not a schedule.