



# BEGINNER'S PLANT CARE CHEAT SHEET

## Your Complete Guide to 15 Foolproof Houseplants

Download this printable PDF and keep it handy for quick reference!



### QUICK REFERENCE PLANT CARE GUIDE

#### LEVEL 1: NEARLY INDESTRUCTIBLE ★★★★★

Plant	Water Frequency	Light Needs	Special Notes
<b>ZZ Plant</b>	Every 2-3 weeks	Low to bright indirect	Can survive 1 month without water
<b>Snake Plant</b>	Every 2-4 weeks	Low to bright indirect	Produces oxygen at night
<b>Cast Iron Plant</b>	Every 1-3 weeks	Low to medium	Survives almost any condition

#### LEVEL 2: VERY FORGIVING ★★★☆☆

Plant	Water Frequency	Light Needs	Special Notes
<b>Golden Pothos</b>	Weekly (when dry)	Low to bright indirect	Leaves droop when thirsty
<b>Spider Plant</b>	When top inch dry	Bright indirect	Makes baby plants
<b>Rubber Plant</b>	When top 2" dry	Bright indirect	Dust leaves monthly

#### LEVEL 3: BEGINNER-FRIENDLY ★★★☆☆

Plant	Water Frequency	Light Needs	Special Notes
<b>Monstera Deliciosa</b>	When top inch dry	Bright indirect	Splits develop with age
<b>Peace Lily</b>	When it droops	Low to bright indirect	Dramatic water indicator
<b>Chinese Evergreen</b>	When top inch dry	Low to medium	Colorful foliage varieties
<b>Dracaena Marginata</b>	Every 1-2 weeks	Low to bright indirect	Tree-like growth

#### LEVEL 4: TRENDY BUT MANAGEABLE ★★★☆☆

Plant	Water Frequency	Light Needs	Special Notes
<b>Philodendron Heartleaf</b>	When top inch dry	Low to bright indirect	Trails beautifully
<b>String of Hearts</b>	Every 2-3 weeks	Bright indirect	Succulent - don't overwater
<b>Hoya Carnosa</b>	When soil dry	Bright indirect	Fragrant flowers possible

#### LEVEL 5: STATEMENT PLANTS ★★☆☆☆

Plant	Water Frequency	Light Needs	Special Notes
<b>Fiddle Leaf Fig</b>	When top 2" dry	Bright indirect (consistent)	Dramatic but worth it
<b>Bird of Paradise</b>	When top inch dry	Bright (some direct OK)	May flower after years




### THE FINGER TEST (Your Watering Bible)

**Step 1: Stick your finger 1-2 inches into the soil**

**Step 2: If dry = Water thoroughly until it drains**

**Step 3: If moist = Wait 2-3 days and test again**

 **PRO TIP:** Most beginners overwater, not underwater!

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## LIGHT REQUIREMENTS DECODED

Light Type	Description	Best For
Low Light	Can read without straining	ZZ Plant, Snake Plant, Cast Iron Plant
Medium Indirect	Bright room, no direct sun	Most beginner plants
Bright Indirect	Near window, no direct rays	Rubber Plant, Monstera, Fiddle Leaf Fig
Bright Direct	Actually in sun's rays	Bird of Paradise, some succulents

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## PLANT EMERGENCY GUIDE

### YELLOW LEAVES

- **Most Common Cause:** Overwatering
- **Quick Fix:** Check soil moisture, reduce watering
- **When to Worry:** Multiple leaves suddenly yellow

### BROWN CRISPY TIPS

- **Most Common Cause:** Low humidity or fluoride in water
- **Quick Fix:** Use filtered water, increase humidity
- **Prevention:** Group plants together

### DROOPY LEAVES

- **If Soil is Dry:** Needs water immediately
- **If Soil is Wet:** Probably overwatered, check roots
- **Peace Lily Exception:** Always droops when thirsty

### TINY BUGS

- **Fungus Gnats:** Yellow sticky traps + reduce watering
  - **Spider Mites:** Increase humidity, wipe leaves
  - **Scale/Mealybugs:** Rubbing alcohol on cotton swab
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## MONTHLY PLANT CARE CALENDAR

### EVERY WEEKEND

- Finger test** all plants for watering needs
- Visual inspection** for pests or problems

- Rotate plants** ¼ turn for even growth

## MONTHLY

- Dust large leaves** with damp cloth
- Check for pests** under leaves and on stems
- Assess growth** and take progress photos

## SEASONALLY

- Spring:** Resume fertilizing, repot if needed
  - Summer:** Water more frequently, watch for pests
  - Fall:** Reduce watering, stop fertilizing
  - Winter:** Minimal water, no fertilizing
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## BEGINNER'S SHOPPING CHECKLIST

### ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

- Pots with drainage holes** (most important!)
- Quality potting soil** (not garden soil)
- Watering can with narrow spout**
- Moisture meter** (optional but helpful)

### NICE-TO-HAVE SUPPLIES

- Plant saucers** to protect furniture
  - Liquid fertilizer** for growing season
  - Spray bottle** for humidity
  - Pruning shears** for maintenance
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## YOUR PLANT SUCCESS ACTION PLAN

### WEEK 1: CHOOSE YOUR FIRST PLANT

- Take our personality quiz
- Visit local nursery with this list
- Choose ONE plant to start
- Set up proper pot with drainage

### WEEK 2: ESTABLISH ROUTINE

- Learn the finger test
- Find optimal plant placement
- Take "before" photos
- Set weekend plant check reminder

### WEEK 3: OBSERVE & LEARN

- Note any changes in your plant
- Join plant community online

- Read about your specific plant
- Celebrate small wins!

## WEEK 4: BUILD CONFIDENCE

- Master watering schedule
  - Identify signs of plant happiness
  - Consider adding second plant
  - Share your progress online
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## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

### WHEN TO GET HELP:

- Sudden dramatic changes in plant health
- Pest infestations that don't respond to treatment
- Multiple plants showing same symptoms
- You're not sure if your plant is alive

### WHERE TO GET HELP:






- **Our Email Community:** [hello@indohouseplants.com](mailto:hello@indohouseplants.com)
  - **Local Nursery:** Your best resource for hands-on help
  - **Plant Groups:** Facebook, Reddit r/houseplants
  - **Our Instagram:** @indohouseplants (DM us photos!)
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## CONFIDENCE BOOSTERS

### REMEMBER:

- Every plant expert killed their first plant
- Plants WANT to live and grow
- Small progress is still progress
- The plant community is incredibly supportive
- You're learning something new - be patient with yourself

### CELEBRATE WHEN:

-  Your plant survives its first month
  -  You notice it needs water before it gets droopy
  -  You see new growth
  -  You successfully propagate a cutting
  -  You help another beginner
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## STAY CONNECTED

Join our plant parent community for:

- Weekly care tips via email
- Seasonal plant care guides
- Exclusive troubleshooting help
- New plant parent encouragement

**Follow us:** @indohouseplants **Email us:** [hello@indohouseplants.com](mailto:hello@indohouseplants.com) **Website:**  
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*Print this guide and keep it near your plants for quick reference!*

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