Houseplant care cards

Nine common houseplants on one sheet. Check the soil before you water, because rooms differ.

Snake plant *Dracaena trifasciata*

LIGHT

Tolerates very low light. Direct sun for only part of the day, 2 to 6 hours, is best. On the low-light lists of Illinois Extension and the University of Maryland.

WATER

Spring to autumn, let the soil dry between waterings. In winter, water only every one to two months (NC State) or no more often than every two weeks (NYBG). The two sources differ, so check the soil first.

TEMPERATURE

Tolerates cool temperatures around 50 °F.

HUMIDITY

Tolerates low humidity.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

Pothos *Epipremnum aureum*

LIGHT

Bright, indirect light. Survives for long periods in low light, but low light can cost it its variegation. Medium light on the Illinois Extension list.

WATER

Let the well-drained potting mix dry out between waterings.

HUMIDITY

Raise humidity with a humidifier or a tray of wet pebbles.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

Peace lily *Spathiphyllum*

LIGHT

Partial to deep shade; no direct sun. A low-light plant on the Illinois Extension (as white flag) and University of Maryland lists.

WATER

Keep the soil moist but not soggy, and let it dry between waterings. Watering from below works well.

TEMPERATURE

68 to 85 °F by day with no more than a 10-degree drop at night. 40 to 60 °F slows growth; below 40 °F damages leaves, stems and roots.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

Christmas cactus *Schlumbergera*

LIGHT

Bright, indirect light, within six feet of a south, east or west window. It tolerates low light but blooms more in brighter light.

WATER

Water thoroughly when the top inch is dry. It tolerates too little water better than too much. Water less from fall to spring.

TEMPERATURE

70 to 80 °F in the growing season (April to September). Flowers last longer in cooler rooms; keep it away from drafts and heat vents.

PETS

Dogs: non-toxic, Cats: non-toxic (ASPCA)

Poinsettia *Euphorbia pulcherrima*

LIGHT

Indirect light, ideally six hours a day. Part shade in the NC State entry.

WATER

Water when the soil is dry, let it drain into the saucer and discard the excess. Punch holes in decorative foil. A wilted plant drops bracts sooner.

TEMPERATURE

55 to 70 °F, ideally about 65 °F. Day 60 to 70 °F and night about 55 °F. Away from vents, doors and cold windows.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

Kalanchoe *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*

LIGHT

Bright indirect light or partial shade, with shade in the afternoon; strong direct sun can scorch the leaves.

WATER

Let the soil dry out between waterings, then water deeply.

TEMPERATURE

About 60 °F at night and 70 °F by day. It cannot take frost: bring it inside before temperatures drop to 45 °F.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

African violet *Saintpaulia ionantha*

LIGHT

Bright, filtered light. In the Maryland table it sits in the medium-bright band, 100 to 500 foot-candles, as in an east or west window.

WATER

Water from the bottom and keep the leaves dry to prevent spots or rings. Let the surface dry before watering again.

TEMPERATURE

60 to 80 °F is best. If nights dip below 60 °F the plant stunts and recovers slowly. Avoid very cold water.

HUMIDITY

Likes high humidity: set the pot on a tray of wet pebbles or use a humidifier. It does not tolerate dry air.

PETS

Dogs: non-toxic, Cats: non-toxic (ASPCA)

Boston fern *Nephrolepis exaltata*

LIGHT

Listed as low light by Illinois Extension.

PETS

Dogs: non-toxic, Cats: non-toxic (ASPCA)

Chinese evergreen *Aglaonema*

LIGHT

Low light on the Illinois Extension list; medium-bright on the Maryland table.

PETS

Dogs: toxic, Cats: toxic (ASPCA)

Toxic or non-toxic status comes from the ASPCA plant lists. If a pet eats a plant, call your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center on (888) 426-4435 (a fee may apply).

Last checked 2026-11-25. Facts come from the sources below; where sources disagree the chart says so.

Sources

- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Dracaena trifasciata (snake plant) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dracaena-trifasciata/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Illinois Extension: Houseplant Lighting — https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/lighting (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Maryland Extension: Lighting for Indoor Plants — https://extension.umd.edu/resource/lighting-indoor-plants (checked 2026-11-25)
- NYBG Mertz Library: How should I water a snake plant? — https://libanswers.nybg.org/faq/272887 (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Epipremnum aureum (pothos) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/epipremnum-aureum/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Spathiphyllum (peace lily) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/spathiphyllum/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions: Christmas Cactus — https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/houseplants/christmas-cactus/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- Purdue Extension: Holiday Cactus FAQs — https://www.purdue.edu/hla/sites/yardandgarden/holiday-cactus-faqs/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Missouri Extension: Holiday Cacti for Winter Color — https://ipm.missouri.edu/meg/2008/12/Holiday-Cacti-for-Winter-Color/index.cfm (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Schlumbergera truncata (Thanksgiving cactus) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/schlumbergera-truncata/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- University of Illinois Extension: Caring for Poinsettias — https://extension.illinois.edu/houseplants/caring-poinsettias (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Euphorbia pulcherrima (poinsettia) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/euphorbia-pulcherrima/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Kalanchoe blossfeldiana (florist kalanchoe) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/kalanchoe-blossfeldiana/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- NC State Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox: Saintpaulia ionantha (African violet) — https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/saintpaulia-ionantha/ (checked 2026-11-25)
- ASPCA: Toxic and Non-toxic Plants — https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants (checked 2026-11-25)

LINK TO THIS CHART

https://aberdeenflorist.com/downloads/#houseplant-care-cards

Live version with the same data: **https://aberdeenflorist.com/houseplants/**

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