

Citrus & Houseplant Care

- 1) Breaking the mystery of taking care of Houseplants and Citrus
 - a) Easy to care for if you know the basics: Light and Watering
- 2) Know your light source
 - a) Eastern and Northern exposure provide lower light
 - b) Southern and Western exposure provide higher light
 - c) Does your room stay bright all day or does it get shaded by trees or houses?
- 3) Watering
 - a) Know the plant to know how to water. Succulents, cactus and a few houseplants require little watering.
 - b) Let the soil completely dry out to the point where it is light to pick up. Not just on the top, but all the way to the bottom.
 - c) Once the soil is completely dry, thoroughly water your plant. Even if the water comes out right away, that does not mean the soil is moist. Let the water run through a few times until the plant is heavy.
 - d) Count the days until the plant is light again and that is your watering schedule.
 - e) If you can, try to pick a container with drainage and put a saucer underneath when watering.
 - f) Certain plants will get brown tips on them. If this happens, use distilled or bottled water to water them, as the salts and chemicals in tap water can cause this.
- 4) Pruning
 - a) As your plants grow, do not be afraid to prune them to shape and encourage fullness.
 - b) Use scissors or pruners, depending on the size of the stem cutting
 - c) If you have leaves with brown edges, you can trim those parts off.
- 5) Transplanting
 - a) Usually only need to transplant every 3 years.
 - b) Faster growing plants are an exception.
 - c) Let the plant get root bound to control growth.
 - d) You can also root prune, by taking the plant out of the pot and trimming the bottom root system. This will also control growth.
- 6) Citrus
 - a) Citrus need to grown in a very bright room, preferably in a southern or western exposure.
 - b) Citrus is pollinated by bees and wind, so if the plant starts to bloom during the winter, you will need to pollinate with a paintbrush or q-tip. Go to each flower, brush it, then do the same to another flower.
 - c) Citrus love to be outside during the summer months, as they love the heat and humidity.
- 7) Pests
 - a) With both Citrus and Houseplants, if you choose to take them outside during the summer months, make sure to spray them with a Horticultural Oil at least twice before you bring them in, to kill any insects that are on them.
 - b) If your plants are inside and you see pests such as scale, mealy bugs or aphids, a good Horticultural Oil and Granular Systemic will help.