Houseplants

If I had to guess, one of the last things that you want to do right now is go outside and plant some plants or spread some mulch – it's so hot! But to scratch the plant itch, why not do some indoor gardening? Take some time over the next few weeks to consider what you want to bring into your home – before you know it, it'll be cool outside, and you'll be focusing on your outdoor plants, so for now, focus on the indoor!

For the low light corners and rooms of your home, consider plants like the snake plant, ZZ plant, Chinese evergreen, pothos ivy, philodendron ivy, Algerian ivy, spider plant, dracaenas, ferns and lucky bamboo. All of these plants will do well in low levels of indirect light. None of them will do well in a room with no windows, because all plants need some light, but if there is just one small window, they will do fine. In this list, you also have lots of choices in regard to size. Some of these plants can fill large corners, and some can be table toppers. Take pictures of the space you are trying to fill before you go out looking for plants, so you know exactly how much space you're working with.

For the higher levels of light in your home, consider cacti and succulents, palms, monsteras, crotons, scheffleras, ficus and yucca. Most often times, the areas of your home that are considered "higher" levels of light, will be drier microclimates. The sun beaming through the windows might cause these plants to dry out, but hey, that's okay! In fact, that's good. All of these plants listed for this "high" levels of light category will benefit from completely drying out between watering. They're tough plants. So it's okay to let them dry out, but when they are very dry, generously water them. And don't water them again until the soil is completely dry.

Another thing to consider when choosing your houseplants is how much care and attention you can give to them. If you prefer plants that can get really dry, and you don't need to do much to them, try your hand at yuccas, hoyas, succulents, aloe vera, ponytail palms, rubber plants or spider plants. We've all bought a plant, neglected it, and had to toss it out. But if you make an informed decision about where the plant will live, how much light it will get, and how much attention you will be able to give it, you can find the perfect houseplant to fit your needs!

If you're looking for something a little more advanced, try your hand at some blooming house plants, such as kalanchoes, calandivas, orchids or African violets. They can be finicky at first, but once you find a spot in your home that they really like, they will bloom for several weeks. These blooming plants love light and humidity, so be sure to put them near a window. And once we're through with any chance of cold weather, consider using them as patio plants, they will love it outside during the spring and summer!

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