



Redwood Barn Nursery

1607 Fifth Street Davis, California

House plants!

Easy to Grow!

The Philodendron family provides several of the easiest houseplants. Most can go pretty dry between waterings, and can stay rootbound in the same pot for years. Note: members of this family contain oxalate crystals. Toxicity varies.

Botanical name	Comments	Common name
Aglaonema commutatum	Marbled foliage on a small, elegant, tough plant.	Chinese evergreen
Dieffenbachia	Many varieties are chronic hosts for spider mites, but Tropic Snow doesn't get them. Name refers to the fact that the juice will paralyze your focal chords.	Dumb cane
Epipremnum aureum	The easiest house plant of all! Great for college dorm rooms. Climbing or trailing vine. Philodendron cordatum (Heartleaf philodendron) and Nephtytis (Butterfly vine) are similar.	Golden Pothos
Monstera deliciosa	Leaves will be small under low light, huge in bright conditions. Species name refers to the edible fruit, which may be produced under ideal conditions.	Split-leaf philodendron
Spathiphyllum	One of the few easy indoor plants which flowers, sporting white calla-lily blooms in summer.	Peace Lily

Also easy to grow

Codiaeum variegatum	Croton: Leaves are mottled with bright colors. Always get spider mites, so wash them regularly, but otherwise unfussy.
Dracaenas	Graceful habit is kind of desert-like. Allow to go dry between waterings. Some are prone to spider mites.
Ficus decora and lyrata	Two types of ornamental figs. Big, bold leaves. Easier to grow than their better known cousin, below. Eventually huge.
Maranta , Calathea , and Ctenanthe	Prayer plants and their cousins. These have stripes or blotches on the leaves. Marantas close their leaves at night, as if in prayer--perhaps that they won't be overwatered.
Sansevieria species	Snake plant, Mother-in-law's tongue. Tough, desert-looking plants which can take very low light and can go weeks without water.
Schefflera arboricola Hawaiian Elf	Dwarf Umbrella tree. Cute shiny tropical leaves, dark green or variegated . The big Schefflera is very prone to mites; these are resistant. Will even survive most winters outdoors.

Considered fussy. These need careful watering, so learn their special requirements.

Ferns: Adiantum , Nephrolepis , Pellaea , Pteris .	The indoor environment is too dry for ferns. Boston fern (Nephrolepis) is tolerant, but it gets rootbound incredibly fast. Other ferns can be difficult to manage.	Ferns
Ficus benjamina	Should be called Tree That Dies Indoors. What it really does is drop its leaves if you move it, repot it, over water it, or generally irritate it. Do best in the brightest light you have (direct sun through a window is fine) and are watered as seldom as possible. Will survive most winters outdoors.	Weeping Chinese Banyan
Palms: Chrysalidocarpus , Neanthe bella , Phoenix roebelinii	Most are very prone to spider mites. Their leaves burn on the edges if there is salt in the water (which there is in Davis!), or if they are underwatered, but they rot readily if overwatered. Add pumice or perlite to the potting soil to improve soil aeration.	Areca palm, Parlor palm, pygmy Date palm
Various tropical trees: Coffea arabica , Dizygotheca elegantissima , Radermachera , Polyscias fruticosa	These elegant indoor trees require bright light and even moisture. They will drop leaves suddenly if underwatered, but mustn't be kept soggy. Tricky.	Coffee tree, Threadleaf false aralia, China doll, Ming aralia

Plants from dry climates, often grown indoors

Beaucarnea recurvata	Hardy to the upper 20's F. Forms a large, swollen stem with age (an older specimen may sell for several hundred dollars).	Ponytail palm
Crassula argentea	Hardy to about 30 degrees F. Often grown outdoors in summer; bring inside before freezing weather, but may overwinter in a protected site.	Jade plant
Assorted succulents	Various cute succulents can be grown indoors in very bright light. All need protection below 32 degrees F.	Crassulas, many Euphorbias, Kalanchoes, and Pachypodium