



# Plant Swap Care Instructions

Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, the SC Sustainability Committee wants you to walk away from our event with confidence!

Find your plant type below!



\*Please note that most of these plants are toxic to animals and humans if ingested, and some are not safe to touch without gloves because of their sap. Those that are non-toxic are marked with an **NT** next to the plant name. Although those plants are non-toxic, this does not mean pets should be fed them. Always consult with a veterinarian first before introducing anything to your pet's diet.

# Aloe Vera

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## Watering

Water once approximately every 2-3 weeks or when the top 2-3 inches of soil dry out. If there is standing water in the pot, you've watered too much.

## Sunlight

Bright, indirect sunlight is best. If the plant is indoors, place near a south or west-facing window. If outdoors, to reduce the risk of sunburn, start it out in partial sunlight. You can gradually introduce more sunlight over a few days.

## Soil

Use a well-draining soil, such as a succulent mix. You may also use equal parts sand and potting soil.

## Potting

Using terracotta or clay pots with drainage holes is ideal for reducing the the risk of root rot. Choose a pot only slightly larger than the root ball. Aloes like to be snug.

## Fertilization

Aloe Vera requires only a small amount of fertilizer: once in Spring and once mid-Summer. Use a cactus or succulent-specific fertilizer, and only use half the recommended dosage.

## Maintenance

Wipe its leaves to prevent dust buildup.

Clip brown, wilted, or damaged leaves at the base using clean scissors or shears. Do not clip too many at a time, and always clip outer leaves only.

# Chinese Evergreen Plant

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## Watering

Water when the top inch feels dry. Do not let plant sit in standing water.

## Sunlight

Indirect light is good for this plant, making them ideal for indoors. It is recommended they sit in a north or east-facing window.

## Soil

The mixture should be well-draining and include peat moss or coconut coir and perlite or sand. A general-purpose mix can be used with the perlite or sand added.

## Potting

The pot can be plastic or ceramic with drainage holes. The diameter should be 1-2 inches larger than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a slow-release fertilizer for houseplants or a balanced liquid fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) at a quarter to half the recommended dose. Apply once a month during Spring and Summer. Do not apply during Fall and Winter. If the leaves turn yellow or the tips brown, reduce the amount of fertilizer used and frequency.

## Maintenance

Wipe leaves with a damp cloth every few weeks.

Remove yellow or brown leaves at the base with clean, sharp scissors or shears. Avoid pruning during Fall and Winter.

# Crown of Thorn



## Watering

Water when the top inch feels dry. Do not let plant sit in standing water.

## Sunlight

This plant likes direct sunlight and should receive at least 3-4 hours of it every day.

## Soil

Crown of Thorn prefers well-drained, sandy soil. You can use either a cactus or succulent-specific mix or a DIY mix. For the DIY mix, you can use 2 parts regular potting soil, 1 part perlite or sand, and 1 part orchid bark.

## Potting

Using a terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a shallow pot that is 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced liquid fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a low-nitrogen, high-phosphorous fertilizer for flowering. Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer using half the recommended dose. In Fall and Winter you can reduce this amount or stop fertilizing. Stop or reduce fertilization when you notice yellowing or browning.

## Maintenance

These can thrive indoors or outdoors, but bring them inside if temperatures drop below 50 degrees.

Prune (trim dead or long branches/stems) only during Spring and Summer using clean, sharp scissors or shears. Wear gloves to protect your hands from thorns and sap.



# Devil's Backbone



## Watering

These can be watered approximately every 2-3 weeks or when the first 2 inches of soil are dry.

You'll know you're underwatering if the leaves wilt or drop. You'll know you're overwatering if the leaves yellow or the stems get mushy.

## Sunlight

Bright, indirect sunlight is best. If indoors, place in an east or west-facing window. If outdoors, place in a space that receives light shade.

## Soil

Use a well-draining soil. You can use either a cactus or succulent-specific mix or a DIY mix. For the DIY mix, you can use 2 parts potting soil, 1 part perlite or sand, and 1 part orchid bark or small gravel.

## Potting

A terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a deep pot that is 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a cactus and succulent fertilizer. Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer. In Fall and Winter, you can stop. Always use half the recommended dose. Stop or reduce fertilization if you notice yellowing or browning.

## Maintenance

If outdoors, bring indoors when temperatures drop below 50 degrees.

Prune only during Spring and Summer using clean, sharp scissors or shears. Wear gloves to protect your hands from sap.

# Firesticks (Pencil Cactus)



## Watering

These can be watered approximately every 2-3 weeks. Reduce to once a month during Fall and Winter.

You'll know you're underwatering if the stems shrivel or wrinkle. You'll know you're overwatering if the stems yellow or get mushy.

## Sunlight

Bright, direct sunlight is best; they need at least 4-6 hours of it a day. A grow light can be used for indoor cacti.

## Soil

Use a well-draining soil. You can use either a cactus or succulent-specific mix or a DIY mix. For the DIY mix, you can use 2 parts potting soil, 1 part perlite or sand, and 1 part orchid bark or small gravel.

## Potting

A terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a deep pot that is 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a cactus and succulent fertilizer. Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer. In Fall and Winter, you can stop. Always use half the recommended dose. Stop or reduce fertilization if you notice yellowing or browning.

## Maintenance

If outdoors, bring indoors when temperatures drop below 50 degrees.

Prune only during Spring and Summer using clean, sharp scissors or shears. **Wear gloves to protect your hands from sap, it is an irritant and can cause rashes on animals and humans.**

# Jade Plant

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## Watering

These can be watered approximately every 2-3 weeks, or when the soil dries out. Reduce to once a month during Fall and Winter.

You'll know you're underwatering if the leaves shrivel or wrinkle. You'll know you're overwatering if the leaves yellow or the stem is mushy.

## Sunlight

### Watering:

These can be watered approximately every 2-3 weeks, or when the soil dries out. Reduce to once a month during Fall and Winter.

You'll know you're underwatering if the leaves shrivel or wrinkle. You'll know you're overwatering if the leaves yellow or the stem is mushy.

## Soil

Use a well-draining soil. You can use either a cactus or succulent-specific mix or a DIY mix. For the DIY mix, you can use 2 parts potting soil, 1 part perlite or sand, and 1 part orchid bark or small gravel.

## Potting

A terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a pot that is 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a cactus and succulent fertilizer. Fertilize once every 2-3 months during Spring and Summer. During Fall and Winter, you can stop fertilizing. Water first then fertilize.

## Maintenance

If outdoors, bring indoors when temperature drops below 50 degrees.

Prune only during Spring and Summer using clean, sharp scissors or shears.

# Jenny's Stonecrop

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## Watering

Water approximately every 2-3 weeks during Spring and Summer, or when the top 2-3 inches of soil dries. Water once a month during Fall and Winter.

## Sunlight

Ideally, these would get at least 6 hours of direct sunlight every day. If indoors, a south or west-facing window will be best.

## Soil

Use a cactus or succulent-specific mix or make your own. To make your own, use two parts potting soil, one part sand or perlite, and one part grit or pumice.

## Potting

A terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a shallow one that is 1-2 inches wider than the plant's root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) diluted to half strength or a cactus and succulent fertilizer. Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer. Do not fertilize in Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

The stems spread pretty quickly, so regularly pruning with clean, sharp shears is a good idea.



# Mint Plant

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## Watering

These can be watered in the morning approximately every 2-3 days, or when the top inch of the soil dries out.

You'll know you're underwatering if the leaves brown or get crispy. You'll know you're overwatering if the leaves yellow or droop.

## Sunlight

Partial sunlight is best. They need 4-6 hours of sunlight every day. Some good spots to keep them are under a tree or near a south or west-facing window.

## Soil

Use something moist and well-draining, like loamy soil. Mixing in peat moss or coconut coir can further help retain moisture.

## Potting

A terracotta or clay pot with drainage holes is ideal. Choose a shallow pot that is 8-12 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

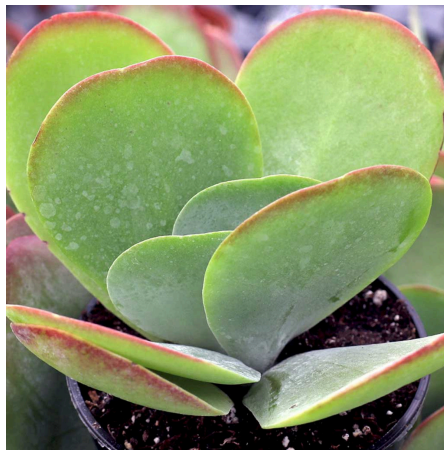
You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a liquid fertilizer specifically for vegetables and herbs. Fertilize once every month during Spring and Summer.

## Maintenance

Mint leaves can be harvested regularly using clean, sharp scissors or shears. Cut the stem just above a pair of leaves.

# Paddle Plant

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## Watering

In Spring and Summer, water paddle plants approximately every 2-3 weeks or when the top 2-3 inches of soil are dry. In Fall and Winter, water once a month.

The leaves will wrinkle or curl if they are being underwatered, and they will become soft or mushy if overwatered.

## Sunlight

Bright, direct sunlight is best. They need 4-6 hours of sunlight every day, so near a south or west-facing window is best.

## Soil

You can use a cactus or succulent-specific mix. You can also make your own mix. For that, you can use two parts potting soil, one part sand or perlite, and one part sand, pumice, or grit.

## Potting

Terracotta or ceramic pots with drainage holes are best. Choose one that is only slightly larger than the plant's root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) diluted to half strength. For half the recommended dosage, use the fertilizer.

For the other half, use water in place of fertilizer. Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer. Stop fertilizing in Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

Gently wipe the leaves with a damp cloth to clean dust.

# Pothos

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## Watering

These can be watered every 7-10 days or when the top 1-2 inches of soil dries out.

You'll know you're underwatering if the leaves start to droop. You'll know you're overwatering if the leaves yellow.

## Sunlight

Bright, indirect sunlight is best. They need 4-6 hours of sunlight every day, so near a window is best.

## Soil

You can use a general-purpose potting mix. There are mixes specifically for houseplants you can use.

## Potting

Plastic pots with drainage holes can be used for retaining moisture. Choose one that's 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) or a liquid fertilizer specifically for houseplants. Fertilize every 4-6 weeks in the Spring and Summer. You can reduce this amount, or stop, during Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

You should wipe the leaves with a damp cloth every few weeks.

Pothos can be pruned with clean, sharp scissors or shears.

# Purple Heart

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## Watering

Water approximately every 7-10 days or when the top inch of soil is dry. In Fall and Winter, this can be reduced to every 2-3 weeks.

## Sunlight

Several hours of bright, indirect light is best.

## Soil

Use a well-draining potting mix. You can use either a houseplant mix or a cactus or succulent mix. If you'd like, you can add perlite or sand to the potting mix.

## Potting

Choose a terracotta or ceramic pot with drainage holes. It should be about 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the plant's root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10). Fertilize once a month during Spring and Summer, and make sure to water your plant beforehand. No need to fertilize in Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

Gently wipe with a damp cloth to prevent dust buildup.

Remove any yellowing stems regularly with clean and sharp pruning shears or scissors.



# Queen of the Night - NT

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## Watering

Water once a week or when the top 2-3 inches of soil is dry in Spring and Summer. This can be reduced to every 3-4 weeks in Fall and Winter.

## Sunlight

Ideally, they would get 4-6 of bright, indirect sunlight. Good spots to keep them would be in a south-facing window with sheer curtains or a west-facing window.

## Soil

Use a cactus mix or orchid bark mix. Alternatively, you can make your own mix using one part potting soil, one part orchid bark or coconut coir, and one part perlite or pumice. Compost or peat moss can be added.

## Potting

A shallow terracotta or ceramic pot with drainage holes is best. It should be 1-2 inches larger than the root ball in diameter.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) once a month during Spring and Summer. Avoid fertilizing in Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

You may need to eventually use a trellis or stake to support the stems and prevent breakage.

Dust leaves with a damp cloth to help with photosynthesis.

# Rice Paddy Herb - NT



## Watering

Rice paddy herbs should be kept in constantly moist soil. They may need to be watered daily or even twice daily.

## Sunlight

Ideally, they would get 6-8 hours of direct sunlight. If growing indoors, place near a south-facing window or use grow lights for 12-14 hours.

## Soil

A water-retentive or moisture-retentive soil would be best. Peat moss, coconut coir, or vermiculite can be added to help with water retention.

## Potting

A small to medium pot with drainage holes will do. Consider a shallow pot; this will allow the roots to stay moist longer.

Placing a dish with water underneath the pot will help with replenishment. Refill the dish as needed.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10). Rice paddy herbs can be fertilized every 2-4 weeks during Spring and Summer. This can be reduced in Fall and Winter.

## Maintenance

These plants prefer humid environments, so in the Winter, be sure to protect them from frost if kept outside.

# Snake Plant

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<b>Watering</b>	<b>Sunlight</b>
Water when the top 2-3 inches of soil feel dry, or approximately every 2-3 weeks. If you notice yellow leaves or a musty smell, you may be overwatering.	Indirect or filtered sunlight is best.
<b>Soil</b>	<b>Potting</b>
Use a cactus or succulent soil mix. You can also create your own mix using two parts potting soil, one part perlite or pumice, and one part sand.	To protect against root rot, choose a terracotta or ceramic pot with drainage holes. Snake plants like a snug fit, so choose one that's only slightly larger than the root ball.
<b>Fertilization</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>
You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10). Use only half the recommended dosage of fertilizer and the rest of that dosage will be replaced with water.	Only prune during Spring and Summer.  Wipe the leaves with a damp cloth occasionally to prevent dust buildup.

# Thai Basil - NT

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## Watering

Thai basil needs to be watered pretty frequently at 2-3 days or when the top inch of soil feels dry.

## Sunlight

Ideally, this plant would receive at least 6 hours of direct sunlight every day.

## Soil

Use a well-draining soil. You can add compost to the soil for extra nutrients.

## Potting

To protect against root rot, choose a terracotta or ceramic pot with drainage holes. The pot should be 6-8 inches wide.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10). Only use half the recommended dosage every 2-4 weeks during Spring and Summer. You can reduce this in Fall and Winter, or stop.

## Maintenance

The leaves can be harvested regularly to encourage growth and new roots.  
Remove flower spikes as flowering will cause the leaves to be less tasty.



# ZZ Plant

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## Watering

Water when the top 2-3 inches of soil dry out, which will be roughly every 2-3 weeks in Spring and Summer. In Fall and Winter, reduce watering to once a month. Yellow leaves and mushy stems are signs of overwatering.

## Sunlight

Indirect sunlight or low-light environments are good for this plant, making them ideal for the indoors.

## Soil

Use a well-draining, loose soil. You can use either a cactus or succulent mix or mix your own. For the DIY mix, make it two parts soil and one part perlite or pumice.

## Potting

To protect against root rot, choose a terracotta or ceramic pot with drainage holes. The pot should be 1-2 inches wider than the root ball.

## Fertilization

You can use a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer (ex. 10-10-10) and dilute to half strength. Use half the recommended dosage of fertilizer and for the rest of the dosage, use water. Fertilize once every 2-3 months only during Spring and Summer.

## Maintenance

Wipe the leaves with a cloth occasionally to keep their shine.