

Indoor Plants - Bringing Nature inside

Do you feel the hot temperature outside? Oh it is so hot! Earlier this year many people were so excited to be outdoors working in their garden, then came the uncomfortable heat. Now that the spring garden fever is over, what can we do with our plants? My advice is to provide sufficient water in the mornings when there is no rain. What about starting a collection of indoor plants?

If you are not sure what to purchase, here are some suggestions:

Aglaonemas- You can expect superior performance and long life from aglaonemas. Numerous cultivars offer beautifully patterned foliage.

Alocasias- These plants have startling leaf colorations and shapes. Some species will do well in low light while others, will need more light.

Anthuriums- a beautiful flowering tropical species, offers cultivars with colors of the spathe from pure white to deep-red. Unfortunately, most cultivars will not continue flowering in your home.

Aspidistra- dubbed a “black thumb” plant is an admirable hero of the low-light interior garden. Cultivars with nonvariegated and variegated foliage are available.

Bromeliads- do well indoors and many gorgeous species and cultivars are readily available on the market.

Calatheas- for all their beauty, need extra light. Numerous cultivars are available to select from and are excellent as a short-lived table center piece.

Dieffenbachias- come in leaf colorations from almost entirely white with green margins to deep green with every possible yellow spotted pattern in between. They will not disappoint you.

Dracaenas- are tough and should be included as members of your indoor garden club.

Ferns- may look great but not for long. The bird nest and staghorn ferns will do well a little longer.

Ficus- comes in all different shapes, sizes, and colors. Many species and cultivars will do well; some will not. “Wintergreen” comes from a new generation of Weeping Figs, with high tolerance to defoliation. It is characterized with large, glossy leaves with deep green color. Other improved varieties are “Midnight” and “Monique”.

Palms- just like ferns, are spectacular. Some species, such as Parlor Palm, would do well under low light, but most palms need more light for superior performance.

Philodendrons- are great, both in appearance and interior performance. Their dark, heart-shaped leaves compliment any romantic settings.

Scheffleras- are widely used and for good reason as they benefit from moderate light levels.

For more information on plants and other related horticulture topics, contact Grantly Ricketts with UF/IFAS Extension in Osceola County at 321-697-3000 or email gricketts@ufl.edu.