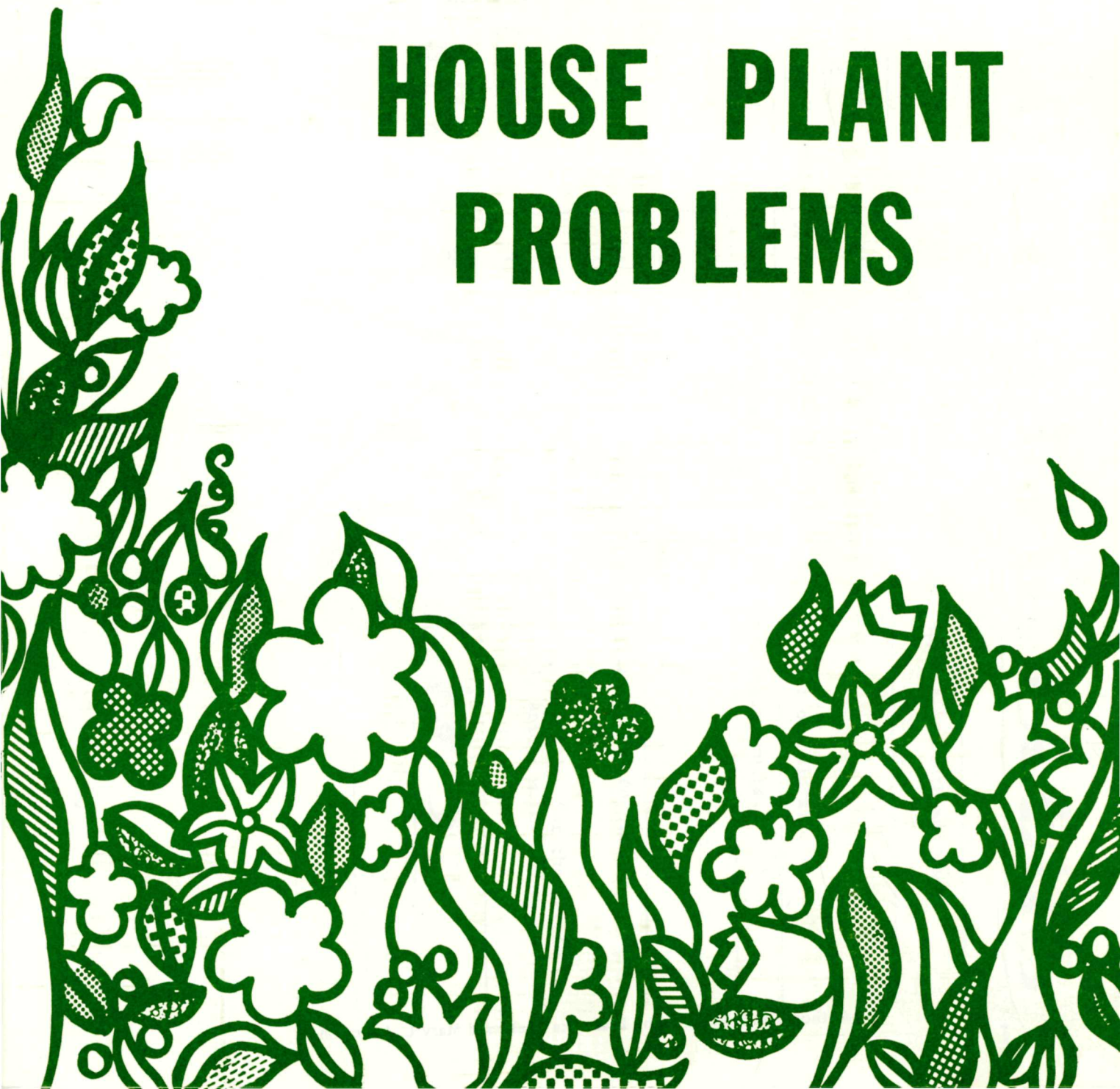


THE GREEN SCENE

A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COMMON HOUSE PLANT PROBLEMS



notes...

TEMPERATURE PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...	PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...
...A lifeless look and wilt frequently,	...That it's too hot in your house; especially south and west windows.
...Been rotting at the base of the stems,	...That it's too cold.
...Black spots on the leaves,	...That your plant may be in a draft of hot or cold air.
...Rolled up leaves,	...A draft, particularly from air conditioning units.
...All the leaves drop off without warning,	...Cold air or frostbite! ...Escaping gas - check your pilot light.
...No flowers,	...A too hot or too cold environment. Plants need consistent temperature to set buds. * Hot dry air is the ideal environmental condition for the development of all sorts of bugs, especially spider mites and white fly.

LIGHT PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...	PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...
...Yellowish brown, sometimes silvery spots on the leaves,	...Too much sun - your plant is sunburned
...A generally thin and spindly looking appearance,	...Too little light
...All stem and no leaves,	

...A frequent wilt problem,	...That the sun shining through the glass is too strong and hot and will frizzle lots of foliage plants.
...No flowers,	<p>...Not enough sun.</p> <p>...Poinsettia and Christmas Cactus need special attention to promote bloom. Request Green Scene flyers for these.</p> <p>* Plants growing under low light conditions and during the winter need less water than those growing in bright light or sunny locations. Try watering half as often.</p>

WATERING PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...	PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...
<p>...Yellowing leaves starting with the lower leaves,</p> <p>...Yellowing leaves that drop off,</p>	<p>...A few yellow leaves are natural - leaves don't live forever.</p> <p>...Too much water!!! Plastic and rubber pots are especially susceptible.</p> <p>...Too little water!!! Leaves will usually go limp before yellowing and dropping off.</p> <p>...That the soil mixture is poorly drained.</p> <p>...That the pot needs drainage material at the bottom.</p>
<p>...Leaves and the base of the stems are rotting - especially in the African Violet family,</p> <p>...White or yellowish rings and spots,</p>	<p>...Water on the leaves.</p> <p>...Watering from the top - soak these plants in water.</p> <p>...That cold water is used for watering.</p> <p>...Sun shining through water spots on the leaves and burning them.</p>

...Mushy stems that turn brown or black,	...Too much water or perhaps watering with cold water. ...Badly drained soil. This provides the right environment for the growth of fungus that causes rotting.
...Wilted leaves, ...Sad looking and drooping foliage,	...TOO LITTLE WATER!!! ...An irregular care schedule. Watering alternates between drought and flood. Set up a regular schedule and stick to it.
...No flowers,	...Frequent droughts or floods. Stick to a regular care schedule. * Yellowing leaves means that the roots have been damaged. * During the warm, sunny growing season plants need more water; when the plants are dormant and the temperature is cool and humidity is high, the plant dries slowly and needs less water.

HUMIDITY PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...

PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...

...Dry leaf tips, ...Leaf edges that are brown and crispy, ...Generally not been thriving,	...Too little humidity!!! Try a pebble tray. ...The air is too dry. This is particularly a problem with forced air-vent heating and air conditioning. * The plant loses more moisture through the leaves than it can replace. * Cool room temperatures tend to raise humidity. Remember winter's high temperatures reduce humidity to nearly intolerable levels for plants.
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FERTILIZER PROBLEMS

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IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...	PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...
<p>...Top leaves turning yellow,</p> <p>...New growth that is blackened and misshapen,</p> <p>...Suddenly died,</p>	<p>...Too much fertilizer - you are killing with care!</p>
<p>...Leaves fading to light green or yellowish green. Sometimes the backs of the leaves turn purple,</p>	<p>...A lack of nitrogen. Fertilize according to directions.</p>
<p>...Dark undersized leaves and stunted growth,</p>	<p>...A lack of phosphorous. Fertilize according to directions.</p> <p>* Plants need no fertilizer during the winter months. December, January, and February. The plants are resting.</p>

POT PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...	PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...
<p>...Stunted growth,</p>	<p>...Poor soil drainage. Add a handful of perlite or sand to the soil mixture.</p>
<p>...Leaves that grow smaller and smaller,</p> <p>...Stopped growing and seem lifeless,</p> <p>...A need for lots of water and wilt frequently,</p>	<p>...A pot-bound plant. Remove from pot and check the roots; if they are encircling the soil ball, cut and repot in the next larger pot size.</p>

...Not grown after being repotted,

...That the pot is too big - the plant is killing itself
filling the pot with roots.

* Indoor plants need porous soil and drainage material in the
bottom of the pot to save them from drowning.

BUG PROBLEMS

IF YOUR PLANTS HAVE...

PERHAPS THE PROBLEM IS...

...Sticky leaves or the foliage
falls off without discoloring,

...Webbing on the new growth
or bugs on the foliage,

...Indoor pests. Send for our "House Plant Pests" Flyer

Call: 202-282-7080

Write: Green Scene

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