



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

March 2009

Seasonal and Indoor Plant Tips

- This is a good time to re-pot and divide houseplants that are outgrowing their containers. Don't jump pot sizes to a very large pot from a small one but move up to the next size pot. Moving to a too large sized pot will make the plant much more prone to over watering damage. Do not use garden soil, use lightweight soil less potting mixes containing peat moss, vermiculite and perlite. Many of these mixes also contain fertilizers that will meet a houseplant's nutritional requirements for 2-3 months. If you are not repotting, as new growth appears resume fertilizing houseplants on a monthly basis.
- A variety of pests may attack houseplants. You may notice honeydew, a sticky substance secreted by sucking insects feeding, most commonly on ficus, schefflera and jade plants. Mealy bugs which appear as white fluffy masses are perhaps the most common houseplant insects pest. They can be controlled by swabbing the mealy bugs with rubbing alcohol or taking plants outside and spraying with a labeled horticultural oil. Another common houseplant insect pest that produces honeydew are the soft scales. They can be controlled with a light horticultural oil labeled for houseplants.
- Most houseplant insect pests are tenacious and repeated applications of control products are usually needed to get good control.

Have a pest or gardening question?
Call the Home and Garden Information Center
800-342-2507 www.hgic.umd.edu

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