

## Answer Key

### Directions

Write your answers on your own paper.

1. What is success by house plants governed by?

One's careful management of light, temperature, water, nutrients, and humidity, along with using the proper potting medium

2. What can too little light result in?

Too little light can result in tall, lanky, small-leafed plants

3. What can too much light result in?

Too much light can cause leafburn on sensitive species like African Violet

4. What should be used if the room is not naturally lighted?

Artificial lights should be used. A 100-watt table lamp can be used about three feet above plants. Specially built fluorescent plant lights or plant flood lamps are available. Either fluorescent or incandescent plant lights are satisfactory for growing plants.

5. Where should plants not be placed?

Avoid placing plants in hot spots or cold drafts

6. How should plants be watered?

Thoroughly watered and then allowed to nearly dry before the next irrigation. Use tepid water when watering houseplants. Enough water needs to be poured over the potting medium to allow water to drain freely through the drain hole at every watering. If water does not drain out the bottom, rewater until it drains freely. Never leave a houseplant standing in water, as this will cause the roots to rot.

7. How should you water a plant in a drainless pot?

Pour water in the top of the drainless pot until it comes to no more than 1/3 to 1/2 of the distance from the surface of the potting medium to the brim of the pot. Let this percolate before adding any more water. If it percolates slowly, use no more water

8. When is it easiest to fertilize house plants?

The easiest way to fertilize your houseplants is while watering

9. What determines the frequency at which plants should be fertilized?

Fertilizer frequency varies with season, amount of light, temperature, plant species, and potting medium

10. What do most plant problems result from?

Most problems result from too little or too much water

11. When do yellow dropping leaves generally occur?

Yellow, dropping leaves usually occur when a plant is brought from the moist, warm, brightly-lit conditions of a greenhouse into the home where it must adjust to the new environment

12. What can browning of leaves be caused by?

Browning of leaf margins is usually caused by too little water, too much fertilizer, windburn, or sunburn

13. What can pale foliage and stunted growth indicate?

Pale foliage and stunted growth can indicate too little fertilizer or that the plant has been in the pot too long and is rootbound

14. How often should you check your plants to see if they are root bound?

Invert the pot with the plant stem between the fingers. Then gently tap the pot top against a solid object. The root mass should slip into your hand for examination.

15. What can you do if insects are a problem?

Submerging the plants in a tub of water for about 30 minutes may cause the insects to rise to the surface of the water where they can be skimmed off

16. What are the common pests found on house plants?

Aphids (plant lice), mealybugs (cottony), Spider mites

17. How can you get rid of these pests?

Insecticides properly diluted and applied will eliminate most infestations, showering your houseplants once or twice a month will help control these tiny pests.

18. How can you keep your plants looking nice?

An occasional "shower" will benefit most plants

19. What are some plants that beginners can try? (Name 5)

Aluminum Plant (*Pilea cadierei*)  
Anthurium (*Anthurium x ferrierense* cvs.)  
Aralia, False (*Schefflera elegantissima*)  
Arrowhead Vine (*Syngonium podophyllum*)  
Artillery Plant (*Pilea microphylla*)

## Houseplant Care - HLA-6411



20. What are the watering and light requirements for these plants?

Low to Medium Light