



**Clifton**  
NURSERIES

## **GENERAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE – INDOOR PLANTS**

### **POSITION**

Before making your selection of an indoor plant, first find out what its living environment will be like. The one most important factor in keeping plants alive indoors is the amount of light available. All plants need natural daylight to survive, although thankfully some require less light than others. Even though windows in the room may be large, the amount of light entering them can be affected by the following factors: trees outside causing shade, blinds or curtains and the aspect of the sun. It is a complete waste of time and money to take home a plant which has little or no chance of survival, so however much you have fallen for a particular variety, if it is not suitable for your room, leave it alone. It will be much more satisfying in the long run to choose an alternative which can thrive and develop. Extremes of heat and cold are not generally desirable, so avoid placing plants in draughts or near the heat of radiators or strong, direct sunlight.

### **WATER**

Watering is another crucial factor in the care of plants. It is better to under water than over water, but better still to get it completely right. Specific plant instructions should be adhered to. Plants may not require watering at regular intervals. Feeling the surface of compost is a method of determining a plant's readiness as is, with smaller plants, feeling their weight. Most plants prefer to be watered thoroughly and allowed to dry a little, than being constantly given small amounts of water. Don't be afraid **NOT** to water a plant if you think that it does not require it. The plant's watering needs will often change with the seasons, usually absorbing more water during the spring and summer growing period.

### **FEEDING**

Fertilising plants can be an important factor in ensuring that specimens remain healthy. Dilution rates of various available products should always be followed strictly as more damage can be done to a plant by over feeding than by not feeding at all. Never feed a plant when the compost is very dry, as this may scorch the roots. It is generally unnecessary to feed plants through the winter months. Feeding becomes very important in a situation where one has arrived at the final pot size for a plant specimen, i.e. largest pot size desired or available.