

## Plant Preparation for spring – 8 Aug 2021

We spend more than 90% of our time indoors, and now more than ever with perpetual lockdowns. Because of this, our plant companions are indispensable: to clean air, make our spaces beautiful, keep us company and maintain a healthy interior environment.

Although we are still in a winter period of inactivity for houseplants, there are some steps we can take to maintain their well-being and prepare them to wake up and for the growth to come.

### Considerations:

- The days are getting longer and the light brighter – do you need to move light-sensitive plants away from windows?
- It is dry indoors – keep your plants in clusters so they can share humidity
- Cleaning the leaves – dust accumulates, especially during our excessive time indoors in winter
- Check pots from underneath or carefully examine by lifting the plant out of the pot – is it root-bound? If so, make a list of your plants in order of priority to re-pot in spring
- Make a list of supplies for spring's arrival: fertiliser, fresh potting soil or proper growing medium, new pots – maybe one size up from existing collection, small pots and glass bottles & jars for spring propagation, etc
- Top up pots – remove thin layer of topsoil and add a fresh amount, about 1 – 1.5 cm
- Flush salt build up by watering heavily and allowing to drain completely
- Seed starting – cold weather vegetables and early spring flowers, for balcony/patio
- Plants differ as much as people – research and understand your plants based on individual needs and preferences, enjoy learning about plant origin and habitat

### To come in spring:

- Fertilise from mid Sept/Oct – March, once a month or as prescribed for plant variety
- Prune spent flowers, diseased or dead leaves. Cut back leggy or misshapen growth.
- Repot – root prune and use same pot with new soil, or upgrade to slightly larger pot
- Divide or propagate

Favourite plant sharing – do you have a favourite plant right now?