

 Extension
 UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Low Maintenance Houseplants

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Why are Houseplants?

- Pre-selected for indoor conditions
 - Evergreen
 - Low Light (comparatively)
 - Durable
- Come from warm climates
 - Jungle – dark and wet
 - Desert – sunny and dry



"Le Grand Voyage" by Dominique Appia

There are bad houseplants.



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What is 'low maintenance'?

Choose the right plants

- Know your space
 - Light
- Know your habits
 - Water



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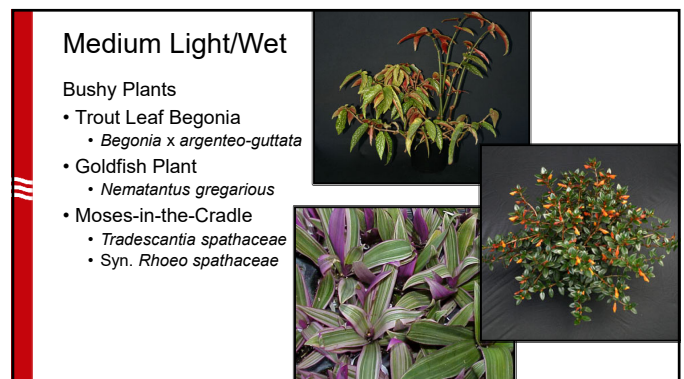
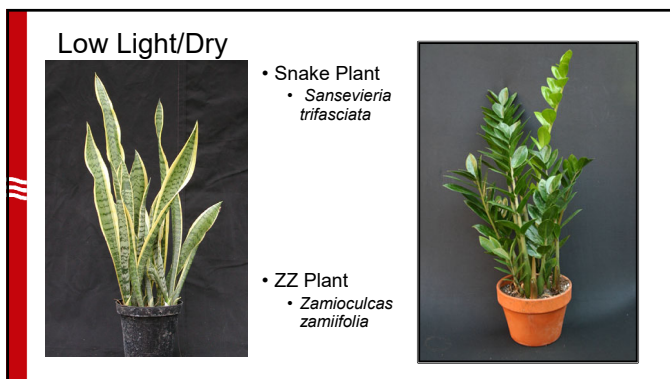
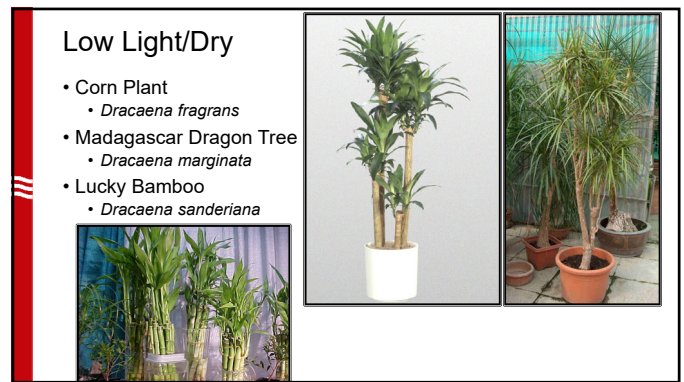
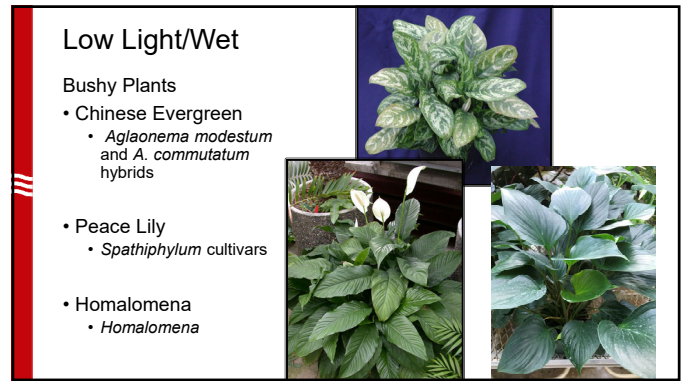
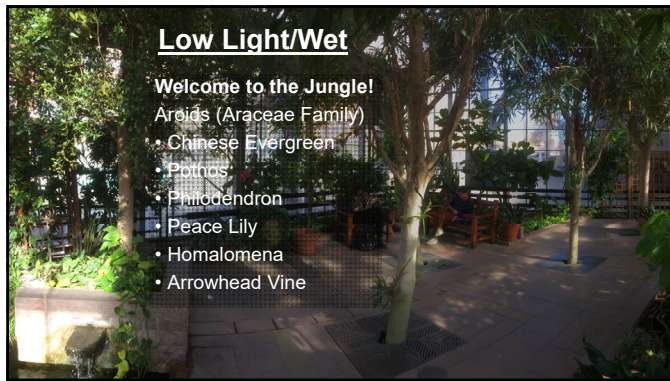
Identify Your Style

Watering Habits

Available Light	<u>Attentive</u> Frequent	<u>Neglectful</u> Seldom
	High Light Wet	High Light Dry
South or West Facing or with Grow Lights	High Light Wet	High Light Dry
East Facing	Medium Light Wet	Medium Light Dry
North facing or interior	Low light Wet	Low light Dry

Things to remember

- More Sun, More Flowers
 - Plants that will **tolerate** low light will often **thrive** in brighter conditions
 - Increased growth
 - Improved flowering
 - Improved color of variegated leaves
- Even indoors, we feel the change of the seasons
 - With less natural light growth slows down
 - Reduce water and stop fertilizing in winter
 - This resting period is essential for certain species to flower



Medium Light/Wet

Hanging Baskets

- Waffle Plant/Red Ivy
 - *Hemigraphis alternata*
- Spider Plant
 - *Chlorophytum comosum*
- Swedish Ivy
 - *Plectranthus australis*



Medium Light/Wet

- Zebra Plant/Inch Plant
 - *Tradescantia zebrina*
 - *Syn. Zebrina pendula*
- Baby Bunny Bellies
 - *Tradescantia chrysophylla*
- Turtle Vine
 - *Callisia repens*



Medium Light/Wet

More Hanging Baskets

- Babies Tears
 - *Pilea depressa*
- Silver Sparkles
 - *Pilea glauca* (?)



Medium Light/Dry

Bushy Plants

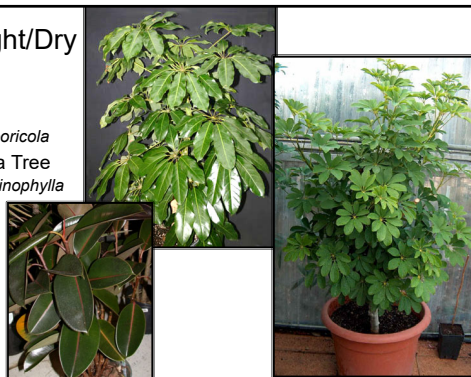
- Felted Pepper-face
 - *Peperomia incana*
- Baby Rubber Plant
 - *Peperomia obtusifolia*
- Red-Edge Peperomia
 - *Peperomia clusiifolia*



Medium Light/Dry

Trees

- Umbrella Tree
 - *Schefflera arboricola*
- Dwarf Umbrella Tree
 - *Schefflera actinophylla*
- Rubber Plant
 - *Ficus elastica*



High Light/Wet

- Parlor Palm
 - *Chamaedorea elegans*
- Tahitian Bridal Veil
 - *Gibasis geniculata*



High Light/Dry

High and Dry
Cactus

- *Mammillaria* spp.



High Light/Dry

Euphorbia

- Crown of Thorns
 - *Euphorbia milii* var. *splendens*
- Pencil Cactus
 - *Euphorbia tirucalli*
- African Milk Bush
 - *Euphorbia trigona*



High Light/Dry

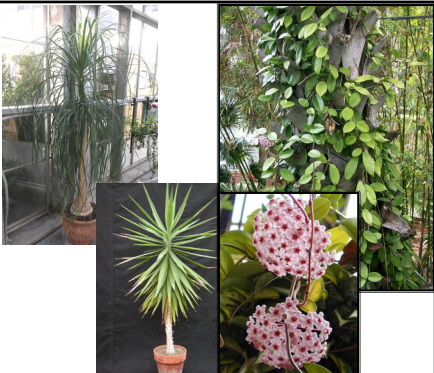
Succulents

- Century Plant
 - *Agave Americana*
- Aloe
 - *Aloe vera*
- Jade Plant
 - *Crassula ovata*



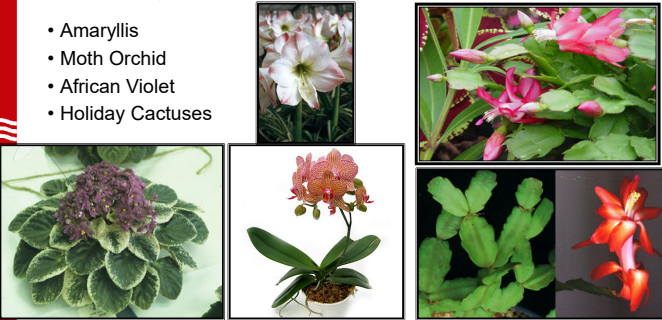
High Light/Dry

- Ponytail Palm
 - *Beaucarnea recurvate*
- Yucca
 - *Yucca elephantipes*
- Wax Plant
 - *Hoya carnosa*



Flowering Plants that are Worth the Effort

- Amaryllis
- Moth Orchid
- African Violet
- Holiday Cactuses



Resources

- The House Plant Expert. By D.G. Hessayon
- Indoor Plants by George G. Briggs and Clyde L. Calvin