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Plant picks

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PLANT PICKS

by MYRA KRIEGER-COEN

WHO SAID A GUY CAN'T GROW SOME PLANTS EVERY NOW AND THEN? WHEN IT COMES TO GARDENING, HERE AT *SIR*, WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THE PERFECT MIX OF LOW MAINTENANCE AND COOL STYLE. HERE'S HOW TO GET SOME REALLY COOL PLANTS, MAN.

Let's start with plants that take hard work and dedication—to kill.

Well, usually.

When he started growing plants in his Welch Hall dorm room, Will Ries, junior in horticulture and landscape design, admits he was unsure of his abilities, once before having killed a cactus. "My biggest fear with houseplants was that I didn't know what I was doing," said Ries. "You might kill a couple, but then you'll know. It's all trial and error."

When bringing nature into your man cave, skip the mold and grow something worth it. Here's a breakdown:

FOOD

Basil. "It's very easy, very forgiving," said Mike Christiansen, manager of Ames Earl May Nursery & Garden Center. "They'll want sunshine but can handle

cooler temperatures, too, down to around 60 degrees." We also recommend *mint*, for a refreshing addition to drinks.

FUN

Blue agave. Afraid your buddies will give you a hard time if you take up gardening as a hobby? Not if you're raising a blue agave—the plant used to make tequila, adorned with badass spikes. Being a desert plant, they're hard to kill, but keep them under control. Ries said they are able to grow fairly large, which might look cool but will definitely hurt if you fall into it after a night out.*

FERN-ICATION

Ferns. No guarantees having some leaves in your room will get you laid, but there's probably some truth in some women enjoying plants, right? If for nothing other

than aesthetic purposes, then buy a fern. Also try tropical varieties. Despite popular belief, tropical plants don't require any more attention than desert plants, Ries said. Just make sure not to pull a Matthew McConaughey and kill off your lady's "love fern." Or maybe do; he did land Kate Hudson in that movie, after all. And if you want the absolute easiest desert route, there's always a *cactus*, a *succulent* or a *bamboo plant*.

If you're unsure about growing plants, Ries suggests heading to a garden center and nursery where experts can help pick the right plant for you. "Don't hesitate to call or even bring a plant in," Christiansen said. "We have three or four people who are really specialized with house plants."



*Sir confirms the last part of this statement.