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Cultivate Charm In Your Room

Jackie Andre
Iowa State College

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Cultivate Charm
In Your Room

by Jackie Andre
Technical Journalism Sophomore

PLANTS WITH personality can brighten your room all year long. You don’t need a green thumb—even amateurs can add color to their room in this inexpensive way.

What Kind of Plant Best Fits Your Room?

Maybe you want velvet leaf, bowstring hemp, varigated screw pine, Moses in the cradle, or the artillery plant which shoots out blossoms periodically. Or perhaps you’d prefer the devil’s ivy, the watermelon plant, the fountain plant or the cast iron plant. You might add a friend to your room in the form of the friendship plant. And there are other unique species with names depicting their characteristics—the baby tears plant, the umbrella plant, the sensitive plant, the airplane and hearts on a swing.

What Do These Plants Look Like?

The umbrella plant, for instance, is a native of aquatic areas, but as a house plant, can add individuality to your room. Tall stems are adorned at the top with leaves in the form of an umbrella. The umbrella even has a “floral design” at the top formed by a small ring of flowers.

The sensitive plant causes a “sensation” anywhere. The slightest vibration including touch sends this plant into a state of “complete composure” for about an hour. The leaves are made up of many tiny leaflets resembling those of the locust tree. A pink, floss-like flower adds beauty to the sensitive plant.

Another novelty in the house plant world is the airplane plant with its runners leading out where new plants form. The overall illusion is that of many tiny airplanes from one base.

The English ivy is one of the most popular house plants, particularly in the midwest. The “Ivy League” in the East gets its name from this plant which climbs walls of the buildings in that part of the country. Because the climate of the midwest is not such that the English ivy can climb walls of buildings, many plant lovers take the dark green vine indoors.

How do you Successfully Cultivate Healthy Plants Indoors?

To start a plant, a small cutting can be taken from an older plant. Cut with a sharp knife just below the node (where the leaves grow out). Then insert this small cutting in moist sand. After root formation, the cuttings can be placed in small pots containing fertilized soil. To keep the cutting healthy, conditions must be maintained similar to those the plant would experience in nature. Temperature must be lower at night. Humidity should be high. Plants also fall into categories according to light. Some need only a few hours of light each day while others need many hours. Often artificial light might be supplemented.

The college green houses offer a world of creeping, tumbling, shooting plants—tough, sturdy plants and delicate, frothy plants. If a long winter quarter finds you sick of your dormitory room, add a fresh personality—plant personality.