

5 Houseplants That Won't Waste Your Money



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Ever since the pandemic began, I slowly started buying houseplants. I'd scour my favorite online nurseries and pounce when they had a sale or [coupon code](#) up for grabs. Of course, I

already had some plants before the COVID situation, but adding more made my home feel cozier, livelier.

When buying [plants](#), I always opt for the smallest size because smaller plants are cheaper. I don't mind starting with tiny nursery plants. I feel accomplished when they start to outgrow their small pots. Still, it's a huge bummer when houseplants you've spent money on wilt and die.

I've been caring for a host of new plants this past year, and I can tell you which are worth your time and [money](#). Here are 5 houseplants that won't waste your money.

Snake Plant

When buying houseplants, I always look for ones that will fit my interior environment and my lifestyle. I have three types of lighting situations: two very sunny rooms, one partially shaded room, and another with very little light. When it comes to watering, I'm forgetful (but I have a handy app that reminds me when to care for my plants!) and prefer to fill my home with low-maintenance plants. Snake plants are the ultimate low-maintenance plants. They're also supremely attractive and give off a tropical vibe without needing specialized care.

Prayer Plant

Prayer plants provide a huge visual impact. Their showy leaves come in a variety of colors. The plants are also pretty easy to maintain. They like a lot of moisture, so they need frequent watering. If you tend to overwater your plants, prayer plants are a great option because it's tough to overwater them. They also don't mind partial shade conditions.

Zebra Plant

Buying manageable houseplants doesn't mean you're stuck with

visually boring specimens. I love the attractive stripey leaves on this plant. Zebra plants also require a lot of moisture, but the great thing about them is that they'll tell you when they're thirsty. The leaves immediately droop when it's time for watering—a handy signal for the forgetful gardener.

Calathea

These come in a slew of varieties, and they're all gorgeous. Calatheas can handle low light and have moderate watering needs. In my experience, they're pretty tough to kill!

Sword fern

A lot of people have trouble with ferns. I've heard past wisdom that they're fairly difficult to care for. I've had the opposite experience. As long as you provide them with plenty of water and keep the soil moist, they're happy. They also don't mind shade and actually prefer to be out of direct sunlight.

Quick plant care tips

I use an app that reminds me when it's time to water each of my plants. Previously, I'd water them all on the same schedule, which is a no-no. It's tough to remember each plant's individual needs, though. I suggest creating a spreadsheet with a watering schedule to help you get used to each plant's needs. Add reminders to your calendar, planner, or phone, so you don't forget.

Always have a [watering can](#)—any cheap one will do!—on hand, so you can water at a moment's notice.

I have two watering cans at the ready at all times. One is for watering, and the other contains liquid fertilizer. Having them both prepped and ready to go means I never skip out on

plant care tasks.

Container Gardening: Fabric Pots vs. Plastic Pots



CONTAINER GARDENING:

Fabric Pots vs. Plastic Pots

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I love to plant crops in containers, especially finicky plants like eggplant and peppers. I use a variety of containers in my

garden, including fabric pots. If it gets too cold, it's simple enough to haul them inside. Containers are also great for those living in rental properties or those with limited space. It's easy to shuffle them around a deck or balcony and you can manage to plant quite a bit in multiple containers. I've collected many [plastic pots](#) from the garden center over the years. I reuse them to plant herbs, tomatoes, and whatever doesn't fit in the rest of my garden. But plastic pots have their pros and cons, and they aren't the only option for your gardening needs.

The Trouble With Plastic

Black plastic pots are great for heat-loving plants because the dark material is a heat magnet. What's not so great about plastic? Unless you've purchased self-watering containers, plastic pots require careful monitoring so that plants are evenly watered. Without proper drainage, plants may become root-bound or drown if [over-watered](#) (always make sure there are drainage holes underneath). Plastic doesn't breathe very well, either. Imagine wrapping yourself in a sheet of plastic instead of breathable clothing. You'd end up a sweaty, suffocated mess.

That doesn't mean plastic pots aren't useful. They're typically very inexpensive, easy to find, and they're available in all shapes and sizes. But there's already SO much plastic in the world. If there's a worthy alternative, why not try it? By choosing a different type of plant pot, you can reduce your ecological footprint and stop creating unnecessary plastic waste.

An Alternative: Fabric Pots

You could use any pot for planting, but fabric pots offer a few distinct advantages:

- **They're relatively cheap.** Often sold in packs, fabric containers are a suitable option for frugal gardeners.
- **They last a long time.** Cracked plastic and broken ceramic pots begone! Fabric pots are made of sturdy materials that won't rip, even when filled with wet soil. Re-use them year after year.
- **They're breathable.** The fabric allows for optimal airflow.
- **No water-logging.** You won't have to contend with rotted roots using fabric pots, the material allows for proper drainage.
- **Easy to handle.** Handles make it easy to drag fabric pots around the garden.
- **Foldable sides.** Fabric pots are ideal for growing [potatoes](#) since the edges can be rolled down.

If you're looking for a good beginner's guide to growing in pots, I highly recommend the [Vegetable Gardener's Container Garden](#). It's a book that I still refer back to!

I also recommend checking out this handy YouTube video on how to grow potatoes in containers:

What's your favorite vegetable to grow in fabric pots? Leave us a comment to let us know!

5 Plants That Easily Grow in Water



5 PLANTS THAT

Easily Grow in Water

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Potting up plants is a messy business. Even when I'm being careful, I manage to get soil everywhere.

One of my favorite plants in my home, though, requires no soil at all. I bought the plant at the grocery store several years ago for about \$3 and today, it's almost as tall as me! All it needs is water to flourish.

Sounds too good to be true, right?

But I'm absolutely serious. It's possible to grow plants without soil. This is something that air plant enthusiasts already know. There are a host of plants that grow in water.

Plants That Grow in Water

Most people think of houseplants as soil-bound creatures, but not every plant needs the earth to survive. Many plants actually thrive in water. Here are five plants that grow in water.

Lucky Bamboo

My [lucky bamboo](#) plant is my pride and joy. I brought it home several years ago and never thought it would become as big as it has. I simply filled up a vase with rocks and pebbles, set the bamboo inside, and topped it off with water. The plant has been growing like a weed ever since! While some sources might caution against using regular ole' tap water to satisfy a bamboo plant's thirst, my plant has gotten by just fine with it.

Did you know that lucky bamboo is also pet safe? It's an ideal low-maintenance plant that's non-toxic to dogs, cats, and birds.

Pothos

Also known as Devil's Ivy, this trailing plant grows exceptionally well in water. Unlike bamboo, though, pothos plants require some fertilization. Any all-purpose liquid

fertilizer should do the trick. In my experience, pothos plants don't need too much attention, so they're another excellent choice for busy plant lovers.

Philodendron

My heart-leaf [philodendron](#) is one of my favorite houseplants because it requires so little care. It's a stunning hanging plant that does well in water. If you plan to grow it in water, though, make sure to change the water frequently and check for algae growth.

Dracaena

This woody-stemmed plant is also well suited for growing in water. Filtered water is best, and it should be changed frequently to prevent algae growth. It's a fairly big plant, so pick out a large vessel to support it.

English Ivy

It's possible to grow English ivy cuttings in a glass jar or vase. It'll take a long time before the plant is ready to transplant into soil. It's a quick-growing trailing plant, so it's great for hanging planters. Add ivy to the top of a bookshelf and let the vine trail down for a wild effect.

Propagation

You can also propagate many indoor plants using water. This entails taking cuttings from an existing plant and rooting the piece in water. It can take some time for the roots to develop, but once they do, you just need to plant the piece in soil.

It's an easy way to create more greenery for your home. You can also propagate new plants to [share](#) with friends and family. Some people also like to swap cuttings by mail.