

Spider Plant Care

Despite their creepy-crawly name, **spider plants** (*Chlorophytum comosum*) are among the most popular houseplants to grow. Spider plants are moderately fast-growing plants. Their rosettes of slender, gently arching leaves stretch from around 12 to 18 inches long.

Here are the main care requirements for growing spider plants:

- Plant in moist, loamy soil with good drainage.
- Prefers to grow in light shade.
- Does well in containers
- Water and fertilize regularly throughout the growing season (spring to fall).
- Thrives in warm and humid conditions.

Light

Outdoors, spider plants prefer to grow in light shade. They tolerate heavy shade, but their growth won't be as robust. Direct sunlight scorches the leaves. Indoors, a bright window or patio door that gets indirect sun is ideal.

Soil

These plants grow in a variety of soil types, but they favor loose, loamy soil with sharp drainage. Spider plant prefers a fairly neutral soil pH but tolerates slightly acidic to slightly alkaline soil.

Water

Spider plants like lightly moist but not soggy soil. Overwatering causes root rot and ultimately kills the plant. These plants are sensitive to fluoride and chlorine in water, which may brown the leaf tips. If possible, use rainwater or distilled water for container plants. The fleshy tubers retain moisture well, so inconsistent watering, while not ideal, won't harm spider plants too much.

Temperature and Humidity

Spider plants need warm, humid conditions. They won't tolerate temperatures below 50°F and should be protected from drafts and air-conditioning vents. Try to closely mimic their native warm, tropical, and humid environment and maintain a humidity level of 50 to 60%, which is best achieved with a room humidifier.

Fertilizer

These plants like a moderate amount of feeding, roughly once a month during the active growing seasons of spring and summer. Too much fertilizer causes brown leaf tips, but too little fertilizer will result in weak growth. Use an all-purpose granular or water-soluble fertilizer during the growing season, following label instructions. Adjust the amount if necessary, depending on your plant's growth. Don't fertilize the plant in the winter when it goes semi-dormant.