



Leafmend

HONEST. VERIFIED.

30-Day Houseplant Care Calendar

A no-nonsense daily and weekly schedule for healthy houseplants.
Research-based. Pet-safety verified. No fluff.

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Most houseplants don't die from neglect. They die from over-attention — too much water, too much fertilizer, repotting at the wrong time. This calendar is built around the opposite philosophy: do the right small things consistently, and skip the rest.

The four weekly tasks

- **Inspection (5 min)** — check leaf undersides for pests, look for yellowing or drooping early.
- **Watering decision (varies)** — not a schedule. Stick a finger 1-2 inches into the soil. If it's dry, water. If it's moist, wait.
- **Leaf cleaning (10 min)** — wipe dust from large-leaf plants with a damp cloth. Dust blocks light absorption.
- **Pest scan (3 min)** — look for spider-mite webbing, mealybug white spots, fungus gnats around soil.

The three monthly tasks

- **Fertilize (growing season only)** — half-strength liquid every 3-4 weeks April through September. Skip in winter.
- **Rotate pots a quarter turn** — encourages even growth toward light.
- **Note changes** — new leaves? Browning? Track for the next month's decisions.

Important: Watering frequency is NOT a fixed schedule. The calendar below says "Check watering" — it does NOT say "Water today." Always finger-test first.

Week 1 — Establish the Routine

The first week, you're learning each plant's signals. Note what looks normal so you can spot changes later.

Day 1
Mon **Inspection** — walk through your collection, look at every leaf top + underside. Note baseline color, posture, any existing issues.

Day 2
Tue **Light audit** — identify each plant's light position. South/east/west/north window? Which plants are too far from light?

Day 3
Wed **Check watering** — finger-test every plant. Water only the dry ones. Empty drip trays 15-30 min after watering.

Day 4
Thu **Leaf cleaning** — wipe dust from monstera, fiddle leaf fig, rubber tree, peace lily. Dust = blocked light.

Day 5
Fri **Pest scan** — magnifying glass on leaf undersides. Look for spider-mite webbing, mealybug white spots, fungus gnat adults.

Day 6
Sat **Rest day** — let the plants do their thing. Observe without intervening.

Day 7
Sun **Weekly review + fertilize decision** — if it's growing season (Apr-Sep), light fertilize liquid half-strength on plants that have been in current soil 3+ months.

Week 2 — Tune Watering

By now you should know roughly which plants dry fast (terra cotta, hot windows, small pots) vs slow (plastic pots, cool rooms, large containers).

Day 8
Mon **Check watering** — finger-test all. Note which plants needed water vs last week (faster or slower?).

Day 9
Tue **Adjust positions** — move any plant showing leaf-yellowing (light burn or low-light symptom) closer or farther from window.

Day 10
Wed **Mister + moss pole maintenance** — mist orchid aerial roots, dampen moss poles on monstera/philodendron.

Day 11
Thu **Check watering** — finger-test. Some plants may still be wet from Day 8.

Day 12
Fri **Pest scan** — weekly recheck leaf undersides. Early detection makes treatment 10x easier.

Day 13
Sat **Leaf cleaning** — large leaves again. Optional: rotate each plant a quarter turn for even growth.

Day 14
Sun **Weekly review** — any new growth? Any concerns? Note in a journal or phone note for next month's reference.

Week 3 — Notice Problems Early

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Most plant deaths happen because warning signs were missed in week 3-4. Catch issues before they become emergencies.

Day 15
Mon **Check watering + drainage** — pull a pot to look at the drainage hole. Standing water? Salt buildup on rim? Fix.

Day 16
Tue **Symptom triage** — any yellow leaves, brown tips, drooping? Diagnose: overwatering / underwatering / nutrient / pest? See troubleshooting guides.

Day 17
Wed **Mister + moss pole** — orchids, aroid moss poles, any plant showing brown leaf tips (often low humidity).

Day 18
Thu **Check watering** — finger-test all. By now you should rarely water a plant that's not actually dry.

Day 19
Fri **Pest scan** — same routine. Repeat builds the habit.

Day 20
Sat **Rest day or repot day** — if any plant has been root-bound for 12+ months and is in growing season, today is a good day to repot one size up.

Day 21
Sun **Weekly review + monthly fertilize** — if it's been ~3-4 weeks since last fertilize, do a light feeding (growing season only).

Week 4 — Refine and Reflect

Final week of the cycle. The goal: end the month with healthier plants than you started, and a routine that's automatic for next month.

Day 22
Mon **Inspection** — compare to Day 1 baseline. New leaves? Color shifts? Photo if you want a before/after.

Day 23
Tue **Check watering** — finger-test. Some plants slow down water-uptake as days get longer/shorter (seasonal shift).

Day 24
Wed **Mister + moss pole** — routine maintenance.

Day 25
Thu **Quarantine check** — if you bought a new plant this month, it should still be isolated. Inspect for pests before integrating with collection.

Day 26
Fri **Leaf cleaning + pest scan** — combine into one session.

Day 27
Sat **Rest day** — do nothing. The plants are fine.

Day 28
Sun **Monthly review** — what worked? What didn't? Adjust the routine for next month based on what you learned about YOUR plants in YOUR space.

Day 29
Mon **Final inspection** — everything healthy? Then proceed to next cycle Day 1.

Day 30
Tue **Celebrate** — you've completed a full month of consistent care. The plants are noticing.

Species Quick Reference

Care needs and ASPCA pet-safety verification for 9 most-popular houseplants. Full guides on Leafmend.

SPECIES	LIGHT	WATER	PET SAFETY
Spider Plant Chlorophytum comosum	Bright indirect	Dry between	PET-SAFE
Calathea Calathea spp.	Filtered, no direct sun	Keep evenly moist	PET-SAFE
Phalaenopsis Orchid Phalaenopsis spp.	Bright indirect, east window	Ice cube weekly	PET-SAFE
Monstera Deliciosa Monstera deliciosa	Bright indirect	Dry top 1-2 in	TOXIC
Snake Plant Dracaena trifasciata	Low to bright	Very dry between	TOXIC
Pothos Epipremnum aureum	Low to bright	Dry top 1-2 in	TOXIC
Peace Lily Spathiphyllum	Low light tolerant	Tells you when thirsty	TOXIC
Philodendron Philodendron spp.	Medium to bright	Dry top inch	TOXIC
Aloe Vera Aloe barbadensis	Bright direct sun	Very infrequent deep	TOXIC

ASPCA verification: Every pet-safety verdict here is sourced from the ASPCA Toxic and Non-Toxic Plants database, the gold standard for pet-plant safety. Always re-verify for your specific species variation before bringing a plant home.



Want more honest plant guides?

Every species we cover is ASPCA-verified for pet safety. Every buyer's guide is honest about when you DON'T need the product.

Find species guides, troubleshooting, and gear recommendations on:

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