

# Houseplants



Houseplants, also known as a potted plants or indoor plants, are plants that are grown indoors in a container. These plants have adapted to thrive in small containers in environments they are not naturally found in. Most houseplants are tropical and semi-tropical and flourish in warm climates.

Houseplants can help improve air quality and humidity in our homes. They can also help reduce stress by creating a peaceful and beautiful environment. There are over 10,000 species that are grown and sold at garden centers and online shops for us to enjoy in our homes, classrooms, and offices.



The practice of growing plants in pots goes back to ancient times, but it became a popular hobby in the Victorian Era. During this time, explorers brought back unique plants from the far away lands they had explored. With updates in technology allowing homes to remain warmer, these plants were able to thrive indoors, even in the winter. Ferns were very popular because of their dense, luxurious foliage.



**Just like outdoor plants, indoor plants require the right light, temperature, humidity levels, and soil to survive. The right size and shape of the container is important because each type of plant has a different root system. Since these plants live in small containers, it is also important to add nutrients to the soil as needed.**

# Meet David Wessels

Central Illinois Interiorscape  
Bloomington, IL



## Tell us about your business.

I am a landscape contractor who specializes in interior landscaping. I design, install, and maintain tropical plants inside buildings in central Illinois. I founded the business in 1994 after moving here from Chicago, where I worked in the landscape industry for 12 years.

## How do you choose what plants to use and where to place them?

The most important factor for interior plants is light level factors. Plants inside buildings need to be located near windows or in areas with bright artificial light to maintain foliage.

## How do the plants get the water and nutrients they need if they are potted indoors?

I provide the proper water to the plants as part of my service to my clients. Most plants have an appropriate slow-release fertilizer mixed into the soil. Once the plants are inside their location, they need very small amounts of fertilizer to continue to thrive.

## Where do you get the plants?

All of the plants that I use are grown in south Florida. I use a plant broker to advise me on which plants are suitable for shipment for my use. The plants are delivered by trucking firms that use climate-controlled semi trailers.

## What is your role in maintaining the plants once they are potted in their locations in businesses?

I service most clients' plants weekly to water, trim, or remove dead leaves. Plants that decline in appearance are replaced as needed. I work hard to make sure my clients get to enjoy their interior plants for many years.

