

The light pyramid:

Where should you place your plant?

Direct, intense sunlight: Ideal for cacti, succulents, and other full-sun plants.

Bright, indirect light: Most indoor plants thrive here.

Moderate to low indirect light: Suitable for species adapted to shadier environments.

Darkness (or light too dim to read a book by): The plant will die.



1 [1] Direct sunlight

Cacti, succulents, and other full-sun plants.



2 [2] Bright light

Ficus, Bird of Paradise, ivies, Areca palm, Alocasias, and orchids.



3 [3] Medium light

Anthuriums, Monstera, Philodendrons, Calatheas, and Marantas.



4 [4] Low light

Ferns, Fittonias, Dracaenas, Snake plants (Sansevieria), ZZ plants (Zamioculcas), Aspidistras, Aglaonemas, Pothos, and Peace lilies (Spathiphyllum).



5 [5] No light (darkness)

Plants cannot survive in these conditions; they will die.



No natural light
(insufficient light for plant growth)



Low indirect light →
(low light)



Medium indirect light →
(medium light)



Bright indirect light →
(bright indirect light)



Direct light / full sun →
(direct sun / full sun)





Plant priorities

Light

Light is the plant's main energy source. Without the right amount, no other care can make up for the lack of light.

Watering.

Each species has different needs. Both overwatering and underwatering can cause problems.

Soil / substrate

A good potting mix provides proper aeration, drainage, and moisture retention for the roots.

Cleaning & maintenance

Removing dry leaves, spent flowers, and wiping dust off leaves helps prevent pests and improves photosynthesis.

Environment

Temperature, humidity, and airflow all influence growth, but they are usually less critical than light and watering.

