

The club is busy in 2021 continuing its projects to improve the community garden. Watching vegetables and flowers grow and flourish is such a joy for so many of us in the club, but that started me thinking about those who have no plants at all. More specifically, no greenery inside the home. One of the most common reasons is the belief that they can't keep plants alive. I have good news. Not every houseplant requires a natural green thumb and extensive gardening expertise.

"Buy something that likes to live the way you do," advises Gwenn Fried, manager of the horticulture therapy program at NYU Langone. When you're working with a dark room, give low-light options like pothos, prayer plants, and dracaena a go. If too many rays has shriveled your plants in the past, opt for sun lovers like yucca, jade, and ponytail palm. Peace lilies and Chinese evergreen can handle the well-meaning over-waterer. If you're the set-it-and-forget-it type, ZZ plant, kalanchoe, and philodendrons might be more your speed.

Pothos--Calling all black thumbs: This trailing vine has earned the nickname "devil's ivy" for its ability to withstand nearly pitch-black conditions as well as under- and over-watering.

Chinese Money Plant--*Pilea peperomioides* grows best in a shady spot (or winter windowsill) with weekly watering, according to *The Little Book of House Plants and Other Greenery*. Bonus: You can replant the offshoots that sprout from the base of the stem and give them as gifts.

Air Plant--You can keep the potting soil in the shed for this one. *Tillandsia* grows without dirt altogether. "Just dunk them in water for about two or three hours every 10 days or so," says Tovah Martin, expert gardener and author of *The Indestructible Houseplant*.

Peace Lily--If you're prone to overwatering, try *Spathiphyllum*. Peace lilies can "almost grow in a fish tank," Fried says. With enough light, they'll also produce their spade-shaped flowers throughout the year.

Christmas Cactus--If you're more of a leave-it-and-forget-it type, anything in the cactus family will do, Fried says. Sold as Thanksgiving or Christmas cacti, this species produces segmented leaves and white, pink, red, or purple flowers.

Fun Fact: Butterflies taste with their feet.

Diane Harris-Secretary