

# House Plants Easy To Grow

By KAY SHERWOOD  
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

The current enthusiasm among fashionable interior decorators for masses of greenery within the home will strike many homemakers as pretty funny.

They can't imagine a home without a sunny window full of cheerful flowers and greenery tucked wherever possible, fashionable or not.

But the fact remains that the emphasis on plants as important decorative accessories has spurred some of us to test the green thumb and look with new interest on planters and the modern versions of ferneries and plant stands.

My own attempts to produce that lush look of tropical splendor so acclaimed these days have not been a complete success.

Then I met the parlor palm and a hardy ivy that restored my self-confidence. The parlor palm, I am convinced, will grow anywhere under any conditions—a splendid plant for me.

In the interests of better educated "green thumbs," the gardening experts of a national association drew up these reminders for us:

**Light**—Plants that will bear flowers or fruit need direct sun for best development. Most foliage plants do well without direct sun but must have strong natural light (or artificial light) to grow properly.

If you use sun-loving plants to decorate a dim part of the room, move them into sunlight for three hours daily.

**Temperature**—Most plants thrive best in rooms heated no higher than 70-75 degrees by day and 65 at night. Some plants can stand higher temperatures than others; let your plant dealer or florist advise on this point.

**Humidity**—Plants like high humidity. Offset dryness of rooms in winter by setting potted plants in trays or saucers of pebbles and keep a constant water level just below base of pots. In planters or decorative cache pots, put a layer of pebbles about inch in the base, set porous clay pots on pebbles and fill in around them with peat moss and keep moss damp.

**Water**—Each plant needs individual attention. Touch topsoil with fingertip. If soil feels dry, water thoroughly. If soil feels moist, don't water.

**Fresh Air**—All plants must have fresh air every day. They will do better if not subject to drafts (thank heavens, the parlor palm can't read). A preferred treatment is to open a window in an adjoining room for 15 minutes every day.

**Cleanliness**—House plants with glossy or leathery foliage should be washed every week with clear water. Use a small laundry spray or the dish spray in your kitchen sink.

**Food**—Give plants a monthly feeding of a soluble houseplant food mixed according to package directions. Use good potting soil, either a prepared ready-made one or mix your own using equal parts of garden loam, sand, plus leafmold or peatmoss.

**Pest Control**—Be on the alert for possible insects. As a precaution, you might spray plants once a month. Pushbutton cans of insecticides made for use on house plants are convenient but you can mix your own spray. Be sure to spray undersides of leaves as well as on top.

## Kids Overhead Patter On Roof

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — If there's anything more annoying than children underfoot it's children overhead.

Alfred Schurman decided Thursday night to investigate the pitter patter of little feet on his roof. He found Phil Rader, 7, and his sister, Bobbie, 4, scampering around the roof.

The youngsters had eluded their babysitters and climbed to the roof for a short prowl.

After notifying the babysitters who were downstairs listening to jazz records, Schurman climbed up the roof and grabbed Bobbie. Phil, realizing the end of his night out, darted back through the window and climbed into bed.

Police, who were summoned by another worried neighbor, arrived at the Rader house where they found both children tucked snugly in bed.

## REDS TOUR CANADA

OTTAWA (AP) — A Communist Chinese trade delegation started a three or four month tour of Canada today amid speculation that it may be seeking wheat and other farm products.

Arrival of the two-man delegation in Montreal Thursday night coincided with a report by the official Peiping People's Daily that Red China in the past year suffered a "great calamity" with more than half its cultivated land hit by floods, drought and insect raids.

