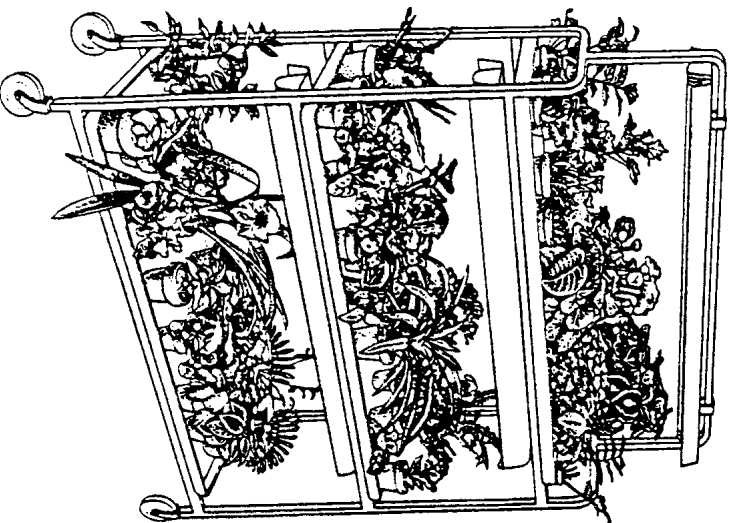


Home Grounds Fact Sheet

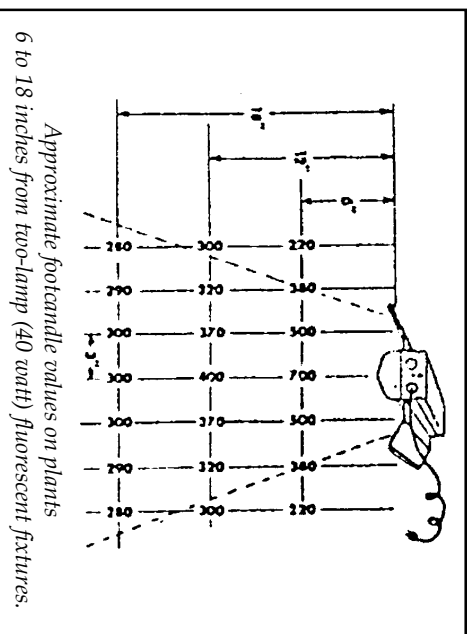
Some Plants to Grow Under Lights



When you select plants to grow under lights or when you work with plants already in your home, always group those plants that have similar light requirements. Next, select "grow" lamps that provide you with both red and blue bands of the spectrum. Fluorescent tubes will give you this, but incandescent lamps emit mostly red and Far-red light energy.

For optimum plant growth, select fluorescent. A frequently asked question is, "How long do I let the lights run?" Most tropical plants perform well with 14-16 hours of supplied lighting per day. Use a timer to assist you with scheduling. Place fluorescent tubes side by side, allowing 12-15 inches over the tops of the plants. Low light plants like philodendron and aspidistra need 15 lamp watts per square foot; high light plants (orchids, etc.) need at least 20 lamp watts per square foot.

This should help you figure out the amount of tubing you need to install. Keep in mind that the light intensity is spread out over the entire length of the tube, and as the tube ages the amount of available footcandles begins to decline. (Fluorescent tubes last longer than incandescent bulbs, are much more energy efficient, and are cooler for your plants.)



NAME	GROWN FOR BLOOM	GROWN FOR FOLIAGE	LIGHT INTENSITY PREFERRED	LENGTH HOURS PREFERRED	COMMENTS OR HANDLING DETAILS
Abutilon	X		medium	16	Keep soil moist; give cool nights.
African-violet	X		medium	12-18	Tolerates wide variations.
Anthurium	X	X	medium to high	14-18	Keep soil moist when actively growing.
Begonias (various)	X	X	medium to high	10-16	Most are easy under lights. Short days encourage bloom.
Bromeliads (various)	X	X	mostly high	15-16	Broad spectrum tubes have given good results; place plants close.
Cacti (many)	X	X	high	14-18	Broad spectrum tubes have given good results; give cool nights.
Calathea		X	medium	16	Give high humidity; keep soil moist.
Cissus (various)		X	medium	14-16	Tolerant; avoid acid soil for grape ivy.
Citrus (various)	X	X	high	14-16	For fruit set, brush pollen between blooms.
Crown of thorns	X		medium to high	10-13	Allow to dry between waterings.
Dracaenas (various)		X	low	12-15	Tolerant; keep soil moist.
English Ivy varieties		X	medium		Guard against spider mites; keep cool.
Episcia	X		high	14-16	Give high humidity, keep soil moist.
Ferns		X	medium	14-16	Give high humidity.
Ficus (various)		X	medium	14	Easy; guard against scale.
Fuchsia	X		high	18	Keep soil moist, fertilize monthly. Keep cool nights.
Gardenia	X		high	10-13	Keep soil moist.
Geraniums	X		high	14-18	Cool temperatures promote good growth, bloom.
Gloxinia	X		high	12-18	Rest tuber 2 months after bloom cycle (dry off).
Nematanthus	X		high	12-18	Keep soil barely moist. Tolerates cool temperatures (50-60°F).
Peperomia (varieties)		X	medium to high	10-16	Water only when needed - avoid overwatering!
Streptocarpus	X		medium to high	10-16	Prefers cool temperatures, below 75°F.

* **Low** = equivalent of 2 40-watt tubes, 12 or more inches above plants.
Medium = 2 40-watt tubes, 8 to 12 inches above, or 4 40-watt tubes, 12 to 30 inches above plants.
High = 4 40-watt tubes, 8 to 12 inches above plants in a 2x5 foot area.