Many common houseplant problems occur with faulty culture. However, similar symptoms can result from different causes.

SYMPTOMS

POSSIBLE CAUSES:	FOLIAGE							GROWTH					FLOWERS				
	tips or margins brown	bends down, curls	yellowish	oldest drops	all drops	spots	wilts	long, weak, thin, soft	new leaves small	none develops	plant dies	stunted	fails to develop - bud drops	color less intense	declines too fast	becomes smaller	no blooms
Excess light, i. e. exposure to direct sun can be too intense for many plants	X	X	X			X		X									
Insufficient light impairs photosynthesis and flowering			X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X		X	X
High temperature, especially at night, reduces growth and vigor, detrimental for flowering	X		X	X					X				X	X	X		X
Low temperature, especially continued exposure, is adverse to growth of plants	X			X						X	X		X				
Overwatering or **poor drainage** reduces soil aeration; roots die or water and nutrients are not absorbed	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X			
Lack of water is a most limiting factor of growth	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X		
Low humidity adversely affects the overall health and vigor of most plants	X				X				X								
Too much fertilizer becomes toxic and injures plant roots	X		X	X			X		X		X		X				
Lack of fertilizer causes a deficiency of nutrients required for plant growth	X		X					X	X				X	X		X	
Compacted soil reduces root growth and activity			X				X	X	X			X	X	X		X	
Drafts cause rapid water loss from the foliage and flowers	X		X	X	X								X		X		
Daylength controls flowering of some plants (photoperiodism)													X				X
Air pollution including an excess of manufactured or natural gas from faulty appliances		X	X	X					X				X		X		

X X Cases when low leaves first turn yellow and fall. Injury usually progresses up the stem.
X With short internodes on the stem.
XX With long stem internodes on the stem.

A-1-20 DWM:cms reviewed RT 1/03