

Houseplant Light

Practical skills

Matching a plant to a window, and what the labels actually mean.

By aspect, northern hemisphere. Reverse for the southern.

Window	Light	Suits
North	Low, indirect	Ferns, pothos, ZZ plant
East	Gentle morning sun	Most houseplants
West	Strong afternoon sun	Succulents, rubber plant
South	Bright all day	Cacti, succulents, citrus
Far from a window	Very low	Almost nothing thrives

Light drops off sharply with distance: a metre from the window can be a quarter of the light at the glass.