



## Winterize Your Houseplants

If your houseplants have been summering outside, follow these steps for a smoother transition from outdoors to inside your home:

1. In September, start a pest control program to keep unwanted insects from hitching a ride into your house and infesting other plants. Spray plants a couple of times with **ferti-lome Triple Action or ferti-lome Indoor/Outdoor Multi-Purpose Insect Spray** to make sure plants are free of pests. Spray the soil as well as the plant itself. Water monthly with **ferti-lome 20-20-20 All Purpose Water Soluble Plant Food**, liquid **ferti-lome All Purpose Houseplant Food** or **Nature's Source Plant Food** to maintain good color.
2. Prepare to move plants indoors before nights get as cool as 50°F.
3. Wash plants with water to get rid of remaining insects and disease spores.
4. Houseplants will need repotting if these conditions are present:
  - Plants wilt rapidly after watering.
  - Soil dries out quickly.
  - Roots appear on soil surface.
  - Decreasing leaf size on new growth.
5. Repotting hints:
  - Use **ferti-lome Ultimate Potting Mix** for optimum growth and drainage.
  - New pot should be no more than 2" wider than the old pot.
6. Spray again with **ferti-lome Triple Action Insect Spray** or **fertilome Indoor/Outdoor Multi-Purpose Insect Spray** to make sure plants are free of pests.
7. After spraying, put down a soil application of **Hi-Yield Systemic Insect Granules** to systemically control sucking insects.
8. Prune dead or spindly stems and foliage to encourage compact, bushy growth.



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9. Fertilize lightly with **ferti-lome 20-20-20 All Purpose Water Soluble Plant Food**, liquid **ferti-lome All Purpose Houseplant Food** or **Nature's Source Plant Food** during the winter months, returning to a regular fertilizer schedule in spring, summer and early fall.
10. Fungus gnats can become a nuisance inside during the winter. Adults look like fruit flies and lay their eggs in potted plants. Larva hatch out in moist soil so always use a well draining potting mix like **ferti-lome Ultimate Potting Mix** and let plants dry between waterings. Adults can be controlled with yellow sticky traps. Larva can be killed by spraying **ferti-lome Triple Action** on the soil several times. A layer of rice hulls or sand as a top dressing will keep the soil surface dry and unreceptive to fungus gnats.

