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DURANGO NURSERY & SUPPLY
271 Kay Cee Lane, Durango CO
www.durangonursery.com
970-259-8800



Plant Problems, Possible Causes, and Solutions

Symptoms	Possible Cause	Solution
Leaf edges brown and dried	<i>Temperature too high</i>	Move plant to cooler area
	<i>Lack of Sufficient Humidity</i>	Set potted plant on a shallow, pebble filled tray of water
Browning of leaf tips or on leaf margins	<i>Lack of sufficient humidity</i>	Set potted plant on a shallow, pebble filled tray of water
	<i>Fertilizer burn</i>	Leach or repot plant with fresh soil
	<i>Poor water quality (chlorine, fluoride, salts, etc.)</i>	Allow water to sit for 24 hours before using
	<i>Lack of or incorrect fertilizer components</i>	Always follow directions and understand N-P-K ratios
	<i>Incorrect soil pH</i>	Test and adjust soil pH, or repot plant
	<i>Iron deficiency (pH too high – Alkaline – heavy clay soils)</i>	Add acidic soil amendments, such as acidified cotton burrs (sulfur) or peat moss
	<i>Magnesium deficiency (pH too low – Acidic)</i>	Add alkaline soil amendments, such as limestone or wood ash
	<i>Spray damage from insecticides, oil, leaf-glossing materials</i>	Wash foliage with clean water and a soft cloth
	<i>Air Pollutants</i>	Reduce fumes from gasses and chemicals in area
Rapid Defoliation	<i>Rapid changes in temperature or light</i>	Introduce plant to new environment slowly
	<i>Overwatering possible</i>	Check for root damage or rot, water less frequently
	<i>Underwatering</i>	Make sure soil does not dry out
	<i>Exposure to hot or cold drafts</i>	Move to less drafty area
Gradual Defoliation: Lower leaves become yellow and fall off	<i>Overwatering possible</i>	Check for root damage or rot, water less frequently
	<i>Underwatering</i>	Make sure soil does not dry out
	<i>Insufficient light</i>	Move plant to brighter location
	<i>Lack of or incorrect fertilizer components</i>	Always follow directions and understand N-P-K ratios
Leaves drop continuously or new leaves on tips are small and curled	<i>Possibly aphid or mite damage</i>	Quarantine if possible and spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil
	<i>Air Pollutants</i>	Reduce fumes from gasses and chemicals in area
	<i>Spray or vapor damage from cleaning fluids</i>	Reduce fumes from gasses and chemicals in area



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Silver or red blotches on foliage	Sunburn	Move to shadier area, or hang shade cloth above to reduce sun exposure
Mildew	Powdery Mildew	Airborne fungus. Quarantine in the shade, remove and dispose of badly infected leaves, and apply fungicide. To prevent, space plants far enough apart to encourage air flow and water plants in the morning so foliage dries off by nightfall.
Spotted Foliage	Overwatering possible	Check for root damage or rot, water less frequently
	Sunburn	Move to shadier area, or hang shade cloth above to reduce sun exposure
	Cold water on foliage	Use room temperature water for watering or misting
	Fungal Infection	Quarantine, remove and dispose of badly infected areas, and apply fungicide
	Air Pollutants	Reduce fumes from gasses and chemicals in area
Foliage appears pale and weak	Insufficient light	Move plant to brighter location
	Underwatering	Make sure soil does not dry out
	Lack of sufficient humidity	Set potted plant on a shallow, pebble filled tray of water
	Lack of or incorrect fertilizer components	Always follow directions and understand N-P-K ratios
New foliage small, pale, and spindly	Insufficient light	Move plant to brighter location
	Underwatering	Make sure soil does not dry out
	Lack of or incorrect fertilizer components	Always follow directions and understand N-P-K ratios
Leaves yellowed except veins (veins remain green)	Incorrect soil pH	Test and adjust soil pH, or repot plant
	Iron deficiency (pH too high – Alkaline – heavy clay soils)	Add acidic soil amendments, such as acidified cotton burrs (sulfur) or peat moss
	Magnesium deficiency (pH too low – Acidic)	Add alkaline soil amendments, such as limestone or wood ash
Failure to flower	Insufficient light	Move plant to brighter location
	Underwatering	Make sure soil does not dry out
	Fertilizer Burn	Leach or repot plant with fresh soil
Stunted Plant	Fertilizer Burn	Leach or repot plant with fresh soil
	Underwatering	Make sure soil does not dry out
	Overwatering possible	Check for root damage or rot, water less frequently



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Symptoms	Possible Cause	Solution
Flower buds drop before opening	<i>Fertilizer burn</i>	Leach or repot plant with fresh soil
	<i>Underwatering</i>	Make sure soil does not dry out
	<i>Sunburn</i>	Move to shadier area, or hang shade cloth above to reduce sun exposure
	<i>Temperature too high</i>	Move plant to cooler area
	<i>Freeze or Frost Damage</i>	Place insulating materials around plant before a hard frost, or move plant indoors
	<i>Exposure to hot or cold drafts</i>	Move to less drafty area
Entire plant wilted	<i>Underwatering</i>	Make sure soil does not dry out
	<i>Overwatering possible</i>	Check for root damage or rot, water less frequently
	<i>Fertilizer Burn</i>	Leach or repot plant with fresh soil
	<i>Freeze or Frost Damage</i>	Place insulating materials around plant before a hard frost, or move plant indoors
Tiny white spots on leaves	<i>Spider Mites (usually)</i>	Check for tiny insects. Quarantine if possible and spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil
Cotton-like masses on leaves and stems (round or oval shaped bumps covered in cotton)	<i>Mealy Bugs</i>	Quarantine if possible, trim away infected areas, and spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil. Do not over fertilize: Mealy bugs are attracted to high nitrogen levels and soft growth.
Small brown bumps on stems or foliage	<i>Scale Insects</i>	Quarantine if possible, trim away infected areas, and spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil
Fuzzy gray mold that covers flowers, leaves, and stems	<i>Botrytis Blight</i>	Fungus caused by dead leaves and spent flowers left on plant. Regularly deadhead and remove dead from plant
	<i>Excess Humidity</i>	
	<i>Poor Ventilation</i>	Plant with enough space to encourage air flow
General Drooping of Entire Plant	<i>Crown, Stem, or Root Rot</i>	Caused by overwatering. Water less frequently, especially when plants go dormant
Brown or yellow leaf spots	<i>Fungus from water not drying off leaves</i>	Water at base of plant next to soil to avoid wetting leaves