

The New Plant Parent's Guide

Alaya Allen



It's me :)

- ◆ strange spots (could be insects or fungus)
- ◆ unnatural bites or holes
- ◆ burned or dried leaf edges
- ◆ weak stems or signs of rot
- ◆ soil that's too wet or has a strange smell (signs of root rot)

If you're feeling brave (and you should), pop the plant out of the pot. Take a look at the roots—healthy ones are light and firm. If they're mushy or reek? Put that plant back and walk away. Don't worry, most healthy plants slide out of their nursery pots quite easily.

And for God's sake, be wary of "special offers." Plants discounted by 70% usually have a reason for that price cut. They don't randomly decide to give away healthy plants at rock-bottom prices just out of kindness.

I now even check the roots if possible. Yes, I'm that person who will gently take the plant out of its pot right in the store (with permission, of course). Healthy roots are white or light brown and firm. Black, mushy, or foul-smelling roots? Thanks, but no thanks.



Root rot



Fungal plant disease

Common plant pests



What is fertilizer and why do plants need it? (2023, November 30). HowStuffWorks. <https://home.howstuffworks.com/question181.htm>

Yeh, N., & Chung, J.-P. (2009). High-brightness LEDs—Energy efficient lighting sources and their potential in indoor plant cul-

tivation. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 13(8), 2175–2180. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rser.2009.01.027>

ASPCA Toxic and Non-Toxic Plants List <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/asPCA-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>

