



Common Container Gardening Problems

Problem	Cause	What To Do
Plants wilt although obtaining enough water	Insufficient drainage and aeration	Use lighter soil mix, increase number of drainage holes, use mix with higher percent of organic matter
Leaf edges die or “burn,” turning dry and brittle	High salt content	At regular intervals leach container by watering until water drain from drainage holes
Plants “leggy,” spindly unproductive	Not enough light	Relocate plant to area receiving more light
	Too much nitrogen	Apply fertilizer less often and allow water to drain through
Plant yellowing from bottom, lack of vigor	Too much water	Water less frequently and check for good drainage
Poor color	Not fertile enough	Use fertilizer with higher levels of nutrients
Plant leaves with spots, dead dried areas, or powdery or rusty areas	Grown at temperature that is too low	Move container to a warmer area
	Low phosphate level	Increase phosphate in base solution used for fertilizing
Leaves with small holes or that are distorted in shape	Insect damage	Use insecticides suited to the type of insect causing the problem
Plant leaves with spots, dead dried areas, or powdery or rusty areas	Plant diseases	Remove diseased portion of plant and use fungicide. If problem is severe, discard entire plant.

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