

Cast-iron plant *Aspidistra elatior*

Fact sheet



LIGHT ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ **partial shade**

Low or filtered light, well away from direct sun – it can scorch the leaves. Copes with deep shade, but grows more slowly there.



WATER 💧 💧 💧 💧 💧 **moderate**

Spring to autumn regularly: moist, never waterlogged. A little less in winter, but don't let it dry out completely. Rule of thumb: about once a week in summer.



HUMIDITY 💧 💧 💧 💧 💧 **low**

Fine in the fairly dry air of normal homes. Keep it away from heat sources.



TEMPERATURE

Likes it fairly cool, ideally 10–20 °C (RHS: happiest at 5–20 °C); at least 10 °C in winter. Copes with draughts and changing temperatures.



SOIL

Half peat-free loam-based, half peat-free multi-purpose compost.



FEEDING

General-purpose houseplant feed monthly from spring to late summer.



REPOTTING 🪴 est. 9 → 19 cm

Only once roots appear through the drainage holes, often after several years. In spring, into a pot only slightly larger.



HEIGHT 📏 📏 📏 📏 📏 up to approx. 60 cm tall, 60 cm wide · upright

GROWTH 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 🌱 slow



TOXICITY

🧑 Humans: non-toxic 🐈 Cats: non-toxic

🐕 Dogs: non-toxic

Cast-iron plant *Aspidistra elatior*

Symptoms & help

	TOO LITTLE	TOO MUCH
Water	 Leaves lean to the side and turn slightly pale green. → Water regularly from spring to autumn; in winter a little less, but never let it dry out completely.	 The roots rot. → Water less – keep the compost moist, but never water-logged.
Light	 It grows more slowly; variegated leaves can turn plain green. → Move it to filtered light, still out of direct sun.	 Leaves scorch, bleach or turn brown. → Move it well away from direct sun.
	WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU Glossy leaves for a dark corner or draughty hallway, where most houseplants give up – and it can live for many years. It doesn't measurably clean the air.	CAUTION  Non-toxic for cats and dogs (ASPCA). A US poison centre lists it as non-toxic for people, but notes that any plant may still cause unexpected reactions in some people, such as choking.