

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

What went wrong: Yellow leaves

Some gardeners may automatically think that yellow leaves are a sign of not enough water provided for a plant, but yellow leaves actually have many causes, and many solutions to the problem. Yellowed leaves are one of the most common signs from a plant that it's not feeling its best. Several things can cause the yellowing, such as the environment, diseases, pests and more.

Most common reasons:

Since there are many reasons why a plant's leaves might turn as unflattering yellow, here are some of the most common:

Water amount:

Yellowing leaves can be a sign to the gardener that they are watering either too much or too little.

Light:

Sometimes, the plant's leaves are getting scorched or they're not getting enough light, which is why the leaves turn yellow.

Dormancy:

When plants go dormant for the winter, it's quite common to see yellow leaves.

Soil and pH:

Have you checked your soil composition? It's possible the plant's leaves are yellow because the plant isn't receiving enough of the correct nutrients.

Pests:

Sucking insects like mites and aphids can



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cause yellow leaves. If this is the case, repeatedly wash the insects of the plant with water. Neem oil also is a good option if you struggle with pests.

When a plant is growing in a pot:

There are certain causes that affect pot-grown plants more so than plants grown in the ground, and this can lead to yellowing leaves. Here, since the environment for the plant is much smaller and more contained, there may be different reasons its leaves are turning the wrong color. For example, too much fertilizer may be the problem. If this is the case, you can change out the soil completely or leach out the fertilizer that's already in the soil by flushing it with water. However, if you change the soil you can shock your plant when you transplant it, which creates problems all of its own. Try to flush out the fertilizer first before you change the plant's soil.



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Plants in a pot growing indoors may have yellowing leaves and again, low light may be the cause. This is because most indoor plants are usually tropical ones which require lots of light. Make sure you're placing them in the correct area of your home based on the level of light requirement your plant has.

Outside isn't the only place to check a soil's pH. If the pH is too high in a potted plant's soil, it can cause chlorosis, which can create yellow leaves. Purchase a soil pH meter and make sure the pH is where it should be, even for your potted plants.

When it comes to watering your potted plants, they can be picky. Try not to overhead water too much, because water falling on the leaves can cause them to turn yellow. This is especially prevalent in plants like the African violet and others whose leaves are slightly furry looking.

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