

Rejuvenating Container Plants

Following are a few tips and observations:

- ❖ Sometimes all a container needs is some TLC. Judicious pruning, moving to next size larger pot with fresh soil, adding some nutrients, giving the entire planting a gentle shower to clean the leaves, replacing dead or sad plants with different compatible species for a fresh look.
- ❖ Forgot to move the container indoors when a freeze or hurricane came around? You can be patient, move the pot to a 'plant hospital' area to see if it will regrow from the roots. Out of room and time? Recycle the entire mess, roots, soil, stems in your compost pile. Be certain to put slimy or diseased materials in the garbage, not your compost. After sitting in the pot for a growing season without sprouting a frozen Golden Pothos was dumped in the cold compost pile. After another year it popped up out of the compost.
- ❖ Golden Pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*) and others in the family like philodendron root easily at every node in loose leafmold, soil or water, even growing new leaves while rooting.
- ❖ Ghost Plant *Graptopetalum paraguayense* is easy to grow (just ignore and enjoy). New plants form at the base of leaves broken off lying on top of the soil. The little plantlet draws moisture and nutrients from the leaf (Dracula-like) while growing its own roots. As the plants grow they spill over the edge of the container and can become leggy leafless stems with a rosette of leaves at the end. Cut them off, trim stems to length, push into a new container of soil until the pot is filled for an instant statement. No need to undo when the party is over, they will happily root in the soil.
- ❖ Hurricane Matthew shredded the leaves of my Ti plant (forgot to put it in the potting shed). I cut off the top cluster of leaves with some stem and rooted it in water. Now ready to plant. The temp got lower than I expected so the rest froze. I'm experimenting to see if it will sprout from the roots. Maybe I should tuck it into the compost pile!
- ❖ Also experimenting with a pot of anthuriums. The plant is a vine wannabe with roots seeking soil from every node. As bottom leaves die it has become leggy so I have cut several stems off to root in water. Maybe the trimmed plants will sprout from the roots also.

Save money by rejuvenating container plants and enjoy the discoveries in gardening.

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