

Introduction: *Keeping Them Alive*



Dedicated to the sun, the source of all life.

Randall Prue
Montreal's Plant Doctor

Edited by Vicki Schmolka
Graphics by Richard Robinson



Published by The Plant Doctor

© 1982, Randall Prue
Second printing, 1984

Title Page. [Click to enlarge.](#)

If you followed the advice of friends, florists, authors and package labels, your plant care program would be something like this:

- Your plants would all be potted in 50% soil and 50% cat litter. You would then add peat moss, vermiculite and perlite, whether the soil needed it or not. Half of each pot would be taken up with stones, clay shards, moss and charcoal.
- You'd be feeding your plants gelatin, egg shells, tea leaves, coffee grinds, dish soap, dead leaves, aspirin, beer and maybe some instant fertilizer drops, containing mostly water. You'd be greasing the leaves with mayonnaise, milk, margarine, baby oil or plant-shine containing silicone.
- If, in spite of all this attention, a leaf turned yellow or developed a brown spot, you would buy a can of something pre-mixed, toxic and easy-to-use, and spray the plant with it. You would periodically perform a "preventive" insecticide spray.

