

# Plants Can Be Air Cleaners

Researched by Parker County Master Gardener La Donna Stockstill

If you want to help freshen your indoor air, here are some points to keep in mind:

Plants aren't a panacea. No matter how many you have or what kind, plants are no substitute for good ventilation and, more important, eliminating or reducing the source of the pollution whenever possible.

Plants aren't powerful vacuum cleaners that suck contaminants from across a large room. Put them near where you spend a lot of time, by your computer, in the kitchen, beside a comfortable chair, etc.

Keep your houseplants as vigorous as possible. The healthier they are, the better job they'll do at reducing air pollutants.

## Examples of Green Air Cleaners:

### Palms:

Areca palm (*Chrysolidocarpus lutescens*)

Bamboo palm (*Chamaedorea seifrizii*)

Lady palm (*Rhapis excelsa*)

Pigmy date palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*)

Reed palm (*Chamaedorea seifrizii*)

### Dracaenas:

Corn plant (*Dracaena fragrans*)

'Janet Craig' (*Dracaena deremensis* 'Janet Craig')

Marginata (*Dracaena marginata*)

Mass cane (*Dracaena massangeana*)

Warneckii (*Dracaena* "Warneckii")

### Ficus:

Fig 'Alii' (*Ficus macleilandii* 'Alii')

Rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*)

Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*)

### Ivy:

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Golden pothos (*Epipremnum aureum*)

### Others:

Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*)

Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema modestum*)

Gerbera daisy (*Gerbera Jamesonii*)

Florist mum (*Chrysanthemum morifolium*)

Mother-in-law's tongue, Snake plant (*Sansevieria laurentii*)

Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum*)

Spider plant, Airplane plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*)