



GARDENER'S GANDER: A LITTLE GREEN

by Nancy Lawrence, Greenhouse Grower

Greeting from the Parkwood Greenhouses!

January has brought us unusually warm gray dull days but here at the Greenhouses, tropical plants are growing on and giving us much needed colour and enjoyment. With spring still a few months away we find ourselves asking what to do to get that same colour and enjoyment in our homes.

Purchasing tropical from garden centers or your local grocery store helps to brighten up your home and give you that added boost to these wintery days. Keep in mind that when you purchase a new plant for your home research either by looking up on internet or asking the garden center salesperson, what care that particular tropical needs. Is it a high light, lots of moisture kind of plant? Or does it need a low light and minimum watering condition. By doing a little homework before purchasing a tropical will help in ensuring that plant will be happy in your particular environment.

For example, a good plant to start with is a Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*). The needs of a spider plant are bright indirect light with watering at least once a week. That means taking it to the sink and letting the water leach out the bottom. If you get brown tips on the edges of the leaves of your spider plant that indicates it is dry in your house so, try misting it every day. This will help to keep the humidity up and prevent the drying tips. It is suggested that spider plants are a good air cleaner so an added benefit to growing a spider plant. There are many great tropical plants to help get you through this winter. Currently, the greenhouses at Parkwood have interesting orchids and vibrant tropical plants that will brighten even the dullest of January days.