



LEACHING

Leaching is a process whereby running water through the pot allows any excess of nutrients to be flushed down and out the drainage holes, and away from the roots of the plants.

The term nutrients or "salts" can refer to any number of elements found in the soil. If incorrect watering practices are routine, or over-fertilization, the concentration of these salts builds and is drawn up by the plant. The result is a browning of the tips and/or leaf margins.

Also plants in greenhouses may have higher levels of these salts present in the soil to promote growth under the higher light and humidity that is available. At home in most instances the light and humidity levels will be lower and of course the plant will need less of these soluble nutrients or salts.

Therefore, it is our policy to advise anyone purchasing a plant to thoroughly leach it when you take it home. This is a simple task. Place the pot in a basin or tub and pass tepid water over the soil at a sufficient rate to keep the entire surface covered while the water runs out the drainage holes. This should be done for thirty to forty minutes. The plant should then be placed in light suitable for that particular plant.

The results of the leaching is to lower the salts level present in the soil that may be in excess. The plant, if it is showing signs of injury, will begin to develop new green growth quite quickly. Newly purchased plants will acclimate more quickly to a new surrounding and begin to show new growth indoors.