



FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

What is wrong with my spider plant,
it looks burned?

Well...

Plants can get sunburned too!

Indoor and Outdoor Plants

Both can be susceptible to sunburn and/ or sunscald

Plant conditions which may contribute can be;

- *insufficient moisture, or nutrients*
- *improper watering practices*
- *extremally high temperature*
- *moving plant suddenly without giving it time to harden properly*
- *Unchecked pests or disease resulting in loss of foliage*



Light exposure for a plant can change when;

- *harvesting of flowers or vegetables resulting in excess foliage removal*
- *heavy pruning increasing sun exposure to branches & trunk*
- *removal of neighboring trees or buildings resulting in removal of shade*

Protecting Your Indoor Plants

Changing Environments or Exposure

Indoor House Plants can benefit from a different exposure, but be careful!

House Plants Can Become Sunburned

- **INDOORS:** If moving your plant to a new indoor location near a door or window, the sunlight may prism or magnify in this new location. This can happen when moving from window to window, shady to more sunlight, etc.
 - *You may be able to remedy this by adding a thin sheer to the window, or providing a shielding plant that is used to this sun exposure*
- **INDOOR TO OUTDOOR:** If you move the plant outdoors to enjoy some fresh air, be careful that aside from the difference in temperature, the outdoor environment can be drastically different than indoors, for example:
 - *wind speed and direction*
 - *total light exposure throughout the day*



A Few Simple Steps can help!

Protecting Indoor and Outdoor Plants

Plant quality, location and routine care all help avoid sunburn or scald



- Purchase quality plants that are healthy and do not already show signs of stress
- Frequent your local reputable growers, avoid plants grown in a greenhouse in a different USDA hardiness zone
- Plant in the correct location
- Be sure plants are hardened off before moving location (inside to out or outside to in)
- Water, fertilize and monitor properly for the plant type
- Use proper harvesting techniques, avoid leaving younger growth exposed
- Shade cloth or trellis can provide shade in areas of direct sunlight
- Wind or heavy rain damage can expose previously shaded growth

Do you have questions about your home landscape and plants?

Contact the Fort Bend Master Gardener Help Desk

Email:

FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu

Phone:

281-341-7068

The Help Desk is manned

Monday thru Friday, 9am-Noon

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/sunburn-damage-flowers>

aggiehort.tamu.edu/citrus/disorders/sunburn1.htm

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html>

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html>

<https://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html>

<https://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/hot_and_sunny_days_promote_sunscald_in_peppers_and_other_vegetables

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=43177>

<https://sites.udel.edu/weeklycropupdate/?p=12180>

<https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/btny/ppdl/potw-department/2022/leaf-scorch-sunburn-hosta.html>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/gardens-get-sunburned-too>

<https://aces.nmsu.edu/ces/yard/2006/040106.html>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/camellia-diseases-insect-pests/>

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=2238&context=extension_curall

https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=2673&context=extension_curall

<https://pestadvisories.usu.edu/2017/08/31/sunburnsunscald-in-vegetables-squash-diseases-spider-mites-sap-beetles-corn-earworm-new-fact-sheet-and-upcoming-events/>