House Plants: Outdoors in the Summer, Indoors in the Winter

I. Mindset: Having the right intention for your plants
   a. Why move plants outside?
      • The right recipe for growth- better respiration.
      • Limits human involvement- makes your plant less dependent.
      • Gives your plants a boost of strength for overwintering.
   b. Process- Bringing your plants out
      • Repot if necessary- peat moss, potting soil, stone on bottom.
      • Prune off dead leaves and top prune if necessary.
      • Hardening off-bring to shady spot for 2-3 hours per day for 1 week.
      • Fertilize once per week when outside.
      • Increase watering as temperature increases.
      • Keep them covered- shade trees, gazebos, North walls of homes.
        Prevent Sunscald!
   c. Process- Bringing your plants back inside
      • Nights are below 60 degrees.
      • Hose down entire plant.
      • Add soil when necessary
      • Spray with insect soap
      • Take cuttings from new growth
      • Stop fertilization and reduce watering
      • Keep humid- spraying or humidifier

II. Successful Plants: Suggested Steps for Happy Thriving Plants
   a. Plant selection.
      • No Rescues!
      • Check leaves for pests or pest damage.
      • Check root zone – white plump roots.
      • Choose varieties that have a good track record.
      1. ZZ plant
      2. Fiddle Leaf Fig
      3. Draecena ‘Colorama’
      4. Anthurium
      5. Dracaena Varieties
      6. Agloenoma
      7. Dieffenbachia
      • Orchids
        1. Try to find native grown orchids.
2. Check bud spacing.
3. Check for overwatering
4. Check for new growth on plant
5. Prefer bark for growth medium

b. Watering
   • Schedule - once per week
   • Let surface dry out – finger test or water meter.
   • Do not overwater - common problem.
   • Spraying limited, but enough to increase humidity.
   • Outside - Increase to 2-3 times per week.
   • Orchids – submerge or soak once per week.

c. Fertilization
   • Begin fertilizing after plants are brought outside.
   • Fertilize once per week with water soluble.
   • Plant sticks and slow release are okay, but less monitoring.
   • Magnesium Sulfate once per month.

d. Pest problems
   • Common pests - spider mites, mealy bug, whitefly, scale.
   • Powdery Mildew
     1. Pest control
        • Insect soaps
        • Alcohol
        • Vinegar
        • Peppermint oil
        • Alcohol and cinnamon