

Overview

5 participants: 3 males/2 females

Ages: 26-31

All owned house plants

Participant 1

Jerry, 30, Teacher, iPhone

- Tell me about your house plants?

I have a snake plant, all originated from one original bundle that's five years old. I have a few grafted from the same one. I got a money tree that's pretty big like 3ft tall. A rubber tree plant, a rosemary, sage, and oregano plant, which I've had for about 4 years, and those I started from seeds. The only finicky plants are the herbs. For those I have northern facing light. I have Eastern facing windows in my apartment so I actually have a daylight lamp above them set to a timer between like 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. They're doing pretty good with that set-up. Rest of the plants very easy, I can neglect them. I try to pick low-maintenance plants.

- Tell me how you typically research house plants?

I'll probably just look up a more low maintenance that don't require like direct sunlight or like constant watering. I would just Google that, call ahead to the store to see if they carry a plant in stock. I also like going into stores, like greenhouses. They're pretty knowledgeable about that.

- Tell me about the first time you bought a house plant?

When I lived in Boston at a specialty plant store. I dropped a bunch of money. It was for my first apartment. I pretty much asked them "what are easy plants to care for" or "what plants improve air quality. They just said all plants improve air quality. So, I picked out 2 or 3, the snake plant is still surviving. I got them all in one day and carried them home.

- Tell me about the last time you bought a house plant?

My money tree, I went with my friend to this specialty shop. Wide range of plants and plant needs.

- Tell me how you typically research plant care?

Just Googling. When it's scientific, has good pictures. I'll skim through a paragraph, and if they use like dramatic language I just skip it. If it's pretty informative, calm tone, I'll read some of that. I have a couple of friends that are into plants too, so I'll just ask them.

- Tell me how you typically take care of your plants?

I usually check in on them every couple of days. They're set up in a way where I can see the top of the soil. I water them if the top of the soil looks noticeably dry. Once in a while, if I overwater, I'll get some moldy or fungus thing on the top layer, so I'll just scoop that off the top and throw it away. I generally go off sight. If it goes straight through from the top to the overflow pan on the bottom, I assume the soil's too compacted. I have wooden sticks where I can make more passageways. I haven't re-potted in a while.

- Tell me about your experience watering plants?

I think when I first got plants, the tendency was to overwater plants out of overwhelming love. Sometimes they get yellow spots, or get droopy. So now I just water them when the soil looks dry. I try to guesstimate how much water without spilling into the tray underneath.

- Tell me about your experience finding sunlight for plants?

I bought plants that didn't need direct sunlight or much direct sunlight at all. Snake plant, rubber plant, money tree. I figure there's enough residual light bouncing around my apartment from the daylight lamp.

- Tell me about your experience fertilizing plants?

I don't fertilize my plants really. I had a buddy plant sit once and he put something called plant food in it. But I don't really fertilize.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in good health?

They're in pretty good health now especially the Rosemary. I've been good about not over-watering them for a while. My hardy plants are always pretty good, pretty nice to see new shoots coming off of them, not too many dead leaves come off the bottom. Everything's pretty green.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in poor health?

One-time I had a combination of over-watering and too much sunlight. I didn't do any research. I didn't even know the name of the plant, which didn't help.

Participant 2

Janine, 29, Occupational Therapist, iPhone

- Tell me about your house plants?

I have like 7 in my apartment. Small-scale plants. An aloe plant, a crinkle-cut leaf one, three succulents, one air succulent, and a little Ikea spikey plant.

- Tell me how you typically research house plants?

I would just do a general google search. My apartment is south-facing, so it doesn't get the best light. So I filter out what's realistic for the lighting I have. But I typically didn't do a ton of research, I was out and about, saw a plant and slowly acquired them. Or got a bunch of succulents as gifts.

- Tell me about the first time you bought a house plant?

I moved into my apartment three years ago, and I was shopping with my dad. We went to a plant store for my place and there was just this aloe plant there that I needed.

- Tell me about the last time you bought a house plant?

I went to this trendy flower-shop near my place with the intention of getting a small houseplant.

- Tell me how you typically research plant care?

Google. I feel like I've been guided to different blogs, but I don't follow any in particular. I typically look for how-to's. The first things that pop up. Sometimes wikipedia, but it's usually a garden site or blog. I'll just click on whatever best answers my question.

- Tell me how you typically take care of your plants?

I'm not very regimented. My plants are on the ground next to a night stand. If they look a little wilted or if I just happen to look at them or pay attention and there's water in my cup from the night before I'll water them. And then I'll just water them all. Kind of once a week, but also kind of random.

- Tell me about your experience watering plants?

Inconsistent, if I see that they're wilting I feel bad. I don't measure a set amount. I just water when the mood strikes and when I have water. Not too specific.

- Tell me about your experience finding sunlight for plants?

That is tricky. I don't have big bright windows in my place. I get decent light, but I just figure out a place where I can put them. All the other plants are lower to the ground, so I'll just raise the blinds to maximize light.

- Tell me about your experience fertilizing plants?

I don't know much about that. I would ask my dad or turn to the internet. I've never changed the soil or fertilized them.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in good health?

A couple are right now, usually summer when the lights a little better. If I'm watering more frequently, they look happier.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in poor health?

One is kind of just always in poor health, this succulent. It's old and dwindly. I've tried to put ice cubes, water more, water less, I think I just need to snip it and re-plant that one. The leaves fall off, the soil looks dry and dirty. Off-color.

Participant 3

Lauren, 27, HR, iPhone

- Tell me about your house plants?

I have an aloe plant and a couple of succulents.

- Tell me how you typically research house plants?

I would just Google. When I got both of those plants I just Googled them. Could be a blog post or some sort of plant website. Anything that looks legit. Sometimes I would just ask other people. Friends that have plants.

- Tell me about the first time you bought a house plant?

It was my aloe plant, and I was at Ikea. They actually have a great plant section. I heard aloe plants were really easy to take care of. The plant fit into this pot that I really wanted. The plant was super cheap. I chose between an aloe or a fern. Just small. Went with the aloe because it was cute and easiest to take care of.

- Tell me about the last time you bought a house plant?

That would be my succulents. It was at one of those special events where you would drink and make your own terrarium. I planted the succulent in my bowl and decorated it with little rocks. Someone walked us through how to plant it. He knew a lot about succulents and told me how to plant them. They walked around with a tray of them and you got to pick three of them.

- Tell me how you typically research plant care?

Before I google, I would ask my parents. If I google, I go to one of the first articles and if it looks legit and says what to do I'll read it.

- Tell me how you typically take care of your plants?

I would look at the soil, start to water if it looks dry. With the aloe plant, I think I'm not supposed to water that much. But I'll look into that. Whenever the soil looks dry, I'll just water it.

- Tell me about your experience watering plants?

I usually fill up a cup. If I'm drinking water and I remember, I'll use the cup. They're on my windowsill, and I pour the water in there. The cup's not great for pouring so sometimes I spill. I don't even know how much water I'm supposed to give. I put half a cup in the aloe, and half in the succulents. I try rotating them because I feel like they're reaching for sunlight.

- Tell me about your experience finding sunlight for plants?

My apartment doesn't get direct sunlight so it's hard to get a spot. I don't think the aloe is high maintenance because it's growing really well without much light. A couple of the succulents are dying but I don't know the cause. There's not that much direct sunlight.

- Tell me about your experience fertilizing plants?

Just from my terrarium night. They had all the materials so I used the soil and stuff that they had. I don't know if I have enough soil and if I should replant my succulents.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in good health?

The aloe plant has been in pretty good healthy. I've had mine for 2 years and it's gotten bigger, sprouts new arms. There's three succulents, one is doing really well. The others are hanging on. It looked alive at the bottom but dead at the top.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in poor health?

With the bad succulent. It was alive at the bottom but dead at the top.

Participant 4

Nick, 26, Software Engineer, Android

- Tell me about your house plants?

We got one sunflower house plant that we keep in the kitchen area, water twice a day. Herb garden, water twice a day.

- Tell me how you typically research house plants?

I would start with Google. Try that. I usually talk to other people that I know that have something I'd be interested in growing. My parents know a decent amount about houseplants. They'll give me some tips. Combination of both.

- Tell me about the first time you bought a house plant?

I went to Home Depot and picked up something that I would want to put in my backyard during the summer time and bring inside during the winter. Fairly low maintenance.

- Tell me about the last time you bought a house plant?

Same thing, mostly to get the decoration in the room. If I'm buying a house plant it's mostly to spruce up a room.

- Tell me how you typically research plant care?

Internet usually. Google. Tips on how to feed it the right way. I read two sources and gather my own opinion from a few. And if they're all consistent I'll go with it. Aside from that, I feel like my houseplant care is pretty reactionary. I just go with the typical miracle grow. The only I time I didn't when I was growing other plants I did some book research. But mostly online.

- Tell me how you typically take care of your plants?

Water them twice a day, depending on what they require. Nothing too crazy. Try to leave them in spots where they get sun most of the time.

- Tell me about your experience watering plants?

I try to water them the right amount, make sure they don't drown every time. Those misting bottles work very well for me. I'll spray under the stalks depending on how big the plant is.

- Tell me about your experience finding sunlight for plants?

Typically it's been good. I live in Colorado so we get a lot of sun. I have a lot of decently sized windows in my house. Finding the sun isn't a big deal. I'll look up what kind of light the plant needs, or it'll come on the tag itself. Direct or indirect.

- Tell me about your experience fertilizing plants?

I just go with miracle grow, whatever I can get at Home Depot or the hardware store. I'll follow the instructions on the box. I typically look at what type of on-the-shelf products I can get online and just go with it.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in good health?

They've been pretty good throughout the spring and summer-time. When it starts to come back into bloom. We have a couple of sunflowers that have been in great shape. Mainly just been watering and maintaining them a few times a day. Tying the stalks so they don't blow over. I know that keeping them outside in the wind strengthens them too.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in poor health?

Anytime I go on vacation I can't really water them. It's just something I sacrifice. So I just have plants that are low maintenance where I go away for a few days and they're ok.

Participant 5

Jackson, 31, Marketing, iPhone

- Tell me about your house plants?

I have a couple houseplants. Snake plant in my bedroom. Tropical plants. Succulents. Elephant ear. About 7 plants.

- Tell me how you typically research house plants?

I typically Google houseplants that I want. Sometimes use Instagram to see how someone arranges a plant. I'll look up a certain houseplant, try to get as many quick facts as I can, characteristics and stuff. Then I'll go to Home Depot and see if they have it. I usually want low-maintenance plants.

- Tell me about the first time you bought a house plant?

I believe I was at Home Depot, I had just moved into a new apartment so I wanted something to adorn or decorate with. I went to the house plant section, googled a few on the spot, see if they were seasonal. I bought a couple that were pretty durable and easy to maintain.

- Tell me about the last time you bought a house plant?

Probably Ikea. They have a pretty good plant section. I was browsing plants, seeing which one I didn't have yet. Googling them along the way to see what kind of care they needed. I picked a few plants and pots and brought them home.

- Tell me how you typically research plant care?

Usually I Google articles. I follow a few plant Instagram accounts. They usually have good tips or lead me to some notable people I should know about. I want to get better at it and go to plant shop, but I haven't had time.

- Tell me how you typically take care of your plants?

I water them once a week, with the exception of a snake plant. I'm not really sure how much each plant needs to be watered, but I'll look if there's dry soil, how green it is. Every Sunday I fill up two bottles and go around my apartment to water the plants as a routine.

- Tell me about your experience watering plants?

Like I said I usually have a routine. Two big water bottles and just kind of gage it by the size of the plant. I'll water until the bottle are empty. I know the bigger ones need more, and the snake plant needs it once every two weeks.

- Tell me about your experience finding sunlight for plants?

It's just trial and error. Some plants did well in direct sunlight and some don't. Luckily enough I was able to save some of the ones that didn't do too well. They weren't reacting well by being dried out after just watering them. For the last two years, it's been a game of mix and match. The ones in low sunlight are doing pretty well. Automatically if any plant isn't doing well, I just put it in the sun to see how it does.

- Tell me about your experience fertilizing plants?

I never really fertilize them. It's always been a steady diet of water. I want to know if I can put in compost or a certain type of plant food, but I don't even know if it's necessary.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in good health?

When they're all green after I pick off the dried parts. Certain shades of green. If the soil's not looking dry. If the petals and leaves are facing towards the light.

- Tell me about a time when your plants were in poor health?

I had a tropical plant once, it was doing really well. Wasn't in direct sunlight, watered it constantly. All of a sudden it just turned cold and it became brown out of nowhere. I kept it around in the winter, trying to water it and revive it. Ultimately I had to toss it.