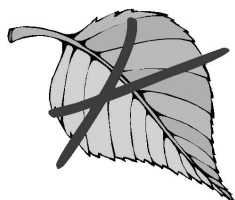


DROPPING LEAVES

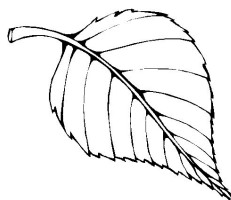
Care of deciduous, semi-deciduous, dormant, and shipping-stressed plants

When you receive a plant via mail order, you may see these conditions with the leaves:



Dropped leaves

Leaves dropped during shipping; plant may arrive with no signs of leaves



Yellow leaves

Leaves turn yellow during transportation, or soon after unpacking and planting



Darkened, spotted leaves

Darkened or spotted leaves, generally "unhealthy look" or bug-suspicious

Before you panic, refer to the plant description, included instructions, or simply call us for advice. These symptoms may be just signs of the normal process for the types of plants below. None of these are unusual nor are they signs of any disease or insects (note that we carefully inspect plants before shipping, and treat for insects and pathogens). These conditions will disappear after the proper care. Depending on your order, you may be dealing with one of the following cases:

1. Deciduous plant. Deciduous plants drop their leaves for a part of the year. Most people are familiar with deciduous trees from temperate climates when they shed leaves during cold winters. In tropical, subtropical, and arid regions, deciduous plants may also lose leaves during the dry season. This "internal clock" is pre-programmed by Mother Nature and cannot be changed. Deciduous plant can drop leaves either before we ship it to you (we usually label these plants with "deciduous" tag), during transportation (you may find some leaves in a box), or shortly after arrival. Usually true deciduous plants stay leafless for 1-3 months.

This group includes (but is not limited by) the following tropical plants: *Actinidia* (Kiwi), *Annona*, *Baobab*, *Bauhinia*, *Caesalpinia*, *Colvillea*, *Delonix*, *Diospyros*, *Erythrina*, *Jacaranda*, *Jatropha*, *Lagerstoemia*, *Moringa*, *Mussaenda*, *Pachypodium*, *Peltophorum*, *Plumeria*, *Prunus* (*Peaches and Plums*), *Sesbania*, *Spondias*, *Strophanthus*, *Tabebuia*, *Quisqualis*, *Vitis* (*Grapes*), and others.

2. Semi-deciduous plant. Some tropical plants may stay evergreen in perfect tropical conditions, however, outside of their natural environment they may act like deciduous plants for a short period of time, usually 1-4 weeks. They re-leaf very quickly. The closer conditions are to perfect, the shorter the period of leaf drop and renewal.

Example of semi-deciduous plants: *Champaca* (*Magnolia*), *Ylang-Ylang* (*Cananga* and *Desmos*), *Brownea*, *Carambola*, *Cordia*, *Clerodendrum*, *Pouteria*, *Phyllanthus*, *Tamarind*, some *Jasmines*.

3. Shipping-sensitive plant. No matter what you do, this group of plants just doesn't like to sit in a dark box for a few days! These plants include: *Bougainvillea*, *Wrightia*, *Tibouchina*, *Jaboticaba*. Also plants with feathery tiny leaves, many of them from *Fabaceae* family: *Acacia*, *Dichrostachys*, *Calliandra*, *Cassia*, *Clitoria*, *Mimosa*, and others.

4. Dormant plant. We all know tulips. Bulbs stored for winter in a dry basket until spring when they can be replanted into a flower bed to cheer up our life with bright flowers. Tulip is a perfect example of full dormancy, or "hibernation". When receiving bulbs, rhizomes, tubers, caudex, especially during Winter-Spring – be prepared to wait until the proper time for them to start new growth. Dormant group of plants includes *Gingers*, *Alocasias*, *Colocasias*, and all-time favorite *Desert Roses* (*Adenium*). They are usually dormant during winter.

What to do: In general, the less you do with a deciduous plant, the better.

- Plant in a pot exactly size of the root ball, not bigger. Use well-drained soil.
- Put in a bright shade location with warm temperature. The warmer the environment, the sooner your plant will break dormancy.
- Do not cut off old ugly "winter" leaves. They will fall off naturally and that is usually a sign that new leaf buds are ready to open.
- Reduce watering and water only when top of the soil gets dry. Dormant plants don't use much water.
- Do not fertilize until new growth starts.

Remember that there is no such plant in the world that grows the same leaves forever. Shedding is normal process. Some plants take a few months to re-leaf, others renew their foliage on monthly basis. Even evergreen species don't keep the same leaves – but those changes are less noticeable.



*Plant is a live creature. Give it time. Be patient.
Call our experts for advice if in doubt!*

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