

4.1.4 Water

4.1.4.1 Humidity

Humidity concerns the amount of water vapour in the air, which is invisible, and is dependent on the temperature since hot air always holds more moisture than cold air. The amount of water in the air is referred to as the 'relative humidity', which means it is compared with the maximum humidity of the air at every temperature. Most plants require relative humidity levels of at least 40% in order to grow properly, and can be grouped as follows:

- Low humidity (40%) - cactuses, succulents
- Moderate humidity (60%) – other ornamental plants
- High humidity (80%) – tropical forest plants

Signs of low humidity include rolling of the leaves, the occurrence of brown spots which look like burns, dry leaf tips, buds falling off, and prematurely withered flowers.

4.1.4.2 Watering

Water in plants serves not only as a means of transport for minerals, but also creates turgidity – pressure in the plant cells. Water causes the plant cells to swell and the sprouts become rigid and upright. If there is a lack of water, the plant withers and may die. So, when should they be watered? Simply put, when the plant needs it. However, any signs of wilting indicate that the plant has been suffering from drought for some time. They lose their aesthetic appeal, and even emergency watering will not reverse all the damage suffered by the plant. Therefore, it is important to know when to water the plants well and when this is not required.

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