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**Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances**  
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**Houseplants Outside For The Summer**

**By Jena Luthovski**

When the weather warms up in the late spring, houseplants can be placed outside. You shouldn't

be too apprehensive to move your houseplants to the great outdoors; even a decent chill can blow the leaves off tender plants. Monitor houseplants while spending the warm months outside. If leaves are being wind damaged, then move plants to calmer spots. If pots dry out too rapidly, you should move plants into some protection from shade or wind, or even repot if desired. Inspect your houseplants for indications of insect damage. Pest control is much safer and easier while the plants are outside for the summer season, than after you bring them in during the autumn.

Houseplants that have been outside all summer should be permitted to make a basically slow transition to the indoor conditions. Swift changes in environment can result in leaf drop and yellow foliage. To prevent injury, it's wise to bring plants indoors before temperatures go below 55° F; you should not wait for frost warnings. Check for insect pests before you transport the plants, because it is easier to dispose of pests while plants are still outside. Wash the plants' leaves, and soak pots in water for about 15 to 20 minutes to saturate most soil-dwelling pests.

When plants are cultivated in strong light, they develop sun leaves which are organically wasteful. If these same plants are placed in low light, they must either alter existing sun leaves into evening shade leaves or even drop their morning sun leaves and cultivate a new set of shade leaves, which are organically more cost-effective.

During the winter months, wrap plants completely before leaving the garden center to transport them to your vehicle. A short run from the garden center to the vehicle in severely low temperatures can damage or acutely kill plants. You can wrap plants completely with paper bags or newspaper, and then place them conveniently in the front of the car before you turn on the heater. The trunk of most cars is obviously too frosty to transport plants securely during the winter months.

On a complete trip, make special arrangements so that the plants will not be damaged and frozen by the cold weather. Many foliage plants will be harmed severely, if the temperature drops well below 50°F; therefore, it's important to maintain a warm temperature as much as possible around the plants when hauling them from one site to the next. Finally, never allow wind to blow over them from open

windows of the vehicle.

Jena Luthowski writes about

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<http://www.homegardencoupons.com/Coupons/Gurney's%20Seed%20and%20Nursery.html> and

<http://www.hardwaretoolsonsale.com>

### **Pairing Orchids with Other Flowers**

#### **By Orchid Geeks**

Because there are so many varieties of orchids, you'll also find that there are lots of unique pairings of orchids with other plants. One of the most striking ways to grow and display your orchids, in fact, is in a naturalistic setting in a terrarium where their unconventional beauty is complemented by other plants that are native to the same habitats. By including gravel, charcoal or bark chips in the growth medium of your terrarium, you can happily grow a wide variety of orchids that will suit and complement other plants chosen for your terrarium.

Orchids are quite happy sharing their environment with other flowers and plants. Generally, orchids have the same temperature, humidity and light requirements as most popular houseplants, so they don't need a specialized environment set apart from your other houseplants. Because orchids are epiphytic (taking their nutrition from the moisture in the air), you'll find that they work very well in dish gardens when provided with a layer of moist sphagnum moss or loose bark in which to root. orchid care

One of the most common pairings for a terrarium are carnivorous plants and orchids. The exotic foliage and showy blooms of the two kinds of plants not only look spectacular together - the two plants also 'help' each other. While the relationship isn't quite symbiotic, the blooms of the orchid help attract the insects on which a Venus fly trap or other carnivorous plant feeds. It's a popular pairing that is often promoted by the sellers of exotic plants.

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