

Pocka Dot Plant

The polka dot plant (*Hypoestes phyllostachya*) is an eye-catching little plant with brightly [variegated leaves](#) that stand out against most other foliage. The most common polka dot plants feature leaves with a pink base color and green spots. But there are several spotted or mottled varieties with purple, white, red, and deeper colors and brighter contrast, so the plants pop even more. These plants are not especially difficult to grow, but because they are native to warm climates, many gardeners treat them as annuals and replace them with new plants each year. They're best planted in the spring. They also can be grown in containers as houseplants. They have a moderate growth rate and remain relatively small once mature, especially when grown indoors.

When grown outdoors, polka dot plants like a spot with some shade. Pick a planting site that's not in low light or too much light or else you can expect the foliage colors to fade, lessening the plant's ornamental value. Bright, indirect light is ideal indoors, such as from an east- or south-facing window.

Polka dot plants prefer [soil rich in organic matter](#) with good drainage. An all-purpose organic potting mix is typically suitable for these plants. Mix in some pumice or perlite to improve soil drainage.

