The Complete Garden Care & Green Living Guide



A garden may occupy a single office desk, a balcony, a terrace or a spacious landscape. The principles remain the same: understand the living needs of plants, choose suitable containers and provide regular, informed care.

This complimentary handbook brings practical plant knowledge to Green Mall customers and friends of nature. It covers light, watering, roots, growing media, suitable plant choices, seasonal changes and gardening services. Keep it nearby as a working reference rather than a book to read once.

Healthy plants are achieved through observation, suitability and patience—not constant intervention.

GREEN MALL TIP A greener home begins with better knowledge.

How to Use This Book



Begin with your space. Observe when it receives direct sunlight, whether the area is exposed to strong wind or rain, and how much room is available for pots. A plant that performs well outdoors may fail in a dark office, even when it receives generous care.

Use the indoor-plant profiles when selecting desk, living-room or reception plants. Use the balcony and terrace chapters for exposed areas. The tables summarise pot sizes, winter flowers, herbs, soil mixes and problem diagnosis. For advice, share both a close-up of the plant and a photograph of its whole location.

Green Mall can help match plants, decorative planters, growing media and services to the practical conditions of your site.

GREEN MALL TIP Photographs of the complete location give better advice than a single close-up.

Why Some Gardens Succeed and Others Fail



Plants do not respond to enthusiasm alone. Good results follow five connected decisions: the right species, sufficient light, correct watering, an airy root environment and a properly sized container. A poor choice in any one area can undo improvements in the others.

For example, hibiscus usually needs strong sunlight for flowering; a ZZ plant tolerates lower indoor light but dislikes constantly wet media. If yellowing appears, first investigate light, soil moisture and drainage rather than immediately adding fertiliser or pesticides.

Gardening becomes easier when each problem is tested against the plant's actual needs instead of treated by guesswork.

GREEN MALL TIP Check the growing conditions before treating symptoms.

Understanding Sunlight



Light supplies the energy for plant growth. A bright room to our eyes may be too dim for a flowering shrub. Observe the plant's exact position rather than relying only on whether the room seems well lit. Curtains, awnings and neighbouring buildings can greatly reduce usable light.

Full-sun locations normally receive several hours of direct sunlight and suit many hibiscus, roses and bougainvillea plants. Bright indirect light suits money plants, many aglaonemas and Anthurium hookeri. ZZ plants and snake plants tolerate lower light, although growth may slow.

Record sunlight at roughly 9 AM, noon and 3 PM before selecting a permanent place.

GREEN MALL TIP Bright indirect light is not the same as a dark corner.

Balcony Sun: Morning and Afternoon



East-facing balconies usually receive gentler morning sunlight. They can suit a broad range of foliage plants and selected flowering plants, depending on how many hours of direct light reach the pots. West-facing balconies receive hotter afternoon light and may require tougher species or temporary summer protection.

A productive balcony must also provide safe movement, stable pots and clear drainage. Flowering choices change by season; foliage gives year-round structure. Observe the sunlight for several days and group plants with similar care needs, rather than placing every attractive purchase together.

Wind, shade from adjoining buildings and reflected heat may matter as much as compass direction.

GREEN MALL TIP Choose plants according to the actual sunlight hours—not merely balcony orientation.

Watering: The Fundamental Skill



Watering depends on species, pot size, season, air movement and growing medium. Small pots may dry quickly in summer, while large shaded containers can remain moist much longer. A daily routine may therefore be excessive for one plant and insufficient for another.

When water is needed, moisten the root ball rather than repeatedly sprinkling the surface. In a draining nursery pot, allow surplus water to escape. Do not leave pots soaking in collected saucer water. Wilting can result from dry soil or damaged roots in wet soil; test before responding.

Jade and ZZ plants usually need longer intervals between watering than many leafy flowering plants.

GREEN MALL TIP Water when needed, not simply because the calendar says so.

Finger Test for Watering



Insert a clean finger about 1–2 inches into the medium where pot size permits. If the upper mix is dry, many common foliage plants may be ready for watering. If it remains moist or wet, check again later. In tiny pots or fragile root systems, test shallower or use a moisture probe.

The finger test is only one clue. Large pots can still be wet near the centre even after the surface dries. Compare the pot's weight, recent rainfall, leaf condition and species requirements. Succulents such as jade may need the mix to dry much further than moisture-loving plants.

Repeatedly dampening the top centimetre can leave the deeper root ball inadequately watered.

GREEN MALL TIP Learn the moisture needs of the species; do not apply one test as a rigid rule to all plants.

Correct Watering Depth



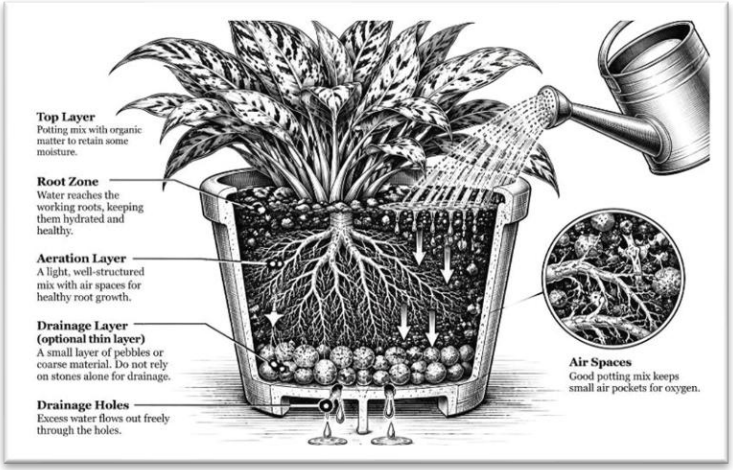
A proper watering reaches the working root zone. Apply water gently and evenly, allowing it to soak into the medium. Very dry potting mixes sometimes resist wetting at first and may need several slow passes rather than a single fast pour.

Water should be able to drain through functioning outlets. A pot that has no escape route for surplus water can remain saturated and damage roots. Do not assume that a layer of stones at the bottom corrects drainage; use a properly structured mix and open holes instead.

Before watering again, assess the top layer, the pot's weight and the plant's condition.

GREEN MALL TIP Water deeply when required, then let the excess escape.

Drainage and Root Health



Roots need oxygen as well as moisture. In compacted or persistently waterlogged media, the spaces that normally hold air remain filled with water. Roots can deteriorate before a gardener notices visible damage in the foliage.

Warning signs include slow drainage, a pot remaining heavy for many days, unpleasant odour, soft roots and wilting despite wet soil. Check both the mix and the drain holes. If using a decorative cachepot without holes, place a draining nursery pot inside it and empty any collected water regularly.

During Kolkata's monsoon, even an ordinarily reliable growing mix may need more protection from sustained rainfall.

GREEN MALL TIP A beautiful pot is useful only when it also supports healthy roots.

Potting Mix: Know the Ingredients



Garden soil provides mineral content and body; mature compost adds organic matter and some nutrients; cocopeat retains moisture; perlite, pumice, coarse grit or bark can improve the structure of many mixes. None of these ingredients is automatically suitable for every plant in every climate.

For containers, the blend must hold some water yet allow sufficient air around the roots. Heavy clay-rich field soil may compact in pots. Use fully matured compost, suitable horticultural materials and clean containers. The correct recipe also depends on the plant's size and whether it receives rain or stays under cover.

A good mix is open, stable, adequately moist and suited to the species—not simply rich or heavy.

GREEN MALL TIP Choose growing media by plant group and drainage behaviour.

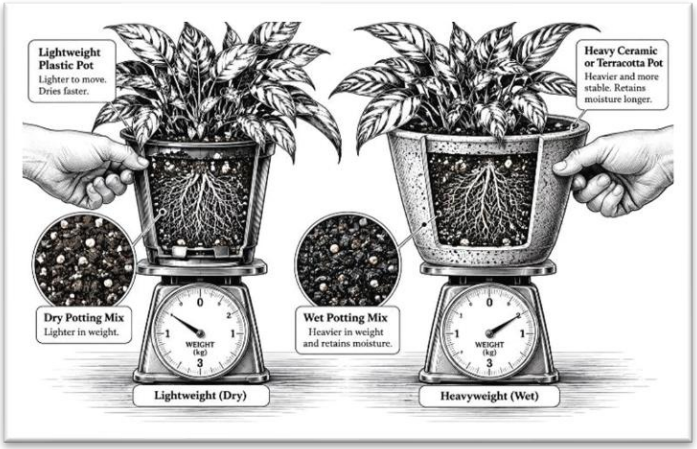
Soil Formulations by Plant Group

Reference mixtures below are approximate starting proportions by volume. They are not fixed prescriptions; actual results depend on the properties of the ingredients, container dimensions, species and seasonal conditions.

Plant group	Soil	Compost	Coir	Aeration
Foliage	30%	25%	25%	20%
Flowering shrubs	40%	25%	15%	20%
Succulents	10%	10%	10%	70%
Herbs / vegetables	30%	30%	20%	20%
Container palms	35%	25%	15%	25%

Use horticultural-grade aeration materials, and avoid fresh manure around roots. Where a mix stays wet for too long, consider more structural aeration rather than simply reducing watering frequency. Ask Green Mall to help adjust the recipe for the intended use.

Understanding Pot Weight



The weight of a planted pot depends on its own material, the dry growing mix, retained water, root mass and overall dimensions. Light polymer planters are often easier to move, while substantial ceramic planters can provide a premium visual effect and useful stability in appropriate positions.

Lift a small pot after watering and again when it has dried sufficiently; experience makes weight a helpful moisture clue. However, a heavy pot does not prove waterlogging, and a light pot does not prove good drainage. On terraces and balconies, the total saturated load may be much greater than the empty planter suggests.

Plan very large installations with waterproofing, drainage and structural load in mind.

GREEN MALL TIP Select container and medium together; weight and drainage are separate questions.

Indoor Plants: Choosing Well



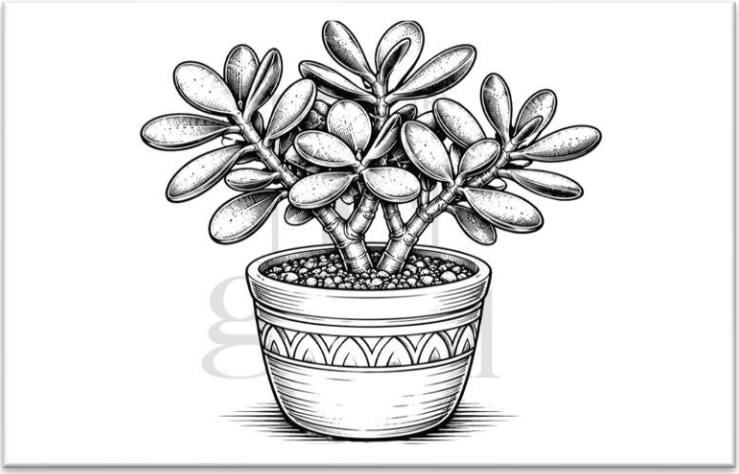
Indoor plant selection begins with light, not fashionable labels. A low-maintenance office may suit ZZ plant or aglaonema, while a brighter shelf can carry a trailing money plant. A prominent entrance or reception may benefit from the bold foliage of Anthurium hookeri.

Match the pot to the foliage: compact forms work well on desks, trailing plants soften shelves and larger rosette plants make an architectural statement. Avoid placing sensitive leaves directly in harsh window sun or immediately beneath strong air-conditioning drafts.

Indoor plants still require light, suitable watering and occasional cleaning; none is entirely maintenance-free.

GREEN MALL TIP Ask for a plant and decorative planter as one coordinated selection.

Jade Plant — Crassula ovata



Jade plant is a succulent with thick leaves and a compact branching habit. A healthy specimen can be an attractive gift or tabletop accent. Its leaves store water, so treating it like a moisture-loving tropical foliage plant is a frequent mistake.

Keep jade in bright light and a sharply draining medium. Where acclimatised, it appreciates some gentle direct sun. Water only after sufficient drying, and avoid an oversized pot that remains damp around a small root system. Rotate the plant occasionally if it leans strongly towards the light.

Suggested displays include a 6–10-inch pot for typical tabletop specimens, adjusted to plant size.

GREEN MALL TIP Jade dislikes permanently wet roots more than occasional dryness.

Money Plant — Epipremnum aureum



Money plant is valued for its adaptable trailing or climbing growth. It works well in hanging containers, on shelves or trained upwards on a suitable support. Many varieties tolerate moderate indoor conditions, although their leaf size and colour may improve in brighter indirect light.

Check the upper medium before watering and allow surplus water to drain. Trim leggy shoots and propagate healthy cuttings when suitable. In formal offices, a coordinated decorative planter improves presentation; at home, a trailing plant softens hard furniture edges.

Keep the plant out of reach of pets and children who may chew its irritating foliage.

GREEN MALL TIP Use supports for climbing forms and trim trailing forms to keep them neat.

ZZ Plant — Zamioculcas zamiifolia



ZZ plants have glossy upright leaflets and moisture-storing underground rhizomes. They are especially useful for low-fuss offices and shaded interiors with some available light. Their orderly shape works with contemporary ceramic or polymer decorative planters.

They tolerate lower light better than many common foliage species, but cannot live indefinitely in darkness. Allow the medium to dry sufficiently between waterings; continuously wet conditions can harm the rhizomes. Remove dust with a soft damp cloth and avoid frequent pot changes.

Choose a stable pot that fits the root mass, often around 6–10 inches for desk or side-table plants.

GREEN MALL TIP ZZ is drought-tolerant, not water-loving.

Aglaonema — Decorative Tropical Foliage



Aglaonemas offer attractive leaf patterns and an upright, manageable habit. They are useful in offices, reception spaces and sheltered interiors that provide moderate to bright indirect light. Cultivars differ in growth speed, leaf pattern and light tolerance.

Use a loose growing medium that remains moderately moist but not saturated. Protect leaves from prolonged intense direct sunlight and cold draughts. Remove damaged or ageing leaves at their base. When grouped with money plant and ZZ, aglaonema provides a richer variation in foliage shape.

A coordinated 6–12-inch decorative planter may suit many common retail sizes, depending on the root system.

GREEN MALL TIP Select the cultivar for the location, not color alone.

Anthurium hookeri — Green Mall Specialty



Anthurium hookeri is appreciated for its large, arching leaves that form a powerful bird's-nest-like rosette. Its architectural foliage lends character to a well-lit reception, living room or sheltered statement corner. This is one of Green Mall's highlighted specialist plants.

Provide bright indirect light, a moisture-retentive but airy substrate and suitable humidity without leaving the roots waterlogged. Avoid harsh afternoon sun and stagnant conditions around the crown. A substantial decorative planter can complement its form, but must not hide a lack of drainage.

Larger examples may require approximately 8–14-inch or greater containers according to specimen size.

GREEN MALL TIP For a premium indoor display, let the leaves remain the main visual feature.

Snake Plant, Peace Lily and Syngonium



These three familiar houseplants provide contrasting forms: upright architectural snake plant leaves, softer peace lily foliage and the adaptable trailing or climbing yngonium. Their watering and light needs are not identical.

Plant	Suitable light	Water guidance
Snake plant	Low to bright indirect	Allow mix to dry well
Peace lily	Bright indirect	Keep moderately moist, not saturated
Syngonium	Bright indirect	Water when upper mix starts drying

Snake plant generally prefers a more thorough drying between waterings; peace lily tends to need more even moisture, without saturation; yngonium usually performs well in bright indirect light. Choose by light conditions first, then the desired visual effect. Avoid describing any of them as suitable for zero light.

For pet-owning households, check the toxicity and placement of chosen species.

Office Desk Plant Collection



The suggested Green Mall office desk package is a ZZ plant or aglaonema, a decorative planter and a clearly written care card. This is a simple product combination with visual appeal and manageable maintenance needs.

For multiple desks, matching containers create a coordinated appearance even if individual plants differ. Provide guidance on light, checking moisture and who is responsible for watering. Keep saucers and outer planters clean so desks remain free of water damage.

The team should select final varieties and pot sizes according to desk space, available light and budget.

GREEN MALL TIP Office Desk: ZZ or Aglaonema + decorative planter + care card.

Common Indoor Plant Mistakes



Indoor plants often suffer from repeated small errors rather than a single dramatic event. Weak light, an oversized undrained pot, daily watering of a dry-loving species, and constant movement between very different locations all create avoidable stress.

Check the room's usable daylight and note how quickly the pot dries. Do not put every plant directly against glass where afternoon sun may scorch tender leaves. Wash dusty leaves gently; inspect hidden leaf axils for pests; give new purchases time to adjust before unnecessary repotting.

If a plant declines, identify and change one likely cause at a time rather than altering everything together.

GREEN MALL TIP An indoor plant requires appropriate conditions, not constant attention.

Indoor Plant Quick Reference

This at-a-glance table helps compare indoor foliage plants for homes and offices. “Low light tolerant” does not mean suitable for total darkness, and watering is always conditional on pot size, season and the growing medium.

Plant	Light	Water approach	Display pot
Jade	Bright; some gentle sun	Dry well between watering	6–10 in
Money plant	Bright indirect	When upper mix dries	6–12 in
ZZ	Low to bright indirect	Allow substantial drying	6–10 in
Aglaonema	Moderate–brigh t indirect	Moderate, well drained	6–12 in
Hookeri	Bright indirect	Even, airy moisture	8–14 in+
Snake plant	Low–bright indirect	Allow drying	6–12 in
Peace lily	Bright indirect	Moderate, avoid saturation	6–10 in
Syngonium	Bright indirect	Moderate	6–10 in

Use a clean inner nursery pot with drainage inside a decorative cachepot when necessary. The following display sizes are broad shopping guides, not fixed biological limits.

Planning a Balcony Garden



Begin by deciding whether the balcony is chiefly for flowers, quiet seating, privacy screening or useful herbs. Measure the floor and railing dimensions and keep access to doors and drains clear. Observe direct sunlight and wind before ordering large containers.

Create a balanced composition: some flowering colour, a few lasting foliage plants and perhaps one climber or trailing money plant. Use pots with stable bases and avoid placing heavy or unsecured planters where they could fall. Seasonal flowers can be changed without disturbing permanent green structure.

A modest, coordinated selection often looks more attractive than too many unrelated pots.

GREEN MALL TIP Plan movement and drainage before filling the balcony.

Balcony Starter Collection



For customers starting from scratch, Green Mall recommends a practical combination of two flowering plants, two foliage plants, suitable pots and a compatible growing mix. This gives both seasonal colour and more permanent visual greenery.

The flowering choices may be petunia and calendula in cooler months, or suitable summer flowers such as vinca in a sunnier season. Foliage options can include croton, money plant or syngonium according to exposure. Pick actual species only after checking light, wind and the user's maintenance preferences.

Every package should include basic watering and drainage instructions.

GREEN MALL TIP Balcony: 2 flowers + 2 foliage + pots + growing mix.

Best Flowering Plants for Balconies

Hibiscus, rose and bougainvillea require substantial direct sunlight and suitably large containers. Seasonal annuals such as petunia and marigold can provide colourful displays for part of the year. Vinca often handles warmer sunny conditions with relatively straightforward maintenance.

Flower	Sun requirement	Typical container
Hibiscus	Full sun	12–16 in+
Rose	Full sun	12–16 in
Bougainvillea	Full sun	14–20 in+
Vinca	Full sun	8–10 in
Petunia	Full sun / cool season	8–10 in
Marigold	Full sun	10–12 in

Avoid assuming a shaded balcony will flower as freely as an open terrace. Regular removal of faded blooms, appropriate feeding and sufficient air movement can extend the life of many displays. If the balcony becomes extremely hot, container size and irrigation deserve special attention.

Choose flowering plants based on actual sunlight, not the promise of flowers on the shop label.

Winter Flowers for Kolkata



Cooler months provide good conditions for many popular seasonal annuals. Petunia, calendula, dianthus, pansy, antirrhinum, phlox, verbena and chrysanthemums can make balconies, entrances and gardens attractive when the weather is suitable.

Start with healthy, sturdy seedlings or budded plants. Give most winter annuals generous light, a well-drained fertile mix and enough spacing for air movement. Remove faded blooms where appropriate and monitor watering: cool weather can keep a container moist much longer than in summer.

Seasonal flowers should be selected afresh each year, with varieties matched to the site.

GREEN MALL TIP Fresh winter colour works especially well around entrances and sunny balconies.

Winter Flower Selection Chart

This chart is a quick guide to selecting popular winter flowers for containers and beds in Kolkata and similar climates. Pot sizes refer to typical retail displays; mature plants and cultivar choices may need different containers.

Flower	Light	Typical pot	Useful role
Petunia	Full sun	8–10 in	Balcony colour
Calendula	Full sun	8–10 in	Sunny winter pot
Dianthus	Sun	8 in	Compact edging
Pansy	Cool sun	8 in	Cool-season accents
Antirrhinum	Sun	8–10 in	Vertical flowering
Chrysanthemu m	Sun	10–12 in	Feature winter pot
Phlox	Sun	8–10 in	Beds / containers
Marigold	Full sun	10–12 in	Festive display

For flowering performance, prioritise suitable temperature, adequate light, healthy nursery stock and consistent but not excessive irrigation.

Winter Flower Display Ideas



An attractive winter flower display depends on repetition and height variation. Use a main colour family or alternate complementary tones, rather than placing every variety randomly. Position taller chrysanthemums or antirrhinums behind shorter petunias, dianthus or pansies.

At entrances, use coordinated containers of similar size. On balconies, protect railings and pathways and choose plants that suit the amount of sunlight available. Replace tired plants promptly rather than compensating with extra fertiliser. Healthy foliage is as important to the effect as the visible blooms.

Choose plants with healthy roots and fresh buds, not merely fully opened flowers.

GREEN MALL TIP Repeat two or three plant combinations for a refined display.

Balcony Foliage Plants



Foliage maintains shape and greenery when seasonal flowers are absent. Crotons provide strong visual contrast in suitable bright positions, while money plant and syngonium can soften a balcony wall or shelf. Certain aglaonemas suit protected areas rather than strong exposed afternoon sun.

Use larger foliage as structural points and smaller plants to fill gaps. Be careful with delicate leaves in windy high-rise balconies; drying and physical damage may be severe. Group plants by watering needs and avoid creating inaccessible clusters that cannot be cleaned or inspected.

Foliage choices can be adjusted for shade, plant height, wind and decorative planter style.

GREEN MALL TIP Use foliage for continuity and seasonal flowers for change.

Planning a Terrace Garden



A terrace garden needs more than attractive pots. Check exposure, safety, wind, drainage outlets, irrigation access and the load of containers when saturated with water. Waterproofing and structural capacity must be assessed before heavy fixed beds or large permanent features are installed.

Divide the space into clear zones: flowering pots in sun, herbs near convenient access, larger greenery for privacy and safe walkways for maintenance. Large specimens need secure placement. Allow water to flow towards drains and avoid spreading loose soil across finished surfaces.

Plan the overall look before buying individual plants, especially where larger planters are involved.

GREEN MALL TIP Structural safety and waterproofing come before decoration.

Terrace Plant Reference

The most suitable terrace planting varies widely with sun, wind and exposure to heavy rain. The table below gives indicative choices, pot diameters and uses for common Indian terrace gardens.

Plant	Pot guide	Exposure	Main use
Bougainvillea	14–20 in+	Full sun	Long-term flower feature
Croton	10–16 in	Bright / some sun	Foliage colour
Areca palm	16–24 in+	Filtered / protected	Green screening
Tulsi	8–10 in	Sun	Herb corner
Plumeria	16–24 in+	Sun	Terrace feature
Cycas	12–18 in+	Bright / some sun	Structural accent
Winter annuals	8–12 in	Sun	Seasonal colour

The dimensions refer to suggested display sizes, not universal minimums. Mature palms, plumeria and large shrubs may require much bigger root volumes and careful load assessment.

Outdoor Flowering Shrubs



Hibiscus, rose, bougainvillea, ixora, adenium and allamanda can be useful flowering choices where site conditions allow. They differ considerably in watering, pruning, potting mix and eventual growth.

Hibiscus often responds well to regular care and adequate nutrition. Bougainvillea needs strong light and generally dislikes constant wetness. Adenium requires a particularly fast-draining medium and seasonal care suited to its growth cycle. Train or prune climbers thoughtfully and avoid blocking building access.

Use large stable pots for long-term shrubs and maintain sufficient air circulation.

GREEN MALL TIP Match flowering shrubs to the exact exposure and available maintenance.

Entrance Planting: A First Impression



Entrance is both a horticultural and design decision. It should look deliberate and welcoming while leaving easy access for people and vehicles. A pair of matching planters often creates a stronger visual effect than several mismatched small pots.

Choose statement plants according to light and available width: palms or bold foliage may suit protected areas, while selected flowering shrubs suit open sun. Check mature height, wind resistance and the weight of large ceramic or polymer planters before installation.

Green Mall's team can adjust the arrangement to architecture, sun exposure, space and budget.

GREEN MALL TIP Entrance: matching large planters + suitable statement plants.

Entrance Planting Visual Guide



Formal entrances often benefit from repetition, clear lines and suitable scale. Two matching planters can frame a doorway; a staggered grouping works better where the entry is asymmetrical. Use durable materials in exposed sites and avoid crowding a narrow passage.

Choose plants for the conditions instead of copying the same species into every property. In a sheltered entrance, large foliage can create a premium feel; in full sun, a flowering feature may be more effective. Plan access for watering, pruning and cleaning from the beginning.

Lighting, security visibility, safe walking and drainage are part of good entrance design.

GREEN MALL TIP Keep the main access route clear even after plants mature.

Building a Useful Herb Corner



An herb corner brings fragrance and everyday usefulness into a small home garden. Green Mall recommends starting with tulsi, mint and basil in separate containers. They have different growth habits and sometimes different moisture needs, making individual pots easier to manage.

Select a bright position with enough sunlight for the chosen herbs. Keep containers near a convenient watering point and within easy reach for harvesting. Prune herbs regularly but avoid stripping a young plant of most of its leaves in one harvest.

If space permits, expand later with curry leaf or lemongrass, which need larger containers as they develop.

GREEN MALL TIP Herb Corner: tulsi + mint + basil, each in its own pot.

Herb Corner Visual Guide



Herbs should be placed where they can be reached easily and observed daily. Individual containers help prevent vigorous mint from spreading into the root space of more slowly growing herbs. Basil often benefits from tip-pinching that encourages new branches.

Place the three pots in a compact group with enough room for airflow. Use a fertile, open growing medium with working drainage holes. Adjust watering to each herb rather than assuming the three containers will dry at the same rate.

Regular small harvests are often better than removing a large portion of the foliage at once.

GREEN MALL TIP Three well-kept herbs make a more useful starter set than many neglected species.

Tulsi — A Familiar Home Herb



Tulsi is valued for its cultural significance and aromatic foliage. It generally performs best with substantial light, drainage and regular attention. In a suitable sunny balcony, container growing makes the plant accessible for daily care.

Use an appropriately sized container, commonly around 8–10 inches for a modest plant, and a fertile yet open medium. Water according to drying; do not leave the roots continuously saturated. Trim tips lightly to encourage useful branching, and remove badly damaged foliage.

A sheltered spot may be helpful during unusually strong storms or heat.

GREEN MALL TIP Tulsi thrives better in adequate light than in a dim indoor room.

Mint and Basil



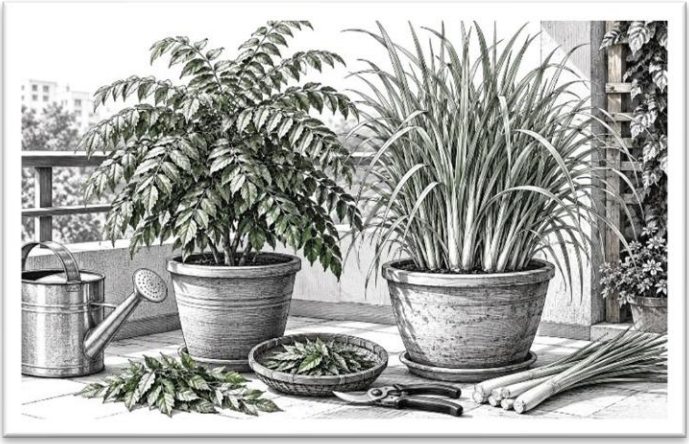
Mint and basil are both useful kitchen herbs but behave differently. Mint spreads through vigorous stems and roots and normally appreciates relatively consistent moisture. Basil prefers plenty of light and benefits from regular tip-harvesting to encourage branching.

Grow them separately rather than mixing them permanently into one small pot. Use containers with drainage, check the surface regularly and avoid waterlogging either species. For basil, frequent removal of shoot tips can help maintain a leafy form. For mint, thin overcrowded stems and watch for pests hidden beneath leaves.

Seasonal growth can vary substantially in Kolkata's hot and humid conditions.

GREEN MALL TIP Separate containers make these herbs easier to harvest and maintain.

Curry Leaf and Lemongrass



Curry leaf is a small tree or shrub used widely in Indian cooking. In a container it requires sufficient sun, root space and appropriate pruning as it grows. Lemongrass forms an aromatic clump and can be both useful and visually attractive in larger pots.

These are longer-term plants than small seasonal herb seedlings. Select stable containers, often 12–16 inches or more as specimens develop. Use an open fertile medium and monitor root crowding. Both benefit from an accessible position where leaf harvesting and periodic cleaning can be done safely.

Do not let large plants obstruct balcony drains or narrow pathways.

GREEN MALL TIP Plan for the mature size, not only the size at purchase.

Herb and Kitchen Gardening Reference

Use this compact chart for popular herbs and culinary plants that can be cultivated in suitable Indian homes. Actual performance depends on season, cultivar, light, watering and the condition of the growing medium.

Plant	Sun guidance	Pot guide	Care focus
Tulsi	4–6 hours preferred	8–10 in	Well-drained, tip-prune
Mint	Bright / part sun	8–12 in	Maintain moisture, contain spread
Basil	4–6 hours preferred	8–10 in	Pinch tips, harvest regularly
Curry leaf	Full sun	12–16 in+	Room for woody roots
Lemongrass	Full sun	12–16 in+	Clump space, regular harvest
Chilli	Full sun	10–12 in+	Sun and steady feeding

All pot sizes are starting guides. Wider root space and regular feeding may be necessary for long-term or particularly vigorous plants.

Why the Pot Matters



The container affects root health, watering rhythm, stability, mobility and the appearance of the finished plant. Good pots are more than decorative objects, but appearance remains important in a home or office setting.

A container should accommodate the current root ball without leaving an excessive volume of permanently wet medium. Check drainage holes, surface finish, weight when planted and whether the material suits outdoor exposure. A plant in a well-chosen pot may look better than a larger specimen in a mismatched one.

Green Mall can recommend plants and pots as a coordinated purchase rather than two separate decisions.

GREEN MALL TIP The right pot supports healthy roots and good design together.

Types of Pots and Planters

Different materials suit different practical uses. Ceramic can provide a refined interior effect; polymer is often lighter and easier to move; unglazed clay can lose moisture through its walls; grow bags are convenient for many utility crops.

Container	Advantages	Practical caution
Ceramic	Decorative, premium finish	May be heavy; check drainage
Polymer	Relatively light, many sizes	Secure in wind; check outlets
Unglazed clay	Traditional, porous surface	May dry faster; can break
Grow bag	Economical, convenient	Support as needed; may age
Hanging pot	Uses vertical space	Safe mounting and drainage
Cachepot	Conceals inner nursery pot	Empty standing water

Use the comparison below while considering location, drainage and plant size. A decorative pot without an outlet may function best as a cachepot around a drained inner container.

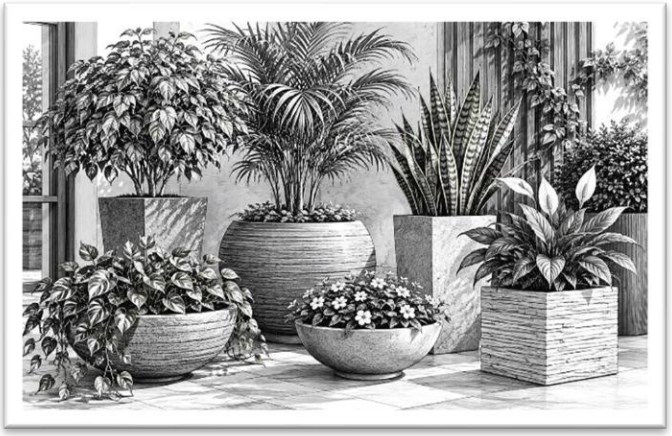
Pot Size Selection Chart

Pot diameter is only a broad starting point. Root-ball size, plant maturity, watering conditions and intended display all influence the final choice. A young jade should not automatically be transferred into a huge planter, while a large palm may require substantially more root volume than a small indoor foliage plant.

Plant / purpose	Typical starting diameter	Important note
Small tabletop	4–6 in	Choose by root ball
Indoor foliage	6–12 in	Avoid oversizing
Kitchen herbs	8–12 in	Separate vigorous types
Flowering shrub	12–16 in	Space for growth
Climber / feature shrub	14–20 in	Strong support / stable base
Large palms / specimens	16–24 in+	Load and root volume
Large feature planters	18 in+	Structural assessment

Use the chart for shopping discussions, then check the actual specimen. All figures are indicative and refer to top pot diameter.

Decorative Planters and Garden Design



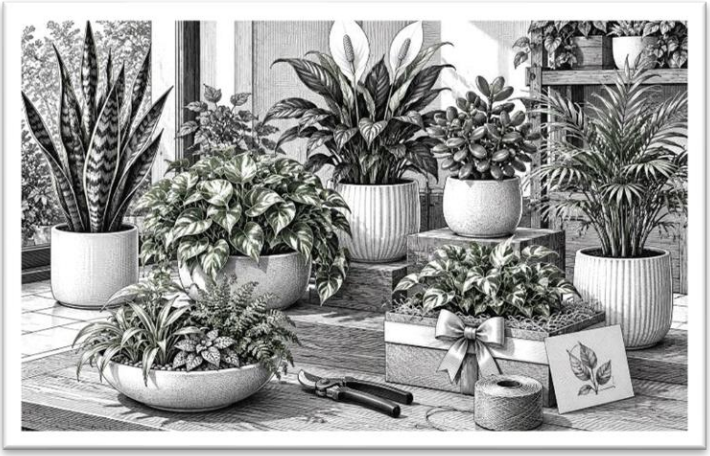
A planter frames a living plant in the same way that an appropriate frame complements a picture. Shape, finish, scale and repetition influence whether the result looks coordinated or cluttered.

For offices, use related planter styles across desks and meeting spaces. At entrances, matching large pots offer a clear design statement. In smaller homes, a restrained set of two or three finishes normally looks more deliberate than many unrelated materials. Wherever possible, maintain drainage independently of decorative appearance.

A white, dark or patterned planter may have a different visual effect even with the same foliage plant.

GREEN MALL TIP Choose the plant, planter and setting as one composition.

Ready Pot-Plants for Homes and Gifts



Ready pot-plants combine the living plant with its intended container, saving customers the effort of selecting and assembling components separately. They can be particularly useful for office desks, housewarming gifts, reception areas and customers seeking immediate decoration.

Choose a clean, healthy plant and match the pot scale to the recipient's space. Provide a simple care card stating light needs, watering checks and drainage guidance. For gifts, consider how the item will travel and whether the outer pot can be moved safely when wet.

A ready pot-plant should be attractive on arrival and manageable afterwards.

GREEN MALL TIP Include a care card with every recommended ready pot-plant.

How to Select the Right Pot



Begin with the plant: root-ball size, eventual growth and water preference. Next assess the position: indoors, balcony, open terrace or formal entrance. Then compare the container material, empty weight, drainage and style.

A heavy ceramic planter may be ideal for a stable reception display but inconvenient on a lightly loaded shelf. A lightweight polymer planter may simplify movement on a terrace, though the wet soil and plant can still add major weight. Do not overlook cleaning, saucer use and access to drainage holes.

Choose practical function before finalising the decorative finish.

GREEN MALL TIP A beautiful pot is successful when the plant can remain healthy within it.

Matching Planters: Offices and Entrances



A coordinated group of containers can make a modest plant collection look like a professionally designed space. Use repeated shapes or finishes while allowing plant heights to vary. For a formal entrance, symmetrical pairs often work; office spaces may need staggered or repeated units.

Keep circulation clear and match size to architecture. Select materials according to exposure, expected maintenance and whether plants must be moved. For a consistent office programme, labels or care cards can simplify shared responsibility for watering and cleaning.

Green Mall can help make a plant-and-planter selection appropriate for both aesthetics and upkeep.

GREEN MALL TIP Consistency of planters produces a more refined appearance.

Green Mall Pot and Planter Guide

Green Mall offers plant-and-container guidance for different styles of gardening. Customers may consider ceramic planters, polymer pots, ordinary functional containers, ready pot-plants and suitable growing media as part of a complete solution.

Customer need	Green Mall solution	Decision needed
Single desk plant	Plant + decorative pot	Available daylight
Balcony refresh	Flowers + foliage + mix	Sun, wind, space
Herb corner	Tulsi + mint + basil	Adequate sunlight
Entrance design	Matching large planters	Scale and exposure
Terrace use	Stable pots + selected plants	Drainage / load
Project greening	Site-based plant selection	Measurements and scope

Bring approximate space measurements, photos and your preferred style. The Green Mall team can advise on practical size, plant form and maintenance needs. For large items, confirm access, lifting, delivery and installation before choosing a planter based only on appearance.

Summer Garden Care



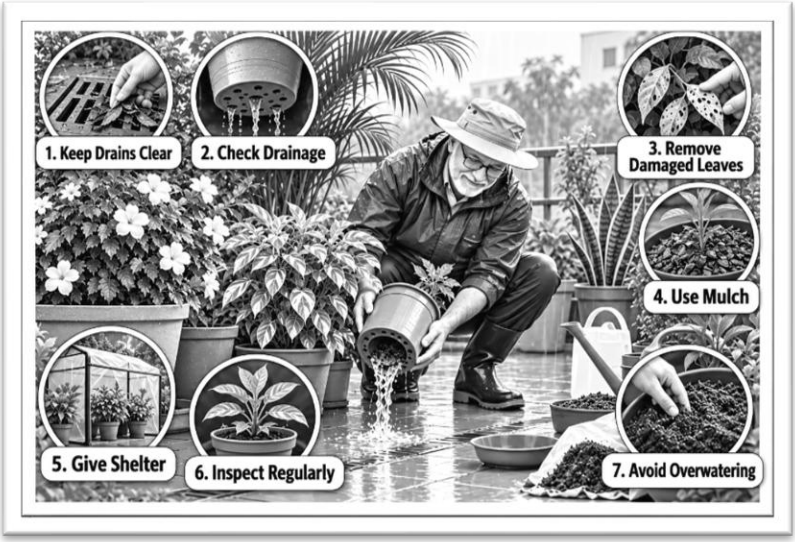
In hot weather, evaporation and plant water demand often rise, especially on open terraces and west-facing balconies. Small containers may dry much more quickly than shaded large pots. Inspect moisture frequently without watering automatically.

Protect sensitive foliage from exceptional afternoon heat where practical. Water slowly to moisten the root zone and avoid repeated shallow sprinkling. Mulch may help moderate drying in larger pots and beds. Delay unnecessary root disturbance during severe heat stress and keep exposed planters stable in wind.

Remember that a plant wilting in wet soil may have root trouble rather than a simple water shortage.

GREEN MALL TIP In summer, observation becomes more important—not fixed daily watering.

Monsoon Garden Care



During monsoon, roots are at risk where pots remain saturated for many days. Rain also encourages rapid weed growth and can damage weak supports or tall potted specimens. A sheltered balcony may still stay relatively dry even while open pots receive heavy rainfall.

Clear terrace drains, remove accumulated saucer water and secure tall plants before storms. Inspect foliage for fungal symptoms and watch for prolonged wetness in compacted mixes. Do not add water to rain-soaked pots because the calendar says it is watering day.

Reposition sensitive species when rainfall is persistent, without blocking circulation or drainage.

GREEN MALL TIP During monsoon, drainage takes priority over routine watering.

Winter and Cooler-Season Care



Cooler months bring a different watering rhythm. Many pots dry more slowly, and the angle of direct sunlight can change which locations receive adequate light. This is also an excellent period for numerous colourful annual flowers in Kolkata.

Reduce watering where the mix stays moist longer, but continue observing each plant individually. Protect unusually tender tropical plants from cold drafts if temperatures drop. Use winter annuals for sunny displays and avoid overfeeding plants that are not actively growing.

Review indoor and balcony plant placement rather than keeping the arrangement unchanged throughout the year.

GREEN MALL TIP Seasonal care means observing what has changed—not simply following a date.

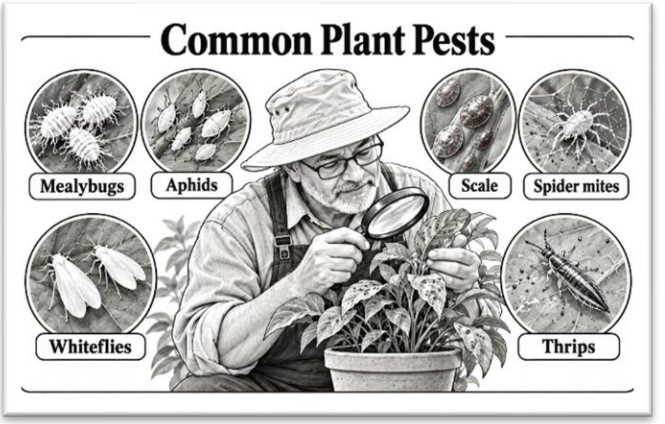
Yellow Leaves, Wilting and Slow Growth

Yellowing, brown tips, weak growth and wilting are clues rather than final diagnoses. Yellow leaves may result from ageing, poor light, excess moisture or nutritional stress. Wilting may occur in dry soil or in waterlogged soil where roots can no longer absorb water well.

Symptom	Check first	Do not assume
Yellow leaves	Moisture, light, normal ageing	All yellowing needs fertiliser
Dry leaf tips	Heat, salts, uneven moisture	A single disease cause
Wilt in dry mix	Root ball moisture	Only a heat problem
Wilt in wet mix	Root oxygen and drainage	It needs more watering
Poor flowering	Sun, pruning, season	Strong fertiliser will solve it
Slow growth	Light, roots, season	Always a nutrient deficiency

Inspect the whole plant and root environment. Ask when it was last watered, repotted, fertilised or moved. A single damaged leaf may not justify chemical treatment. Correct the most likely environmental problem first and observe recovery before making further changes.

Common Pests: Learn to Recognise Them



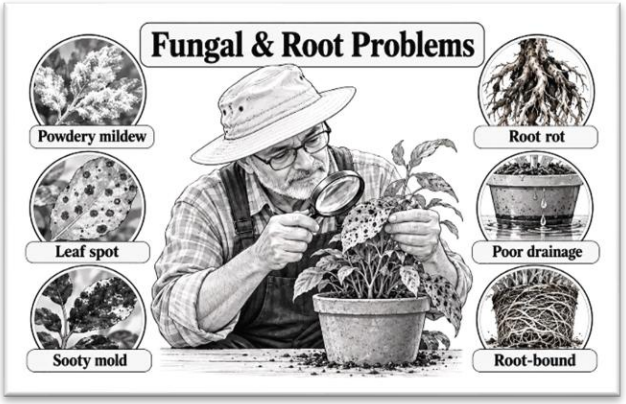
Mealybugs appear as cottony clusters, often near leaf axils; aphids gather on tender shoots; scale insects resemble attached bumps; spider mites are tiny and may leave stippling or fine webbing; caterpillars chew visible portions of leaves.

Inspect both sides of leaves and isolate badly affected plants. Gentle physical removal may help small infestations. Avoid improvised strong detergents or mixing multiple pesticides. Where treatment is necessary, use a suitable labelled product as instructed, after confirming the pest.

Good observation protects plants and reduces unnecessary chemical use.

GREEN MALL TIP Identify the pest before selecting a remedy.

Common Fungal and Root Problems



Fungal leaf spots, powdery mildew and root-related decline require different responses. A whitish powdery coating may indicate powdery mildew, while dark lesions have multiple possible causes. Wet roots and poor drainage can create symptoms that resemble drought.

Improve ventilation, remove severely affected material where appropriate and correct waterlogging. If chemical treatment becomes necessary, confirm the diagnosis and follow the product label. Do not repeatedly spray the whole garden because a few leaves are spotted.

Collect clear photographs of the affected leaves and entire plant for more useful advice.

GREEN MALL TIP Correct the environment before escalating treatment.

Practical Treatment and Product Guide

Plant-care products are not interchangeable. Insecticides, acaricides and fungicides target different problems, and the safe method depends on the exact formulation and crop. Neem-based products are used for some pests; copper and sulphur fungicides have specific labelled uses and restrictions.

Problem	First approach	Product category / caution
Mealybug / aphids	Inspect; isolate; physical removal	Use only suitable labelled pest product
Spider mites	Confirm mite presence	Suitable labelled miticide if needed
Leaf spot	Improve air and sanitation	Copper products only where labelled
Powdery mildew	Reduce crowding	Sulphur / labelled fungicide as advised
Root stress	Correct moisture and drainage	Do not spray blindly
Edible herbs	Identify target and harvest needs	Check crop label and intervals

Use the table as a discussion guide, not a prescription. Check product suitability, directions, protective measures and harvest intervals for edible herbs or vegetables. Follow local regulations, and consult a qualified professional where diagnosis is uncertain.

Seasonal Gardening Checklist

Seasonal gardening is easier when attention is concentrated on the right tasks. Use the following quick checklist to review watering, drainage, plant condition, supporting structures and seasonal refreshes.

Season	Priority check	Typical action
Summer	Fast drying / leaf scorch	Adjust watering, provide shade if needed
Monsoon	Standing water / storms	Clear drainage, secure large pots
Cool season	Slower drying / light changes	Check moisture, move if appropriate
Winter flowers	Healthy buds / spent blooms	Deadhead and monitor sun
Any season	Pests and root health	Inspect weekly, act early

The calendar is illustrative for the Kolkata climate; local storms, heat waves and species needs may require immediate changes.

Why Choose Green Mall



A good garden centre should help customers succeed after purchase, not simply supply plants. Green Mall brings together plants, planters, growing materials and practical guidance for a range of settings—from a home desk to a landscaped property.

Customers can seek suggestions for jade, money plant, ZZ plant, aglaonema, Anthurium hookeri, seasonal flowers, herbs, decorative pots and larger statement planting. Plants should be chosen in response to sunlight, space and maintenance capacity.

Thoughtful planting increases the chance that greenery remains attractive long after installation.

GREEN MALL TIP The right plant in the right place is the beginning of lasting satisfaction.

Green Mall Products and Solutions



Green Mall's offering can be organised around four customer needs: suitable plants, functional or decorative planters, appropriate growing media and combinations ready for immediate placement. A customer can begin with one potted plant or discuss a more ambitious greening project.

The team can help balance practicality and appearance across homes, balconies, offices, entrances and terraces. For complex projects, an initial site discussion helps establish approximate measurements, access, exposure, maintenance and budget.

The most successful order is a coordinated plant-and-care solution, not a random shopping list.

GREEN MALL TIP Bring a site photograph and approximate measurements when seeking advice.

Home Gardening Service



Customers planning a home garden can begin with photographs, a short description of the desired look and basic measurements. Green Mall can discuss plant selection, pot sizes, growing media, delivery and suitable setup arrangements.

The chosen design should allow walking, watering, cleaning and future pruning. An existing balcony may benefit from a modest plant refresh, while a new terrace may require careful planning around drainage and structural limits. Agree upon materials, responsibilities and maintenance expectations before installation.

A garden that can be maintained is more valuable than a dramatic installation that quickly declines.

GREEN MALL TIP Plan the site first; select plants and pots afterwards.

Office Greening Service



Workplace greenery should be elegant, reliable and easy for staff to manage. Desk collections may combine ZZ plant or aglaonema with a decorative planter and care card. Reception areas can use coordinated larger foliage plants, including suitable Anthurium hookeri specimens where light permits.

Before installation, review interior light, air-conditioning, cleaning access and who will water each plant. A simple care instruction programme can reduce inconsistency. A coherent palette of planter finishes makes the collection look intentional rather than accidental.

Green Mall can discuss plant choice, planter coordination and appropriate support for office projects.

GREEN MALL TIP Office Desk: ZZ or Aglaonema + decorative planter + care card.

Landscaping and Garden Development



Landscaping combines horticulture, space planning and long-term maintenance. For homes, institutions and other sites, a design may include lawns, shade or feature plants, paths, planting beds and suitable statement pots. Each element should suit the environment and intended use.

A sensible project begins with measurements, sunlight, soil and drainage assessment, access and budget. Large trees and palms require proper handling and planting preparation. Agree upon watering systems and maintenance responsibilities from the outset; a landscape is a living asset, not a one-time decoration.

Green Mall can discuss suitable planting schemes and project scope after reviewing the location.

GREEN MALL TIP Successful landscaping is measured by healthy growth over time.

Four Green Mall Starter Collections

These collections offer simple starting points for customers who want a considered combination rather than individual unrelated items. Final species, containers and quantities should be adjusted after checking sunlight, available space, season and budget.

Collection	Recommended contents	Suitable for
Office Desk	ZZ OR Aglaonema + planter + care card	Desks, gifts, cabins
Balcony	2 flowers + 2 foliage + pots + mix	Sunny / partially sunny balconies
Herb Corner	Tulsi, mint, basil in separate pots	Bright balcony or terrace
Entrance	Matching large planters + statement plants	Home or office entrances

Use this comparison as a sales and planning guide. Care cards and appropriate mixes can help customers maintain their purchases successfully.

Ordering, Delivery and Site Advice



To enquire, explain whether the plants are for a desk, balcony, entrance, terrace or broader project. Share photographs and measurements where possible, along with sunlight conditions and your budget range. The team can then discuss suitable combinations, availability and delivery arrangements.

Confirm the exact items, planter sizes, quantities, prices and installation requirements before payment. For very large pots or specimens, verify access, loading constraints and the receiving area. Ask for simple after-care instructions so the new installation remains attractive.

Phone / WhatsApp: 97484 73333. Website: www.greenmall.in. Confirm current terms directly with the team.

GREEN MALL TIP A clear requirement and good photographs make selection easier.

Let Your Garden Grow with You



A garden develops through seasons. Plants grow, some need larger containers, flowers change and care routines improve with experience. What matters most is a habit of observation and the willingness to learn from every new leaf and every mistake.

Use this handbook as a practical companion. Visit Green Mall for plants, ready pot-plants, ceramic and polymer planters, suitable growing materials and guidance on home gardening, office greening and landscaping. A small, well-maintained green space can become a lasting source of pleasure.

Green Mall • Samukpota, Bakhrahat Road, South 24 Parganas – 743503 • www.greenmall.in • 97484 73333.

GREEN MALL TIP Healthy plants. Beautiful spaces. A greener tomorrow.