

# How do we make Work Plants the new House Plants?



Gabrielle Stannus  
Dr Peter Irga  
Dr Fraser Torpy



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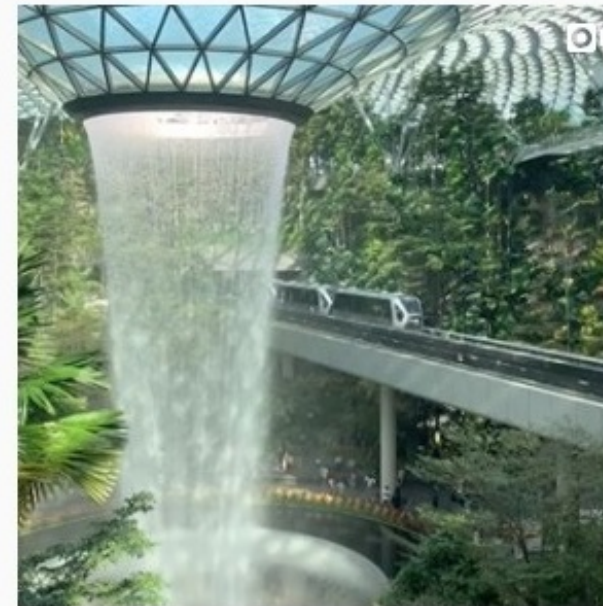
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(Image: Instagram)



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**Gabrielle Stannus**

Landscape Designer, Horticulturist  
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What's better than a Succulent? How about a houseplant you can eat? Check out <https://lnkd.in/gmrZrE5> for the next Gen of Urban Growing.  
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Sales of houseplants are soaring. [#plantsofinstagram](#) boasts over 1.7m posts from proud houseplant owners. So what is behind this new trend?

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Getting started is the hardest part!

[Download](#) (Image: LinkedIn)





# Overview

1. Who we are
2. The benefits that Work Plant can provide
3. What Work Plants need to thrive
4. How you can help us to realise the benefits of Work Plants



(Image: Ambius Australia)



Who are we?





Dr Fraser Torpy

Director of the Plants and Environmental Quality  
Research Group in the Faculty of Science



**UTS**

UNIVERSITY  
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SYDNEY



Dr Peter Irga

Post Doctoral Research Associate in the School of  
Civil and Environmental Engineering

Plants and Environmental  
Quality Research Group

(Images: UTS)

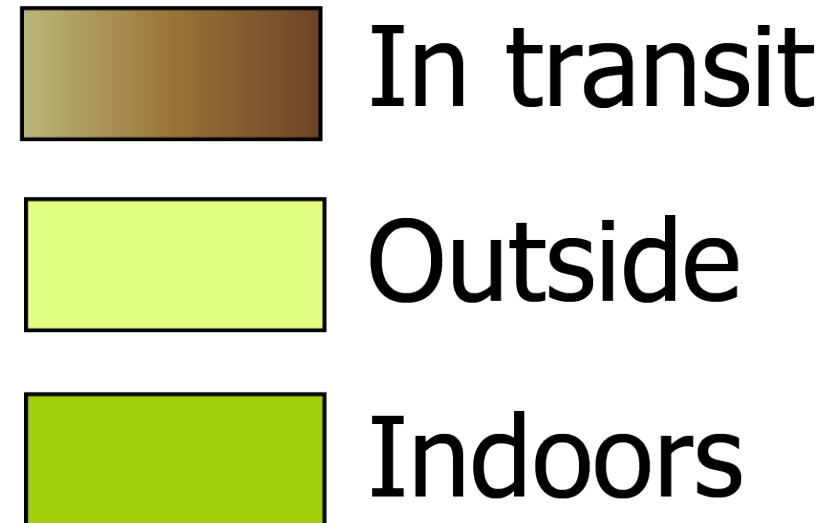
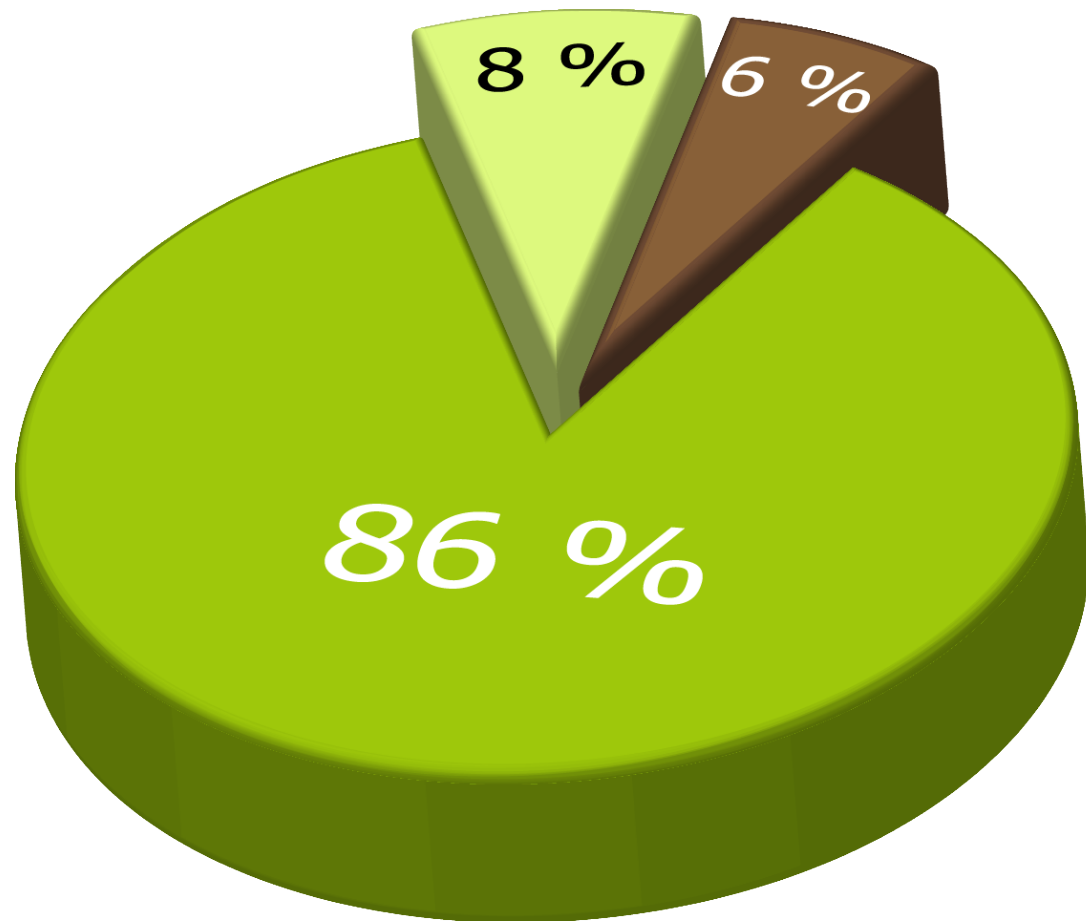


# INTERIOR PLANTSCAPE ASSOCIATION

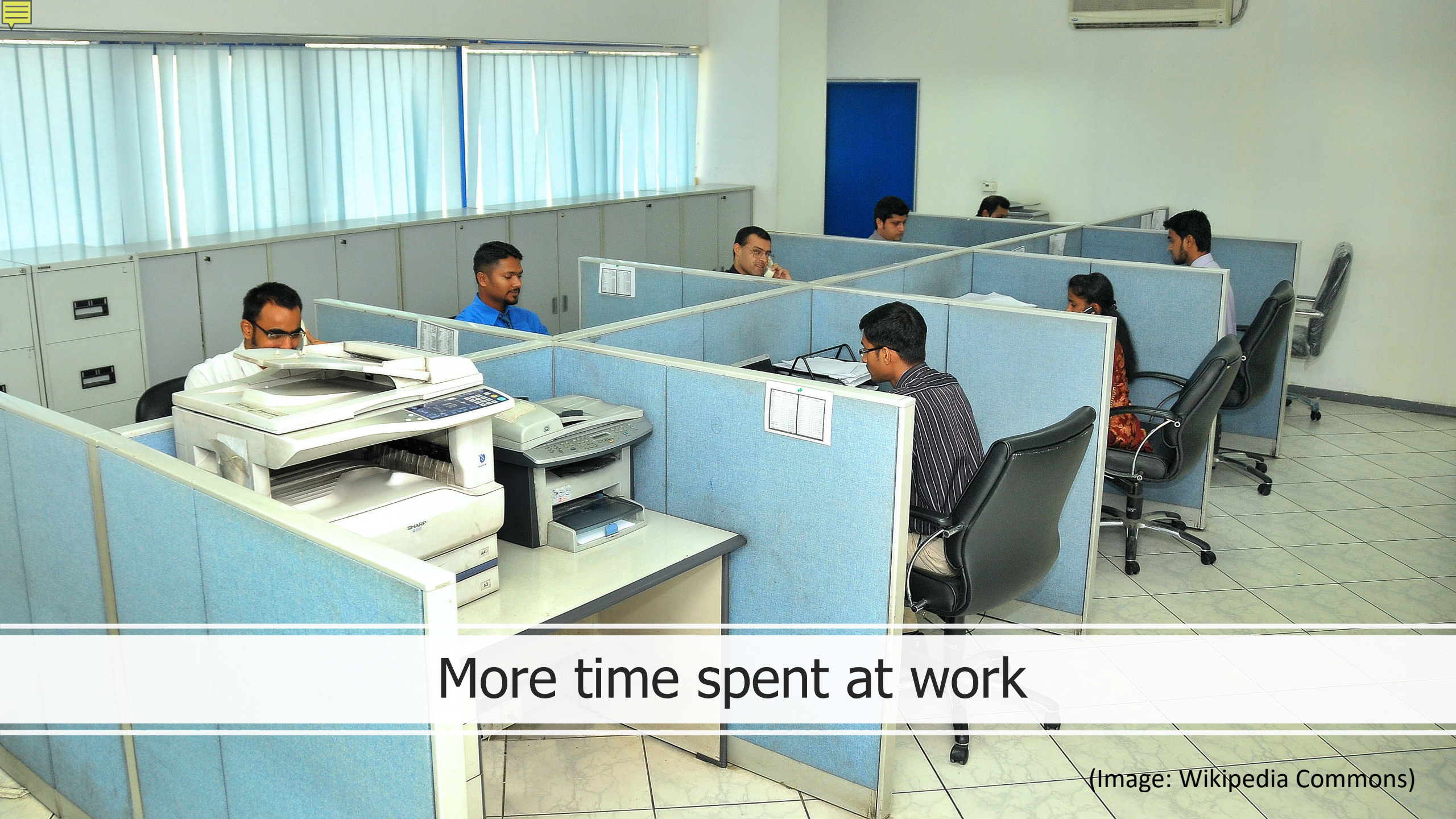




Why focus on  
Work Plants?





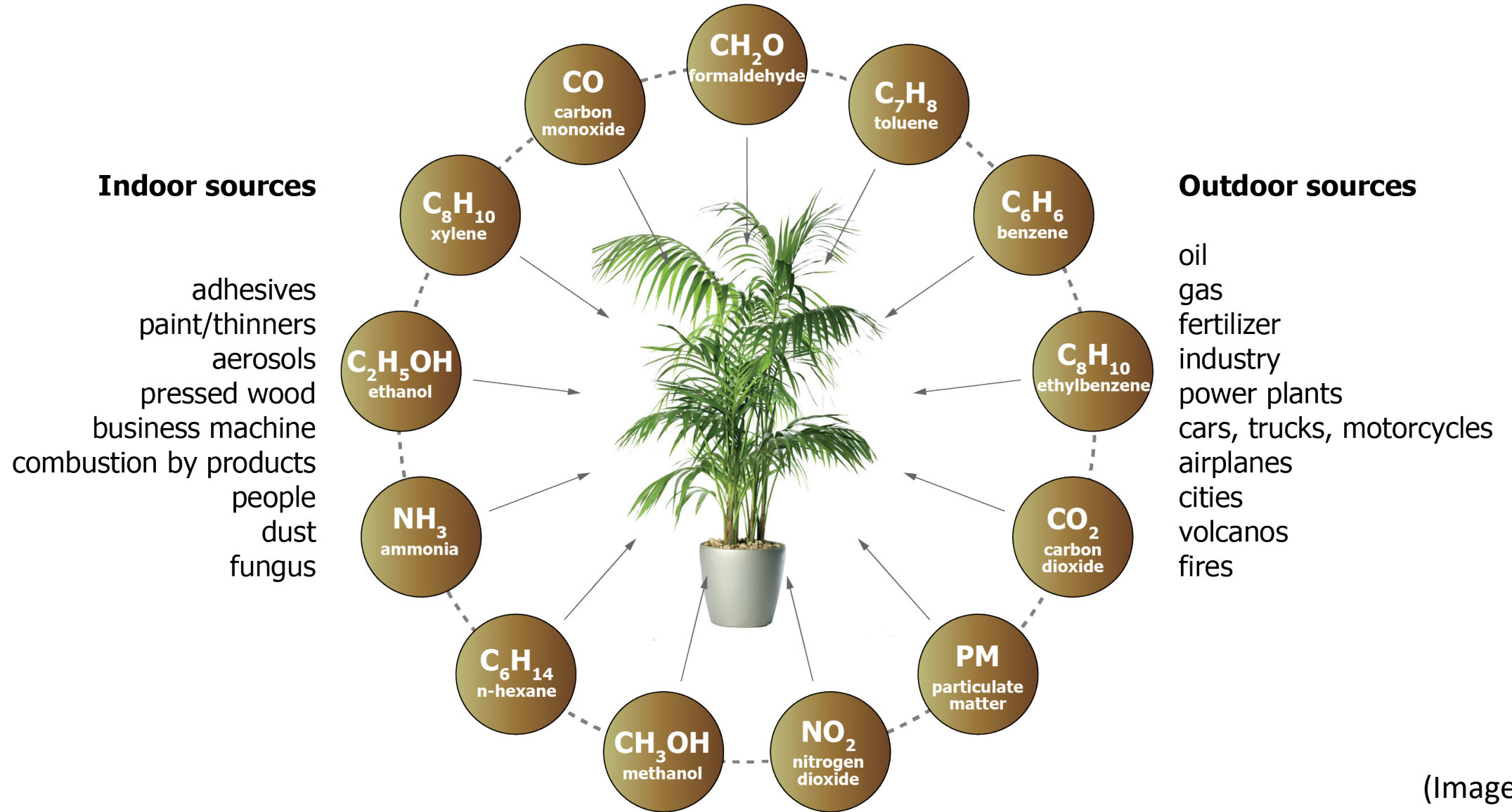


More time spent at work

(Image: Wikipedia Commons)



# Sources of indoor air pollution



(Image: UTS)





A good space for decision-making?

(Image: Wikipedia Commons)



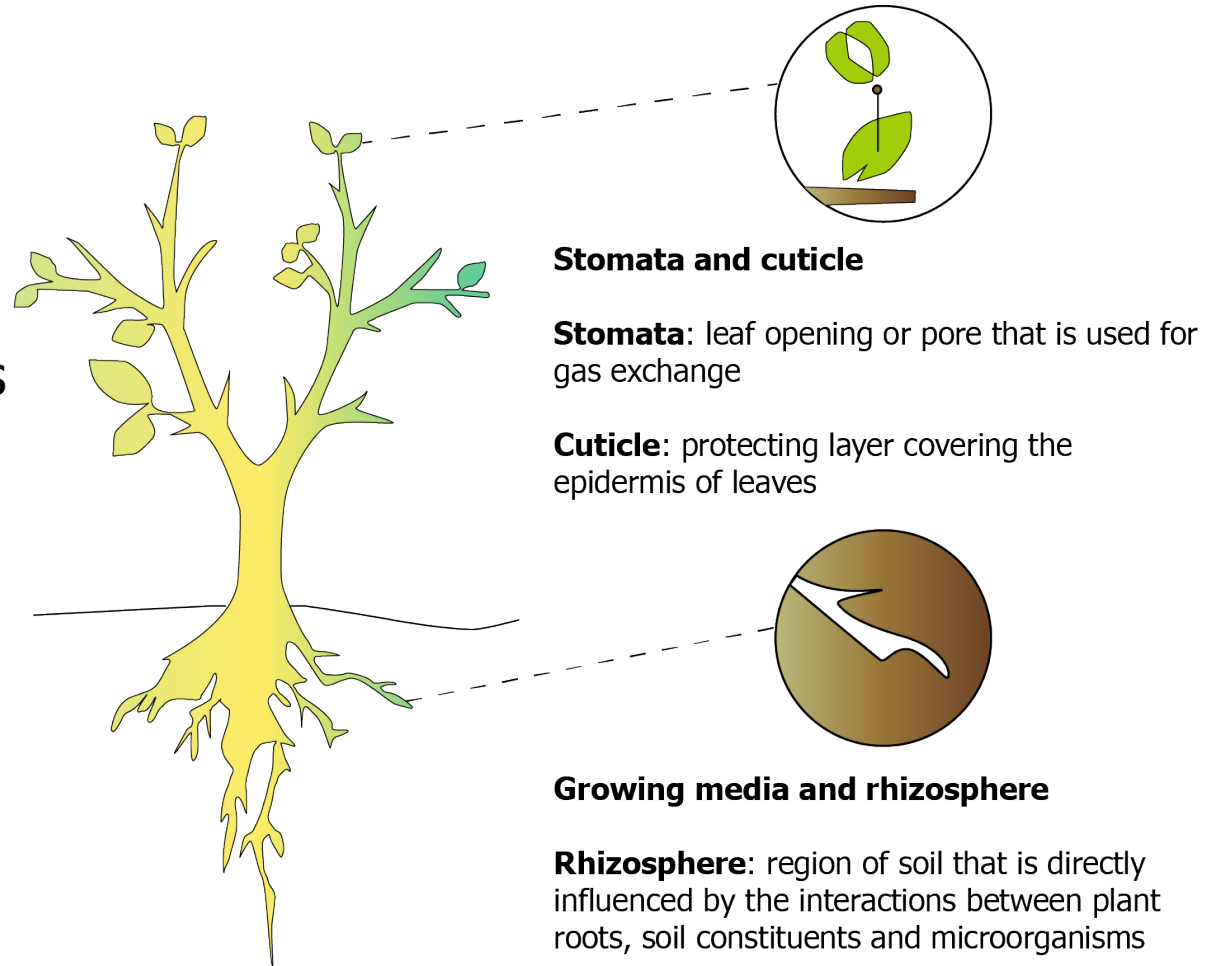
Is your workplace 'sick'?

(Image: Wikipedia Commons)



# The pathways for removal of VOCs by plants

- Removal by the aboveground plant zone
- Removal by the microorganisms living in the soil
- Removal by the roots
- Removal by the growing media (substrate)







Mould?

(Image: Clair Hurford)



# Health and wellbeing

- Reduced work leave absences
- Raised work performance and satisfaction
- Restored attention spans
- Lifted mood states



(Image: Ambius Australia)





# A biophilic response

1. View

2. Shelter

3. Sounds

4. Water

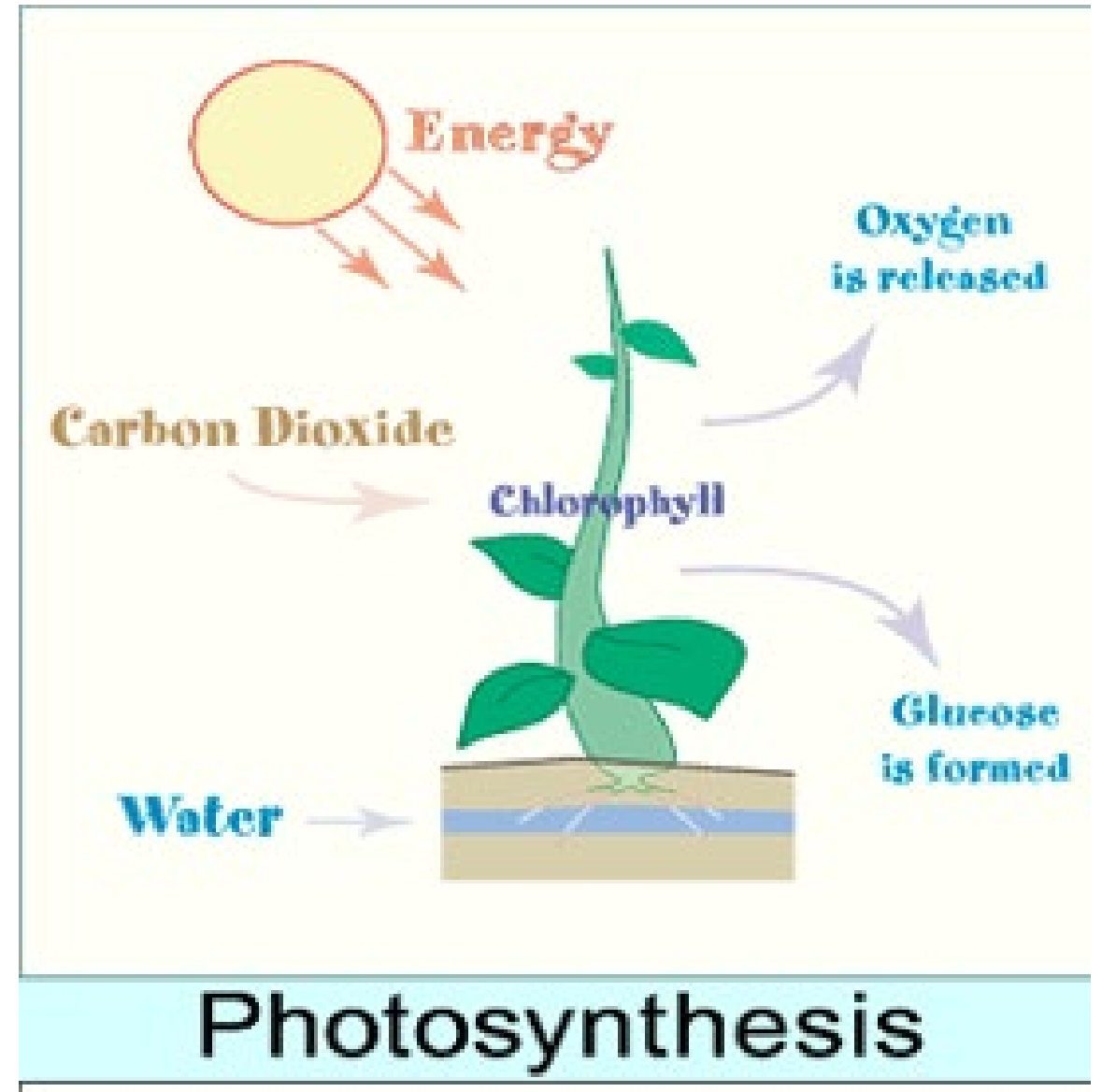
(Image: Natuurlijk werkt )





What do Work  
Plants need in  
return?

Tender loving care!



(Image: UTS)





# The right people!



(Image: IPA)



How can you  
help us realise  
the benefits of  
Work Plants?



# Plant varieties

(Image: FNGLA)



'Boho'



(Image: Plantasia)



# Palazzo Verde



(Image: Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show)





# Compact



(Image: FNGLA)



# Variegated



(Image: Stuart Swaddling/PlantRoute)



White?



(Image: FNGLA)

# Succulent



(Image: Tropical Plant Rentals)



# Flowering



(Image: Stuart Swaddling/PlantRoute)



Grow your  
own?



(Image: Tropical Plant Rentals)





# Planters

(Image: FNGLA)



# Earthen basics



(Image: Plant Life Balance)



# Kokedamas



(Image: FNGLA)

# Funky styles



(Image: FNGLA)



# Wanted!

- Cooler shapes
- Natural materials
- Watertight
- Sub-irrigated



(Image: Inwardout Studio)





# Green walls

(Image: Growing Green)



# Moss walls



(Image: Growing Green)



# Plants



(Image: Ambius Australia)



# Epiphytic or lithophytic plants



(Image: © Patrick Blanc)



# Breathable



(Image: UTS/Junglefy)



# Mobile



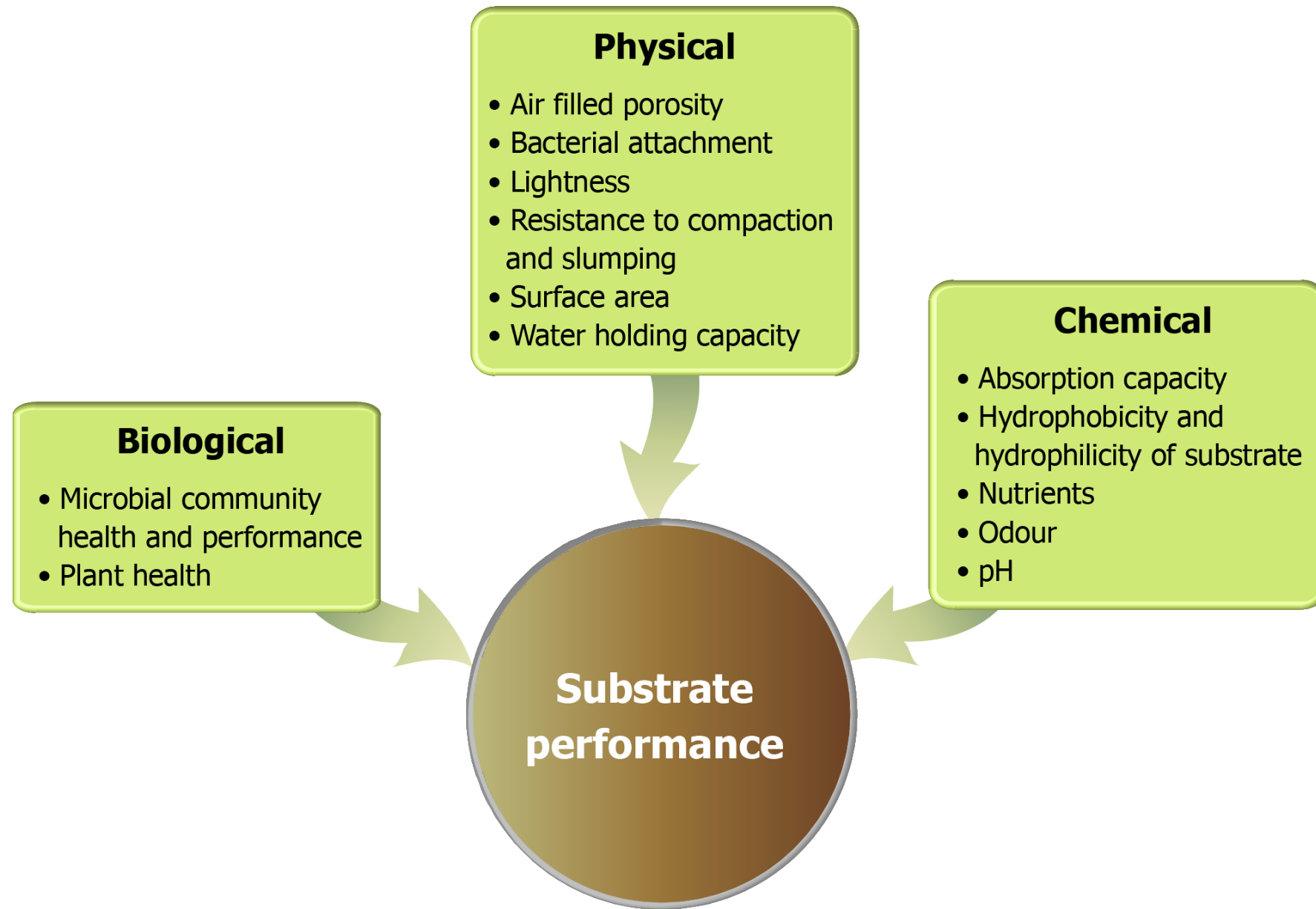
(Image: Les Jardins de Gally)



# Substrates

(Image: © Ambius Australia)







# Pest & disease control

(Image: © Denis Crawford)



# Pests

- Fungus gnats
- Scale
- Mites
- Mealy Bugs



(Image: © Denis Crawford)





# Disease

- Sooty mould
- Mildews
- Leaf spots
- Botrytis
- Root rots



(Image: © Denis Crawford)



# Monitor & maintain



(Image: Instyle Plants)



# Chemical control





# Chemical-free controls

- Soap-based
- Oil-based
- Neem





# Beneficial insects



(Image: Holger Casselmann )



# Other products

(Image: PlantRoute)

# Technology

- Automatic watering systems & sensors
- LED/Metal-halide lighting
- Plant selection databases
- Routing software



(Image: Chalard, LLC)



# 'Fake' nature?

- Fabrics
- Furniture
- Plant wares



(Image: Plant Life Balance)



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here?



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# Take home messages ...

- Interesting plant varieties ... in volume
- Planters that are watertight, sub-irrigated, available in cooler shapes made from natural materials
- Green walls that 'breathe' and can be mobile
- Substrates that enable root zone bacteria to do their work
- Pest & disease control to keep plants AND humans healthy
- Technology to water and feed plants in between service visits

**Plant Life Balance program specifically targeting the workplace?**





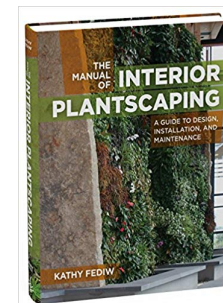
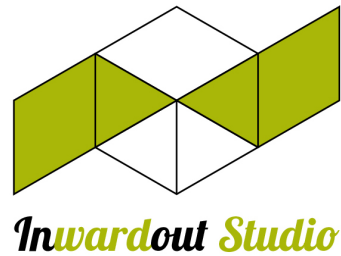
# The final word(s) ...

We welcome collaboration to achieve these outcomes

Win 1 year's free membership of the Interior Plantscape Association!



Thanks go to ...







# References

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