

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING AND TIMER

WINTER GARDEN

When fall and winter comes, the sunny hours of the day decrease week by week. Your Streamgarden gives water and nutrition to your plants. But there might be too little light and too low temperature where your Streamgarden is. Lighting can give the plants the light they need and increase the temperature a few degrees. Controlled by a timer, the light will turn on in the morning and turn off in the evening. With suitable lighting, your winter cultivation will also improve the light in your home.

Also, make sure that you have room for a nursery under the lighting where you can produce plants to your Streamgarden continuously. Your reward will be to make tea from mints and put fresh basil on your sandwich in the middle of the winter. Please also check out the section heat and humidity - two other important factors when you cultivate in winter time.



BUILT IN

A good way to use a small dark space in your home can be to build shelves in suitable height and mount lighting fittings underneath each shelf. When you build in the lighting this way, you will have a nice spread of light to the rest of the room. In the meantime the lamp will heat up the small space which is appreciated by your plants.



HEAT AND HUMIDITY

Winter indoors is a tough time for plants. Beside light, heat and humidity is also something you may need to help your plants with. Hot air rising from a radiator dries out the leaves, making plants more sensible to vermin. Plants don't like cool air from windows or doors either. With a plastic film, applied as on the photo, you can create a better micro climate. Humidity from Streamgarden and heat from the lighting improve the conditions for the plants.

SUITABLE PLANTS FOR YOUR STREAMGARDEN

Suitable plants for winter cultivation with lighting are for example mints, basil, oregano, sage and lemon balm. If you don't have the possibility to support your cultivation with extra light, heat and humidity it is a bit more tricky. Then we suggest you use plants that has already grown in Streamgarden for a while, and plant new plants when the days get a bit longer. Later, when the days get longer, move your Streamgarden back to a sunny window again.



IN THE KITCHEN

If you have fluorescent lamps illuminating the work area in your kitchen, swap them for tubes with daylight or white spectra. Or mount a lighting fitting, preferably with two tubes for more effect. The plants will like the kitchen environment better than a cold window due to the higher temperature and the humidity from your cooking.



ON THE FLOOR

Choose a spot in your home where you want more light and place your Streamgarden there, directly on the floor. Place a normal floor lamp there, or adjust the ceiling lamp as the plants grow. Don't forget to use a timer for the lamp!

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

FLOURESCENT LIGHT FULL SPECTRA

Our recommendation about light is based on that we want to achieve a light that works well for your plants, and at the same time also gives you a pleasant light. Therefore, we recommend full spectra fluorescent light tubes. These tubes gives white light or daylight. These spectras are suitable for your plants in such way that they tend to get compact and chubby instead of tall and thin. Below are our recommendations.

Philips:

MASTER TL-D Xtra. Extra long life.
TL-D 90 18W/950 Daylight
TL-D 90 18W/965 Daylight

MASTER TL5 HE (High Efficiency)
TL5 HE 14/840 White
TL5 HE 14/865 Daylight

Osram:

LUMILUX DELUX
White/Daylight
LUMILUX PLUS
White&Daylight

The fluorescent tubes above can be found in different length and shapes. Choose the fittings suitable for your space. You can of course find other producers of full spectra fluorescent light tubes than the two mentioned above. Just make sure the light temperature is right. There are also special plant lamps available. They tend to give quite unpleasant spooky light though.

TIMER

We recommend to set your timer to light up at 7am and to turn off the light at 9pm. That will give your plants 10 hours sleep every night which is more than enough. If you push your plants harder they will grow faster, but they will also risk to get weaker. A good balance between night and day is best for your plants. You can also optimize the light for a certain plant to obtain maximum growth. It's important that the pump is NOT connected to the timer. Only the light shall be controlled by timer.

IMPORTANT

When you make fixed electrical installations, you should always use a certified electrician for your safety.

Make sure only the light is on timer!

The pump is never turned off.

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AT YOUR WORKPLACE

You can easily connect your desk lamp to a timer and direct it over your plants when you don't need the light yourself, like in the evenings and during lunch time.



IN A BOOKSHELF

In a bookshelf you can easily mount a lighting fitting. There are different versions in different price ranges. Suitable length of fluorescent tubes for a Streamgarden is 590 mm. Check for more information under Technical information.