

# Oliver.

## The relocation dispute

*Monstera deliciosa*



ILLUSTRATIVE BOTANICAL STUDY

Oliver moved two metres back from a window to make room for a reading chair. Three weeks later, the owner reports yellowing lower leaves and potting mix that stays damp. The useful question is what changed at plant level, not whether Oliver approved of the furniture.

### OBSERVED

No customer photographs were supplied for this illustrative case. The drawing is presentation, not evidence of leaf colour, pests, moisture or root health. A real consultation would describe only features visible in the submitted images.

### OWNER-REPORTED

- Named Oliver; bought as *Monstera deliciosa*. Species is supplied for the scenario, not identified from an image.
- Moved from beside the living-room window to a corner about two metres farther away, three weeks ago. The new spot has no direct sun.
- Two lower leaves have yellowed. No rapid collapse, soft stem or visible insects reported.
- Watering remains every Sunday. The upper potting mix still feels damp several days later.
- An inner nursery pot sits in a ceramic outer pot. The owner has not checked whether runoff collects underneath.
- No recent repotting or feed. A cat has access to the room.

### WHAT WOULD HELP

One daylight view showing Oliver and the window; a close-up of the affected leaves; a photo of the inner pot base; and whether water is trapped in the outer pot. Keep people, documents and addresses out of the frame.

Original illustration, not a submitted customer photograph.

---

# A more useful second opinion

## POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS

The relocation may have reduced usable light. Distance, curtains and obstructions matter more than whether a room looks bright to us. [umd-light]

Lower light can slow growth and water use. An unchanged watering routine could therefore leave this pot wetter for longer. That is a plausible fit, not a measured finding in Oliver. [umn-light]

Water retained inside an outer pot would add a separate drainage problem. It is worth checking before making a larger intervention. [umd-water]

## IMPORTANT UNCERTAINTY

Two yellow leaves do not establish a single cause. We have no images, root inspection, light readings or moisture record. This file does not diagnose root rot, rule out pests, or promise that a move will solve the problem. The species label is accepted only as part of this invented submission.

## WHAT WE ARE NOT PRESCRIBING

No pesticide, fertiliser rescue, drastic pruning or automatic repotting. First obtain information that can change the plan.

# Three practical priorities

## PRACTICAL ACTIONS

### 1. Check where the water goes

Lift the inner pot safely and check its drainage holes and the outer pot. Empty trapped runoff. Check the mix before the next scheduled watering; do not add water just because Sunday has arrived. [\[umd-water\]](#)

### 2. Offer a better-lit, stable position

Use bright indirect light, avoiding a sudden move into strong direct sun. If the previous position suited Oliver and remains available, it is a sensible candidate. Keep the plant out of the cat's reach.

[\[rhs-monstera\]](#) [\[umd-problems\]](#)

### 3. Record the next fortnight

Take a baseline image and note moisture checks, watering and any newly affected leaves. Review after seven days and again after fourteen. These are observation checkpoints, not a recovery guarantee.

## WHAT TO CHECK NEXT

Useful improvement would be no further deterioration and a clearer drying pattern. An absence of immediate new growth is not a verdict. If further leaves change, send comparable photographs and the moisture/drainage notes rather than changing several things at once.

## WHEN TO SEEK HELP

If the stem becomes soft, collapse is rapid, or the plant worsens despite these checks, seek an in-person assessment from a reputable nursery or qualified horticulturist. Suspected ingestion or exposure is for a veterinarian or appropriate health service, not this report.

# Correspondence from Felix Fern

## FELIX'S FICTIONAL CONSULTATION NOTES

Oliver was moved to accommodate a reading chair. Management describes the arrangement as better for everyone. The chair was not available for comment.

The new corner has been described as "still quite bright". Oliver has asked whether the person making this assessment is expected to manufacture lunch from it.

Water continues to arrive on Sundays. This appears to be a calendar policy. We have recommended consultation with the pot.

For the next fortnight, Oliver requests a stable position, fewer assumptions and no further furniture-led appointments.

## FICTION, CLEARLY

Felix Fern is a fictional AI botanical correspondent. Plants do not submit these statements. This section is personalised entertainment and supplies no additional care evidence.

## KEEP THIS PART

Check the drainage. Check the actual light. Watch the trend before escalating the treatment.

## SOURCE REGISTER

Sources support the care sections, not the fiction. No institutional endorsement or horticulturist review is claimed.

[rhs-monstera] Royal Horticultural Society: How to grow Swiss cheese plants

[umd-light] University of Maryland Extension: Lighting for Indoor Plants

[umn-light] University of Minnesota Extension: Lighting for indoor plants and starting seeds

[umd-water] University of Maryland Extension: Watering Indoor Plants

[umd-problems] University of Maryland Extension: Diagnose Indoor Plant Problems