1. **Optimum temperature, light, and humidity are necessary for a houseplant to thrive. Briefly describe how you can manage each of these.**
   - *Temperature-Plants* can tolerate a broad range of temperatures, but don't do well when exposed to extremes. Allow the plant to adapt to different temperatures by slowly raising or lowering the temperature over a period of a few days or weeks. Some rooms are warmer than others. Keep plants in a room where temperature conditions meet their needs *(pp. 286-287).*
   - *Light-For* more light, move the plant to a room with southern exposure, or use supplemental lighting. For less light, move the plant away from the light source or use a barrier (e.g., curtains or blinds) to reduce the amount of light that enters the room *(p. 286).*
   - *Humidity-Most* houseplants need more humidity than what is found in most homes. Increase humidity near a plant by placing it in a shallow tray with moist gravel, by placing moistened sphagnum moss around the plant, by growing many plants together, or by using a humidifier *(p. 287).*

2. **Proper watering is essential for houseplants to thrive. What are some watering guidelines?**
   - Use a high-quality potting mix *(pp. 287, 290-291).*
   - Make sure containers have at least one drainage hole so excess water can drain away *(pp. 287, 289).*
   - Apply enough water so that it runs out the bottom drainage hole each time you water *(p.287).*
   - Do not allow pots to sit in excess water *(p. 288).*
   - Water plants when they need it, not on a set time schedule *(p. 288).*
   - Reduce watering during winter *(p. 288).*
   - Twice a year, take some extra time and flush out the soluble salts that may have accumulated in the pots *(p. 288).*
3. **Houseplants can experience a number of pest problems. How can you avoid some of these?**
   - Inspect new plants before you bring them home, quarantine them for a couple of weeks, and keep an eye on them for pests. Treat plants that you have put outside during the summer the same way when you bring them inside in the fall (p. 300).
   - Don't use soil from outdoors in a potting mix unless you pasteurize it first. A better option is to use a commercially prepared mix (pp. 300).
   - Don't handle other people's plants (p. 300).
   - Make sure screen doors and windows are tight to exclude pests (p. 300).
   - Do regular maintenance on your plants to remove dead leaves and other debris where pests can hide (p. 300).

4. **What are some issues you need to consider if you decide to use chemical pest control on your houseplants?**
   - Use only a product labeled for use indoors. (There are very few.) (p. 306)
   - It's best to treat the plants outside to avoid contact with kitchen areas, children and pets (p. 306).
   - Some products may damage plants (e.g., they may cause leaf burn, curled leaves, or distorted flower buds) (p. 306).