

## The delicious Monster claims the accolade Favourite Office Plant 2018

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Monstera deliciosa stole the show in the judges' eyes to claim the title of Favourite Office Plant 2018.



Fulfilling the criteria for the plant that makes a statement and a retro comeback as well as the plant, judges would like to see used more, it was the overall winner by a 5:3 vote. The other two plants in the running were Pilea peperomoides and Maranta 'Tricolour'.

Judging took place by email this year as various other engagements came up making it impossible for our judges to get together on the same day. We would still like to thank the judges for taking the time to consider the three short-listed plants and make their choice.



Thank you to our esteemed judges:

Kathy Fediw of i-Plants and the Board of Green Plants for Green Buildings

Joe Zazzera of Plant Solutions and Visionary Chair of Green Plants for Green Buildings

Matthew Appleby of Horticulture Week

Jim & Lisa Wilkinson and the team at Pro Landscaper

Claudia de Yong, Award winning garden designer

Jane Perrone, journalist and podcaster

Rona Wheeldon, author of the Flowerona blog

Chris Collins, Landscape gardener and ex-Blue Peter gardener

### **More about *Monstera deliciosa***

It has a nick-name of the Swiss Cheese plant because the holes in its leaves make it resemble this cheese. But the other part of its name, *deliciosa* refers to the fruit of the *Monstera*.

Its wonderful taste can be vouched for by one of our judges Kathy Fediw who said, "I had a chance last year to eat some of its fruit at a farmer's market in Australia, and it was indeed delicious!"



*Monstera fruit courtesy of Pinterest*

Others put it in the number one spot for its aesthetic appeal, its retro statement, its glorious leaves and its hardiness.

### **Popularity**

This retro plant has certainly become increasingly popular over the last few years.

Check out Pinterest and Instagram where it features regularly in all its glory. It also



seems to be a favourite image for decorating fabrics and wallpapers. Well those leaves are pretty spectacular aren't they?



*This fabric is designed by Kari Smith Designs (@KariSmithDesigns on Instagram)*



*Wallpaper by Kate Zarella*



Did you know there are variegated varieties too?



**The Monstera prefers**

- the light but not full sun
- its compost to dry out between watering
- a light misting of its leaves regularly
- loves its leaves to get a wipe-over with a clean cloth to remove any dust particles
- might need support as it gets larger

This plant can grow to 3-5 metres tall in the pot with aerial roots - in the wild it uses these to cling onto trees and support itself - and will need support and possible pruning if it gets too leggy. Its leaves can grow to a metre wide and long. Its original home is South America where it naturally grows up tree trunks. Popular in the 1970s, it is gaining in popularity again.

