

1. Clay Pot Cleaning from Corliss Engle

Soak pot overnight in wash pail of hot water, 1 cup white vinegar, and 1/4 cup Lestoil. Then scrub the pot with scrubbing pad (Brillo, 3M, etc.). Then soak for a day in a pail of clear hot water.

2. Suggested top dressings:

traction grit esp. for succulents and some rock garden plants

aquarium gravel (neutral color) for small bulb pans, succulents

sheet moss for ferns, larger bulb entries

fine wood chips for ferns

new dark potting soil (Baccto) to cover tired soil below

Carry small bags of each kind of top dressing to show as you will need to replenish that you've applied at home. An old teaspoon will get the dressing into tight spots.

3. Non toxic pest controls:

superfine oil - not to be used on Maidenhair ferns, plants with fuzzy leaves, or succulents with "bloom" - works well on other plants

soap sprays

hot wax red pepper spray

yellow sticky strips - will catch white flies and fungus gnats

ALWAYS READ THE FULL LABEL ON ANY PESTICIDE BEFORE EACH USE