Grow Where Planted

EDEN IS ROOTED IN FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND MAKING PEOPLE HAPPY

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Tucked away in a narrow unit on Park Boulevard, local plant shop EDEN bursts forth with a lush indoor jungle of gorgeous greenery handpicked by Co-Owner Stephanie Reed herself. "I love

picking out all the plants," Reed says with a smile in her voice. "We don't preorder anything, so I get to go to a lot of local north county wholesalers and pick out the best of the best."

The quality of the plants is evident even when you first step through EDEN's doors. Even the air itself seems to change, wrapping patrons in a clean, pleasant humidity. "People always say, 'Oh, the air is so clean! It smells so good in here!" Reed says. And there's a good reason: "More than half of the plants in EDEN are air-purifying plants." Not only does EDEN promote healthy, beautiful indoor spaces, it also promotes peace of mind–without that boutique price tag. "I really want our store to be for people who don't necessarily have a lot of money–college students, stay-at-home moms, people who just want to add a little bit of life to their space without breaking the bank."

Although many attribute the store's success to the family's green thumb, Reed insists, "Houseplants are a lot easier than people think! When people go online and they're reading all this insane amount of information, it can seem daunting, but really, it's not that hard."

The family business began when Reed, along with her mother, sister and brother-in-law, bought Northpark Nursery, and "about six months or so into owning it," they opened EDEN. "We noticed that indoor plants were becoming trendier," she explains, "which is something I really grappled with: it *is* trendy. It's very fueled by social media, so I get a lot of people [who] want the trendy plant, and the trendy plant is now something overpriced."

Instead, Reed makes a point to introduce her customers to other plants to ensure that they're making the best choice for their space and their wallet: "I'm always trying to remind people that there are so many pretty plants that aren't trendy, that aren't overpriced, that are easy to care for. Just because you haven't seen it hashtagged a billion times, doesn't mean it's not worth having."

While there are plenty of studies that back up the physical and psychological benefits of plants, Reed thinks it's a personal experience. "I don't know if plants just make people kinder or if just being surrounded by nature naturally creates a calm," she discloses. "Either way, it's all good vibes from here at the store!"

EDEN

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• Wy more statief was the lead landscaper at UCLA for 30 years [and] his father was a gardener in Beverly Hills, so we had plants everywhere growing up," Reed laughs. "My mom never let me water the plants, though, because that was her thing!"

Stephanie Reed CO-OWNER, EDEN the only owner who works

there," Reed clarifies, "but my

family's at our sister store, which

is Northpark Nursery."