

Caring for Holiday Flowers

When it comes to decorating your home or grabbing a quick gift, flowering indoor plants provide long-lasting color and convenience with a wide selection to suit any style.

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are a classic way to transform a space into a festive wonderland or say “Merry Christmas” with a living gift. The most popular flowering indoor plant sold in the U.S., poinsettias are native to Mexico and come in red, white, burgundy, pink, and even multicolored varieties.



CARE TIPS

- **Provide bright, indirect light;** remove plastic/foil wrap.
- **Avoid letting leaves touch cold window glass.**
- **Keep soil evenly moist**—allow top 50% of soil to dry before watering; do not allow plant to sit in water.
- **Avoid getting leaves wet**—this can cause spotting.
- **Fertilizer is not necessary** when poinsettia is flowering.
- **Plants are very sensitive to cold;** do not put outside; ideal temp is 65–70°F during day and 60°F at night.
- **Keep plants away from** drafty doors and windows, fireplaces, and heating vents.



FLOWERING

- **Leaves are the most colorful part** of a poinsettia, turning shades of red or developing patterns as the plant blooms.
- **The actual flowers** are tiny yellow buds in the center that slowly open over time.
- **For longest display time,** select plants with mostly closed flower buds.



PESTS & DISEASES

- **Avoid overwatering** to prevent disease.
- **Monitor for** whiteflies, fungus gnats, mealy bugs and spider mites.



TOXICITY

- **Poinsettias are mildly poisonous;** may cause vomiting or drooling in pets and children if ingested.
- **Milky sap can cause** redness, itching, or irritation on skin.
- “Kalsettias” are arrangements of flowering kalanchoes and poinsettias—**Kalanchoes are very toxic to pets!**

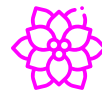
CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Christmas cactus are easy to care for and can live for 100 years! They produce tubular flowers in white, pink, red, yellow, salmon, and fuchsia. Not actually true cacti, these plants are epiphytes and are part of the Zygocactus group, joined by Thanksgiving and Easter cactus, each blooming around their namesake holiday.



CARE TIPS

- **Provide bright, indirect light**—medium/low light may cause flower buds to drop or prevent from blooming.
- **Plant in rich, acidic, well-draining soil.**
- **Keep slightly root-bound** for best flowering. Only repot in Spring, never during bloom.
- **Allow top 50% of soil to dry** before watering; reduce watering after blooms fade. Buds will fall off if too dry, and root rot is caused by overwatering.
- **Provide half-strength, liquid, all-purpose fertilizer** only during Spring and Summer twice monthly.
- **Christmas cactus love** leftover tea as well!
- **To set flower buds,** plants need cool daytime temps of 60–65° F and 45–55° F at night. Once buds have developed, they prefer warmer temps of 65–70° F.



FLOWERING

- **Christmas cactus blooms when** the days are short and cool; begins in early Fall.
- **To stimulate Christmas cactus to rebloom,** place in a room that remains dark for 13 hours each night or place in a closet to meet the required dark period.



PESTS & DISEASES

- **Watch for** mealy bugs and scale.
- **Avoid overwatering** to prevent bacterial root rot.



TOXICITY

- **Christmas cactus are non-toxic.**