

POINSETTIA & CHRISTMAS CACTUS CARE

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 are available in red, white, burgundy, pink, and even multicolored varieties.

LIGHT

Bright, indirect light; no direct sun. Avoid letting leaves touch cold window glass.



WATER

Best kept evenly moist, but not wet. Allow top 50% of the soil to dry before watering. Do not allow plant to sit in water—if plant feels heavy, wait several days until it feels lighter before watering. Remove plastic/foil wrap and avoid getting the leaves wet, which can cause spotting.



FERTILIZER

Not necessary when poinsettia is flowering.



TEMPERATURE

Very sensitive to cold; do not put outside. Ideal temp is 65–70° F during the day and around 60° F at night. Keep away from drafty doors/windows, fireplaces, heaters, etc.



FLOWERING

The most colorful part of a poinsettia are the leaves, which turn shades of red or develop dramatic 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

Mildly poisonous; may cause vomiting or drooling in pets and children if ingested. Milky, white sap is very bitter and can cause redness, itching, or irritation on skin. “Kalsettias” are seasonal arrangements of flowering kalanchoes and poinsettias. Kalanchoes are very toxic to pets; avoid if you have a pet that may be tempted to sample them!



Christmas Cactus



Also a common holiday plant, 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.

LIGHT

Bright, indirect light; no direct sun. Medium/low light is okay, but may cause flower buds to drop off or even prevent them from blooming.



WATER

Allow top 50% of the soil to dry before watering; reduce watering after blooms fade. Buds will fall off if too dry, and root rot is caused by overwatering.



FERTILIZER

Provide half strength, liquid, all-purpose food in spring and summer, about twice monthly; stop feeding after September. Plants love leftover tea as well.



TEMPERATURE

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.



SOIL & POT SIZE

Rich, acidic, well-draining soil. Keep slightly root-bound for best flowering. Only repot in spring, never during bloom.



FLOWERING

Occurs when days are short and cool; begins early fall.



PESTS/DISEASES

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



TOXICITY

Christmas cactus are non-poisonous.

