

Cyclamen Care



The cyclamen you find in our greenhouses is known as florist cyclamen. It is less hardy than the ones you can find offered outside in the nursery department, and was bred from the Mediterranean cyclamen, *Cyclamen persicum*. In our area, florist cyclamen are purchased to be grown indoors in order to enjoy their colorful flowers and pretty foliage in the home during the fall and winter months. Most are lightly fragrant.



Getting the Most Out of Your Cyclamen:

You may find that a cool window will be the preferred spot for your cyclamen.

- Make sure to keep your cyclamen cool. Ideal temperatures are between 40° and 50° at night and less than 68° during the day. It will decline over time if kept above 70° in a dry home. A cool spot at night will help it tolerate indoor conditions.
- Cyclamen prefer bright light. From late autumn to early spring, provide as much light as possible.
- When watering cyclamen, make sure not to overwater or underwater. Once the soil surface feels dry, it is time to water. The plant should not be allowed to go limp. Cyclamen like a good soaking and then to dry out partially before being watered again. Overwatering can lead to rot problems.
- Do not water the center of the plant. It is usually better to set the plant in a bowl or deep saucer and pour water into the saucer so that the plant may take up the water from the bottom. Pour off excess water after 10 minutes or so to help prevent the tuber from rotting.
- Fertilize cyclamen every 3 or 4 weeks with a half-strength solution of water-soluble fertilizer labeled for indoor plants. Overfeeding will probably result in more leaves than flowers.
- Remove dead flowers with a sharp tug on the stems. If that fails, wait a day or so before trying again.
- Most people discard their cyclamen once the plant stops blooming and the leaves begin to turn yellow. In late spring, this is a sign that the plant is preparing to go dormant.

This handout prepared using our expertise and also the following online reference: University of Minnesota Extension Yard & Garden Brief by Horticulture Technician Jean Galligan.



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