



## Christmas Cactus Care

Holiday cactus are easy to grow and undemanding. They can live for years without a lot of maintenance. Here are their ideal conditions under which they will perform the best for you.

**LIGHT:** Bright but indirect is ideal most of the year. From late winter to early spring, moderate light allows the plant to rest. Plants can be placed outdoors in a shady spot for the summer.

**WATER:** From spring through fall, keep soil lightly moist. In winter, allow soil to almost dry out between watering. If stems shrivel, the plant is not getting enough water.

**TEMPERATURE:** Late spring to late summer: warm temperatures between 65°-80°F. In fall and winter, cool temps between 50°-65°F are preferred.

**FERTILIZER:** From spring through summer, feed every 2 weeks with a balanced fertilizer, mixed at a slightly reduced rate (use about 3/4 the recommended amount). In fall and winter, feed monthly.

**TIPS:** Holiday cactus will bloom best if somewhat potbound, meaning that the roots have grown to fill the pot. You'll know they are overcrowded and need to be potted up when you see reduced flowering and if you remove the plant from the pot and see roots filling the soil space completely. Summer is a good time to re-pot your cactus, if needed. Use only the next size up from the current container and use a potting mix for succulents or cactus.

**GETTING YOUR PLANT TO RE-BLOOM FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Flowering is related to daylength and nighttime temperatures. To get plants to bloom for the holidays, try one of the two following methods:

1. Keep the plant in a location where night temperatures are 55°-60°F for 6 weeks starting in early October and no later than early November. As long as the temperature remains in this range, buds will develop regardless of daylength.
2. If the night temperatures are above the required range, place the plant in a dark room or cover it for 13 hours a day starting in October.

