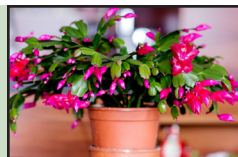


CHRISTMAS CACTUS AT-A-GLANCE



ABOUT

- Perennial plants that can live up to 50 years
- Blooms during the holiday season
- Tropical cactus; Similar to Thanksgiving and Easter cactus
- Can buy as plants, seeds, or easily propagated
- Usually kept as houseplants

STATS

- One plant per container
- Stems made up of leaf segments that drape from plant
- Blooms form at end of stems
- Bloom colors include red, white, orange, pink, and purple

REQUIREMENTS

- Hardiness zones 10-12; Otherwise kept indoors as a houseplant
- Won't survive temps much below 50° F
- Indirect sunlight is best; Direct sunlight burns foliage
- Use any potting soil type that drains well
- Keep away from drafts and fluctuating temperatures

ACHIEVING BLOOMS

- Place in location with temps 50-55°F 10 weeks before Christmas
- Indirect sunlight during day and at least 14+ complete darkness at night; cover if needed
- A few weeks before Christmas, move to a location with 65-70°F temps
- Buds will begin to form and blooms will open soon thereafter

MAINTENANCE

- Water only when 1/3 soil is dry; drain excess water
- Fertilize during spring summer with all purpose liquid fertilizer; stop in fall and while blooming
- Deadheading spent blooms
- Prune plant after blooming over
- Cuttings can be made into new plants by placing in potting soil in small containers

ISSUES

- Mealy bugs, aphids & spider mites
- Root rot from excess moisture

MISC

- Can sometimes be forced into second bloom
- Only need repotted every few years



Simple Garden
Life

keeping the fun in gardening by keeping it simple!