



Better Plants & Better Advice

Garden Talk

Christmas Plants



Poinsettia

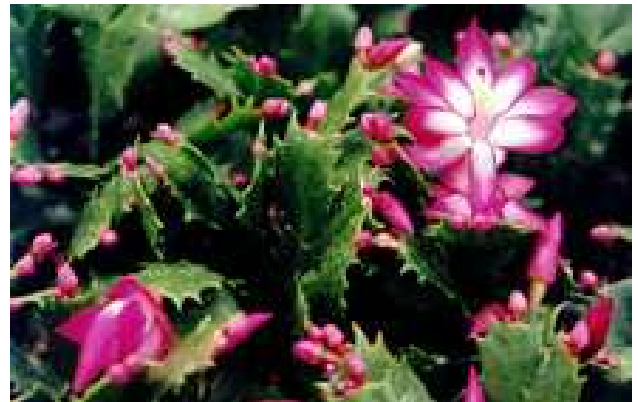
During the holidays and throughout the spring and summer Poinsettias need bright indirect light. Daytime temperatures should be in the 65-80 degree range. Soil should be kept evenly moist and not allowed to dry out between watering. Fertilize mildly during Spring and Summer. To bring a Poinsettia into flower the following holiday season, give it 12 hours of uninterrupted total darkness every day starting in Mid-September. Even a small amount of light during this time can prevent it from coloring. During this period keep the Poinsettia at a cooler temperature of around 65 degrees. In early December bring the plant into normal light and temperature and enjoy it for another holiday season. When the plant grows too large, cut it back in the Spring to about 6 inches.

Amaryllis

Place potted bulb in a warm room with bright indirect light. Water often enough to keep soil moist. Watering needs increase as the plant grows and bloom. From the bulb stage an Amaryllis will be in full bloom approximately 5-6 weeks after commencing watering. After flowering, keep plant growing indoors, watering as needed and fertilizing monthly. The plant may be grown inside all year long, or plant the entire pot outside in semi-shade after danger of frost. Dig up potted plant in September. Place in a dry frost-free location and stop watering completely. Cut off yellow foliage just above bulb and leave undisturbed for 3 months. Then follow the same instructions as above.

Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus should be kept in bright indirect light during the blooming period. Drastic changes in temperature or light intensity may cause dropping of unopened flowers, so try to maintain a even environment. After flowering keep the plant in bright indirect light, watering as needed and fertilizing monthly. Beginning in September keep the plant in a cooler environment and keep the soil drier. The plant needs uninterrupted darkness at night at this time for flower bud formation. Once buds are formed, bring into warmer room to enjoy for another season.



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