

# Holiday Plants



## Amaryllis

This plant never fails to break the gloom of winter and provides enormous pleasure with its gorgeous blooms. If you want an amaryllis to bloom for Christmas, it must be started in the fall. Plant your amaryllis in a container not much larger than the bulb itself with a third of it above the soil. Place in a warm, sunny spot, watering when soil is dry. As the bulb grows more actively, increase the frequency of watering. Your plant will flower in brilliant color! After flowering, you can save the bulb for next year. Helpful instructions should be included with box/package.

## Poinsettias

Available in shades of white, pink, red, plum and combinations there of, poinsettias are great for decorating your home as well as the perfect holiday gift. We sleeve your plants to protect them as you take them to your car. Do not leave them in an unheated car... and take them quickly indoors when you get home. Poinsettias colorful bracts last well beyond all the holidays and even into the spring. These easy-care plants prefer bright, filtered light in a spot free from drafts. Let the plant become moderately dry between waterings, and don't fertilize while in bloom. It is best to cut plastic sleeve off when you get home, pulling the plastic sleeve off will break the branches.

## Christmas Cactus

With colorful flowers in red, pink, salmon, lavender or white, Christmas cactus will do best in a sunny south, east or west window. Keep the soil evenly moist. To get your cactus to re-bloom, avoid any artificial light at night starting in September. You will also need to keep the plant in a cool location, allow the soil to dry well between waterings and don't fertilize.

## Cyclamen

A popular plant with a profusion of colorful flowers that bloom for a long time. Keep cyclamen evenly moist from September through May. Let them dry from June to August, so the tuber can rest. Ideal light is a sunny east or west window. Cyclamen prefer a cool room (60 to 70 degrees). Feed them from September to May, then stop for the summer months.

## Azaleas

Florist azaleas normally bloom in spring, but they can be forced into bloom anytime. Azaleas are available in many colors with both single and double blooms, and they can last for up to a month! When an azalea is blooming, do not allow it to dry completely.

## Norfolk Island Pine

These little 'Christmas Trees' are native to Norfolk Island in the Pacific, where they will grow as high as 200 feet, with trunks 10 feet in diameter. They are easy-to-please houseplants. A slow grower, Norfolk Island Pines will send out about 6 inches of new growth each year. Bright, indirect light is fine although in the winter the plants can stand full sun. Keep the plant moist, but never sodden. Feed your plant every 2 months except through the winter months. Repotting is best done in spring, but needs to be done infrequently, since the plants are slow growers.

