

PLANT NAME: HOLIDAY CACTUS

- **Light:**

- Place your holiday cactus in bright, indirect light. Avoid direct sunlight, especially in the afternoon, as it can scorch the leaves. Inadequate light may result in poor blooming.

- **Temperature:**

- Keep your holiday cactus in a temperature range of 60–70°F (15–24°C). They can tolerate slightly cooler temperatures during the fall and winter to encourage blooming.

- **Watering:**

- Water your holiday cactus when the top inch of the soil feels dry to the touch. It's essential to maintain consistent moisture, but don't allow the plant to sit in standing water. Overwatering can lead to root rot.
- Reduce watering during the fall and winter when the plant is not actively growing. At this time, allow the soil to dry out a bit more between waterings.

- **Humidity:**

- Holiday cacti prefer higher humidity levels. You can increase humidity by misting the plant or placing a tray of water near it. Be cautious not to let the plant sit in water, as this can lead to root rot.

- **Fertilizing:**

- Fertilize your holiday cactus every 4–6 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer. Reduce or stop fertilization in the fall and winter when the plant is not actively growing.

- **Pruning:**

- Prune your holiday cactus after it finishes blooming to maintain its shape and encourage bushier growth. Remove any leggy or overgrown stems.

- **Repotting:**

- Repot your holiday cactus every 2–3 years or when it becomes root-bound. Use a well-draining potting mix suitable for cacti and succulents. Repot in the spring after the blooming period.

- **Blooming:**

- To encourage blooming, provide a period of cooler temperatures (around 50–55°F or 10–13°C) for 6–8 weeks in the fall. This temperature drop mimics the plant's natural environment. During this time, reduce watering, but don't let the plant become bone-dry.
- Once you've provided the cooler conditions, return the plant to its regular care routine, and it should bloom in time for the holidays.

- **Pests and Problems:**

- Keep an eye out for common houseplant pests such as mealybugs and aphids. Treat any infestations promptly with insecticidal soap or neem oil.
- Yellow or drooping leaves can be a sign of overwatering, while wrinkled or shriveled leaves may indicate underwatering.

Holiday cacti can live for many years and produce beautiful blooms year after year with proper care. By following these guidelines, you can enjoy the vibrant and festive flowers of your holiday cactus during the holiday season.

