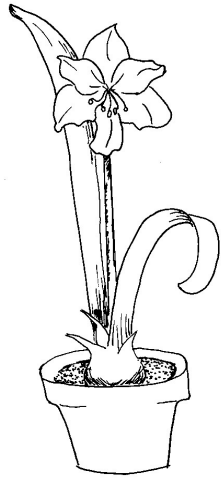


Growing Tips 10

HOLIDAY PLANT CARE Fall + Winter



Holiday plants light up the waning daylight hours of late fall and early winter. They represent an ancient tradition of honoring seasonal cycles and celebrations.

With a bit of care, the most familiar and festive plants will delight you for weeks. In general, **cooler temperatures** and **careful watering** will keep plants healthy and attractive.

Plant	Water	Light	Temp.	Notes
Amaryllis	To force, water once thoroughly, then, water when <i>dry to the touch</i> .	Force in sunny spot; then, move to medium, indirect light.	Force at 65°-70°; move to 55°-65°	Will bloom 6 - 8 weeks after potting. Failure to bloom is often a result of overwatering. Remove faded flowers and stems after bloom. Will bloom many years with proper care.
Cyclamen	Keep <i>evenly moist</i> , not soggy.	bright, indirect Try a north window.	50° -65°	Blooms may last several months if kept cool, 50 -60 at night. Flowers dependably for one season.
Christmas + Thanksgiving Cactus	when <i>dry to touch</i>	bright, sunny	60° -70°	Plants will live for years; may re-bloom in spring.
Kalanchoe	when <i>dry to touch</i>	bright, sunny	60° - 75°	Flowers dependably for one season.
Narcissus - Paper whites	Keep roots in water, or moist if in soil.	bright	50° - 65°	Settle bulbs down half way into pebbles + water, or soil. Discard after bloom.
Poinsettias	when <i>dry to touch</i> ; do not allow to dry out!	bright, sunny	60° - 70°	Avoid drafts. Plants are not poisonous, but milky sap can irritate skin. Flowers dependably for one season.

Tips for Success

- **Remove decorative paper or foil** - or open a large hole in the bottom - so that water drains freely from pot
- **Check plants daily** - if your home is cool, most plants need water only once a week.
- **“Dry to touch”** - the top 1” of soil is mostly dry to the touch; **below 1”**, the soil feels moist.
- **“Evenly moist”** - the top of the soil is **slightly damp** to the touch, not dried out. **Avoid soggy soil; plant roots need air!**
- Water just until the water flows out of the drainage hole. **Do not leave pot standing in water.**

Other Festive Plants

Anthuriums – have showy, waxy, bright red or pink flowers; good for warm homes >70°F.

Norfolk Island Pine – needs high humidity.

Rosemary – Often sheared to a Christmas tree shape; needs sunny window, well-drained soil; water when dry to the touch.



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