

Christmas Cactus

During Blooming

- **Water:** Allow the top inch of the plant to dry out between watering's. Water thoroughly, but don't let the cactus sit in water.
- **Light:** Bright, indirect sunlight. (Too much light can fade the flowers.)
- **Temperature:** 60 to 70°F. Keep away from drafts or heating vents.
- **Humidity:** 50 to 60% relative humidity. We recommend a humidifier or humidity tray.
- **Fertilizer:** Apply Ferti-lome Blooming and Rooting fertilizer once per month as soon as buds form.

After Blooming

Allow your Christmas Cactus to rest for about 6 weeks, in a cool room with little water and no fertilizer. If desired, repot in February or March with Cactus Mix. (Well-drained soil is essential). You can also prune back the cactus at this point, but be sure to prune less than 1/3 of the plant.

April - September

Fertilize with VF-11 monthly. Otherwise, care for as during blooming.

To get blooms

Two conditions are necessary to encourage your Cactus to bloom: darkness and cool temperatures.

- **Restrict Light:** Your cactus needs at least 14 hours of darkness for a period of 5 to 6 weeks. As you would with your poinsettia, place the cactus in a closet or cover with a bucket or container overnight.
- **Temperature:** 50 to 55°F. The plant will absolutely not bloom in temperatures above 70°F.
- **Water:** Keep your cactus on the dry side until you see buds forming, then resume feeding and watering.