

ZYGO CACTI (Christmas Cacti) CARE INSTRUCTIONS

With proper attention and the right environment, Zygo cacti will continue to bloom year after year. Zygo Cactus or Christmas cacti have flowers in various shades of pink, red, and white.

Potting or Re-potting: Zygo cacti require soil containing rich, organic material. The recommended growing medium is one part potting soil, two parts peat, and one part sand. It is very important to choose a pot that allows for proper drainage. Pots appropriate in size for the plant should be used when up-potting your Zygo (Christmas Cacti year after year). It says these plants prefer to be root-bound rather than planted in a pot that is too large.

Lighting: Moderate, filtered lighting is recommended for your Zygo Cacti. Direct sunlight can be damaging, especially in the autumn, spring, and summer months. Christmas cactus can be placed outside in a partially shaded location during the summer. To avoid shocking the Christmas cactus, it should be gradually acclimated to indoor conditions before it is brought back inside at the end of summer. This can be done by bringing the Christmas cactus inside for a few hours each day and gradually increasing this time throughout out the late summer.

Re-Blooming: In order to promote blooms, placing Christmas cacti in locations ranging between 50 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit beginning in November. In addition, in order to bloom, they need several hours per day of complete darkness beginning around the middle of October. "Christmas Cactus" advises while the buds are developing, the Christmas cactus should be placed in a location that receives filtered light. At this point, it should not be moved. "Christmas Cactus" says moving the plant would encourage blooms that are not facing the light to turn. This could weaken the buds and cause them to drop off.

Pruning: After blooming, is the best time to prune your Christmas cactus. Please remove a few sections of the larger branches of your Christmas cactus either by pinching or by cutting them off with a well-sharpened knife. Doing so will promote branching and new growth.

Watering: Proper watering is important to the successful growth of the Christmas cactus. If you want to encourage buds to form, less water should be given in late spring. After the Christmas cactus has formed blooms, it will require regular watering. Although these plants are considered as succulents it does not tolerate drought conditions very well. The best way to decide if the plant needs water is by feeling the soil. It should never be completely dry.

Fertilizer: Christmas cactus should be fertilized once a month after blooming up until autumn. Do not apply fertilizer during autumn and winter months. Using a fertilizer with a high potassium content on your Christmas cactus works best. Be sure to follow label directions carefully for proper application and dosage information.

Christmas cacti can survive and continue producing spectacular blooms for many years. They often outlive the caretaker. A large, mature Christmas cactus will develop what appears to be bark, and is capable of producing hundreds of blooms.

