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Recipe for Success for Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus-(*Zygocactus truncatus*)

This beautiful flowering plant is at its peak bloom period November, December and January. It is perfect for decorating with for the holidays. Christmas Cactus are durable plants, that are easy to grow and that will bloom for you year after year. They are however a tropical plant, not a true cactus, so their care is quite different then what you would expect with true cactus particularly with regards to watering.

The following is a *Recipe for Success* which should help you keep them healthy and a reliable winter bloomer.

November through January (Bloom Period) – Keep moist. Water when the soil surface starts to feels dry (about every 3-7 days).Locate in an indoor or a protected area where temperatures will not drop below 55 degrees and where there is bright, indirect light.

February through March (Rest Period) – Keep on the dry side. Place in a cool area where temperatures average about 55 degrees. Protect from frost.

April through August (Growth Period) – Water when soil surface starts to feel dry (about every 3-7 days). Fertilize with Schultz Cactus and Succulent Fertilizer. Place outdoors in a shady area after all danger of frost has passed.

September through Mid-November (Pre-Flower Period) – Reduce watering so plant is slightly dry between watering. Leave outdoors in a shady spot put protected from early frosts. They set buds best during the short days of fall (approx.10-12 hours of darkness) and with temperatures between 50-60 degrees.

*Notes – It is better to error on the side of under watering than overwatering but never let them get completely dry.

-Grow them indoors year-round and still get blooms by Christmas by providing them with similar temperatures, light exposures, and water requirements as outlined above.