

# Christmas/Thanksgiving Cactus Care

**LIGHT:** A cool, bright spot out of direct sun is best for these tropical epiphytes that grow naturally in rain forest trees. Keep one on display near an east facing window, and it won't know it ever left the jungle.

**WATER:** Before watering, check soil moisture with your index finger. Water thoroughly when the top half inch of soil dries out.

**FERTILIZER:** As new leaves appear or when flower buds start to swell, apply a liquid fertilizer formulated for houseplants every seven to ten days until growth or flowering cycle ends.

**REPOTTING:** Every year or so, gently pull the plant out of its container and check the roots. When roots start to mat where they touch the inside of the pot, move the plant into a container that's an inch or two larger in diameter. Rough up the matted roots with a knife or fork before you repot.

**REBLOOMING:** When flowering is over and weather warms in the spring, set the cactus outdoors out of direct sun. Next September/October, put your cactus in a place where nights are cool (50-55°F) and there is no artificial light. Let the cactus dry out. Only water enough to prevent the leaves from shriveling up. After flower buds are about BB size, you can move the cactus to its regular spot and start fertilizing again.