



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

HOLIDAY CACTUS CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti (*Schlumbergera*) enjoy bright, filtered light. Protect stems from hot afternoon sun. These forest cacti need different care from desert cacti. Easter cactus has different flowering timing and is not covered by this guide.

WATERING

Let the surface of the potting mix dry slightly, then water thoroughly and drain. Empty saucers and decorative containers. Avoid both prolonged dryness and soggy roots, especially while buds develop. Water less often after flowering when growth slows.

SOIL

Choose a loose, airy potting mix and a pot with drainage holes. These plants flower well when slightly pot-bound, so repot only when needed. Heavy soil and oversized pots can hold too much moisture around the roots.

TEMPERATURE

Provide moderate room temperatures and protect from frost. For autumn bud formation, give about six weeks of cool nights and at least 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness. Keep budding plants in a stable location away from drafts and heaters.

FERTILIZING

Feed lightly during active spring and summer growth with a houseplant fertilizer, following its directions. Reduce feeding as growth slows. Fertilizer cannot replace the light and temperature conditions needed for flowering.

PESTS

Check stem joints for mealybugs and other insects. Remove fallen flowers and damaged growth with clean tools. Bud drop can follow sudden changes in light, temperature or moisture. Isolate pest-infested plants and ask us about suitable treatment.