



Christmas Cactus Care



Patty's Plants

Christmas Cactus need bright indirect sun. It is not a true cactus, hot sun can burn their leaves. They are epiphytes like Orchids and Bromeliads. This means they grow in tropical and sub-tropical rain forests and attach their roots to a host plant, it does not live in the hot desert. You can put your Christmas Cactus outside for the summer. Place it in a semi-shady area ,then bring it back in before the temperatures dip below 50 degrees.

- Water thoroughly when ever the soil starts to dry slightly. The soil should never be bone dry. It will get shriveled and will be hard to get to perk up again. Soak it and let it sit in water for 10-15 minutes to hydrate it only if it's been to dry. If it's been overwatered the plant will look purple and shriveled. It can not be saved if it looks like that.
- Fertilize it every 2 weeks with a 1/2 strength liquid fertilizer only in the spring and summer. Do not fertilize when the plant is about to set buds in the fall or when the plant is blooming.
- Christmas Cactus have a very small root system. The plant can be twice or three times the size of the root system. Repot it only if you haven't done it in years or if you really think it needs it. Most people make the mistake of putting it in to large of a pot, thinking the plant is so huge it must need it. This is when it can be overwatered very easily. Use well draining soil mix. Because of it's succulent leaves you can use a cactus/succulent soil. Mix worm casting in to give it a natural fertilizer boost.
- Place in a cool but bright room. See, "Getting a Christmas Cactus to Re-bloom". Go to:

www.pattysplants.com or e-mail to: patty@pattysplants.com