

Patty's Plants

CYCLAMEN PERSICUM



WHERE DID THE CYCLAMEN ORIGINATE FROM?

The cyclamen is native to the Mediterranean countries of Turkey and Greece. It has been known in England as a potted plant as early as 1735.

HOW DO I WATER THIS PLANT AND WHEN DO I FERTILIZE?

Water the cyclamen carefully near the edge of the pot. Do not water over the top of the leaves. Let the soil dry slightly (the soil should be light brown in color), then water thoroughly. Never over water and never let it sit in water. Fertilize with a half strength liquid fertilizer every two weeks.

WHAT KIND OF LIGHT DOES THE CYCLAMEN NEED?

Put your plant in a well lighted area but never in direct sun. The cyclamen also needs a **cool area**. A north facing window would be perfect.

WHY ARE MY FLOWERS NOT THE SAME COLOR AS WHEN I PURCHASED IT?

The old flowers begin to fade, at this point you need to pull the old flower and it's stem out with a sharp tug. This will keep new brighter flowers coming. **TIP:** The difference between a new flower bud and a seed pod is that the flower buds are soft and pointed with a little bit of the flower tip showing, the seed pod is very hard and rounded.

HOW LONG WILL IT BLOOM?

In our area your cyclamen should bloom from November through May. The success to longer bloom time is in a **cool area** (65-78*).

WHY DO THE LEAVES BEGIN TO DROOP AND TURN YELLOW?

There are several reasons for that this might happen. It could be in an area that is too warm. The soil might be too dry, however over watering will make the cyclamen droop and turn yellow. But if the weather is starting to warm up, your cyclamen could be starting to go dormant. The cyclamen is a tuber and must go through a dormant stage. The plant will wilt and the leaves will fall off. It will also stop blooming. Most people at this point think that they have killed it and just throw it out.

HOW DO I KEEP MY CYCLAMEN WHEN IT DOES GO DORMANT?

You should keep it almost dry and place it in a cool spot (50*) until September. Near the end of this dormant period, replot it in a slightly larger pot. Use a good soil-less potting mix. Then in September or when you see signs of growth, Soak the entire pot in water for a few minutes. If there wasn't any growth when watered it, wait for some shoots to appear before watering again.

DIFFICULTY

THE CYCLAMEN IS RELATIVELY **EASY** AS LONG AS IT IS WATERED CAREFULLY AND KEPT IN A **COOL AREA**.

For more info go to:

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