

Christmas Cactus



What it is

A forest cactus with flat, spineless, jointed stems that covers itself in bright flowers around the holidays.

Light

Bright, indirect light. Keep it out of hot direct sun.

Water

Water when the top of the soil feels nearly dry, then let any extra drain away. Keep the soil evenly moist (never soggy) while buds and flowers are on the plant. After flowering, let it dry a little more between waterings.

Soil and pot

Well-drained potting mix with a handful of perlite or sand. It does not need a special cactus mix. Use a pot with drainage holes and repot only when it outgrows its pot, ideally in spring.

Temperature and winter

Happiest at 60 to 70°F, away from heat vents and cold drafts. For blooms, give it cool nights (55 to 65°F) and long, dark nights from early fall, with no lamp light after dark. Once buds appear, try not to move it.

Common mistake to avoid

Overwatering, or moving the plant once buds form. Both can make the buds drop.