

POINSETTIA POINTERS

What to do with all those poinsettia flowers? This tropical plant loves direct sunlight and is very happy in a sunny south, east or west-facing window. It enjoys 65-75 degrees but can handle the occasional 60 degree drop if you have a programmable thermostat. Avoid cool drafts—none of us likes a cold chill! Water it thoroughly when the soil is dry to the touch and provide good drainage. As with all plants in the winter months (and for humans, too), make sure there is good humidity in your home. Simply putting a pan of water over the heat source is helpful for the environment.

And what about those Christmas Cactuses? Unlike the poinsettia but also a tropical plant, this plant does not like direct sunlight. It does well in 65-80 degree well-lit surroundings and needs lots of humidity. Watering can be tricky, as it cannot be over- or under-watered. Feel the soil before watering—less water is better than too much! It's also best to water from the bottom. Enjoy your indoor garden!

*Everything that slows us down and forces patience,
everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help.*

Gardening is an instrument of grace.

~ May Sarton

Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ...

a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light,

a bud straining to unfurl.

And the anticipation nurtures our dream.

~ Barbara Winkler