

Plants for the Holidays



Poinsettia

The most popular holiday plant, poinsettia have come a long way from your traditional red selection. Newer varieties boast burgundy, pink and cream bracts, even variegated leaves!

If you're looking for something unique, try potting your poinsettia up into a favourite

container then add some decorative piks or ribbon for your very own mixed planter. **Here are some top tips for caring for Poinsettia:**

- **DO NOT** purchase Poinsettia in plastic sleeves; plants left in these sleeves for an extended period of time will soon start to curl leaves or drop leaves.
- Transport them carefully; ensure they plants are wrapped in paper sleeves and if the temperature is below 5C warm the car up for a bit before transporting the plants.
- Do not overwater; if pots are sitting in decorative sleeves remove the sleeve before watering then replace after the pot has drained. Use your finger to test for moisture daily; if the plant is starting to dry out, water. Do not allow to dry out completely.
- Keep your poinsettia away from drafts (near doors) or heating vents

[For more information on growing poin-](#)

Paperwhites

These fragrant holiday bulbs add classic beauty indoors and a distinct perfumed fragrance. So simple to grow they can be set atop paperwhite vases or planted into shallow pots with decorative sand or gravel. They are a wonderful contrast to fresh greens.



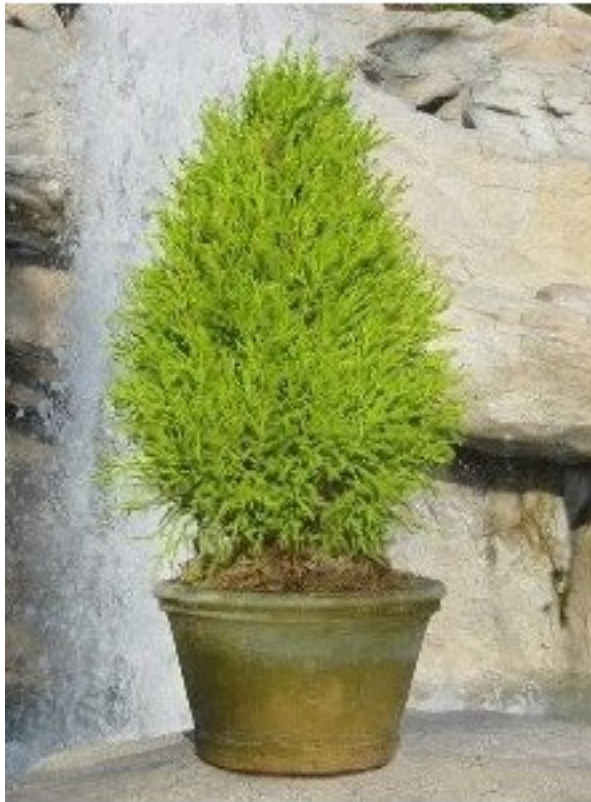


Christmas Cactus

A beautiful holiday plant, the Christmas Cactus blooms at Christmas and also sometimes around Easter. A month prior to Christmas, you will be able to watch the tips of the leaves beginning to grow. The tips grow darker as each day passes, until a bud forms. At Christmas time the buds open to a beautiful flower.

The Christmas Cactus appreciates bright but indirect light. Keep the plant in a well-lit location (like near a window) away from direct sunlight (which can stunt growth and burn the leaves), drafts, heat vents or other sources of hot air.

Water a Christmas Cactus with care. Caring for this plant can be a bit tricky as you need to take care not to overwater or underwater it. Unlike many cacti, this variety cannot tolerate completely dry soil. If the soil gets too dry, the flowers buds will drop, and the plant will wilt. Feel the soil with your fingers; if the top inch of soil has started to dry out, it's time to water.



Cypress

This evergreen tree is striking for its vivid colour and lemony scent when the leaves are crushed. Goldcrest Cypress is a popular holiday plant with a mini Christmas tree growth habit. Pot one up and decorate with lightweight mini ornaments. The tree can be treated as an indoor plant after the holidays, and even spend the summer outdoors (but must be brought back in once temperatures are close to freezing).