



## Zygo Cactus (Christmas cactus)

There are many varieties or hybrids of Christmas cactus, and all are members of the "Zygo Cactus family". Christmas cactus are not really cactus; but are epiphytes and are found in similar conditions as orchids. In their natural environment they would be found in the notches of trees where they grow in decayed leaves and other natural debris in tropical areas of South America.

**Light:** Bright indirect light, no hot sun in the summer; some winter sun is ok.

**Temperature:** Keep in a cool room where temperatures range from 60 – 75 degrees F.

**Water:** Allow the top of the soil to dry 1 inch down, then water thoroughly. During the fall and winter months water less often to help promote blooming.

**Humidity:** Mist the leaves frequently and set your plant on a saucer filled with pebbles and water to help provide humidity.

**Fertilizer:** Apply a high-potash liquid fertilizer such as **Master Bloom** every 2 weeks from the formation of the buds until flowering is over. Do not feed during the rest period, and then give a balanced liquid fertilizer such as **Masters Liquid Gold** every 4 weeks until flowering begins again.

**Repotting:** Repot annually after the resting period.

**Tips:** To get your plant ready for the holidays, keep your plant in a cool environment around 60 degrees F. plus or minus a couple degrees is okay, 12-14 hours of total darkness each day, and water sparingly.

Too much light (even artificial) can retard blooming. February and March water infrequently to give your plant a rest.

Pre-flowering period, September and October keep your plant on the dry side and cool until flower buds form then increase the water and temperature.

Bud drop can happen and is usually caused from over watering, lack of humidity or insufficient light.