

Enjoying Holiday Plants and Their Care

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Kentucky Cooperative Extension

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It starts with us

Amaryllis

- *Hippeastrum*
- Amaryllidaceae family
- Native to Mexico and South America
- 1700's Dutch bulb growers experimented with bulbs
- Zone 8-10

Photo credit:
Robyn Edgell



Amaryllis

- Flower Colors:
 - Red
 - White
 - Pink and white
 - Red and white

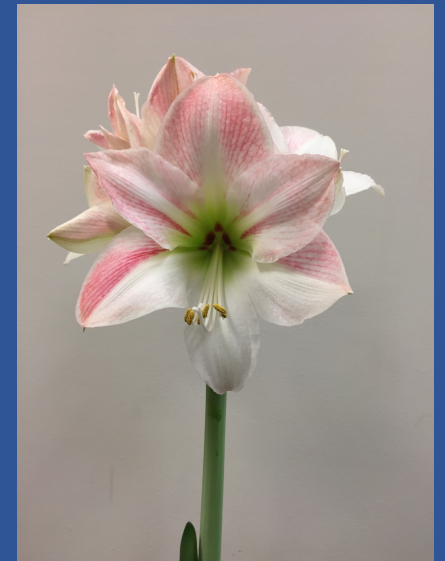


Photo Credit:
Annette Meyer Heisdorffer

Amaryllis

- Care:
 - Likes to be pot bound
 - Bloom in 4-12 weeks
 - Well-drained potting soil
 - Water when soil is dry to the touch
 - Leave 1/3 to 1/2 of bulb exposed



Photo credit:
Annette Meyer Heisdorffer

Amaryllis

- Care: (Continued)
 - Bright, indirect light
 - Turn pot as it is growing
 - Rotate container every few days to keep flower stalk straight
 - Flower stalk may need staking



Amaryllis

- Maintenance:
 - Cut flower stalk back after bloom is finished
 - Leaves provide energy for the next season's flowers
 - Fertilize every two weeks
 - Provide as much light as possible

Amaryllis

- Maintenance: (Continued)
 - Move plant outdoors after the threat of frost
 - Acclimate plant to brighter light
 - End of summer, withhold water
 - Bring back indoors after night temperature drops below 50°

Amaryllis

- Maintenance: (Continued)
 - As foliage yellows and dies, move plant to a cool dry location such as a basement or closet
 - Allow to rest for about two months
 - Resting temperature is best between 45 to 60°F



Photo credit:
Annette Heisdorffer

Amaryllis

- Reblooming:
 - Repot bulb if needed
 - Begin to water bulb
 - Start process again



Purchasing Amaryllis

- A bulb
- Blooming plant
- Decorative waxed bulb (disposable)
- As a kit
 - Bulb
 - Media
 - Container

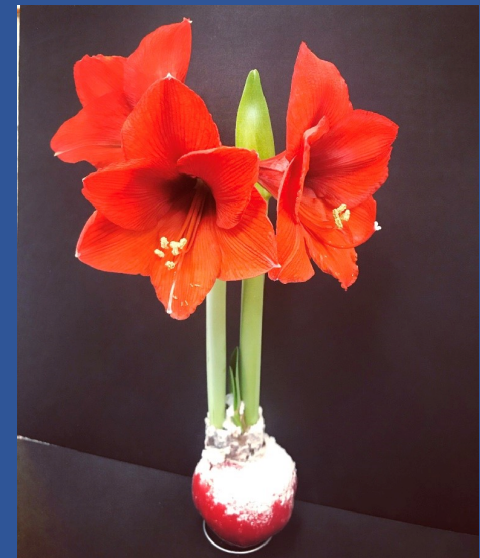


Photo credit:
Robyn Edgell

Holiday Cacti

- *Schlumbergera truncata* – Thanksgiving Cactus
- *Schlumbergera bridgesii* – Christmas Cactus
- Cactaceae family
- Native to jungles of Brazil
- Zone 10-12



Holiday Cactus

- Flower Colors—Shades of:

- White
- Golden Yellow
- Pink
- Rose
- Coral
- Red
- Purple



Holiday Cactus

- Care:

- Grow as epiphytes in plant debris
- Need peat-based potting soil
- Well-drained soil
- Bright, indirect light
- Prefers day temperatures below 75°F
- Water when soil is dry to the touch



Holiday Cactus

- Why flower buds fall off:
 - Temperature above 75°F
 - Sudden changes in temperature
 - Over-watering in heavy soils



Holiday Cactus

- Maintaining:
 - January-May: Water 2 or 4 days after soil appears dry
 - Fertilize each month with a complete houseplant fertilizer
 - June 1: Can take outside to receive 6 hours sunlight
 - Repot if necessary



Holiday Cactus

- Reblooming:
 - Bloom in response to short days and/or cool temperatures
 - Expose to 9 hours of light and 15 hours of darkness each day starting in September
 - Or, leave plant outside through September and bring indoors in early October



Holiday Cactus

- Reblooming: (Continued)
 - Continue to water and fertilize
 - September 1: Reduce water frequency
 - Fertilize every 6 weeks
 - Leave plants outdoors until October 15
 - Without treatment – flowers may be produced sporadically
 - November-December: Enjoy flowers

Norfolk Island Pine

- Not a Pine:
 - *Araucaria heterophylla*
 - Araucariaceae family
 - Subtropical tree (Zone 9b-11)
 - Native to Norfolk Islands in South Pacific
 - Reach 150-200 ft. in native setting



Photo Credit:
Thomas
Smiley, Bartlett
Tree Experts,
bugwood.org

Norfolk Island Pine

- Care:
 - High humidity
 - Bright window
 - Water well and let dry out
 - Keep decorations light
 - Decorate with only small lights



Norfolk Island Pine

- Maintenance:
 - Repot as needed
 - High humidity
 - Bright window
 - Water well and let dry out
 - Will tolerate 45 to 85°F



Poinsettia



- *Euphorbia pulcherrima*
- Euphorbiaceae Family
- Joel Robert Poinsett, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, brought back to South Carolina in 1825
- In 1800's, missionaries in Mexico used poinsettias in nativity processions
- Aztecs used for medicinal purposes and as a dye
- Zone 9-11



Poinsettia



Photo credit:
Hort Facts 60-03:
"Christmas Plants Brighten
the Holiday Season" by Bob
Anderson, Extension
Specialist in Floriculture and
Karen Shehan, Extension Staff
Assistant

Poinsettia

Flower Colors (bracts):

- Red
- White
- Pink
- Punch
- Cream, rose, and pink on a bract



- Red with Pink flecks
- Cranberry Red
- Yellow
- Purple



Poinsettia

- Not poisonous to people or pets
- Considered non-edible
- Keep out of reach of children and pets



Poinsettia

- Care:
 - Needs bright, sunny location with 1 hour or more of sunlight daily
 - Provide adequate water
 - Pour off excess water
 - Fertilize once per month with all-purpose houseplant fertilizer
 - Keep above 50°F



Poinsettia

- Maintaining:
 - March 17: Prune stems to about 3 to 6 inches to remove colored bracts
 - May 10: Trim off 2 to 6 inches of branches to promote side branches
 - Repot to larger container
 - Move plant outside gradually to a location with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight

Poinsettia

- Maintaining: (continued)
 - June-July: Fertilize every 2 weeks and water regularly
 - July 4: Trim plant
 - August-October: Fertilize every week
 - Early September: Prune to 18-24 inches tall

Poinsettia

- Reblooming:
 - Bring indoors
 - Direct sunlight for 6 hours
 - September 21- October 1: 14 hours uninterrupted darkness and 10 hours bright sunlight
 - October 31: Keep plant in a sunny area; reduce fertilizer
 - Fertilize every 3 weeks
 - Enjoy Poinsettia!



Poinsettia

History of Poinsettia by Dr. Jim Faust, Clemson University



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERo6Z4txeng>

Help Holiday Plants Last Longer

- Keep away from heat sources
- Keep away from cold drafts
- Flowers will last longer if temperatures are cooler

Any Questions?



Photo credit:
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