

# MYTH

## ALL CACTUS, INCLUDING HOLIDAY CACTUS, THRIVE IN HOT TEMPERATURES



### THE FACTS

Many of the plants labelled as **CHRISTMAS** cactus are **THANKSGIVING** cactus, or of blended ancestry.

Christmas cactus and Thanksgiving cactus are closely related, so it's easy to mistake them for the same plant. Both plants are in the genus *Schlumbergera*:

- Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*)
- Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*)
  - Not often grown commercially

Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti grow in the mountains of southeastern Brazil, so prefer things on the cool and shady side, unlike cacti found in desert habitats.

- Optimal temperature for Holiday cacti is 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Large fluctuations in temperature can cause the cactus blooms to drop before they open
  - Place in a cool place – away from heaters and fireplaces – without drafts.

Holiday cacti are short day plants so to induce the plants into bloom they must have 12-24 hours of darkness and cool temperatures.

- The natural light cycles we get in winter will suffice.
- The plants enjoy bright light but not direct sunlight.

The plant's soil should be dry to **ONE INCH** below the surface before watering and **NOT** fertilized or repotted while BLOOMING.



### REFERENCES

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/it-thanksgiving-christmas-or-easter-cactus>