

# BRECK'S® Gifts

## A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU

Whether you received a thoughtful gift from someone special or if you purchased for yourself, we hope this long-lasting plant brings you garden joy.

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visit us online at [brecksgifts.com](http://brecksgifts.com).

## FLOWERING CACTUS

*Schlumbergera*

These are the easiest to grow of all leafy cacti, and are remarkably floriferous. They are highly useful for providing color in mid winter and early spring. Follow the easy-care instructions below and you can look forward to passing this plant down through many generations.

### PLACEMENT

Upon arrival, place your plant in a well-lit location, perhaps near a window, away from direct sunlight. Direct sunlight can stunt growth and burn the leaves. It is best to keep in a normal house temperature range between 65°F and 80°F. Abrupt changes in temperature should be avoided, so placement by an outside door or near a heat vent is discouraged. Be sure to set the container on a protected surface to prevent water damage to furniture.

### WATER

Take care to not overwater or underwater your cactus. As a tropical cactus, not a desert cactus, this variety cannot tolerate completely dry soil. If the soil gets too dry, the flower's buds will drop, and the plant will wilt. Feel the soil with your fingers, if it feels dry, it's time to water. The soil should be evenly moist for best growth. We recommend fertilizing your plant two to four times a year following the instructions on a blooming houseplant-type solution. During the fall and winter months, the plants should be watered less frequently in order to promote blooming.

### REBLOOMING AND TRANSPLANTING

Prune your cactus about a month after all blooms are spent. This will encourage the plant to branch out. The key to successful reblooming is proper light exposure, correct temperatures and limited watering. Your plant will set buds when the day length is about equal to the night length and when the temperature drops to 50–60°F for several weeks. So, keep your plant in a dark bathroom or closet for the night. It needs long uninterrupted dark periods. For Christmas blooms, begin the dark treatments in mid October to have plants in full bloom for the holidays. When the blooms begin to open, return to a well-lit location and enjoy. Be especially careful with watering during this period. Reduce the watering slightly. Do not soak the soil; only moisten the top few inches. Buds will fall off if the roots are suddenly saturated. We recommend repotting into a slightly bigger pot every three years. Your cactus flowers best when it's pot-bound.

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