



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

Poinsettias and Other Holiday Plants

Whether you're going all out for the holidays or you just want to keep it simple, blooming houseplants are a great way to put the finishing touches on your yuletide decorating. Christmas plants are one of the easiest ways to show your holiday spirit, and you'll find more varieties this year than ever before. And, as you get 'wrapped' up in the frenzy of the holiday season, remember plants make the perfect gift too. Here are some traditional and not-so-traditional holiday season plants:

POINSETTIAS

Nowadays, this holiday classic is popping up in all sorts of nontraditional colors – in shades of pink, peach, yellow, and even chartreuse. Or try one of McDonald's painted poinsettias that are hand-painted and glittered in a rainbow of colors. Many even have large, double, or uniquely shaped blooms. Place your poinsettia in a well-lit location, out of direct sunlight and drafts. Water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy.

GRINCHMAS TREE

Add a little quirkiness to your holidays this season with this Grinch-inspired table-top tree. The foliage of the Monterey cypress is a vibrant chartreuse, perfect for spreading holiday cheer wherever it is displayed. When the holiday season is over, simply remove the wiring and allow the tree to take its natural shape. Indoors, place in a full sun location. Water once a week, as it prefers moist, well-draining soil. Mist to provide humidity.

CYCLAMEN

This cool weather bloomer boasts unusually shaped, colorful blossoms and variegated gray-green elliptical leaves. Depending on the variety, the blossoms may be pink, lavender, deep purple, white, or red. Cyclamen needs cool temperatures to continue blooming, so be sure to keep this plant away from heat sources and, preferably, in the coolest part of the house. Water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy.

NORFOLK ISLAND PINE

This holiday favorite with a pyramidal shape and soft, dark green needles will add a pop of green all year long. For a festive vibe, consider decorating it with ornaments and twinkling lights. This slow-growing tree loves a sunny spot. During the warmer months, you can move it outdoors and place in partial sunlight. Water thoroughly once a week or when the soil becomes dry to touch.

TILLANDSIA (AIR PLANT) SNOWMEN

These adorable, little ceramic figurines feature hardy tillandsia (air plants), atop a whimsical snowman wrapped in a colorful scarf. The perfect petite companion whether at home or in the office. Other figurine options include: polar bear, Groot, abominable snowman, and holiday wreath. Indoors, place in bright light or filtered sun. To water, simply mist 2-4 times a week with a water bottle or mister.

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CITRUS

There's nothing sweeter than homegrown lemons, limes or oranges. Tuck citrus plants around your house in containers this winter and enjoy their evergreen beauty, sweet fragrance and mouthwatering fruit. Once warm weather sets in, move your citrus plants outside and enjoy them all summer long. Most citrus is hardy to 38°F, but we recommend keeping them indoors until late spring.

FROSTED FERNS

Frosted ferns are another good choice if you're looking for a plant for the holidays but want something a bit different. Known for its silvery foliage that resembles frost on a cold winter morning, this plant infuses a soft, evergreen feel indoors, making it the perfect plant for the holidays and beyond. Not really a fern, but a clubmoss, *Selaginella* 'frosty' has flat, scale-like leaves, much like an arborvitae. Keep this plant in bright, indirect sunlight and the soil evenly moist, never allowing it to dry out. Provide humidity for the frosty fern by placing the potted plant on a saucer of pebbles or gravel and water. Drainage is a must and misting is not recommended.

PHALAENOPSIS 'MOTH' ORCHIDS

Moth orchids are some of the least expensive and longest-blooming orchids available. In fact, one bloom spike can look great for four months or more. Pair them with other holiday favorites like poinsettias and cyclamen. Orchids are surprisingly easy to grow. In the right setup at home, they can be extremely low maintenance.

Be sure to give them a spot in low, medium, or bright light and water weekly or every other week. To learn more about growing orchids click here.

CHRISTMAS CACTUS

This thornless member of the cactus family has flat green foliage, which blooms periodically. Blooms are tubular in shape and come in varying shades of reds, pinks, whites and yellows. This houseplant is easy to care for, making them the perfect gift for those without a green thumb. Christmas cactus prefers bright, indirect light and, unlike most other cactus, requires light to moderate watering.

AMARYLLIS

Of all flowering bulbs, amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. The large, striking flowers and bold colors make this a holiday classic! Amaryllis bulbs are available in so many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and even orange. There are also striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white. Place in a location that receives bright, indirect light. Water sparingly until you see about 2-inches of new growth. From then on, water regularly. As the plant grows, turn the pot periodically to encourage the flower stalks to grow straight.

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YULETIDE CAMELLIA

This beautiful, cool weather bloomer is a Hampton Roads favorite. Yuletide is a welcome addition to the garden year-round, giving blooms at a time of year when not much else is blooming. Its red flowers stand out in high contrast against glossy, dark green foliage, making quite the statement in the landscape. A moderate grower, this evergreen shrub will grow to approximately 8-10 feet tall with an upright growth habit. Use as hedge or screen, a border shrub, along a fence line, or in a container on a porch or patio. During the holidays, cut a few blossoms from your plant and float them in small bowls of water throughout your home.

OTHER HOLIDAY PLANTS INCLUDE:

pansies • Shishi Gashira camellia • herb combination containers • lavender • kalanchoe • cyclamen

TIP: Add twinkling lights or ribbon to any house-plant you may have for a festive touch throughout the holiday season.

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