

# Caring for your holiday plants



Holidays are the time for gatherings with family and friends. While you are coming up with a theme for your holiday décor why not take a look at using botanicals — plants and cuttings. We've put together a list of plants and provided some recommendations for their care for your holiday decorating.

## *Amaryllis*

Large flowered bulb. Pick a large bulb with roots, use a pot slightly larger than the bulb; place with top one third of bulb out of the soil. Keep soil moist and daytime temperatures between 68-70 degrees.



## *Poinsettias*

The Christmas poinsettia legend began when a young girl in Mexico wanted to bring a gift to the Baby Jesus, but being a poor peasant child she did not have the means to buy a gift. So, on her way to see him she picked roadside weeds to make a bouquet. When it was time for her to present her gift, the weeds miraculously turned in to the beautiful red poinsettia that we enjoy today. With proper care, poinsettias can last for months in the house. They like indirect bright light and temperatures of around 70 degrees. Water them thoroughly when the top layer of soil is dry. Occasional misting can prolong the life of the red bracts.



## *Cyclamen*

Place in an area with indirect light — daytime temperatures of 60-65 degrees and about 50-55 at night. Keep the plants looking great by removing spent flowers. Avoid over watering; the soil should be moist but not wet. As the leaves begin to yellow, decrease watering as the plant goes dormant.

## *Evergreen Branches*

Use in vases or a swags in cool areas. Direct sun and dry indoor conditions will dry out the cut branches but with occasional misting and in cool areas the swags can easily look great for a month or more. Holly — mass branches in vases. Pine cones — no care needed.



## *Living Christmas trees*

To get the look of a large tree, try using 3 or more smaller trees and place on pedestals.

Remember most Christmas plants prefer cool temperatures during the day 65-70 degrees and cooler at night. These plants also do not like warm or cool drafts so don't place near heater vents or next to doors that get cold drafts when opened.

Article by the staff at Garden Accents. Visit their beautiful facility at 11155 Lena Avenue. They have just the right gift for every gardener on your holiday shopping list. Enjoy a special Ladies Night on December 10 from 5-8 p.m. 20% discount on all purchases, excluding sod, special orders or previous markdowns.