

Cyclamen

General Care

Cyclamen are a seasonal flowering plant, available during the Fall and Winter months, and usually purchased in flower. In nature, this Mediterranean plant goes dormant in the summer months, comes into growth as cooler weather starts, and blooms in the fall and winter. Cyclamen need cool temperatures to remain in bloom as long as possible. How cool? 45-55 degrees F is best. In a warm room (68-70 degrees) their blooming period will be shortened, and the foliage tends to yellow and elongate, becoming loose and open. The coolest, brightest room in the house is best. Give Cyclamen bright light while they are in bloom, but no direct sun. Cyclamen prefer a good soaking, and then allow to dry partially before soaking again. Feed every two weeks while they are in flower with a liquid house plant food. Remove dead flowers and yellowing leaves with scissors.

With cool temperatures, bright light, and a feeding every two weeks, Cyclamen can reward you with several months of beautiful flowers. The foliage alone makes an attractive houseplant.

To Bring Into Flower Again

Cyclamen have the well deserved reputation of being difficult to bring into flower the second year. If you want to try it, after the plant finishes flowering, gradually reduce watering. When all the leaves have turned yellow, let the soil dry out almost completely. Store the plant in a cool place over the summer like the basement, or stairwell.

When growth resumes in Fall, replot the tuber in a composted potting soil, bring the pot into a bright room, and start watering. While leaves are developing, keep soil barely moist. Then increase watering and start fertilizing with a houseplant fertilizer.



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