

ZYGOCACTUS, CHRISTMAS AND THANKSGIVING CACTUS



Thanksgiving cactus was formerly known by the generic name Zygodactylus and is used by some as the common name. Both are members of the cactus family, which includes some 140 genera and more than 1,700 plus species, all of which are native to North America. Thanksgiving cactus differs from Christmas cactus in that the former has leaf segments with jagged edges, while the leaves on the latter have smooth edges.

Botanical Name *Schlumbergera x buckleyi* cvs.

Ethylene Sensitivity Yes

Interior Light 50-200 foot candles

Storage 50-60°F. Do not store for longer than three days unless plants are treated to prevent the effects of ethylene.

Purchasing Hints Purchase when the first flowers show color. Do not ship with open flowers due to their susceptibility to mechanical injury and disease problems.

Consumer Life Three to seven weeks

Special Concerns Buds will drop if plants are exposed to ethylene. Plants should be treated with an anti-ethylene compound to avoid bud drop. Avoid temperatures below 45°F.

Additional Information To reflower, keep the plants at 60 to 70°F, under 14 to 16 hours of continuous darkness per day for about six weeks (although this can vary by species and cultivar).