

Blooming PLANT CARE

AZALEA: The azalea plant produces clusters of brightly colored flowers that sit on top of a mass of shiny dark green leaves. The flower colors range from white to magenta and almost every shade of red and pink. Some of the flowers are even bi-colored. These plants only reach heights of 1 to 2 feet.

Care Recommendations

Light: The best light condition for the azalea plant is a high light area. This plant will not perform in low light.

Water: It is vital that the planting medium stay moist all year long. Because azaleas are planted in a peat moss and sand mixture, they tend to dry out quickly.

Temperature: The most ideal temperature for an azalea is 50°F. The cooler they can be kept the healthier they will be and the longer their flowers will last. (Hint: Set your azalea in an east facing window that has night temps of 50°F.)

Fertilization: Feed with liquid azalea fertilizer once every two weeks from spring to autumn.

CYCLAMEN: This plant is known for being one of the longest lasting and most beautiful of all the flowering houseplants. Standard cyclamen grow from 6 to 14 inches tall but the miniature cyclamen grow to only a few inches tall. Flowers range in color from red, pink, white, and lavender as well as some bi-colored varieties. These beautiful blooms can also be frilled or even have perfumed flowers.

Care Recommendations

Light: The best light condition for Cyclamen is a medium to high light area. Near a sunny window is preferred. This plant does not perform well in low light.

Water: Never pour water directly on to the tuber of the cyclamen. It is best to set the pot in water and let the plant draw the water up from beneath. Make sure to keep the soil moist, but not saturated. If the soil dries out when the plant is in bloom, it can cause the young flower buds to die.

Temperature: Daytime temperatures of 65 to 70°F are ideal. Cyclamen prefer cooler temperatures at night, preferably between 40 and 50°F. It will however tolerate evening temperatures up to 65 degrees.

Fertilization: When in bloom, use standard fertilizer every 2 to 3 weeks.

GERBERA DAISY: This plant is probably the happiest of all plants. With its big, brightly colored flowers and beautiful green foliage, they make great house plants. Colors range from pink, white, peach, red, yellow, orange and fuchsia just to name a few. Unlike most plants, which give off oxygen during the day, gerbera daisies release it at night. It has been proven that when placed in a bedroom, the oxygen levels can be kept steadier in the room overnight helping to ensure a deeper, more restorative sleep. Gerbera daisies are excellent summer pot plants that are great for outdoors as well as indoors.

Care Recommendations

Light: Gerbera daisies prefer medium to high light conditions. It is best to avoid full sunlight indoors, but keep near a sunny window.

Water: When the soil surface feels dry to the touch you should water your plant thoroughly. Drain any excess water that has collected in the saucer at the base of the pot to prevent root rot.

Temperature: This plant prefers daytime temperatures between 65 and 70°F degrees and night time temperatures between 60 and 65°F.

Fertilization: When they are actively growing and blooming, gerbera daisies should be fed every other week with a water-soluble fertilizer.

HIBISCUS: The beautiful funnel shaped flowers and glossy green leaves are what make this plant so spectacular. The flowers range in color from red, orange, yellow, pink and white. Flowers are typically 3 to 5 inches in diameter, but some can get up to 12 inches across. Each bloom only last for one day only, but its one day whether left on the plant, cut and put in water or worn in the hair for a wedding. When nightfall comes, the flower will die regardless.

Care Recommendations

Light: Hibiscus need at least 4 hour of sunshine a day, the brighter the light conditions the better.

Water: the soil of the hibiscus should stay constantly moist. Water thoroughly when the soil surface is dry to the touch. As always, drain excess water from saucer to prevent root rot.

Temperature: Hibiscus' need warmth in order to maintain active growth. Temperatures in the mid 60's at night and 70°F or warmer during the day are ideal. Avoid excessively hot or cold areas.

Fertilization: Feed once a month with houseplant fertilizer.

HYDRANGEA: The hydrangeas season of glory is from late March to mid-May, when they begin to produce their fantastic enormous blooms. Plants are commonly sold in stores when they are 18 to 24 inches tall and just coming into flower. Hydrangea can maintain those amazing blooms for 6 weeks or more if they are kept in the right conditions. When blooms have faded, and after any danger of frost, the hydrangea may be planted outside. Cut the plants back, removing the spent blossoms. Plant hydrangeas in a rich, loamy soil in a semi-shaded location that gets plenty of moisture and good drainage. Depending on the region's climate, (they may need protection from winter freezing further north), they can perform in the garden for years to come.

Care Recommendations

Light: Bright, indirect light is preferred. Try to avoid full sunlight, but keep your plant near a bright sunny window.

Water: Hydrangeas require a lot of moisture. Keeping the soil uniformly moist at all times is necessary to maintain the

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beauty of this plant. Check this plant for water daily and water thoroughly, never letting the soil dry out. Make sure to drain the excess water from the saucer to avoid root rot.

Temperature: Hydrangea will do well in average household temperatures. During the day temperatures around 70°F is ideal, where at night keep it in the high 50's°F. A cooler environment at night will help to extend the life of the blooms.

Fertilization: It's best not to fertilize while the plant is in blossom. The really fun part of hydrangea plant care is the fact that you can alter the color through soil amendments. Adding lime or other alkaline materials will make your flowers pink, while acid makes them blue.

KALANCHOE: The Kalanchoe is a great house plant that adds a splash of color to any décor. They are semi-succulants, which mean that they can tolerate a little drier condition.

Care Recommendations

Light: If your plant is in flower, it should receive half days of sunlight. They prefer a medium to high light area.

Water: Let the soil dry out slightly between thorough watering. Make sure to drain the excess water from the saucer to avoid root rot.

Temperature: This plant prefers daytime temperatures between 65 and 75°F and night time temperatures between 60 and 65°F.

Fertilization: Do not feed this plant at all when it's in bloom.

CHRYSANTHEMUM: These brightly colored plants are a great way to brighten up any room. The mum plants are offered for sale in every color except blue. Flowers will remain in bloom for approximately 6 weeks. It's best to purchase plants that are dense with slightly cracked buds so that you can enjoy the full life span of the blossoms.

Care Recommendations

Light: Mum plants need at least half days of sunshine. Medium to high light areas work the best.

Water: Keep the soil moist at all times. You may find yourself watering your mum plant every couple of days. Make sure to drain the excess water from the saucer.

Temperature: Keeping your mum plant in a cooler spot will help maintain the longevity of the blooms.

Fertilization: Feeding is not required for these temporary plants.

RIEGER BEGONIA: These beautiful begonia hybrids are dense plants with red, white, pink, yellow, rose or orange flowers. They are among the most popular flowering house plants in the country.

Care Recommendations

Light: This plant prefers a bright location. Avoid full sunlight, but keep near a sunny window.

Water: A moderately moist soil is preferable. Water your plant thoroughly when the surface of the soil feels dry to the touch. Drain any excess water in the saucer at the base of the pot to prevent root rot.

Temperature: It is best to avoid excessively hot or cold locations. Daytime temperatures of 65 to 70°F are preferred with a night time temperature of 60 to 65°F.

Fertilization: Begonias require monthly feeding.

AFRICAN VIOLET: The African violet is the most popular of all house plants. They are among the easiest plants to take care of and one of the few that can stay in bloom all year long. Violets range in color from white, pink, lavender, purple, magenta and violet.

Care Recommendations

Light: African violets require bright, indirect light. A north or east facing window that has bright light but is not sunny is ideal.

Water: This plant can be touchy about its watering routine. The delicate, fibrous roots can be easily damaged if they are allowed to dry out. It's best to keep the soil barely moist at all times. Watering every two to three days from the bottom is ideal. Place tepid water in the saucer and leave it there for about half the day. Drain excess water so that you do not damage the plant.

Temperature: African violets want temperatures in the high 60s at night at 75°F or warmer during the daytime. Temperatures that drop below 55°F will kill your violet.

Fertilization: The African violet requires monthly feedings.