



Your Full Service Nursery & Landscape Center
Since 1987
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Indoor Plants for the Holidays

When decorating for the holiday season, we hang wreaths and mistletoe, put out holiday-themed decorations and, of course, a Christmas tree. But the Christmas tree is not the only plant for the holidays. Mortimer Nursery has several indoor plants to bring color to your home during this festive season.

Poinsettias are the most popular holiday plant. The colorful bracts (what we usually think of as the Poinsettia's flowers are actually bracts, or modified leaves), will brighten your home throughout winter. Place your poinsettia where it will receive six hours of light per day and keep the soil moist, but not soggy. When the bract color begins to fade, usually by March, reduce watering and move the plant to a cool, airy place out of direct sunlight until May. In May, prune, increase watering, fertilize regularly and move the poinsettia to a sunny window where it can stay until October. In October, it needs 14 hours of darkness daily to produce the colorful leaf bracts. You can place it in a dark closet or cover with a black trash bag from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Maintain temperature between 60 and 75F. When small bracts appear, you can return the plant to normal light conditions.



Christmas cactus is an easy-care plant that produces blooms of red, pink, salmon, or yellow during the holidays. This is not a desert cactus but rather a plant of the tropical forests that grows high in the trees. Flower buds form in September, opening anytime between November and January. When your cactus is done flowering it needs to rest for two months, needing almost no water or fertilizer. In spring sprouts will appear at the tip of the joints. This is your signal to increase water and to occasionally add a diluted fertilizer.

This is also the time to repot if necessary although these plants like crowded root conditions. After their spring growth spurt rest them again in early summer, watering sparingly and withholding fertilizer. By August increase watering and do not let the plant dry out. Watch for flower buds in September.

Amaryllis is a well-loved bulb that flowers indoors during the winter. The large, vibrant blooms appear 45 days after potting the bulb. While flowering, remove faded blooms to extend bloom time. Strap-like leaves appear after flowering is completed. As the weather warms, the leaves die back and the bulb goes dormant. Keep the soil moist until September. At this time, stop watering and place the bulb in a cool, dry place for 10 to 12 weeks. In November, remove the bulb from the original pot, clean off old foliage and roots, leaving only the firm, plump roots. Repot in fresh soil, keeping the “shoulders” of the bulb exposed by one-third. Place in a warm, sunny location. Once the flower buds open, move the pot to a cooler location with indirect light to prolong blooming and improve flower color.



Mortimer Nursery also has a great selection of Norfolk Pines, an indoor pine you can decorate with holiday ornaments; charming Rosemary plants trimmed o the shape of a Christmas tree; and Cyclamens blooming in pink, red and white. Stop by and we'll help you select an indoor plant to bring color and cheer to your home through the winter!