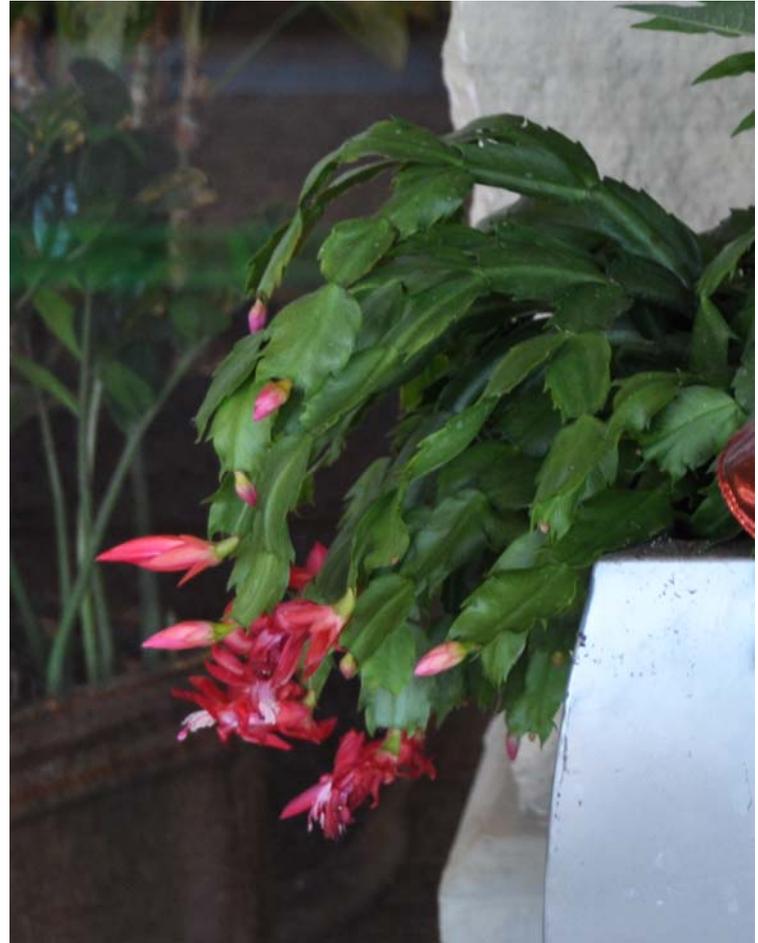# Holiday Cactus
Schlumbergera

Holiday Cactus
Schlumbergera

Family: Cactaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: succulent, evergreen
Size: 12"+ tall; 18"+ wide
USDA Hardiness Zones: 9 to 11
Leaves: n/a Stems are flattened segmented, spineless, and leaf-like (phyllocades) often with small points along the edge .
Leaf Color: dark green (stem, not leaf color!)
Flower Time: November to January
Flowers: showy, pink, red, white, violet-red (rarely yellow) borne hanging down at ends of stems. Multiple tepals and showy stamens
Fruit: fleshy fruit ~1" in diameter with small black seeds inside
Light: bright, indirect light indoors, shade outdoors
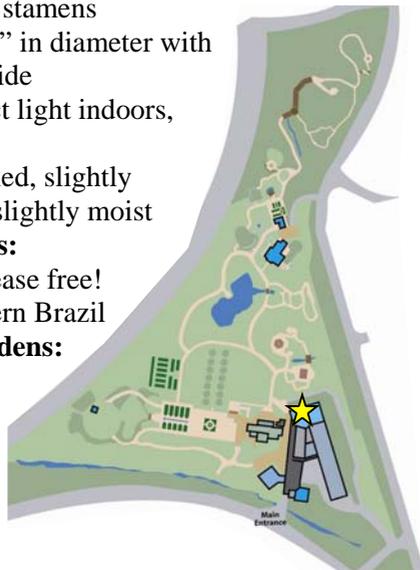**Moisture:** well-drained, slightly dry—when flowers, slightly moist
Insect/Disease Issues:
None. Insect and disease free!
Nativity: Southeastern Brazil
Location in the Gardens:
Conservatory

Culture & Landscape Value: Keep plants uniformly moist and allow to dry out between waterings. While a cactus, plants do not appreciate drying out especially while in bloom. Like cactus will not tolerate wet conditions. Plants enjoy high humidity and any attempt to raise humidity is appreciated. Grow in bright, indirect light and plants like to be placed outdoors in the warm summer months—just be sure to keep them in a full shade location with little direct light. Plants are easily propagated by stem cuttings. Remove 3 to 5 segments, allow cut end to dry a day or two and then root in a loose, well-drained soil or media. Plants bloom under short days and poor bloom may be the result of light "pollution" from indoor lights.

Notes: Plants are epiphytic (growing on other plants) and occur naturally in the shady cracks and crevices of trees and rock outcroppings. The holiday cactus is highly hybridized between six closely related species including the Christmas cactus and Thanksgiving cactus. It is also closely related to the Easter cactus (*Hatiora* syn *Rhipsalidopsis*) which blooms in spring.

Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec