

Cyclamen

Product Information

Cyclamen plants bear distinctive five-petaled blooms atop smooth, slender, leafless stems. The blooms are downward pointing but strongly reflexed; waxy; and sometimes ruffled, serrated or edged with a contrasting color. They rise above a dense base of fleshy heart-shaped or kidney-shaped leaves, which are often variegated (usually dark green with light green or silvery gray markings although some varieties feature silver leaves with green highlights).

Cyclamens typically bloom from three to five weeks, sometimes longer (new blooms replace the old). Once flowering stops, the leafy plants can survive for several more months.



Care Tips

Place Cyclamens in a bright environment but out of direct sunlight. During the winter months, however, these plants can tolerate exposure to direct sunlight for 1 hour to 2 hours daily.

Keep plants moderately moist—not soaked—at all times. Water thoroughly when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Cyclamens are extremely sensitive to both underwatering and overwatering, so never allow plants to dry out and wilt, and, conversely, never allow the pots to sit in water for prolonged periods.

Ideally, place pots in a shallow container of tepid water for 15 to 30 minutes (the soil will absorb water from the holes in the bottom of the pots), then allow them to drain. If you water from the top, drip water just inside the edges of the pot to avoid getting water in the plants' crown, on the tuber or on the leaves.

These plants prefer cool environments. Placing Cyclamens in a warm room or near heat sources will shorten their life dramatically. Also, these plants like fresh air, so placing them outdoors for a few hours a day, when temperatures allow, is beneficial.

When flowering, Cyclamens require high humidity. Place pots on a pebble tray, making sure the bottoms of the pots are out of the water. Also occasionally mist the air around the plants. To help buds open, feed Cyclamens every two weeks with a high-phosphorous plant food mixed at half strength. Do not feed dormant plants. Remove blooms as they fade and leaves as they yellow or dry, carefully cutting, twisting or pinching the stems off at the crown.