Horticulture 2013 Newsletter
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Video of the Week:  Do-It-Yourself Holiday Gift: Gifts with Flair

UPCOMING EVENTS

Great Plains Growers Conference
January 9, 10 & 11, 2014
St. Joseph, MO
http://www.greatplainsgrowers.org/GPVGC2014.html

Retail Works: Spring Training for Garden Centers
January 29, 2014
Manhattan, KS

FLOWERS

Care of Christmas and Thanksgiving Cacti

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) and Thanksgiving Cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) are epiphytes native to the jungles of South America. Epiphytic plants grow on other plants and use them for support but not for nutrients. Though these cacti are different species, they will hybridize and produce varying stem shapes. Christmas cactus normally has smooth stem segments, and Thanksgiving Cactus has hook-like appendages on each segment.

Both of these cacti prefer bright indirect light. Too much sun can result in the leaves turning yellow. Common household temperatures are fine. Soil should be kept constantly moist but not waterlogged. Give them a light fertilization every other week. Blooming will normally cease in late winter to early spring, but continue to keep them moist and fertilized until fall. During the fall, stop fertilizing, and give the plants only enough water so the stems do not shrivel in order to encourage flower bud formation. Though these plants seem to flower best if kept a little pot bound, flowers will diminish if they are too crowded. If you haven't repotted in several years, or