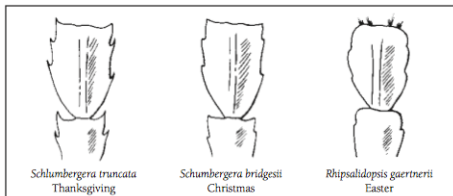


Spring Cactus



The Spring or Easter Cactus is a tough epiphytic succulent that has showy flowers that bloom in the late winter usually around Easter, hence its most popular common name. You can tell them apart because the Thanksgiving cactus has rounded appendages on its flat stems (or cladodes).



Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri (Zygocactus)

- **Use:** The iridescent star-shaped blooms are borne on the ends of the stems similar to Christmas or Thanksgiving cactus. An easy to grow houseplant that, given the right conditions, can last a lifetime. Their star-shaped blooms open at sunrise and close at sunset and last for several weeks. Easter Cacti are native epiphytes and grow in the upper story of the trees in the forests of eastern Brazil. Knowing a plant's native habitat is good information because it provides the gardener with tips on how to be successful when growing the plant.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers bright indirect light indoors. Water every 1-2 weeks, allowing the potting soil to dry out at least half way down between waterings. Expect to water more often when your cactus is in brighter light and less often in lower light. Provide some humidity to the environment. Don't worry if some of the buds drop off — it's natural for the plant to lose a few. Keep the temperature above 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime and from 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit at night.
- **Growth:** Grows 12" tall and 24" wide. Just re-stick trimmed stems into fresh soil to re-root if getting bare around the base.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 10+; Houseplant can go outdoors when temps are above 50 degrees.
- **Foliage:** Segmented stems. Toothed edges on the stems (vs Christmas cactus that have smooth edges to its fleshy stems)
- **Flower:** Satiny, many-petaled flowers hang from pendulous branches, making them lovely blooming plants. Colors include lavender, purple, pink, red and white. Easter cactus bloom in spring around Easter.

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