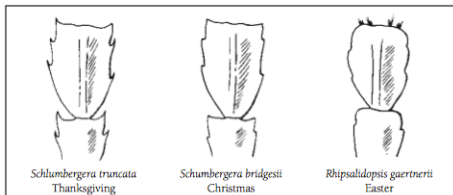


Zygocactus- Thanksgiving Cactus



The Thanksgiving cactus or crab cactus is a tough epiphytic succulent that has showy flowers that bloom in the winter, usually around Thanksgiving, hence its most popular common name. It is also known by many other common names and is sometimes confused with the true Christmas Cactus (Schlumbergera x buckleyi). You can tell them apart because the Thanksgiving cactus has claw-like appendages on its flat stems (or cladodes) that resemble crab claws, hence the common name crab cactus. The specific epithet, *truncata*, means "to cut off square" and references its stems.



Schlumbergera truncata (Zygocactus)

- **Use:** Thanksgiving cactus is one of the most popular houseplants for holiday gift giving with exotic-looking flowers opening just in time for the festivities. Plants bloom from mid-November well into the New Year in shades of pink, rose, red, white, or yellow. An easy to grow houseplant that, given the right conditions, can last a lifetime.
- **Exposure/Soil:** 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. Thanksgiving cactus (bloom earlier than Christmas Cactus) may re-bloom again for you in the spring but not as profusely as holiday time bloom. If you want to encourage spring time blooms, simply return the plant to its short day conditions.