



Guide to Cyclamen Care

Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) are wonderful Mediterranean plants with unique growth and flowering. Heart shape leaves with green and silver markings grow in a uniform mound. Winged blooms look like a cluster of butterflies congregating above the foliage! They have thick tuberous roots/corms that store energy while the plant goes into summer dormancy. A mature plant may reach 6 to 9 inches tall and wide, depending on pot size.



Taking Care of Your Cyclamen

Soil

Provide organically rich soil by mixing regular potting soil and some additional sphagnum peat to create a slightly acidic soil pH.

Temperature

The temperature is key to being successful growing Cyclamen. They love 50°F to 60°F temperatures. But who keeps their home that cold?! So just position them in a cool place near bright light, but away from a heat source. They do not like extreme heat, drafts or dry air. They do enjoy high humidity levels. To help humidity levels in the home, set Cyclamen pot on a tray with pebbles and a little water. The water naturally evaporates into the air, creating humidity. Don't allow Cyclamen to sit in standing water, this could cause root rot.

Light

Provide bright, indirect light indoors. Some have had success with a north-facing window. If you choose to move it outdoors during the summer, place it in a cool shaded place out of direct sunlight.

Watering

Water when the soil feels dry to the touch. Set the pot in a pan of water and let the roots and soil absorb the water. Then drain off any excess water and place it back in its spot. Watering from above can cause root rot. Especially when watering directly on the center crown of the plant.

Fertilizing

Fertilize once a month or when Cyclamen are in bloom and fully leafed out with a well-balanced houseplant fertilizer. Stop fertilizing when plants go dormant for the summer months.

Over-Summer your Cyclamen

After Cyclamen are finished blooming, the foliage will start to turn yellow then eventually die. This is usually by late spring. It is entering into the summer dormancy period, where only the tuberous roots/corms are below the soil surface. Stop watering or fertilizing. You may water very sparingly to make sure the corms don't dry out completely. Corms should feel plump and firm. If they are soft, shriveled or slimy, they may not survive. Place the pot in a cool place without bright light. Leave it there until early fall. In early fall, soak the pot thoroughly with water and keep watering on a regular basis by the method described above. You should see new growth in a few weeks.

If your Cyclamen never goes completely dormant, it may mean that it is in optimal conditions of cool temperatures and high humidity and wants to keep growing! Water just enough to prevent the soil from drying out completely. It may not look its best during this time, but in early fall, it will start to put out new leaves and eventually bloom. Do any re-potting in early fall.

*Cyclamen are toxic to humans and animals. Keep away from children, cats, dogs and livestock.