

SCHLUMBERGERA X BUCKLEYI & X TRUNCATA

Dave's Tips



PLANT NAME: SCHLUMBERGERA X BUCKLEYI AND SCHLUMBERGERA X TRUNCATA (FORMERLY ZYGOCACTUS)

PRODUCT FORM: UNROOTED CUTTINGS, LINERS

Schlumbergera is a rainforest cacti and thus do not like typical cacti conditions. They come in multiple hues of pink, violet, red, peach, coral and white. They have flattened segmented stems (phylloclades) resembling

leaves, with zigzag edges and prominent midribs. They are cacti as evidenced by their areoles. These areoles, located in the notches of the Schlumbergera leaf margins, are depressed areas (raised in some cacti) where the spines, branches and flowers emerge. Schlumbergeras really do not have spines, but tiny, barely visible bristles in the areoles. This is where the flower buds are formed.

HARDINESS ZONE(S): 10

TEMPERATURE: Rooting temperature is 70-75F (21-24C) intermittent mist, high-humidity tents, or hand watering can be used for rooting.

GROWING CONDITIONS: Flowering: Schlumbergeras bloom in response to both daylength and temperature. More specifically, when room temperatures are above 60°F they bloom during short days, and long nights of fall and winter. At these temperatures they need 12 hour days and nights with zero artificial light. Alternatively, when temperatures are 59°F (15°C) or below, day length and exposure to artificial light are immaterial. The plant flowers in response to temperature alone. Should temperatures fall to 55°F and below, plants may show more lavender and pink coloration. Plants sometimes seem to experience bud or flower drop, this can be the result of temperatures above 80°F or below 50°F, insufficient light, a dry or overly wet potting mix, and exposure to ethylene gas. Once a cactus has formed buds in one location, be careful when you move it. The buds have oriented themselves to face the light. The buds may then become weakened and might drop if moved. Keep greenhouse temperatures at 62-65°F (17-18°C) and 68 to 72°F (20-22°C) during the day during natural LD. Then reduce day length to 8-9 hours per day. It's important to maintain this constant conditions for at least 3 weeks. Prevent high temperatures under black cloth otherwise uneven bud set can occur. This same thing can happen under natural SD if temperatures are keep too warm.



Growth Rates

Optimum growing conditions will produce one tier of new growth every 6 weeks. Temperatures maintained at 62-65°F (17 to 18°C) nights and 68 to 72°F (20 to 22°C)

We recommend spraying CONFIGURE, an agent used to promote branching

Product Uses

- Houseplant (very common)
- Annual for borders
- Combo pots
- Dish gardens
- Hanging basket (most common)

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**PLANT NAME: SCHUMBERGERA X BUCKLEYI AND SCHLUMBERGERA X TRUNCATA
(FORMERLY ZYGOCACTUS) Continued**

LIGHT LEVELS/INTENSITY: 1,500-3,000 f.c.

FERTILIZER: Balanced fertilizer each watering of 150-200 ppm N at each watering. Epsom salts at 20 oz per 100 gallons Fertilizing is best done with a balanced, water soluble fertilizer with an NPK ratio of 3-1-2 or something similar to those numbers. Many people fertilize as little as 2-4 times a year and avoid fertilizer build-up in the growing medium by periodically leaching out the fertilizer with plain water.

DISEASES: Fusarium, Phytophthora Parasitica, Pythium Aphanidermatum, Bipolaris Cactivora, and Erwinia Carotovora

POTENTIAL PESTS: Fungus, Gnats and Flower Thrips

SOIL MIXTURE

Plants do best when potted up in a peat based mix, not a cactus mix.

WATER

Requires constant moisture, never waterlogged and do not let the media dry out between waterings.

HUMIDITY