

Crazy about Cactus & Succulents October 2009

Schlumbergera– (Zygocactus) Holiday Cactus
(shlum-BURR-jer-uh)

FAMILY: Cactaceae

ORIGIN: Tropical forests of Central & South America

HABIT: Epiphytic cactus native to forests with pendent segments

SIZE: 12” tall and up to 30” wide

HARDINESS: Not tolerant of summer sun or overwatering

CULTURE: Indirect light, well drained mix, even moisture & cool temperatures

INTERIOR USE: Hanging basket

DESCRIPTION: 2-3” phylloclade segments grow longer each year

FLOWERS: Dramatic flowers form from late autumn through spring

PROPAGATION: Division and leaf cuttings

PESTS/DISEASES: Mealybug, scale

CULTIVARS WORTH NOTING: *Schlumbergera truncata*—Thanksgiving cactus—
toothed leaves
Schlumbergera X Buckleyi—Christmas cactus—rounded
leaves lacking ‘teeth’
Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri—Easter cactus (difficult)

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