



Bring Some Color Indoors: Winter Flowering Houseplants

Bromeliads & Air Plants (*Cryptanthus spp.**, *Guzmania spp.**, *Neoregelia spp.** & *Tillandsia spp.*)
An enormous, exotic and brightly colored plant family that is easily identified by their rosettes of foliage forming a central cistern or “vase” that catches water. Pineapples and earth stars are members of this large family. [Bromeliads](#) prefer average to warm household temperatures (60-80°F) and bright indirect light. Apply tepid water to the “vase” once a week, discard and reapply every week. Keep their soil slightly dry. **Air plants** only require spray misting once per week! Increase humidity around bromeliads by grouping plants together, misting, or placing them on trays of moistened pebbles. Feed with [Osmocote®](#) or a half strength, multipurpose plant food such as Miracle-Gro®, March to September. Their colorful foliage will last for several months, and slowly fade when “baby” offset plants are forming. When this occurs, cut back the parent plant and continue to care for the “baby” plant as usual. Bromeliads make an excellent low maintenance gift and are wonderful [air purifiers](#) for the home or office. Many varieties are [pet friendly](#) according to the ASPCA.*

Flamingo Flower (*Anthurium spp.*)

This shiny, heart-shaped red, pink, lavender, or white flowering plant with waxy green leaves is part of the Arum family distinguished by their inflorescence, a **spadix** surrounded by a **spathe** (leaf-like bract). They prefer warm indoor temperatures, 70-80°F day to 65°F at night, and bright indirect light (northern or diffused window). Apply water so the soil is moist but draining and dries slightly between watering. Six ice cubes or a half cup of water once per week should be sufficient for a 4-6” pot. Provide humidity by spray misting or setting the plant on a humidity tray of pebbles and water. Fertilize with Osmocote® or a half strength, multipurpose plant food such as [Miracle-Gro®](#), spring to fall. [Flamingo flowers](#) are extremely long blooming, easy-care, and make an excellent gift and cut flower.

Kalanchoe & Calandiva® (*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*)

Bright and colorful, these easy-care, blooming succulents enjoy some direct sun to bright indirect light indoors. Little watering maintenance is required but be sure to thoroughly apply water when the soil is dry to the touch. In winter they can go bone dry in between watering, brown leaves or leaf drop indicate they are too dry. Feed spring through fall with Osmocote® to promote their natural bloom cycle in the late winter and early spring. Clip spent flowers and pinch foliage back a few nodes to keep a compact, pretty plant indoors year-round. They like a wide range of temperatures starting at 55° F and up. [Kalanchoe](#), pronounced (kal-un-KOH-ee), produce an abundance of red, orange, yellow, pink, magenta, or white flowers including the showy, double flowering varieties known as [Calandiva®](#). Plant them with other drought tolerant succulents in a trendy pot.

Spring Flowering Bulbs (Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinth, etc.)

These beauties are tricked or forced to bloom earlier than normal to be enjoyed indoors during the winter. They can be grown in any light and temperature, the more light and heat the bulbs are exposed to, the faster they will flower and fade. It is best to keep them cool and their soil evenly moist to slightly dry. [Forced bulbs](#) can tolerate cold drafts and can be stored in the refrigerator at night to keep flowers tight and fresh! Use them in early [spring container gardens](#) with cyclamen, pansies, violas, primrose and other cold tolerant, early flowering perennials. Plant in a sunny garden after the last spring frost with [Bulb-tone®](#). Cut back the foliage when it turns yellow. Many bulbs are enjoyed for their fragrance and as a cut flower.

Gerber Daisies (*Gerbera jamesonii**)

This cheerful, showy daisy comes in a rainbow of colors and prefers a part day of direct sunlight through a sunny window (eastern exposure preferred), or bright indirect light (northern exposure). Watering should stay on the average to slightly dry side indoors and out. Fertilize spring through fall with Osmocote® and they should continuously bloom producing one bud at a time. Remove spent flowers and unsightly foliage as needed. They appreciate normal household temperatures (60-80° F). [Gerberas](#) make terrific indoor [air purifiers](#) and should be placed where you spend most of your time reading, watching TV or sleeping. Outdoors, plant them in mid to late May in containers or the garden on the east or north side of the house to elongate the bloom cycle. They are also pet friendly according to the ASPCA.*

Rieger Begonias (*Begonia x hiemalis*)

A wonderful cross between wax and tuberous begonias with a compact habit, and petite rose-like blossoms. They perform well indoors year-round in average household temperatures and with some direct sun to bright indirect light. Average to slightly dry soil moisture is needed. Their thick stems and waxy foliage hold some water, so that makes them a bit more forgiving if you forget to water regularly. Fertilize spring through fall with Osmocote® for a continuous bloom cycle. Deadhead spent flowers and remove damaged foliage anytime. The more you prune begonias the better they will grow! There are dozens of gorgeous colors and bi-color shades to choose from, providing some needed cheer during the gray winter months. After the last spring frost, around mid-May, [Rieger begonias](#) can be used outdoors in shady gardens and containers for added interest.

Miniature Roses

This giftable, adorable, tiny rose is a cold-hardy bloomer that will flourish in the garden come summer! In winter be sure it receives direct sun near a west or south facing window and temperatures around 60-70°F, avoiding hot and cold drafts. Supply consistent moisture when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Feed March to September with Osmocote® or a [liquid rose food](#). Remove flowers as they fade by cutting the stem just above a five-leaflet leaf. Remove yellow foliage, diseased, damaged or dead areas regularly. Scout for spider mites and other pests; apply [Bonide MiteX®](#), an [insecticidal soap](#) or [Neem oil](#) to correct the issue. Plant these adorable roses outdoors in containers or in a sunny garden around mid to late May after slowly acclimating them to the sun.

Calla Lilies (*Zantedeschia spp.*)

Tender, annual bulb varieties such as [Calla lilies](#) can be forced into bloom for various holidays, spring and summer planting. Indoors, Callas require at least six hours of bright indirect light and 50-75°F temperatures. Avoid placing them near heating vents and hot and cold drafts. Average soil moisture is preferred year-round in well-drained soil. Use Osmocote® to fertilize in containers and garden beds during the growing season. After blooming, take care of the foliage, (keep green and healthy), until the fall. Dig and lift the bulbs, remove excess soil, and let dry out for several days. Store them in cardboard box with dry peat moss or shredded paper in a cool, (50-60°F), dry place over winter. Replant in early spring with fresh potting soil, keeping them root bound. Begin watering, lighting and feeding to force new growth indoors. Plant Calla lilies outside after the danger of frost in part shade. These elegant lilies are long blooming and make excellent cut flowers in multiple colors including white, yellow, orange, pink, rose, deep purple and more.

Florist Azaleas (*Rhododendron indicum*)

These forced, non-hardy azalea varieties are meant to be enjoyed indoors, as a colorful houseplant for approximately 3-4 weeks. Expose them to bright indirect light, average, consistent soil moisture, high humidity, and cooler indoor temperatures (55-65°F) for longer lasting blooms. Protection from heat vents and drafty areas is essential. Deadhead spent flowers as they fade. Their dark evergreen foliage will persist year-round and can be kept in a container and transitioned outdoors for the summer growing season. Fertilize azaleas with [Holly-tone®](#) or [Miracid®](#) as directed if desired.