

Difference Between Christmas and Easter Cactus

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Key Difference - Christmas vs Easter Cactus

[Christmas cactus](#) and Easter cactus are two-holiday cactus that looks alike. Their plant bodies are flattened, and leaves are stems. The fuchsia-like flowers are produced from notches in the stems. The scientific name of Christmas cactus is *Schlumbergera bridgesii* while the scientific name of Easter cactus is *Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri*. The **key difference** between Christmas and Easter cactus is the time they bloom; **Christmas cactus blooms in the Christmas season whereas Easter cactus blooms in February.**

What is Christmas Cactus?

Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is a cactus that blooms in the month of December. The name "Christmas cactus" actually comes from this blooming season. The *Schlumbergera* species are [native](#) to the tropical forests of Brazil. Thus, this is considered as a tropical plant.

Christmas cactus needs cool temperatures (approximately 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit) to start the production of flowers. The flowers have a unique, tube-shaped "double flower" appearance with neon pink [stamen](#). If the temperature is below 50°F, flowering buds tend to fall off the plant. Also, plant segments also tend to shrivel and die if the top layer of the soil is not kept moist.



Christmas Cactus

These plants also need full, direct sunlight during the late fall and all winter long. At other times of the year, they should be grown in partial sun conditions. Excessive sunlight during non-flowering times can cause the plant to turn yellow and fail to bloom in the next flowering season.

What is Easter Cactus?

Easter cactus (scientific name: *Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri*.) is a member of *Rhipsalidopsis* family, which is native to the natural forests of Brazil. As its name implies, Easter cactus plants start blooming in the months of April and May, close to Easter. The flowers are starburst shaped with yellow stamen and crimson colored petals.

Easter cactus grows in [humid](#) environments. The plant should not be exposed to full sunlight. Easter cactus prefers temperatures around 75-80°F in [spring](#), summer, and [autumn](#). The winter temperature should be kept to 45-60°F.



Easter Cactus

Since these cacti grow on rocks and trees in the wild, they require a special soil mixture to grow healthy. The soil should be kept moist, but not soggy. If the plant is under-watered, the segments of the plant will start to collapse towards pot and begin turning yellow. If over-watered, the segments will start breaking off.

What are the Similarities Between Christmas and Easter Cactus?

- Both Christmas and Easter cacti are known as holiday plants.

- Their plant bodies are flattened, and leaves are stems. The flowers are produced from notches in the stems.
- Both plants are native to Brazil

What is the Difference Between Christmas and Easter Cactus?

Christmas Cactus vs Easter Cactus	
The scientific name of Christmas cactus is <i>Schlumbergera bridgesii</i>	The scientific name of Easter cactus is <i>Rhipsalidopsis gaetneri</i> .
Family	
Christmas cactus is a member of <i>Schlumbergera</i> family, which is native to the rain forests of Brazil.	Easter cactus is a member of <i>Rhipsalidopsis</i> family, which is native to the natural forests of Brazil.
Blooming Season	
The plant starts blooming in the month of December.	The plant starts blooming in the months of April and May.
Flower	
Christmas cactus has a unique, tube-shaped "double flower" appearance with neon pink stamen.	Easter cactus flowers are starburst shaped with yellow stamen and crimson colored petals.
Temperature	
Christmas cactus needs cool temperatures.	Easter cactus needs comparatively higher temperatures.
Sunlight	
Christmas cactus can be exposed to full, direct sunlight.	Easter cactus should only be exposed to partial sunlight.
Care	
Christmas cactus needs relatively less care.	Easter cactus needs more care.

Summary – Christmas vs Easter Cactus

Christmas and Easter cactus are two popular holiday plants. The main difference between Christmas and Easter cactus is their blooming seasons; Christmas cactus starts producing flowers in the Christmas season whereas Easter cactus starts producing flowers close to Easter.

Reference:

1. "Schlumbergera Bridgesii." Houseplants Expert. [Available here](#)
2. "Hatiora Gaertneri." Houseplants Expert. [Available here](#)

Image Courtesy:

1. 'Christmas Cactus 01' By Gabriel VanHelsing - Own work, (CC BY-SA 3.0) via [Commons Wikimedia](#)
2. 'Hatiora gaertneri 'Sagitta' 01' By Kor!An (Андрей Корзун) - Own work, (CC BY-SA 3.0) via [Commons Wikimedia](#)

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