

## UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line Question of the Week

### Cyclamen



**Q. I received a cyclamen as a gift. What can you tell me about it?**

A. Cyclamen are blooming plants that love cool temperatures and bright light. They appear in stores in October and are sold through the holidays. Cyclamen have thick, dark green leaves that are round to heart-shaped and marbled with silver. The flowers are perched on the top of stems with recurved petals. They look as if they have been turned “inside out”. Cyclamen flowers can be pure white, deep red or various shades of pink, mauve and purple.

Cyclamen prefer a cool house (no warmer than 68 degrees F during the day, cooling to 55 degrees F at night). A cool, drafty window suits them just fine. They generally like an east or north exposure. Cyclamen grow from tubers. You can water the soil from above, but be sure to keep moisture away from the area on the tuber where the leaf and flower stems grow. You can also water by filling the saucer beneath the plant’s pot. If after half an hour the water is not sucked up, dispose of it. Fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer for use on indoor plants. Mix at half strength and apply every 3 or 4 weeks.

Remove dead flowers as they fade. It is important to remove the entire flower stalk along with the flower. You can do this by giving stems a sharp tug. If a sharp tug doesn’t remove them, wait another day and try again.

When choosing a cyclamen select one with only a few flowers open. Hold the pot at eye level and check to make sure there are lots of buds tucked underneath the foliage. The flower stems should stand straight up and the leaves should be firm. Once purchased, you should be able to expect continuous bloom for 2 to 3 months.

**Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center’s Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,**

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