

## Primrose & Cyclamen

### *Primrose (Primula spp.)*

Primrose can be used as an indoor flowering houseplant or as an annual in containers or flowerbeds outdoors. Indoors, they prefer bright, indirect or filtered sunlight. Outdoors, they prefer part shade. Primrose requires average moisture; never let their soil dry out. Indoors or outdoors, deadheading spent flowers regularly will induce more blooms.

Being a spring, cool weather crop, they prefer and flourish in cooler temperatures (55° - 65°F.) They will go dormant in the mid-summer heat, but may return in the fall as the temperature cools again. When planted outside, Primrose may reseed or winter over if they are grown in a protected area with well-drained soil and winter mulch.

There are several interesting varieties of Primrose, including some perennial biennial and annual types. Most Primroses are extremely fragrant and come in a wide range of bright colors, including a true navy blue.



### *Florist's Cyclamen (Cyclamen spp.)*

This indoor houseplant (forced tuber) can also be used as an annual in containers. If planted outside, they must be planted in well-drained soil in order to avoid rotting. Cyclamen prefer bright, indirect light indoors and shady spots outdoors. Keep the plant's soil on the dry side. The plant will wilt slightly when ready for watering, but will perk back up after watered. Bottom watering is recommended, but do not let your Cyclamen sit in the water for any extended period of time.

Deadhead spent flowers regularly and keep the plants in cooler temperatures (55°-65°F) just like the Primrose. Warmer conditions or too much sunlight will shorten the bloom cycle, fade or yellow the foliage and make the plant go dormant.

Encouraging a second bloom on your cyclamen can be rather difficult. Although difficult, you can try to induce a second bloom by gradually reducing water when your spring bloom cycle is finished. As leaves turn yellow remove them. Let the soil dry out completely. Store your Cyclamen in a cool, dark place over the summer, and repot the tuber in late fall. Bring the pot indoors into light and start watering sparingly. Fertilize once the growth starts with a liquid, all-purpose plant food and once every two weeks after that.

Hardy perennial varieties of Cyclamen like *C. coum* (winter to spring blooming) and *C. hederifolium* (fall blooming) are just as beautiful and great plants for wooded areas, under shady trees and limbed-up shrubs.