



Guide to Poinsettia Care

History – Joel Roberts Poinsett, botanist, physician and first US Ambassador to Mexico, discovered this plant (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) in 1828, growing in Southern Mexico. It is now the most widely known plant and has become a symbol of Christmas even though it is actually a tropical plant.

Quick Tips

- Poinsettias are fragile plants and should be handled with care.
- Protect Poinsettias from cold weather damage while in transit until it can be placed in the warmth of your home.
- Unpack box or remove protective sleeve as soon as you arrive home.
- Check for water needs after you have arrived home and unpacked your Poinsettia.



Continued Care

Temperature

Poinsettias prefer temperatures ranging from 65 - 75° F. Exposure to temperatures 50° F and below could result in damage or death of the Poinsettia plant. If you notice wilted and curled leaves, the temperature may be too cool or too hot and dry, if it is placed above a heat register. Bright indirect light and cool nights help maintain healthy, brightly colored bracts.

Light

Provide bright indirect light from an East or West facing window. Do not expose to direct sunlight. Keep away from cold drafts or excessive heat above heat registers. These areas can quickly dry out poinsettias.

Watering

When the soil feels dry to the touch approximately one-inch down, it's time to water. Remove grower's pot from any outside decorative container and water thoroughly so the water runs through the drainage holes at the bottom of the grower's pot. Allow the pot to drain before placing back into the decorative sleeve or container. Over-watering or allowing it to sit in water over a long period of time quickly kills poinsettias.

Fertilizing

Poinsettias do not need fertilizing while they are blooming. If you intend to keep your plant past the holidays, begin fertilizing lightly in spring with an all-purpose, water soluble fertilizer. Repeat fertilizer application about once a month.

*While Poinsettias are not meant for human or animal consumption, further extensive testing revealed they are not toxic, but the milky sap, common in Euphorbias, could cause skin irritation.