

WHAT ARE POINSETTIAS?

Poinsettias are a very popular Christmas plant in many American homes. They were introduced to the United States in 1825 by their namesake, Joel Robert Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. Botanically, the plant is known as *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. In Spanish, it is known as Flor de Nochebuenas. Poinsettias are short-day plants. They flower 10 weeks after days shorten to 12 hours or less.

HOW DID POINSETTIAS GET ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS?

The Poinsettia's association with Christmas began in 16th century Mexico, where legend tells of a poor girl commonly known as Pepita or Maria who was inspired to gather weeds from the roadside and place them on her town's church altar on Christmas Eve. The story goes that crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became Poinsettias.



ARE POINSETTIAS POISONOUS?

Nope! That's an old wives' tale. No child or animal has ever died from consuming Poinsettias. In fact, experts say a child would have to eat 500 leaves in order to get sick!

But we don't encourage you adding them to your regular diet, either.



POINSETTIA CARE TIPS

Water

Examine the soil daily. When the surface is dry to the touch, water the soil until it runs out the drainage hole in the container. If a saucer is used, discard any collected water. Do not leave the plant standing in water. Wet soil lacks sufficient air, resulting in root rot.

A wilted plant may drop its leaves prematurely, so check the soil frequently. Plants exposed to high light and low humidity require more frequent watering. If wilting does occur, immediately water and water again 5 minutes later.

Light

Place your plant near a sunny window where it will have the most sunlight. A window that faces south, east or west is better than one facing north. Do not let any part of the plant touch the cold windowpane because this may injure it.

Temperature

To keep the plant in bloom, maintain a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F during the daylight hours and, if possible, move it to a cooler place at night. Because root rot disease is more prevalent at temperatures below 60 degrees F, do not put the poinsettia in a room colder than this. Avoid exposing the plant to hot or cold drafts, which may cause premature leaf drop.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM AFTER CHRISTMAS?

Poinsettias can be reflowered the next Christmas, but it takes a yearlong schedule of care. Continue normal watering of the soil until the first of April, then allow it to dry gradually. Do not let it get so dry at any time that the stems shrivel. Following the drying period, store the plant in a cool (60 degrees F) location on its side or upright.

In mid May, cut the stems to 4 inches above the soil, and replant in a pot 1 to 2 inches larger, using a soilless mix. Using soil from the garden can introduce disease. Water the soil thoroughly; water again 5 minutes later. Put the plant near a window exposed to the most sunlight. Keep the plant at a temperature of 65 to 75 degrees F, and water when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch. After new growth appears, apply water soluble fertilizer every two weeks.

In early June, move it outdoors, and place it in a lightly shaded location. Continue watering and fertilizing the plant while it is outdoors.

In early July, pinch each stem removing 1 inch of terminal growth.

In mid August, cut the new stems back, allowing three leaves to remain on each shoot.

Keep it in complete darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. from the first part of October until Thanksgiving. Any kind of light exposure will delay flowering. A closet or box will keep the plant in darkness during those hours. Put the plant by a sunny window in the daytime. Continue fertilizing the plant until mid-December.



POINSETTIA VARIETIES



RED & WHITE
4" 6" 8" & 10" pots



RED GLITTER
4" & 6" pots



HARLEQUIN
6" pots



PINK
4" 6" 8" & 10 pots



PAINTED POINSETTIAS
4" & 6" pots



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2 LOCATIONS



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BALLWIN, MO 63021
☎ (314) 821-2598



SOUTH COUNTY

6129 LEMAY FERRY RD
SAINT LOUIS, MO 63129
☎ (314) 845-3083



DELIVERY AVAILABLE

POINSETTIA GUIDE

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