

Poinsettia Facts

The poinsettia originated from Mexico where it grows like a small shrub. It naturally blooms in mid-winter and continues flowering for months. The plant was named poinsettia after Dr. J.R. Poinsett, who was the first US Ambassador to Mexico.

Poinsettias need a long, dark period each night, of at least 12 hours, in order to initiate flowers. The shortened day length should begin in mid-September and continue through mid-November. Exposing the plant to any light whatsoever during the night period will stop the flowering process. This is why it is very difficult for the homeowner to get their poinsettia to bloom the second year. It is interesting to note that the actual poinsettia flower is the yellow and green structures at the end of each stem. The large colorful display that the poinsettia is known for are actually modified leaves called "Bracts". Plant breeders have expanded the colors from the original red to include white, pink, yellow, white with rose centers and red with pink highlights. Your poinsettia will need to be kept moist but not too wet. It will tolerate temperatures between 50F and 80F. The cooler the temperature, the longer it will stay nice. You will need to water less often at cooler temperatures. After the poinsettia is finished blooming, you can fertilize regularly, and pinch the plant every 4-6 weeks to help the plant get full and short. Poinsettias enjoy growing outside in the summer, but be on the lookout for natural pests such as aphids and whitefly. Poinsettias are not poisonous, as researchers have found. It is still not advisable to put any houseplant in the reach of children or pets since eating could cause a stomach to be upset.



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Its like a flower show everyday! You will be dazzled by the amazing selection of poinsettias. All grown right in the Lehigh County just 7 miles from our store.



Here are some tips from the Poinsettia Growers Association to help you zero in on your perfect poinsettia:

SHAPE: Look for symmetrical, well

branched plant. Just as your Christmas tree, you want a poinsettia that's full and attractive from all angles.

STEM: The stiffer and stronger the stem, the better.

LEAVES: Look for plants with dark green, unmarked leaves. They should be lush and plentiful at the bottom of the stem.

BRACTS: These colored "leaves" should be firm, open, and well colored all the way to their edges. Avoid plants with bracts that are tinged with green.

COLOR: Inspect the small bracts that surround the flowers. They should be fully colored.

FLOWERS: Check for the presence of cyathia-the small poinsettia flowers at the centers of the bracts. If the plant is healthy you will find them.

MOISTURE: Select a plant with moist soil. Poinsettias hate soggy roots. When watering, remove the colorful sleeve to allow the water to run through.

WRAPPING: Save the fancy wrapping for the holiday gifts. Poinsettias thrive when unwrapped. Remove the plastic protective sleeve upon arrival to its new home; leaving the sleeve on will cause the plant to become droopy.

CHILLING: Look for signs of chilled poinsettias: bluish or white bracts, loss of flowers, yellow leaves, and excessive leaf dropage.