

Poinsettia Care

The holiday season wouldn't be complete without a poinsettia or two to brighten your home. Our poinsettias come in a range of color from the palest of pink to the deepest red. With a little tender loving care, your poinsettias can remain healthy throughout the season. Here are a few tips:

- ❖ Select plants with green foliage all the way down the stems. This is a good indication the plants have active, healthy roots.
- ❖ Look for plants with small, green buttons (cyathia) in the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.
- ❖ When transporting your plants home, protect them from temperatures below 50 degrees. Chilling cause the leaves to drop and red bracts to take on a bluish tint.
- ❖ Place in a room where there's sufficient natural light to read fine print.
- ❖ Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. *Please note:* Before watering, slash the pot cover or festive foil so water can drain out. Saturate the entire soil area until you see water seeping through the drain hole. (Never allow your points to sit in water.)
- ❖ Check plants daily and water only when the soil feels dry to the touch (usually once or twice a week).
- ❖ If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias need at least 6 hours *daily* of bright, indirect light to thrive.
- ❖ Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.
- ❖ To prolong bright color of bracts, temperatures should not exceed 72 degrees during the day or 60 degrees at night.

PREPARING FOR COLOR NEXT YEAR

Many people simply toss their poinsettias in the garbage after the season is over. But with these few tips, and if your plants have remained healthy throughout the holiday season, you can keep them all year long and have them blooming for you next holiday season:

- ❖ Once bracts have faded or dropped, cut stems back 1 to 2 inches from the base.
- ❖ Decrease watering and allow soil to get almost, but not completely dry.
- ❖ Keep the plant in this dormant stage in the same light and temperature conditions until around April. Begin watering again as you notice new growth.
- ❖ Repot original plant in a new (same size) container using Sloat Organic Potting Soil. Fertilize monthly with Maxsea 16-16-16 until September. (The soil needs to be refreshed. To do that, the root ball needs to be roughed up, old soil dumped, and fresh soil used to repot the plant.)
- ❖ In October, give no less than 14 hrs. of total darkness per day for about 8 weeks to encourage bracts to color up.



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