

Poinsettia Pointers

Pick it Out

- Avoid plants that appear wilted or neglected.
- Look for signs of insects, skip any plants that have bugs
- For the longest-lasting color, check to see if the flowers (the small, golden “centers” of what are actually the brightly colored leaves of the plant, not the flower petals) are still on the plant. These fade and drop off as the plant ages.
- Avoid plants sold with a plastic or paper “sleeve” that wraps around the pot and plant; these damage the foliage.



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Take it Home

In our area, freezing December temperatures are not unusual. If the weather is cold, you’ll need to protect your poinsettia on the way home. This is the time when it’s appropriate to “sleeve” the poinsettia with a wrapper of plastic or paper...but avoid long exposure to cold even if the plant is wrapped, because a chilled or frozen plant will drop leaves very quickly.

Give it What it Needs

With proper care, your poinsettia will last through the holiday season and keep going strong well into the new year. Pay attention to these tips, and your poinsettia will reward you.

- Place it in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print...but not where the sun will shine directly on the plant.
- Avoid hot or cold drafts or excess heat from appliances, radiators, or ventilating ducts.
- Place the plant high enough to be away from traffic and out of the reach of young children or animals.
- Set the plant on a waterproof container to protect your furniture.
- Water the plant thoroughly when the soil is dry to the touch. Remember to discard excess water from the saucer or foil wrapping.
- To prolong color, keep temperatures between 72° in the daytime and 60° at night.

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Are Poinsettias Poisonous?

While it’s widely believed that poinsettias are poisonous, they ARE NOT lethal or even particularly toxic to either children or pets. However, we can almost guarantee that anyone eating poinsettia (or any houseplant for that matter) will regret it because of stomach discomfort. That’s why we urge you to keep children and pets away from houseplants.



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Poinsettias cont.

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Make it Reflower

If you have a green thumb, you may want to try your hand at reflowering your poinsettia next year. If you follow these directions carefully, you may have your poinsettia in flower by Christmas. If not, relax: we'll have plenty!

December: Full bloom—water as needed

February: Color fades—keep near a sunny window, fertilize when new growth appears. Cut stems back to about 8".

June 1: Repot if necessary. Can be placed in light shade outdoors.

Late August: Take it inside—cut stems back, leaving 3-4 inches per shoot. Place in a sunny window, and water and fertilize as needed.

September 20-December 1: Keep in light only from 8am to 5pm. Put in the dark (NO LIGHTS) from 5pm to 8am. **THIS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.**

