

Poinsettia Maintenance Tips

The life of the poinsettia, if cared for properly during the holidays, can be extended throughout the year.

During the holidays

1. When selecting a poinsettia, choose tightly clustered, small, central flowers with crisp and bright foliage.
2. When surface soil is dry to the touch, water thoroughly. Discard excess water in the saucer.
3. To prolong color, keep a temperature range of 60 degrees for night and 72 degrees for days. High humidity is preferred.
4. Avoid cold drafts and protect from cold winds.

To Rebloom for Next Season

1. During the winter, continue to follow holiday upkeep tips.
2. When bracts face, cut back to eight inches.
3. Lightly fertilize every three to four weeks.
4. When temperatures are warm, place plant out-of-doors; first in indirect, then direct light. Avoid temperatures below 50 degrees throughout the summer.
5. Cut back stems and branches twice during the summer. Repot if needed.
6. During the first week of September, move plant inside. Provide six or more hours of direct light.
7. From October 1 through mid-December, confine plant to darkness for 14 hours, giving it 10 hours of natural light. This will force the green bracts to color.