



Know What You Grow!



Poinsettia

Scientific Name: *Euphorbia pulcherrima*

Recommended Varieties:

Prestige Red: Classic red, a best seller.

Jingle Bells: Red bracts splashed with soft pink or white.

Winter Rose Early Red: Smaller, curled, dark red bracts that resemble a rose bloom. Also available in white, pink, and marbled.

Pests/Diseases:

Rust, root rot, powdery mildew. For treatment guidance: [Integrated Pest Management](#)

[Garden Design](#)

Photos: Creative Commons

Growing Information

Perennial

Poinsettias are the traditional Christmas plant. They can grow up to 15 feet tall in their native tropical environment in Mexico and Central America; poinsettias are a perennial woody shrub.

Ideal Planting Window

Propagating poinsettias from cuttings is easier, more common, and more consistent. To grow poinsettias from cuttings, wait until early summer when new growth begins to happen.

Growing Guidance

Use clean scissors or gardening shears to cut stems that are at least three inches in length. Dip the cut end in powdered rooting hormones and place them firmly into a sterile potting substance, such as a mix of sand and perlite or pasteurized potting soil.

[Installitdirect](#)



Fun Flower Facts

Poinsettias are native to Mexico. The ancient Aztecs used poinsettias to make red dye, and they turned to poinsettia sap to control fevers.

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous. While some humans and pets are sensitive to the plant's milky white sap, which contains latex, it is not toxic. It can, however, cause irritation to the skin, eyes, mucus membranes or digestive system (if consumed).

Poinsettias aren't always red. The plant is grown in more than 100 varieties including shades of white, cream, pink, purple, orange and yellow. There are also marble and bicolor varieties.

The showy, colorful part of the poinsettia isn't a flower – it's a modified leaf. The poinsettia's modified leaves (called bracts) are often mistaken for the flower. The small yellow flowers (called cyathium) can be found clustered in the center of the bracts.

Poinsettias need both sunshine and dark nights to bloom. The shorter days and longer nights of late fall and early winter are what cause poinsettias to bloom this time of year. If they are planted near artificial light, such as a streetlamp, it disrupts their blooming cycle.

Contact Information



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December 12 is National Poinsettia Day. The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the South Carolina congressman credited with bringing the poinsettia to the United States from Mexico. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a measure recognizing National Poinsettia Day in 2002.

California is the top poinsettia-producing state. Poinsettias are commercially grown in all 50 states. Other top poinsettia-producing states include North Carolina, Texas, Florida and Ohio.
FFA.org

Pollinators/Beneficial Insects

Because Poinsettias are utilized during the holiday season as mainly house or decorative plant, they have no value as a pollinator nor do they attract beneficial insects.

Suggested Care

Temperature and humidity: Poinsettias prefer temperatures between 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Avoid drastic temperature drops, cold drafts, and placing plants next to a cold window as this can cause leaves to wilt. These tropical natives appreciate daily misting.

Light: To make your poinsettia last even longer, give it as much natural light as you can in midwinter, except in hot south-facing windows. Proper light, water, and warmth will help plants resist pests.

Water: Overwatering is a common killer. Water your poinsettia when soil feels dry to the touch, but not every day. Remove any foil around the container to allow water to drain. Generally, watering once or twice a week will suffice if you moisten the soil thoroughly. Avoid wetting the foliage.

