



Poinsettia Care & Facts



History

The poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is native to South Mexico and was named after Joel R. Poinsett, who was the first US ambassador to Mexico. Joel introduced the poinsettia into the US in 1825.

Toxicity Myth

Poinsettias are NOT TOXIC. According to the Society Of American Florists and Ohio State University, a scientific investigation concluded that even at high levels of ingestion, the plant showed no harm to human or animal health.

How To Care

From the store to your home, do not allow the poinsettia to get cold. Have your poinsettia wrapped in a protective covering during transportation. Once inside your home, place in bright or indirect light for the holidays. Allow soil to dry out moderately between waterings and make sure the pot that it's in has drainage holes. During the day maintain temperatures of 70-75 degrees and no lower than 60 degrees at night. Keep away from any cold drafts.

Care After The Holidays

Poinsettias don't have to get thrown away after the holidays. When leaves begin to fade, move to lower light, prune back slightly, and reduce watering. Come spring time, move to brighter lighting, resume regular watering and begin fertilizing. In the summer, move outside with morning sun or dappled sun throughout the day, and continue to fertilize. For a bushier plant, pinch back a few times over the summer until the end of August. Poinsettias flower on shorter day lengths so beginning in October as the nights get cooler, slowly start acclimating the plant back inside for the winter.



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