

# Shamrock Nursery's



## Poinsettia Pointers

by Delray Kumm

It is important to remove the sleeve or bag around the plant as soon as possible. With proper care your poinsettia will provide beauty for several months.

**WATERING:** This is the aspect that causes most poinsettias to decline or die. Poinsettias do not like wet soggy soil. Poinsettias can be allowed to dry almost to wilting without damage to the plant. The time to water is when the soil feels dry and the plant feels light. Give the plant a good healthy drink. Wait 30 minutes and drain off any excess water. If you do not drain off the excess water the plant can develop root rot, which will cause the plant to wilt and gradually die.

**LIGHT:** Poinsettias love light, but can tolerate medium light for some time. Generally, the more light the better. Give your poinsettia enough room so that the leaves are not touching other plants.

**TEMPERATURE:** The ideal temperature for poinsettias is 65° F. They can tolerate the temperature down to 57° F. Colder temperatures can cause decline. Poinsettias can tolerate very warm temperatures. A poinsettia will hold its color longer with an average temperature of 65-68° F versus 70-75° F. Avoid cold drafts and direct heat from registers, wood stoves and fireplaces.

When your poinsettia has lost its color, cut the plant back halfway. By Spring it is time to repot into a larger pot. We prefer our Black Gold Potting Soil. Continue to water and feed your poinsettia weekly. Feed your poinsettia Jack's Classic Plant Fertilizer in the summer and once every four weeks in the Fall/Winter. You may want to set your poinsettia outside in the shade or morning sun during the summer months as they love being outside.

### REBLOOMING YOUR POINSETTIA:

To get your poinsettia to bloom again, the critical time starts the first day of Fall - September 20<sup>th</sup>. This is when the days are shorter than the nights and the temperature is between 60-70° F. Poinsettias will initiate bud. Poinsettias need 12+ hours of TOTAL darkness at night but they need FULL sun during the day. Therefore, set your poinsettia in a room that no one turns on the light at night or put in a closet at night or cover with a box during the nighttime hours.

### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT POINSETTIAS

The colorful part of the poinsettia are actually modified leaves called bracts. The actual flower is called cyathia in the center of the bract.

Poinsettias are NOT poisonous.

The genus name for Poinsettia is Euphorbia. There are hundreds of different varieties of poinsettias. Euphorbias all have the white latex type plant sap.

Poinsettias are propagated vegetatively from "Mother" or "Stock" Plants. Most poinsettia stock is grown off shore.

Poinsettias are generally potted in late July to early August. Poinsettias are patented plants and you must have a license and pay a Royalty on all poinsettias propagated. The Royalty that we pay is approximately 4.5 cents per plant. The Poinsettias breeders use this money to develop Varieties. Most of the varieties we grow at Shamrock Nursery have been developed in the last 10-15 years.

Enjoy your Shamrock Nursery Poinsettia!

