

# POINSETTIAS

## HUMBER NURSERIES 'GREEN THUMB GUIDE'



### TAKING YOUR PLANT HOME

Poinsettias are very sensitive to cold. We sleeve or wrap your plants to protect them as you take them to your car. Do not leave them in an unheated vehicle, and bring them quickly indoors when you get home.

### POINSETTIA FACTS

The assigned botanical name is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. It is also sometimes called 'Christmas Flower'. The United States' first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Robert Poinsett, sent several plants back to his home in Greenville, South Carolina in 1825. The common name, Poinsettia, comes from his name.

### POINSETTIAS CAN BE IRRITATING

The entire poinsettia plant exudes a milky juice when cut or bruised. Ingesting the plant may produce stomach upset while contact with the milky juice may produce painful skin irritation and discomfort.

### *EUPHORBIA PULCHERRIMA*

Common name: Poinsettia, Christmas Flower

**Position:** Either a bright location or some sun will keep plants healthy. Warm room temperatures of 60° to 70°F (15° to 21°C) are ideal.

**Watering:** Wait until the surface dries out before watering. This is essential as over-watering will result in the general collapse of the plant. Try to use water that has reached room temperature rather than cold straight from the tap.

**Feeding:** Use a well-balanced fertilizer once a month.

### PURCHASE TIPS

Millions of Poinsettias are purchased each year during the Christmas season by people who enjoy the colour and warmth they provide the home. Proper selection will help to ensure a long-lasting plant that you will enjoy throughout the holiday season.

The red Poinsettia is an all-time Christmas favourite, but pink, cream and marbled varieties are becoming more popular.

Humber Nurseries Poinsettias are carefully timed to be at their peak of flowering perfection for the Christmas season.

- The red petals are actually modified leaves called bracts; true, small, yellow flowers are found in the centre of the bracts.
- In addition to traditional red, poinsettias come in:
  1. White
  2. Pink
  3. Marble (pink and white)
  4. Jingle Bells (red splashed with pink)
  5. Rose (brilliant pink)
  6. Blue (via a dye in the water)

## TAKING CARE OF YOUR POINSETTIA

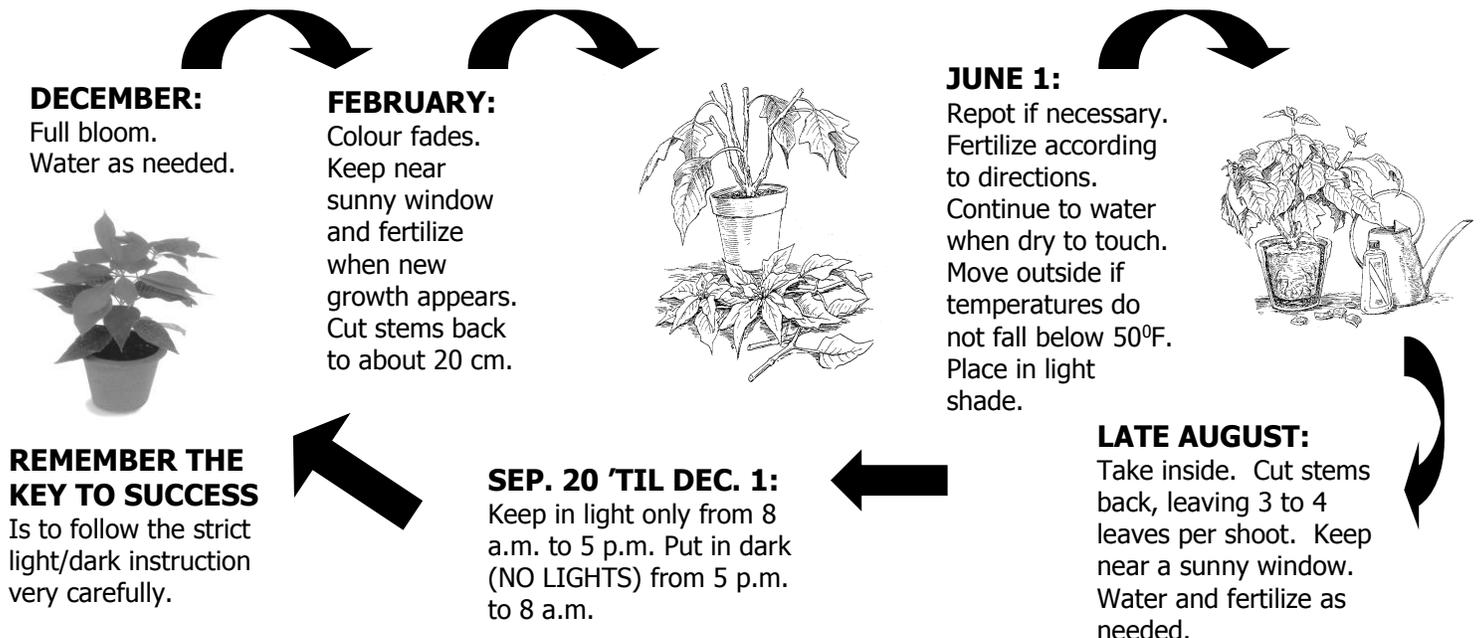
With proper care your Poinsettia will last through the holiday season and retain its bracts well into the new year. Pay close attention the following care tips:

1. Place in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print, but not where the sun will shine directly on the plant in the middle of the day.
2. Avoid hot or cold drafts or excess heat from appliances, radiators, or ventilation ducts.
3. Set the plant in (or on) a water-proof container to protect your furnishings.
4. Water the plant thoroughly when the soil surface is dry. Remember to discard excess water from the saucer once the plant has absorbed the full amount needed.
5. To prolong the bright colour of the bracts, temperatures should not exceed 72°F during the day or drop below 60°F at night.

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## REFLOWERING YOUR POINSETTIA

If you have a gardener's green thumb, you may want to try your hand at re-flowering your Poinsettia next year. If you follow these directions very carefully, it is possible to have your Poinsettia in flower by Christmas.



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