

# Poinsettia Care

*Poinsettias can remain beautiful far beyond the Holiday season!*

## **Care and Handling Tips:**

- Choose a plant with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center
- Look for crisp bright, undamaged foliage
- Avoid plants displayed in drafty areas
- At home, water the plant when dry, discard excess water in the saucer
- Place in room with enough bright, natural light to read a newspaper
- Keep out of drafts and away from appliances and radiators
- Do Not put plant on the television set
- After a few weeks, fertilize with ordinary houseplant fertilizer

## **Make Your Plant Bloom Again**

You can make the festive holiday spirit last all year...coaxing your Poinsettia to bloom again is a fun project when you tie it in with Holidays on your calendar year round.

## **Christmas**

Select plants with tightly clustered, yellow buds. Protect from hot or cold drafts, water when dry, and place in a room with enough natural light to read a newspaper.

## **News Year's**

Use an all-purpose houseplant fertilizer. Continue light, water and fertilizer. Plant will remain colorful for many weeks.

## **Valentine's Day**

Do nothing unless your plant has become long and leggy. Then prune to five inches from the soil.

## **St. Patrick's Day**

Remove faded and dried parts of the plant. Add more soil, preferably a commercially available sterile mix.

## **Memorial Day**

Plant should be approaching three feet. Trim off two or three inches of branches to promote side branching. Re-pot to larger container. Move plant outside, first to indirect, then direct light.

## **4<sup>th</sup> of July**

Trim plant again. Make sure it has full sunlight. Slightly increase amount of fertilizer. If you like, root cuttings – they root easily if kept warm.

## **Labor Day**

Plant may have grown to five feet or more. Move indoors but make sure it has six hours of direct light from a curtain-free window. Reduce fertilizer.

## **First Day of Autumn**

Starting on or near September 21, give plant 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 11 hours of bright light each day. Keep night temperature in the low 70's. Continue to water and fertilize. Rotate plant each day to give all sides even light.

## **Thanksgiving**

Discontinue day/night treatment. Put plant in a sunny area. Reduce water.

***Enjoy your Poinsettia!***

