



Vandermeer Nursery Ltd.

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Home Care Tips for your Poinsettia

At Vandermeer Nursery we have been growing thousands of Poinsettias for decades. Our experience, modern greenhouses and care combine to produce the most beautiful Poinsettia plants you will ever find.

In Canada, poinsettias are the most popular of all Christmas houseplants. Millions of poinsettias are purchased each year during the Christmas season by people who enjoy the colour and warmth they provide to the home. Proper selection will help to insure a long lasting plant that you will enjoy throughout the Christmas and winter months.

The botanical name for poinsettia is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. The United States' first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Robert Poinsett, sent several plants back to his home in Greenville, South Carolina in 1825. The poinsettia is not a poisonous plant. Research has proven that the poinsettia is not lethal to humans or pets unless eaten in extremely large amounts. However, your poinsettia and all other houseplants should be kept out of the reach of small children and pets since varying degrees of discomfort may be experienced if plant parts are ingested.

Taking your Plant Home

Our garden centre will provide your poinsettia with some protection when transporting it to your home. Never expose the plant to cold temperature for more than a few minutes. A chilled or frozen plant will drop leaves very quickly. When you have the plant at home, remove the protective wrapping immediately.

Taking Care of Your Poinsettia

With proper care, your poinsettia will last through the Holiday season and right into late winter

- Place in a room where there is bright natural light but not where the sun will shine directly on the plant.
- Keep the plant away from locations where it will receive hot or cold draughts.
- Place the plant high enough to be out of reach of unmonitored children and pets.
- Set the plant in a water-proof container to protect your furniture.
- Water the plant thoroughly when the soil surface is dry to the touch. Discard any excess water which remains in the saucer after 10 minutes.
- The bright colour of the bracts will remain longer if temperatures do not exceed 22°C.

Reflowering your Poinsettia

If you cannot bear to throw your poinsettia out when it is finished providing colour, you may want to try your hand at reflowering your poinsettia next year.

Schedule for reblooming:

- **December:** Full bloom. Water as needed
- **April:** Colour fades. Keep near sunny window and fertilize when new growth appears. Cut back stems to about 20 cm.
- **June 1:** Repot if necessary. Fertilize with a balanced formula 20-20-20. Continue to water when dry to touch. Move outside if temperatures do not fall below 10°C. Place in light shade.
- **Late August:** Take inside. Cut stems back, leaving three or four leaves per shoot. Sunny window. Water and fertilize as needed.
- **Sept. 20`til December 1:** Keep in light only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Put in the dark. (NO LIGHTS) 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Remember the key to success is to follow the strict light/dark instructions carefully.