

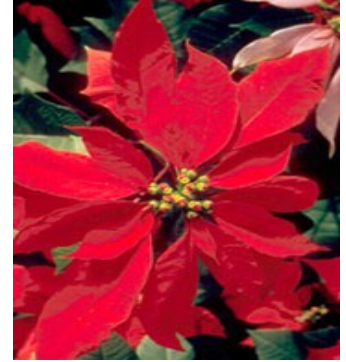


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## Poinsettia Care: Do's & Don'ts



### **DO:**

- Protect your poinsettia from the cold when transporting it from the nursery. Wrapping the plant in a sleeve or large bag will offer some protection until you get it home.
- Place your plant in bright indirect light. Keep away from cold window panes.
- Provide room temperatures between 60 - 70° F, and night time temperatures of around 55°F. Too much heat will shorten the plant's life.
- Make sure there is a drainage opening in the decorative foil or wrapping.
- Water your plant with tepid water when the soil feels dry to the touch. Use the finger test: Put your finger on the soil, if it comes away dry, soak the plant so water pours out the bottom of the pot.
- Empty any excess water that collects in the saucer.

### **DON'T:**

- Leave plants in your car or expose them to temperatures below 50° F even for a few minutes. They may not recover from the shock.
- Overwater your plant or allow it to sit in standing water
- Fertilize your plant when it is in bloom. If you plan on keeping your Poinsettia after the holidays, you can feed it once a month with an All-Purpose Plant Water Soluble fertilizer.

**FACT:** Poinsettias are NOT poisonous. The Society of American Florists (SAF) and the Academic Faculty of Entomology at Ohio State University (OSU) tested all parts of the poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*). Research has disproved the myth that poinsettias are toxic to humans and animals if ingested. Poinsettias have a milky white sap that is bitter, but you would have to eat 500 leaves before you gave yourself an upset stomach!