





Poinsettia Care & Feeding



Thanks for supporting the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse with your poinsettia purchase. Below are a few tips on how to care for your beautiful plant during the holiday season and throughout the year.

1. Care During the Holiday Season

- Keep your plant warm until you get it indoors. If left in a cold vehicle, it may suffer. Once indoors, unpack your poinsettia as soon as possible.
- When deciding where to display your poinsettia, avoid areas of direct sunlight. Instead, choose areas with bright, diffused sunlight; this will help your poinsettia retain its color longer. Excess heat from appliances, fireplaces, and radiators can also harm your plant.
- Poinsettias are tropical plants and prefer temperatures between 65 and 75 degrees °F. Avoid placing them near doorways or in areas where drafts may cause temperatures to fluctuate. Cooler night temperatures are ok but should not go below 55 degrees °F. Also, poinsettia bracts, or leaves, are tender and sensitive to bruising, so avoid placing them in high traffic areas.
- Water when the soil surface feels dry, about every 2-3 days. If the area in which you are keeping your poinsettia tends to be dry, you may find yourself watering your plant daily.
- When watering, remove the pot from any decorative covering. Make sure the water runs through the soil to the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, and pour off any excess water. Overwatering will cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall off and can lead to root rot. If convenient, let the pot sit in a dry sink until drainage is complete.

2. Poinsettia Re-Blooming

After the holidays, poinsettia leaves will gradually shrivel up and fall off, but the plant will re-bloom the following holiday season with proper care. Following are some month-to-month tips that may help with that process.

Year-Round Guide

Jan-March	Continue to care for your plant as described above.
April	Prune your plant. Once the bracts have fallen off, cut the stems back to about 6-8" above the soil. Leave one to three leaves on each stem to encourage new growth and keep the plant looking tidy.
May	When new growth appears, fertilize the poinsettia about every two weeks. Re-pot your plant with new soil if the roots are crowded.
June	Now, keeping your poinsettia in its pot, move it outside into a partially shaded location.
Mid-July	Again, pinch back the stems, leaving 3-4 leaves per stem. This is done with your hands and forces the plant to grow new stems and prevents it from growing too tall and lanky.
August -Sept	Before temperatures begin to fall, bring the plant back inside to a bright location. Continue to water and fertilize.
October	Starting October 1 st , make sure your poinsettia receives 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night. Place it in a dark closet or cover it with a box to avoid any light seeping in. Exposure to light can delay the blooming process. During the day, the plant can be placed in diffused light. Continue this process for about 8 week.
November	Follow the above procedure until the last week of November, or until the plant's color has developed. At this stage you can stop fertilizing and provide care as described above for the holiday season.



Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not deadly to humans or animals. [Research at Ohio State University](#) showed no toxicity at experimental levels well beyond amounts likely to be ingested in the home environment. The white sap can cause skin irritation which can be remedied by washing with soap and water. As with many plants, be careful when handling.