



Poinsettia

To get the most out of your poinsettia, place it in bright but indirect light and water regularly, allowing the soil to drain and to become dry to the touch between watering.

For a healthier plant that will bloom longer, maintain the temperature between 65 and 75 degrees. Avoid drafts from windows and heating vents, as this may cause premature leaf drop. That means that you cannot leave your poinsettias outside overnight during the winter. To add color at your doorstep, try cyclamen instead.

After all danger of frost has past, cut the stems back to 2 or 3 buds above the ground and put it outdoors in a sunny, but protected area. Pinch the new growth as it reaches 6 inches, two pinchings is usually sufficient.

How do I get my poinsettia to bloom again?

To insure a Christmas bloom, you have to artificially shorten the days beginning in October. Bring your poinsettia back inside. Each evening, move it into a dark closet or cover it with a light-tight box for 12 – 14 hours. Even the slightest exposure to light during this period will delay flowering. After ten weeks of shortened days, your poinsettia should bloom for your holiday enjoyment.