



POINSETTIA CARE GUIDE

LIGHT

Give poinsettias bright natural light near an east, south or west window. Filter harsh direct sun and keep leaves away from cold glass. The colorful parts are modified leaves called bracts; the small yellow centers are the true flowers.

WATERING

Check the soil daily and water when the surface feels dry or the pot becomes light. Remove decorative foil or the outer container, water thoroughly, then let the pot drain completely. Empty collected water before returning the plant to its display.

SOIL

Keep the plant in a container with drainage holes. If you save it after the holidays, repot during the growing season using fresh, well-drained potting mix. Avoid burying the stem more deeply or leaving roots in soggy soil.

TEMPERATURE

A room around 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit is ideal. Protect plants from temperatures below 50 degrees, cold drafts and heating vents. Cover the plant for the trip home and take it directly into a warm room.

FERTILIZING

No fertilizer is needed during the holiday display. Begin light feeding with a houseplant fertilizer when new growth starts, following label directions. Producing colored bracts next year requires weeks of long, uninterrupted nights along with bright daytime light.

PESTS

Inspect for whiteflies and other insects, and isolate affected plants. Yellowing or dropping leaves can also follow drafts or poor watering. Wear gloves when pruning; the milky sap may irritate skin. Avoid contact with eyes and mouth.