

Holiday Guide to Poinsettia Care

****UPON RECEIVING PLANTS, UNPACK AND UNSLEEVE THEM IMMEDIATELY****

- **DO** place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sun can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain.
- **DON'T** place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat. Avoid placing plants near appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.
- **DO** provide room temperatures between 68 - 70° F. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia.
- **DON'T** expose plants to temperatures below 50° F. Poinsettias are sensitive to cold, so avoid placing them outside or in the cooler.
- **DO** water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- **DON'T** overwater your plant, or allow it to sit in standing water. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering, and allow the water to drain completely.
- **DO** use a large, roomy shopping bag to protect your plant when transporting it.
- **DON'T** expose your plant to chilling winds when transporting it.
- **DON'T** fertilize your plant when it is in bloom.
- **DON'T** leave plants in sleeves. The longer the plant stays in the sleeve, the more the plant quality will deteriorate.

THE POINSETTIA IS NOT POISONOUS

Studies conducted by The Ohio State University in cooperation with the Society of American Florists concluded that no toxicity was evident at experimental ingestion levels far exceeding those likely to occur in a home environment. In fact, the POISINDEX Information Service, the primary information resource used by most poison control centers, states that a 50-pound child would have to ingest over 500 poinsettia bracts to surpass experimental doses. Yet even at this high level, no toxicity was demonstrated.

As with all ornamental plants, poinsettias are not intended for human or animal consumption. Individuals with sensitivity to latex - the milky fluid found in cut poinsettias and other plants - may experience allergic reactions in the form of a rash or irritation that develops when the skin is exposed to the latex. This has been observed to occur only with people who are allergic to latex and products made from this material. However, the poinsettia has been demonstrated to be a safe plant. In fact, in 1992, the poinsettia was included on the list of houseplants most helpful in removing pollutants from indoor air. So, not only is the poinsettia a safe and beautiful addition to your holiday decor, it can even help keep your indoor air clean!

The ASPCA Animal Poison Center in Urbana, Illinois says it regards poinsettias as having such low toxicity risk that it doesn't even recommend decontaminating animals that may have ingested them. The center says that there can sometimes be gastrointestinal distress from having ingested something alien to the digestive system.

The American Veterinary Medicine Association of America (AVMA), doesn't include poinsettias on its list of plants that are a threat to animals.

We at Red Oak Greenhouse would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season. Thanks for all your business-past, present and future.



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