

Poinsettia Care Guide:

6 TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY
CHEER BLOOMING ALL YEAR

Poinsettias are a beloved symbol of the holiday season, with their vibrant red bracts adding a festive touch to any home. But did you know that with proper care, you can enjoy your poinsettia beyond the holiday season? This guide will provide you with everything you need to keep your poinsettia thriving all year long!

1 Assessing Your Poinsettia

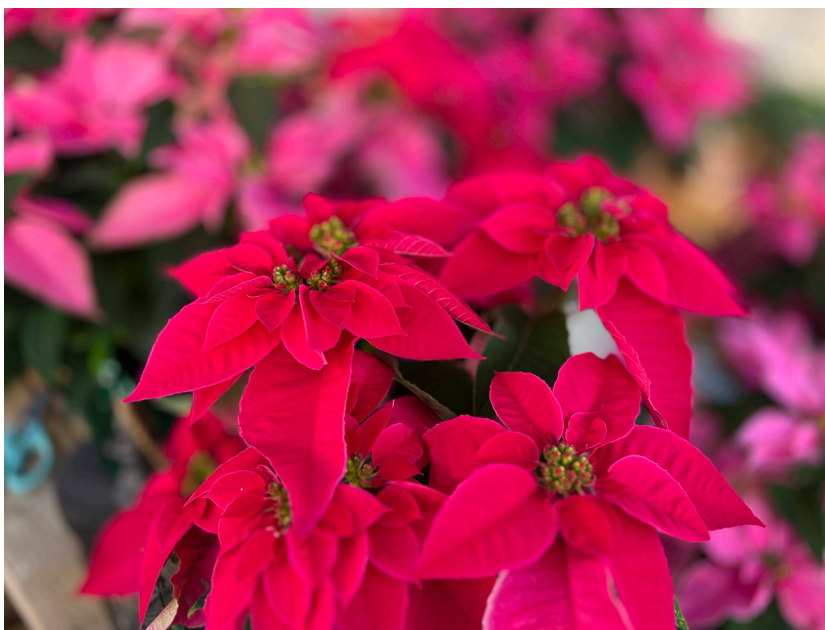
Inspecting Your Plant:

Check for Health: As spring approaches, inspect your poinsettia for signs of health, such as new growth and vibrant leaves.

Prune Dead or Dying Growth: Remove any dead or leggy stems to encourage new growth. Use clean, sharp pruning shears to avoid damaging the plant.

2 Repotting Your Poinsettia (If Necessary)

If your poinsettia has outgrown its pot, it's time to repot it. Choose a slightly larger pot with good drainage holes. Gently remove the plant from its current container, being careful not to damage the roots. Repot it in a fresh, well-draining potting mix. You can either repot individual plants or group multiple plants together for a dramatic display.



3 | Summer Care

As the summer season arrives, your poinsettia will require some adjustments to its care routine. Here's how to keep it thriving:

Sunlight and Temperature:

While poinsettias love sunlight, direct, intense sunlight can scorch their leaves. Place them in a location with bright, indirect light, such as near an east-facing window.

Maintain a warm temperature between 65-75°F.

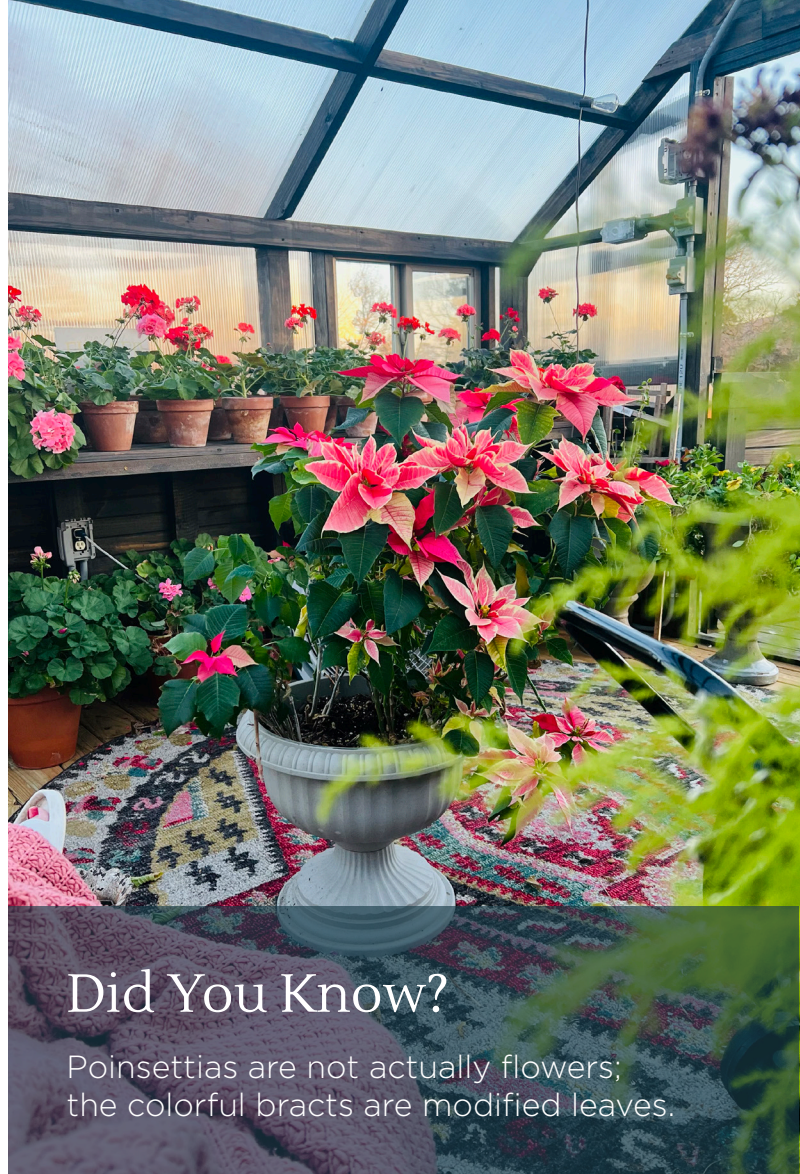
Watering:

Water your poinsettia regularly, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out slightly between waterings.

Avoid overwatering, as this can lead to root rot.

Fertilizing:

To encourage healthy growth and future blooms, fertilize your poinsettia every two to three weeks with a balanced liquid fertilizer diluted to half-strength.



Did You Know?

Poinsettias are not actually flowers; the colorful bracts are modified leaves.



4 | Pruning Your Poinsettia

To encourage bushier growth and promote more blooms, pinch back the growing tips of your poinsettia throughout the summer. This simple technique will stimulate branching and create a fuller plant. Additionally, regularly remove any dead or yellowing leaves to maintain overall plant health.



Note: While the photoperiod treatment is a traditional method, some people have success without it, especially if the plant is kept in a naturally dark environment during the fall and winter months.

5 | Preparing Your Poinsettia for Winter

As the days grow shorter and temperatures cool, it's time to prepare your poinsettia for its annual blooming cycle.

Reduce Watering: Gradually reduce watering as the plant enters a period of dormancy. Allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings.

Initiate Photoperiod Treatment: Starting in late September or early October, provide your poinsettia with 12-14 hours of uninterrupted darkness each night. This can be achieved by covering the plant with a dark cloth or placing it in a completely dark room.





Bonus Tips



Rotate your poinsettia regularly to ensure even growth.



Wipe down the leaves occasionally with a damp cloth to remove dust.



Watch for common pests like mealybugs and treat them promptly with insecticidal soap.

6 | Triggering the Holiday Blooms

To induce the colorful transformation of your poinsettia, you'll need to manipulate its light exposure. Starting in mid-October, ensure that your poinsettia receives 12-14 hours of complete darkness each night for 8-10 weeks. This can be achieved by placing it in a dark closet or covering it with a box during these hours.

During the day, provide bright, indirect light for 10-12 hours. By following this strict light cycle, you'll trigger the plant to produce its vibrant bracts, ready to adorn your home for the holiday season.

Following these simple tips, you can enjoy your poinsettia for much longer than just the holiday season. With proper care, your poinsettia can become a cherished houseplant that brings beauty and festive cheer to your home all year long.

Happy Gardening!