

Poinsettias!

Poinsettias signify the beauty and grace of the holiday season. Though this mysterious plant has had some bad p/r in the past, it is actually very friendly and easy to care for. (By the way, poinsettias are not poisonous!)

- **Water:** Water only when the top inch of soil has dried out. If the plant is wrapped in decorative foil, take it off before watering to ensure proper drainage. Don't allow the poinsettia to sit in water.
- **Light:** Your poinsettia will enjoy a bright, sunny window, but away from direct sunlight.
- **Temperature:** 60 to 70°F during the day and 55 to 60°F at night will extend the bloom time and keep your poinsettia happy! Avoid temperature fluctuations and warm or cold drafts.
- Even though the poinsettia is known as a holiday plant, they can actually thrive as a year-round houseplant, and even be coaxed into reblooming with a little extra care. Getting your poinsettia to change color and bloom is really quite easy, but requires diligence.
- **Fertilize:** Fertilize your poinsettia with Ferti-Lome Blooming & Rooting once per month prior to and during blooming. (Do not fertilize after blooming).
- **Restrict Light:** Starting in September, restrict the amount of light your poinsettia gets to only 10 to 12 hours. (You can easily accomplish this by placing a bucket or carton over the plant overnight, or placing the poinsettia in a closet for 12 to 14 hours. It must really be in total darkness.)
- Keep the plant in a cool place, with temperatures below 75°F. Once the leaves show some red, you can return your poinsettia to it's bright, sunny place and resume care as described above.