



Michael William Florist & Greenhouse
403 New Street
Thorofare, NJ 08086
(856) 848-3945
www.mwfgonline.com
mikewh328@verizon.net

Poinsettia Care

To begin with, you need to know that Poinsettias are **not “naturally” poisonous.**

Since our beginning in 1993, we have never used anything in the growing and production process of our Poinsettias that would cause any harm or anything worse to our customers, their children, or their pets. Our plants are clean, pesticide-free, and totally safe for you to display and enjoy, and maybe to continue to grow on for another Christmas season!

1994: “According to research at Ohio State University, tests of all plant parts showed no toxicity. Researchers at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh studied more than 22, 000 reports of poinsettia exposure and found no significant toxicity. The “POISINDEX” Information Service said a 50-pound child would have to eat 500-600 poinsettia bracts (the colored leaves) to exceed the non-toxic experimental doses. Like any non-food product, poinsettias may cause minor discomfort if eaten.”

For General Care of your plants:

1. Moderately bright light is best, but they will tolerate some lower light levels – what needs to be consistent is the ‘temperature.’ Moderate temperatures are ideal: 65-70F during the day, and 60-65F, during the nights. Avoid excessively **hot** or **cold** areas.
2. Moderately-moist soil is what they prefer. Do not water every single day; instead, allow them to dry down a little. When the soil surface appears “dry”, or if the overall ‘weight’ of the plant and pot feels ‘light’, that will be a good time to water. The best way is to gently remove the foil around the pot and place your plant in a sink. Run water onto the soil-surface gently. Allow for “run-through”: where by water ‘drips’ out the bottom of the pot. Allow the pot to drip for a few minutes, and then place your foil back around your pot and place the plant back onto any pot tray or plate you may be using. That’s it! This whole process takes no more than three minutes.
3. Using a solution of “Miracle Gro” (mix according to manufacturer’s directions), or use an osmocote fertilizer (19-6-12, at a rate of 1oz. per 6 ½” pot. Osmocote will be the easiest to use – your plant(s) will be fed every time they are watered.
Next page, please...

4. Eventually the colored “bracts” will begin to change and start to drop. This is natural for the plant; do not think your plants are dying or that you did something wrong. This could happen shortly after Christmas, or it could happen in February. It is all dependent on the conditions in your home. When the bracts begin to drop off the plant (and the true-flower, the “cyathia”) have all dropped out of the centers of the colored-bracts, place your plant someplace that it will not be an inconvenience to maintain a clean space.
5. When all the colored-bracts have dropped from your plant, using a clean, sharp instrument (scissors is best), cut back each stem to either the first-set or the second set of “true” leaves. Leave a very short ‘stubble’ just above the set of leaves. Place your plant someplace that you will remember to check on it and water it when it is dry and just let it grow!
6. Sometime in May, it would not hurt to transplant your plant into a little larger of a pot, perhaps an 8” pot or larger. Use a clean, well-trusted potting soil. By now you will see new branches coming out where the leaf-pairings are. If you see there are too many branches you can simply remove what you feel will keep your plant looking its’ best. After repotting your plant, apply a fresh amount of osmocote to the soil surface. Continue to let it grow!
7. Here’s the fun part: sometime in mid-September, generally around the 15th, use a large, black, CLEAN, plastic trash bag, and from around 5pm until 6am or 7am, and cover your plant. Make sure no light touches the foliage. Poinsettias need “long nights” in order to initiate “flowering” and to begin to modify leaves into bracts. The wrong thing to do is to place them in a closet for days’ on end. From September 15, to let’s say Halloween, cover and uncover your plant(s). During October, you may start to notice coloring on the foliage – keep covering! Always check on moisture, and keep your plant(s) in consistent temperature (between 70F and 75F is very nice.) By Halloween, the natural day-lengths can pickup on the ‘darkness’ balance, as long as your plants are someplace that you will not turn lights on during the night. By November 1st, your plants are now well on their way to having new blooms, and more numerous than the first year.

There is a bit of work involved with maintaining your plant throughout the year. During late-spring up until the end of August, you can place your plant outdoors in full sunlight, but please - should at anytime you notice white flies on your plant, and spraying your plant with any safe insecticide, like an “insecticidal-horticultural soap” doesn’t control or eliminate them, it would be best to scrap the idea and place your plant in a plastic trash bag, and try again next year. If you reach “blooms” again, please – take a picture or two and email them over to us, so we may showcase your efforts on our website! ☺

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, AND HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!