



CARING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY POINSETTIA

- DO** place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day.
- DO** provide room temperatures of at least 68-70 degrees F.
- DO** water your plants thoroughly when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- DO** use a large roomy shopping bag to protect your plants when transporting them.
- DO** fertilize your plants after the blooming season with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.

- DON'T** place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat.
- DON'T** expose your plants to temperatures below 50 degrees.
- DON'T** allow plants to sit in standing water.
- DON'T** expose your plants to chilling winds when transporting.
- DON'T** fertilize your plants when they are in bloom.

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

With proper care, your poinsettia can last long past the Holiday season. **Here's how:** By early April, when the colored bracts begin to turn or fall, cut the plant back leaving four to six buds. Keep the plant near a sunny window, water and fertilize regularly, and by the end of May, you should see vigorous new growth. Cut your plants back again around July 4th and again by Labor Day to promote compact, full growth. Continue to nurture your plants as Autumn nears. The Poinsettia begins to set buds and produce flowers as the nights become longer. Beginning October 1st, keep the plant in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night by moving plants into a dark room or placing a large box over them. During the day, allow six to eight hours of bright sunlight. Continue this for eight to ten weeks, and your plants will develop a colorful display of holiday blooms!

