

8516 BANDERA ROAD  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78250  
(210) 680-2394



2585 THOUSAND OAKS  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232  
(210) 494-6131

# Poinsettia Holiday Care

Poinsettias are cold sensitive plants, and should be used for indoor decor through the winter. Don't leave them in a cold car while you run other errands; make purchasing them your last stop of the day. Even short periods of cold exposure can be damaging.

## Temperature and Light Requirement

Ideal temperature for poinsettias is 60-70 degrees. Damage at temps below 50°F.

Poinsettias need a bright, sunny area. Indirect, bright, natural daylight is best.

Location should be free of direct drafts from heaters or air conditioners, as well as heat from fireplaces or appliances.

## Watering

Only Water when soil is dry to the touch. Avoid overwatering that can lead to root rot.

To determine if you need to water poinsettias, poke your finger about an inch into the soil; if the soil feels dry and flakes easily from your finger, water the plant thoroughly.

Before watering, remove any decorative foil liner or drain saucers, and let the excess water drain away completely.

Don't let poinsettias sit in standing water where the roots won't get air.

Water under the leaves and offer enough water to soak the soil to where it runs out the bottom of the pots.

## **Fertilizing**

Fertilizing is NOT necessary while poinsettias are in bloom (through winter).

If you wish to continue growing your poinsettia after the holiday season (see link below), you can then start fertilizing with a water soluble solution, like Miracle Gro, once or twice a month every 2-3 weeks), after the bloom period.

Water the fertilizer thoroughly.

## **Troubleshooting**

If you begin to experience leaves dropping, this is usually a result from either a too wet or too dry plant. Here's how to tell the difference:

- If you notice the leaves first wilting and then dropping, it's usually a lack of water that is causing the problem.
- If you notice the leaves yellowing first and then dropping, it's usually excess water that is the problem.

For info on growing poinsettias as perennials and planting outdoors, visit:

[https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate\\_archives/2005/nov05/Poinsettias.html#:~:text=To%20prolong%20the%20bright%20color,%2C%20fireplaces%2C%20or%20ventilating%20ducts.&text=Poinsettias%20require%20moderately%20moist%20soil.](https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/nov05/Poinsettias.html#:~:text=To%20prolong%20the%20bright%20color,%2C%20fireplaces%2C%20or%20ventilating%20ducts.&text=Poinsettias%20require%20moderately%20moist%20soil.)