

POINSETTIA



J. R. Poinsett, the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico in the 1820s, first saw these plants near Taxco, Mexico and subsequently sent specimens to his home in South Carolina. It wasn't until the late 1800s that it became popular as a Christmas plant. The specific epithet, "pulcherrima," means handsome.

Botanical Name *Euphorbia pulcherrima*

Ethylene Sensitivity Slightly. The presence of ethylene at high concentrations may cause epinasty.

Interior Light 50-100 foot candles

Storage 55-65°F. Storage time is three to five days.

Purchasing Hints Bracts should be fully colored with cyathia (flowers) present and showing pollen at time of purchase.

Consumer Life Four weeks or longer depending on interior conditions and variety

Special Concerns Epinasty (bending of petioles downward following sleeving) has become a minor problem in new poinsettia varieties. Plants are sensitive to temperatures below 50°F. Leaves may yellow and drop if plants wilt. Keep growing medium moist at all times. Overwatering may lead to problems with root rot. Bract edge burn can be enhanced by nutrient imbalances and *Botrytis*.

Additional Information Poinsettias are outstanding indoor plants when proper care is provided. Plants should be removed from sleeves immediately. Poinsettias are not poisonous as sometimes suggested.