## Poinsettia

Poinsettia (Euphorbia pulcherrima) is an attractive house plant with dark green leaves and leafy red 'bracts' that surround the green-yellow flowers in December and January.

**Sunlight:** Place in a brightly lit position avoiding draughts and direct heat (radiators and fires).

**Water:** Poinsettias need consistently moist soil, be sure to check the soil frequently, as to not let the soil dry out. Make sure the container has proper drainage to help prevent overwatering.

**Humidity:** Misting your poinsettia once a day can help keep the leaves vibrant and the plant happy.

**Temperature:** The ideal average temperature for poinsettias is 13-15°C. Keep away from windows, where temperatures can drop significantly at night, and from doorways and open fireplaces, which can be draughty.

**Feed:** Feeding your poinsettia is essential for a long lasting display that can last through to March. Feed fortnightly with a high potash fertiliser such as a tomato feed after Christmas.

**Repotting:** Keep your poinsettia in the same pot you bought it in, as the compost will be just right for it. If you want to repot it after Christmas in order to encourage it to flower the following year, use a free-draining, peat-free loam-based compost.



**Top Tip:** There's no need to prune poinsettias before Christmas, but if you would like to encourage it to flower again the following year, prune back to 10cm in April.





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