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Poinsettia Care

A Poinsettia is NOT poisonous. The plant has gotten a “bum rap.” Apparently early in the 20th century, when a child in Hawaii died and the poinsettia was wrongly blamed. The reputation stuck and gained credence, although the USDA and the US Consumer Products Safety Commission have given the poinsettia a clean bill of health.

Avoid drafts or excess heat from appliances, radiators and ventilating ducts. Ideal temperatures should never exceed 72°F in the daytime or 60°F at night to prolong bright colors of the bracts. Keep away from household traffic, and protect from damage by children and pets.

Keep the poinsettia in a room with as much natural light as it would take to read fine print. Water when soil is dry to the touch and always discard the excess water. Make sure to either remove the foil pot cover or cut slits in the bottom for drainage.

Keeping for a 2nd year

When bracts fade, cut back to 5 inches and repot in fresh soil. When it is warm enough, place outside. The temperature should never fall below 50°F.

In Fall, return to a room with natural light for 6 to 8 hours daily and 60-70°F at night. Avoid artificial light at night. A constant 70°F temperature day and night will produce a larger bract.