

# How to care for Poinsettias with Dakota...

## **Poinsettia**—*Euphorbia pulcherrima*

A Christmas favorite for many decades, Poinsettias are easy to take care of if you follow these instructions.

**Keep your poinsettia in a room that is not drafty, preferably in bright light, but anywhere you choose is fine. Water every 3 days thoroughly.** It quickly loses leaves after several weeks, but fear not—the plant is NOT dead!



Now you must provide bright light, and water more sparingly—once a week.

In late March, trim each stem by half, and increase watering to once every 4-5 days. New foliage will emerge. After night temps surpass 55 degrees, your poinsettia can go outside; gradually acclimating it to full sun—they will need a good soaking daily, and should be planted in a bigger pot.

**FUN FACT:** Poinsettias are native to Mexico, and can grow up to 10-15 feet tall there!

Trim your poinsettia to keep a compact shape.

Once outside temps at night are under 55 degrees, bring it inside into direct or bright indirect light. Around the first of October, start putting it in complete darkness—like a closet for 12 hours, then put back in the other lighted spot for the other 12 hours.

On Thanksgiving, it can stop getting this darkness treatment, and you may feed it with 20-10-20 nutrients, or any all purpose fertilizer. Water every 4 days now until red (or other colored) bracts appear, and then increase to every 3 days.

Enjoy your beautiful plant year round!