

Re-blooming Poinsettias

By late March or early April, cut your poinsettia back to about 8" in height. Continue a regular watering program, and fertilize your plant with a good, balanced all-purpose fertilizer. By the end of May, you should see vigorous new growth.

Place your plants outdoors in indirect sun, where they can bask in the warmth of spring and summer, after all chance of frost has passed.

Late June or early July is a good time for pruning and shaping, but be sure not to prune your plant later than September 1.

The poinsettia is a photoperiodic plant, meaning that it sets bud and produces flowers as the Autumn nights lengthen. Timing to produce blooms for Christmas can be difficult outside of the controlled environment of a greenhouse. Stray light of any kind, such as from a street light or household lamps, could delay or entirely halt the re-flowering process.

Starting October 1, the plants must be kept in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. Accomplish this by moving the plants to a totally dark room, or by covering them overnight with a large box. During October, November and early December, poinsettias require 6 - 8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with night temperatures between 60 - 70° F. Temperatures outside of this range could also delay flowering.

Continue the normal watering and fertilizer program. **Carefully following this regime for 8 to 10 weeks** should result in a colorful display of blooms for the holiday season!

(Information adapted from pauleckepoinsettias.com)

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