

# Chessington

## Care & Advice

### Poinsettia

Native to Mexico, poinsettias are in the Euphorbia family and are a popular holiday plant because of their colorful bracts (leaves). They are most commonly used for decorating during the winter holidays, but are also attractive as green plants throughout the year.



Poinsettias are widely grown Christmas houseplants. Once their bright colours fade they are usually thrown away as it's easy and cheap to buy another one, but it can be fun to grow them on so that they produce colourful bracts in the next year.



### Care

The weak Winter sunshine is acceptable and enjoyed by most houseplants including the Poinsettia. If this can't be provided a spot with good light is needed instead.

Darker areas are okay temporarily but no longer than week. Keep away from direct Sunlight at all other times of the year because the sun can easily scorch the leaves.

One of the top ways to kill a Poinsettia is by overwatering it. It doesn't need as much water as you think and in Winter the majority of houseplants need very little anyway.

Regular misting is really helpful and can keep the flowering display around for longer. Very dry areas should be avoided unless you can mist daily.

If you're only planning to keep your Poinsettia over Christmas or until early the following year, feeding can be skipped completely. If you plan to keep it alive for longer you should feed a few times during Spring and Summer with a general fertiliser. Your plant will accept low temperatures although even exposure to a mild frost will kill it.

This guide has been put together to give a brief outline of the care needed. If you require any further information, please ask our plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

