



Troop 531 Poinsettia Care Guide



Watering

Water only if the surface of the compost is dry and continue to water sparingly. Increase humidity by spraying gently with water every few days. This will help keep the leaves and bracts in tip-top condition. Dust the leaves when you need to, to keep your poinsettia looking its best but also ensuring its leaves can photosynthesize properly, so it remains as healthy as possible.

Light

The best place for a poinsettia is in a bright, draft-free spot out of direct sunlight.

Soil

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 to encourage it to flower the following year, use a free-draining, peat-free loam-based compost, and feed it every two weeks with a high potash fertilizer such as a tomato feed.

Temperature/humidity

The ideal average temperature for poinsettias is 60-70°F. Keep away from windows, where temperatures can drop significantly at night, and from doorways and open fireplaces, which can be drafty.

Pruning

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 4 inches in April.

Potential Challenges

The most common challenge when growing poinsettias is that the leaves wilt and drop off. This is a sign of cold conditions. Remember poinsettias are from Mexico and need to be kept at a minimum temperature of 55°F, away from drafts (including near doors, heaters, fireplaces, or single-glazed windows). Unfortunately, some poinsettias are kept in poor conditions, and the leaves start to wilt when you get them home. Sadly, there's not much you can do for your poinsettia at this stage.

Grey mold on the leaves can result from over-watering. Make sure you water your poinsettia only when the surface of the compost is dry and mist the leaves regularly to maintain humidity around the plant.

Thank You! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from Boy Scout Troop 531!

On behalf of the Scouts of Troop 531, we thank you for participating in our annual fundraiser. We order over 1,200 poinsettias each year and they arrive in late November or early December. Please consider joining our pre-sale email list, by emailing us at: info@aztroop531.org to let us know how many you would like us to hold for you that year. If you join our list, we can email you a reminder in advance of our sale.

www.aztroop531.org/poinsettias