



# Colonial Farm Nursery

## Winter 2010

### Caring for your poinsettia

**Light:** Place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least 6 hours per day. If direct sun can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain. For entertaining purposes, you can move your poinsettia to an area that doesn't have correct lighting conditions, but do return it to its proper holding area to keep it healthy throughout the holidays.

**Temperature:** Poinsettias are particularly sensitive to extremes in temperature, especially cold, drafty locations that can cause the plant to drop leaves. Poinsettias are not frost hardy, so don't place them outside during winter months or expose to temperatures below 50° F. Provide room tempera-

tures between 68 - 70° F. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable, so is your poinsettia. As well as avoiding cold drafts, keep your poinsettia away from excessive heat from appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts that will quickly dry out the soil or damage leaves.



**Water:** Poinsettias don't like moisture extremes. Do not keep the potting mix too wet or too dry. If allowed to dry out too much, the plant will wilt and drop its leaves. Even worse is allowing the plant to remain in standing water or waterlogged soil. Therefore, water your plant only when the soil feels dry to the touch but before it begins to wilt. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering, and allow the water to drain completely. Avoid getting water on the leaves or bracts as this causes spots to

appear on the leaves.

**Fertilizing:** Don't fertilize your poinsettia while it is in bloom. After the blooming season, begin fertilizing with an all-purpose fertilizer if you want to keep your plant.

**Transporting:** Do use your protective plastic sleeve when transporting your poinsettia as this will help to protect it from chilling, drying winds. Don't leave your poinsettia in your vehicle for extended periods of time.

### Poinsettia History

Cuetlaxochitl (star flower) is the name the Aztecs gave to the poinsettia. They used it to create dyes and cosmetics as well as using the latex sap to treat fevers. The poinsettia was introduced to North America by special envoy to Mexico Joel Roberts Poinsett (1779-1851) after he discovered it in the Taxco region of Mexico. Poinsett, as well as being fluent in several languages and well-studied in medicine and law, was an amateur botanist who brought the poinsettia back to his greenhouses in South Carolina. He sent his propagated plants to friends and botanical gardens. The botanical name *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, meaning "very beautiful", was assigned by a German botanist. In the 1830's, as the popularity of the then-so-called Mexican fire plant grew, the common name "poinsettia" was assigned by William Prescott who had just written a book about Mexico in which he detailed Poinsett's discovery of the plant. December 12th is National Poinsettia Day in commemoration of Poinsett's death. Today, the Ecke family of southern California is the leading producer of poinsettias in the United States.





## Decorating Christmas Wreaths

**Before you begin:** Decide what style of wreath fits in with your decor. There is no right or wrong when it comes to deciding your style or colors! Consider these 3 very broad categories when deciding on a theme:

**The traditional Christmas theme:** Use seasonal items like bows, bells, snowmen, snowflakes, reindeer, santas, etc. The typical colors for this kind of wreath are red or burgundy, white and gold or silver.

**The fantasy theme:** There is no particular kind of item or color to use on this wreath! Think any type of flower, seashells, toys, fabric, collectibles, etc. This wreath could be in neon pink, if it fits your decorating style and you like it.



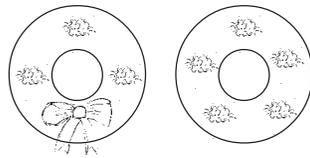
**The Colonial style:** This is a style that typically uses natural, fresh embellishments like fruit, nuts, twigs, berries, fresh or dried flowers or seed pods, assorted greens, etc. You can make it with real or artificial components to the same effect.

Next, gather up the items you want to put on your wreath. Consider the items already listed above as well as ornaments, pine cones, feathers or little decorative birds, mini Santa hats or stockings, silk poinsettias, silk roses,

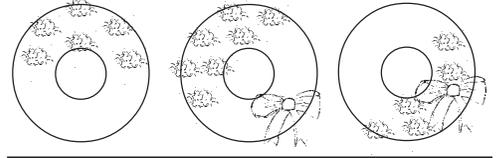
silk magnolias, chili peppers, herbs, rose hips and assorted greens that are different from your foundation (magnolia leaves or ivy stand out beautifully against fluffy pine greenery)

**Deciding where to place your decorations:** There are several ways to design your wreath. A symmetrical layout has a similar items placed regularly around the wreath. An asymmetrical design has a cluster, or two different sized clusters, at some point on the wreath. See the illustrations below for examples of layouts.

Larger, heavier items like fruit and bows are best wired on. Smaller items like acorns or berries are better glued. Some items, like a garland of ivy, can be “woven” among the branches of the wreath.



Symmetrical layouts



Asymmetrical layouts: symetric clusters (1 & 2)



**Creating clusters of items:** A cluster itself can be asymmetrical, unbalanced, like the twig and fruit swag at far left. A good rule of thumb is that with an asymmetrical cluster you have a central focal point with an extension to one side that is 1/3 the overall length and an extension on the other side that is the other 2/3 length.

Or, a cluster can be symmetrical; in other words, the individual items are balanced around a central point like the 2 creations at left. The one on top shows 5 clusters evenly spaced around the wreath; the bottom is a single cluster plaque of fruit and silk poinsettias.

## Colonial Farm Holidays:

Poinsettias – Poinsettia Gift Baskets – Fresh Wreaths and Roping – Fresh Greenery – Live Christmas Trees – Norfolk Pines – Christmas Tree Ornaments – Handcrafted Decor – Holiday Decorations – Wreath Bows – Christmas Cactus & Other Houseplants

Stop by our nursery soon to get everything you need for your holiday. Our large greenhouse is filled with poinsettias in red, pink, white, and lots of novelty colors and varieties. There are planters with mixed-color poinsettias, dainty white diamond frost, decorated poinsettia baskets and more. All our poinsettias come with free foil in your choice of red, green, gold or silver, and a protective sleeve for you to safely transport your poinsettia home. Poinsettias make great, festive decorations and are perfect to give as gifts!

In addition, we stock live Christmas trees such as Dwarf Alberta and Colorado Blue Spruce. There are plenty of fresh wreaths and roping to choose from and fresh greenery for decorating. Finish your wreath off with a ready-made velvet bow or one that is custom-made for you.

While you are here, visit our Colonial Christmas Shoppe with handcrafted wreaths, swags, plaques and baskets. If we don't have just what you're looking for, we can make it for you! We have Christmas tree ornaments and other decor that you won't find anywhere else. Place a poinsettia order by December 8 for your church, business



or organization and get free delivery to your place of business as late as December 23.

Poinsettias available this year are:

Cinnamon Star, Sonora Glitter, Ice Punch, Mars Red, Mars Marble, Mars Pink, Olympus, Cortez Burgundy, Freedom Red, Freedom Pink, Freedom White, Freedom Tri-color, Prestige Red, Prestige Maroon, Jester Red, Christmas Feeling, Winter Rose Red, Sonora Red, Shimmer Surprise and Whitestar.

Please visit our website at [www.colonialfarmnursery.com](http://www.colonialfarmnursery.com) to see photos of poinsettias or stop by and visit us in person!

Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm  
Sun 11am - 5pm

## Need a Hand?

Looking for some help in designing or creating a wreath, swag, basket or plaque? A staff member will be on site **every Thursday and Sunday in December** to help you! Come in any time during business hours to learn how to make a bow, choose decorations, and/or assemble your wreath. We have a large selection of fresh and artificial wreaths, silk poinsettias and magnolias, everlasting fruit, ribbon, pine cones, holiday decorations, assorted fresh and artificial Christmas greenery, pepperberries, swags and much more in stock.

We can even custom-design an entire collection of Christmas decorations for you. Free consultation, hints and tips to help you achieve the perfect holiday home!



# Upcoming Events

## Christmas Open House – Poinsettia Festival Days



Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 3 - 5

Cookies and hot beverages

10% off all poinsettias\*

10% off all in-stock Christmas Shoppe Colonial Creations\*

Door Prize

(\*Not valid with any other coupons or discounts)

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NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING INC.  
*Colonial Farm*

Look for our spring newsletter in early March announcing the dates for our vegetable and herb gardening workshops, planter design workshop, hints and tips for spring gardening, special sales and much more! Have a friend or neighbor who would like to receive our newsletter in either hard copy or via email? They can sign up by mail (9008 Tuscarora Pike), by phone (304-263-5232), in person (M-Sa 9-5 & Su 11-5) or by email ([leann@colonialfarmnursery.com](mailto:leann@colonialfarmnursery.com)).

See you soon and have a very happy and safe holiday and a great New Year!