

Botanical name:
Genus: Euphorbia
Species: pulcherrima

Common Name(s): Poinsettia,
Christmas holiday plant
Latin Family Name:
Euphorbiaceae
English Family Name:
Heath

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to western Mexico

Growth habit: Scraggly, deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub, grows in moist, wet, wooded ravines and on rocky hillsides

Flower description: Tiny insignificant flowers that are surrounded by colourful bracts

black, cream/tan, gold/yellow, pink, red/burgundy, white bracts

Blooming period/availability: A perennial shrub

Seasonal bloomer

Leaf/Foliage Description: Lobed leaves

Usage: The real focus are the colourful bracts

STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

A well-known Christmas ornamental plant, well known for its red and green foliage and is widely used in Christmas floral displays

Looks great as 'grouped plants' during the holiday season

A good 'plant gift' for the holidays

A good compact plant

WEAKNESS:

Has a seasonal appeal

Need plenty of light



Huge demand over Christmas then tapers after the season ends

Care & Handling

Longevity: In warmer climates (especially in India), the colourful leaves last from 4-6 weeks (November to February), then one has to 'house' the plant and wait for the leaves to turn colourful again the following year

Water requirements: Water as often as needed, but allow soil surface to dry before watering again
be careful of standing water

Light: Plenty of bright light or leaves change colour to green

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Regular soil mix

Special care/remarks: Poinsettia plants like to be kept on the dry side

High maintenance

