



### Growing and caring for poinsettia University of Minnesota Extension

Poinsettias can be grown as pretty green plants, but most people want to make their green poinsettias colorful again (especially around the holidays). It's not an easy task. It requires keeping the plant healthy while excluding light from the plant. The reduction of light prevents it from producing chlorophyll. This changes the plant from green to red, pink, or white depending on the variety.

#### New Year's

- If you see new growth, fertilize
- Continue to provide enough light and water

#### Valentines

- Check for signs of insects
- Cut back to about five inches tall if your plant has become somewhat overgrown

#### St. Patrick's

- Prune faded and dried parts
- Add more soil if the roots are visible

#### Fourth of July

- Trim plant and move into full sun

#### Fall equinox

- On or near September 21, start giving the poinsettia 16 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 8 hours of bright light every day



Christmas Poinsettia



Wild Poinsettia

<https://extension.umn.edu/houseplants/poinsettia/poinsettia-care-after-the-holidays-and-reblooming-1579964>



### What Happens to Native Plant Life during the Winter and Drought

What's the two things plants need in order to thrive? Water and sunlight. But during the winter months, the days are getting shorter and thus providing less sunlight. Cold weather also means that water is beginning to freeze. Freezing water can cause the water in plants to expand and break open plant cells. How do plants adapt to this? Annual plants have adapted to produce seeds before the cold weather arrives. As the weather gets colder, the annual plants will begin to die off, leaving their seeds behind. Perennial plants in contrast, go through a dormancy period. This often means that the plant will die back during the winter months but the roots are still alive under the ground. They store nutrients to survive during the winter.

<https://www.heardmuseum.org/article/what-happens-to-native-plant-life-during-the-winter-and-drought/>

## Winter Trivia

- *The Grinch* is the highest grossing Christmas film of all time
- In the mid-17th century, the Puritan-led English Parliament banned Christmas celebrations in favor of a day of fasting
- Approximately 85% of Americans believe in Santa Claus
- The Friday and Saturday before Christmas are the busiest shopping day of the year
- Candy canes date back to 1670
- Tom Hanks played six different roles in *The Polar Express*
- The original Elf on the Shelf was named Fisbee
- Kissing under the mistletoe comes from Norse mythology
- Jingle Bells was the first song played in space



- 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. each year
- Alabama was the first state to officially recognize Christmas in 1836 and Oklahoma was the last in 1907
- Approximately 35 million living Christmas trees are sold each year in the U.S.
- All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts



- Thomas Edison not only invented the light bulb, but also invented Christmas lights
- The largest gingerbread house ever made was as big as an actual house
- Each year during Christmas, over 8.5 million lights are used to decorate Walt Disney World
- December 26 is celebrated as National Candy Cane Day
- Ancient people hung evergreen boughs over their door and windows because they believed it kept away evil spirits
- The first Christmas card design is thought to have been printed in England in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole



<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/holidays-celebrations/g37330418/christmas-facts/>  
<https://www.buzzfeed.com/palakmadani/19-fun-facts-about-christmas>  
<https://www.dailycitynews.net/ten-interesting-facts-about-christmas>  
<https://www.almanac.com/christmas-facts-and-trivia>

# HAVE A GOOD WINTER BREAK!