

# Cultural recommendation

## POINSETTIA CUT FLOWER

Poinsettia cut flower can be produced for Christmas or other suitable dates like Valentine’s Day, Mothers Day and other holidays.



**Variety selection criteria:** good flower self life, long and strong stems and vigorous varieties. Suggestions: Christmas Eve, Vesuvio, Valentino Red, Christmas Candle, Holy Day, SkyStar®, Christmas Mouse®, Alaska, Christmas Surprise (orange color), Christmas Frosting.

**Crop schedule:** For Christmas production under natural day length conditions to produce stems 50-60 cm long:

Action/stage	Week
Plant rooted cuttings	28-29
Pinch 4-5 nodes	30-31
Harvesting/Sales	48-50

For other production periods, requires photoperiodic manipulation and the crop schedule should be adjusted as follow:

w e e k	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
S t a g e	P		Pi								S.S											F	F

For longer stems length we should increase the number of weeks under long day conditions. For every extra week from pinch to start short day (S.S) the stem length will increase approximately 3-5 cm. Avoid long day (LD) periods from pinch to initiation of short day (S.S) longer than 9 weeks to avoid splitting

P: Potting. Pi: Pinching. SS: Start short Day. F: Finish plant

*\*This is a reference time schedule that can vary depending on the variety, growing conditions and region. Schedule start from RC.*

**Temperature:** During long day period keep day temperature 24-29° C and 20-22° C at night. During short day period night temperature can be reduced to 18-20 ° C and during the last two weeks before harvesting to minimum 16 ° C

**Growing procedures:** regarding growing conditions, fertilizer, watering and pest/diseases control, please follow the same recommendations of the Poinsettia pot plant production

**Pinch:** Plants should be pinched at 3-4 nodes that should result in 3-4 final inflorescences. If leaving more nodes, the plant will produce more stems but weaker, shorter small inflorescence. If we are looking for tick longer stems and very large flowers with more open and elongated bract shapes, crop can be done without pinch as a single stem

**Growth regulator (PGR's):** Gibberellic acid (GA3) can be use only during long day to encourage stem stretch. Start applications when shoots are 2,5 -3 cm long at 10-25 ppm.

A late PGR application with Paclobutrazol (0.4%) at 0.05%, maximum 3rd week of Short Day (SD) or some treatments with Clormequat 40% at 0.08%, can help to control stem elongation in warm climates. These recommendations for plant growth regulators should be used only as general guidelines. Growers must trial all PGR under their conditions and follow the registration uses of each chemical in their country.

**Spacing:** If growing in pots, keep them pot-to-pot 3-4 weeks after pinching (until the single plants show 10-15% overlapping) to encourage stem elongation and vertical structure. For pinched crop final spacing should be 40-43 stems/m<sup>2</sup>

**Potting and plant support:** cut poinsettias can be grown in peat bags, large pots, ground beds, etc. To prevent stem breakage it is recommended to use wires or cut flower nettings

**Harvest and postharvest:** Lower leaves should be removed at the time of harvesting. Use a sharp knife and cut the leaves leaving 0.5cm of the petiole. The remaining 0.5cm will drop off after 1 week. In this way you minimize risk of stem infections. Removing all leaves increase vase life and delay flower abscission. Stems can be placed in buckets with clean water and low EC < 0,6 mS and pH 4-5. Stems can be stored or shipped dry at 2-5 °C for about 24h. After shipping the best treatment is recut the stem (3-5 cm) and rehydrate. For storage 3 or more days they should be in water at 10-15 °C but vase life will decrease. Poinsettia cut flower should be store under the same conditions than tropical flower at 12-15 °C in order to avoid diseases and bract/flower abscission.

Pretreatments with heated floral solutions, sucrose or alcohol stem dips are not recommended for cut Poinsettias. Various studies show that they have no effect or are even harmful. Recutting the stem (3-5 cm) every 3-5 days increase vase life.

**NOTE:** Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. Selecta One recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by Selecta One of any products listed herein