

Town Gardener Poinsettias Christmas flowers

By TOM CAVAN

Whoever thought the day Joel Poinsett brought back a Euphorbia Pulcherrima to his California garden that it would become the traditional Christmas flower? Well, there's more to it.

Pual Mikkelsen cultivated new hardy varieties which grew compact and colourful in his Norwegian greenhouses. This was another accomplishment since in Mexico it grows over 10 feet tall. But wait - another name appears in the pioneering of poinsettia. From his poinsettia ranch of greenhouses in California, Paul Ecke has brought us new colours and promoted poinsettias to their tremendous sales status.

Every time I hear the word poinsettia, I recall rushing to meet a nurseryman in Vaucaville, California, only to realize I passed Ecke's greenhouse at 100 MPH and missed an opportunity of a lifetime to meet this horticultural pioneer. C'est la vie!

When selecting a poinsettia, make sure the colour is rich, not faded because they need lots of sun and if they are mishandled, you are not getting your money's worth. Severe hot or cold temperatures will cause leaf drop so don't place it over a hot air vent in your car while you pick out your Christmas tree. Keep the plant in as much sun as possible during the day, then when entertaining place your poinsettia properly for your star gazing guests to admire.

Watering your poinsettia is

simple. Allow the soil to dry to the touch and then water thoroughly, but don't let it stand in a saucer of water.

Don't allow the plant to wilt or leaves will drop faster than needles on a spruce tree awaiting your fireplace. Overwatering will cause leaf drop and you will end up with a miniature umbrella. Keep it away from drafts and it is a good idea to fertilize on a regular basis with flowering houseplant food.

Now for the hard core gardener, here is how you can attempt the reflowering of your poinsettia...

After the chance of frost is over, place your poinsettia outside and cut it back. Feed and pinch regularly (about once a month) until mid-September or prior to fall frost. Bring the plant inside and provide darkness for the remaining 6 to 8 weeks. When placing it in the dark, you must also reduce night temperatures to 55-60 degrees F or about 15 degrees C. Once the bracts form, you must return it to full sun and moderate watering. The bract is what is commonly referred to as the flower. The true flower is actually a small yellow cluster in the middle of that brilliant colour.

10 Steps For Success With Poinsettias

1. Select plants with green foliage all the way down to the soil line. This is a good indication that the plants have active, healthy roots.

2. Look for plants that have small green buttons (cyathia) in

the center of the colored bracts. These buttons will eventually develop into little yellow flowers.

3. When transporting the plants home, make sure they are protected from temperatures below 50 F. Chilling causes the leaves to drop.

4. Place in a room where there is sufficient natural light to read fine print. You should be able to observe a strong shadow with your hand.

5. Water plants thoroughly when you get them home. The entire soil area should be saturated so that water seeps through the drain hole. Remember to discard excess water. Never allow poinsettias to sit in water.

6. Check the plants daily and water only when the soil feels dry to the touch.

7. Fertilize plants within several days. They are without nutrients during the entire marketing process and will need a feeding by then. Use liquid, pills, sticks or dry fertilizer according to the directions on the label.

8. If you keep curtains drawn during the day to conserve heat, remember that poinsettias must have at least six hours of bright indirect light daily to thrive.

9. Keep plants away from drafts, radiators and hot air registers.

10. To prolong bright color of bracts, temperature should not exceed 72 F in the day or 60F at night.

If you have any questions about your Christmas plants, please call us at (519) 833-2117. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Extended CHRISTMAS STORE HOURS

Tues., Dec. 18 - 10:00-7:00	Wed., Dec. 26 - Closed
Wed., Dec. 19 - 10:00-7:00	Thur., Dec. 27 - 10:00-8:00
Thur., Dec. 20 - 10:00-8:00	Fri., Dec. 28 - 10:00-8:00
Fri., Dec. 21 - 10:00-8:00	Sat., Dec. 29 - 9:00-8:00
Sat., Dec. 22 - 9:00-6:00	Sun., Dec. 30 - 11:00-4:00
Sun., Dec. 23 - 11:00-5:00	Mon., Dec. 31 - 11:00-5:00
Mon., Dec. 24 - 11:00-5:00	Wed., Jan. 2, 1991 - Back To Reg. Hours
Tues., Dec. 25 - Closed	

STEAK EXPRESS

777-1021

We're Sportin' Our Holiday Cheer!

Merry Christmas

71 MAIN ST. S.
Downtown Georgetown
873-0500

OSBORNE DECOR

Custom Made Verticals, Drapes And Bedspreads
FREE SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE!

NORVAL 877-6086

Happy Holidays

Thank you for your valued business.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Sam and Max
Georgetown General Store
877-8284
110 Main St. S. Georgetown

Season's Greetings

Schipper fish & chips

Home Made Fries Never Frozen

We Serve:
Halibut, Cod, Shrimp, Onion Rings, Mushrooms, Chicken Fingers, AND MORE!

Family Boxes - Children Size Orders
DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT

OPEN:
Mon. 11:30-7:00
Tues., Wed. 10:30-7:00
Thursday 10:30-8:00
Friday 10:30-9:00
Saturday 10:30-6:30

CLOSED:
Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Reservations For Large Groups
FAST TAKE-OUT
CALL 877-0239
Georgetown Market Place Centre Alley

IT'S ALL GOT TO GO!!!

80% OFF LISTED PRICE OF EVERYTHING*

BLUE JEANS \$5.00	RUNNING SHOES \$2.00	LADIES' KNIT SWEATERS \$3.00	LADIES' KNIT SKIRTS \$3.00	BOYS' UNDERWEAR Reg. \$1.79 36¢	SKI TURTLENECKS Reg. \$27.99 NOW \$5.60	LONG UNDERWEAR TOPS 82¢ BOTTOMS 82¢
JOGGING PANTS & TOPS \$2.00	TOYS & GIFTS 80% OFF	MEN'S SHIRTS \$2.00	CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS 80% OFF	KIDS' CLOTHES 80% OFF	T SHIRTS \$4.99	SPORTS EQUIPMENT 80% OFF
NEW YEAR'S PARTY GOODS	SWEAT SHIRTS \$7.99	SHORTS, TOPS, PANTS & SHIRTS	TRACK SHOES \$5.00	CHILDREN'S CLOTHES	ALL GIFTS 80% OFF	AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

ALL FIXTURES MUST GO (TABLES, RACKS, DISPLAYS)

SAVINGS YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!	NINTENDO \$10.00 OFF EVERY GAME	LOTS OF ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION	NINTENDO RENTALS FOR SALE!	HOUSEWARE ITEMS 80% OFF
--	--	--	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------

DOORS OPEN THURSDAY AT 12:00 NOON

CCP LIQUIDATORS ARE CLOSING THEIR RETAIL OPERATION!

1/2 PRICE OR LESS STORE

877-2979

MAIN ST. DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN

*SOME ITEMS EXCLUDED