

Plant Doctor

Bruce Williams Ph.D.



Your poinsettia can blossom for months

By Bruce Williams, Ph.D.
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Cooperative Extension Service

Dear Plant Doctor:

This year I have received several beautiful Poinsettias. They are beautiful plants but I can find little information about them. How do I best take care of Poinsettias?

Answer: Poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) are the floral symbol of the Christmas season. The brightly colored bracts and the dark green foliage add beauty and vitality to the festive setting of any home. The time that a Poinsettia will stay beautiful is directly related to the care and environment to which the plant

is exposed. With proper care, Poinsettias will stay in bloom for two or three months.



The Poinsettia bract or leaf is the colorful and decorative portion of the plant. The true flowers are the tiny yellow structures in the center of the colorful bracts. Poinsettia flowers will usually drop off in two

to four weeks but the bracts will remain for several months. Contrary to popular belief, Poinsettias are not poisonous. However, I am sure that the consumption of the leaves or bracts would have some undesirable effects on the digestive system.

Place plants in a room with plenty of natural sunlight. Poinsettias do best under a moderate to high indoor light intensity. Optimum day temperatures range from 70 to 75F. Cooler night temperatures (55 to 65F.) favor extended Poinsettia flowering.

Proper watering is crucial to the long life of your plant. Water your Poinsettia when the soil mix is dry to the touch. Be sure to apply sufficient water to thoroughly wet all the soil in the container. Often plants are marketed in water-tight plastic or aluminum coverings, if this is the case, be sure this wrap is removed and your plant has good drainage. It is critical that excess water be allowed to drain because root and stem rots are major killers of Poinsettias. A light feeding with a soluble fertilizer mix in the water is helpful after several weeks to maintain color and plant vigor.

There is nothing like a Poinsettia to remind us of the beauty of Christmas.

Looking for some Smilax? Sarah McNeil of Southport writes that Woodlanders, Inc. (1128 Colleton Avenue, Aiken, SC 29801; telephone 803-648-7522) carry Smilax smallii.

Looking for or trying to kill moss? Loretta H. of Fayetteville tells me that she wants to get more involved with moss culture for her Japanese garden. Contact the firm Mostly Moss (130 Sandy Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30281; telephone 404-474-5820) for a wide selection of bryophytes.

If you are trying to kill moss, then send me a SASE. I will enclose a publication by Dr. Art Bruneau that details the best procedures for moss control for lawns.

Are you having a difficult time growing your lawn in shady areas? A new publication by the N. C. State Cooperative Extension Service titled "Selecting and Managing Lawn Grasses for Shade" details the best management practices for shady lawns. This publication can be obtained through your cooperative extension office or by sending me a SASE.

Send your gardening questions or comments to *The Plant Doctor*, P. O. Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422.

Home Is Where The Heart Is...

Thanks for making us feel at home! We're so proud to be a part of this fine community.

Merry Christmas and sincere best wishes.



Hwy. 211 & Beach Rd. Southport



A holiday pet parade at Yuletide Harbor on Saturday gave animals a chance to dress in their finest so they could be admired by their favorite boys and girls.

The Grape Vine

by Jim Hinkson

The holidays are party times, and party planning means stocking the bar. You want to be sure to have enough, without sending your budget overboard. But do buy extras; it's embarrassing to run out and the leftover wine will "keep" better after the party than leftover food.

As a general rule, you can expect to serve about four drinks per person for any evening party. Plan to serve about five glasses of wine from a standard, 750ml bottle, 20 from a three-liter jug. (There are about 22 liquor drinks in a liter bottle).

Set up bars with plenty of room for people to circulate. Make sure you have plenty of mixers and a selection of good non-alcoholic drinks.

Make your own unique wine chillers. Set an empty wine bottle in the center of a larger container and pour some water in the space in-between. Freeze. Continue to make ice layers incorporating attractive shells, flowers or novelties. Remove form to serve.

Some hosts get around the what-to-serve question with a punch. Eggnog is a classic. Use a prepared mix, or 8 eggs (beat yolks and whites separately, then fold) 1/2 pound sugar, 2 jiggers rum and a bottle of Bourbon, a pint of heavy cream and a quart of milk. Grate nutmeg on top.

You'll find lots of good party ideas at...

Beverage Barn

6235 E. Oak Island Dr., Long Beach

Anchor Club asks safety this holiday

South Brunswick High School's Anchor Club chapter once again reminds students, teachers and parents to have a safe holiday season by offering a few easy steps to prevent disabling head injuries.

One thousand red-and-green notes placed on car antennas list ways to stay healthy. Among them are buckling up when driving or riding in a vehicle, using designated drivers if indulging in holiday drinking, using child restraint seats, following safe and defensive driving rules, preventing home injuries, practicing healthy habits and avoiding abuses.

The 20-member Anchor Club, led by president Kristie King, vice-president Leann Eagles, treasurer Christie Hale and secretary Bathsheba Walker, has been busy this school year. For the holidays, members collected food to be distributed

to needy families through the Volunteer and Information Center, adopted a family through VIC and mailed 200 Christmas cards to residents in area nursing homes.

The club also sponsored a powder puff football game during homecoming, maintains Cougar Drive through the Adopt-a-Highway program and recognizes a teacher as "professional of the month".

Anchor is sponsored by the Pilot Club of South Brunswick Islands. Nellie Westbrook is the adviser.

Seniors meet

Town Creek Senior Citizens will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, January 7, at the Sea Captain Restaurant in Southport.

A tour of Carolina Power & Light Co. will follow breakfast.

New club officers are Jack Ogden, president; Lena Beachum, vice-president; Evelyn Moore, treasurer; and Marie Young, secretary.

WAKE UP SPECIAL

Regular Size Coffee

25¢

Limited Time Only

Highway 211 & Beach Road Southport Location

'Tis the season to eat sandwiches."

The most popular guest at any holiday party is the food. So invite a Subway Party Platter and let your friends shake hands with a great sandwich. (Advance Notice Needed)

SUBWAY

River Run Shopping Center Southport, 457-5848

Pets of the week...

An adult male chocolate Labrador retriever is now available for adoption at the Brunswick County Animal Control Center. He is said to be a beautiful dog and very good-natured. The adoption fee is \$15 and the fee for a rabies vaccination is \$7.

Two "fuzzy and playful" mixed shepherd puppies are also up for adoption. They are about ten weeks old and are said to be very affectionate. The adoption fee is \$5 per puppy, and the fee for a rabies vaccination is \$7.

Finally, a female "cocker-poo" -- part cocker spaniel and part poodle -- needs a "very loving home." She is five years old, she has been spayed and she is house-broken. The adoption fee is \$15 and the fee for a rabies vaccination is \$7.

For more information persons should contact the animal control center at 754-8204 or call toll-free 1-800-233-2169.

The Best Package Under The Tree

Treat yourself to a "holiday gift"! The Omni Hotel at CNN Center is offering an exciting City'scapes Holiday package for \$89.*

Relax...shop...dine and see the sights of the city. At the Omni Hotel you will experience the exceptional service you deserve during this festive season.

Your City'scapes package also includes a complimentary gift and gift wrapping from Macy's Peachtree.

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SOUTHPORT PIZZA



* Per room, per night based on double occupancy. Limited rooms available at this rate. Not applicable to groups, conventions or special rate and/or discount offers. \$89 Rate is based on availability thru December 30, 1992.