

### With Proper Care, Poinsettia Plant Will Bloom Again

That popular Christmas plant, the poinsettia, need not be discarded when the holiday is over. The right care can keep it in condition for blooming again next year.

Horticulture specialists say you need not be alarmed about dropping leaves. Leaf dropping simply means the plant is going into its normal rest period, which lasts until about May 1.

After the leaves fall, put the plant in a cool place—40 to 50 degrees—and water sparingly. About May 1, cut the plant back quite heavily, to remove excess wood and make it more shapely. Shake off the old soil and repot in a mixture of three parts garden loam, one part well-rotted manure and one part leafmold. Use a pot just large enough to hold the mass of roots without crowding and still provide good drainage. Water enough to keep the soil from drying out.

In about another month, when weather is warm, set the potted plant outdoors, submerging the pot in the soil at ground level or a little below. Put it in full sunshine unless the weather is very hot. In that case, give it light shade. When nights cool in the fall, put it in a window where there is good light and air and where temperature is about 60 to 68 degrees, but with no draft. Water regularly so the soil never dries out and use a little liquid fertilizer every week.

Long nights, uninterrupted by even a shaft of artificial light, are needed to bring the poinsettia into

### Christmas Tree Industry Aids Forestry Programs

That beautiful Christmas tree you've purchased for your living room this Christmas needn't cause any qualms of conscience if you're the type who worries about the effect of the Christmas tree business on our forests.

The fact that yours is one of 31 million trees used for holiday decorations this year makes it seem that our forests are in great peril, but such is not the case. In fact, at least half of these trees are coming from sources that did not harm or actually improved the forest land they occupied when cut.

Foresters who grow saw-log trees generally divide cut-over land into four classes and Christmas-tree land is the lowest classification. It won't grow good forests, but is ideal for Christmas trees since it barely supports tree life. The tree, in its struggle to exist, throws out quick and frequent branches.

On such land are the Christmas-tree farms, such as one operated at Tacoma, Washington, by Paul Kirk, the "Christmas-tree king." Kirk distributes 4 to 5 million trees a year and keeps several times that number growing.

The last two or three weeks before Christmas are about the busiest of the year for Paul Kirk, for his carefully grown trees must arrive at their destinations on time. It isn't unusual for him to tour dozens of cities checking on shipments before he gets home at the last moment to gather with his family around the Kirks' huge white-sprayed tree.



### CHRISTMAS SHOPPER

Ponder the case of Poor Ole Dad who said, and I quote "Christmas shopping is easy, I'll just run over to the big city and get it all done in a couple of hours."

As you can see, Dad's expression comes under the heading of "famous last words." Oh, he completed his shopping list, or rather most of it—but look at the shape he is in now. It took him all day, rather than a "couple of hours" because he decided to walk his feet off rather than have to make another trip.

He felt pretty pleased about the whole thing (when he started home—that is,) until he ran out of gas in the middle of nowhere. So busy thinking about the things he wanted to buy he just forgot Bessie refuses to run without fuel. He lost thirty minutes or so waiting for a gas station to send out some fuel from a nearby community, but that didn't upset him very much. He didn't really blow a fuse until he picked up a nail and a slow leak in one of Bessie's tires.

But he got home—a tired but happy man, apparently. Mom, who believes in shopping at home where value and satisfaction are always guaranteed by the local merchant's reputation, probably made the situation worse by remarking that practically every item on Dad's list could have been bought here at home for the same price, or less. I guess that's what made Dad light up like the Christmas tree—it was a sure insinuation that he wasn't a very smart businessman and that blow at his pride was just too much for a man with aching feet.

#### TRUE CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Wesley, a Methodist minister England wrote "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" on a Christmas morning. The brother of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, was inspired by the pealing of church bells when he penned the famous carol.



**TELL ME, TELL ME . . .** This lovely lady has succeeded in bringing Old Santa into view by gazing into her crystal ball, yet it seems that the vision isn't clear enough to foretell the gifts that he is bearing. Oh, well, Christmas is only a short time away.



**FLORIDA STYLE . . .** Sure, it's Christmas in Florida, too. But white sand must substitute for snow, a sea-grape for an evergreen, but what's the difference when two such expert and lovely decorators are on the scene.



**BRIGHT DISPLAY . . .** Long noted for its pleasing Christmas decorations, Chicago's Merchandise Mart, which boasts more floor space than any other structure in the world, presented this gala Christmas greeting to the people of Chicago.

St. Louis, Mo. — For the second time in less than sixteen months, Mrs. John Callahan Jr., gave birth to twins. The Callahans, who were married in 1954, became the parents of twin sons on April 30, 1955. On August 17, this year, another set of twin boys arrived.

Los Angeles, Calif. — Prisoners at the city jail recently fared real well — they were served creamed lobster for supper. The State Fish and Game Commission had confiscated 1,000 pounds of illegal Mexican lobster and turned it over to the jail authorities.

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