

Care Information for “Renaissance Red” Poinsettia Cut Flower

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Presentation

‘Renaissance Red’ poinsettias are bred for use as cut flowers: long stems (16-36 inches), large, compact flower heads and excellent vase life (14-21 days).

Cutting method and stem treatments

Cut the stems at their base and then re-cut under water 2-3 inches above the base. Cutting into this softer tissue improves water uptake. Strip the lower 1/3 to 2/3 foliage and place stems in clean buckets of water. All the leaves can be removed, if desired, with no negative effects.

Commercial floral preservatives improve leaf retention, but do not increase vase life. Re-cutting every 3 days improves leaf retention and increases vase life. A sucrose pulse reduces vase life.



Shipping and holding

‘Renaissance Red’ cut flowers should preferably be held or shipped in water or on plants in pots and harvested after receipt. Do not place in a cooler but hold at room temperature (55-68°F).

Floral preservatives do not improve post-harvest life although keeping the water clean helps. Stems can be shipped dry for 1-2 days, do not store dry for more than 2 days.



Use in arrangements

Cut poinsettias have a 14-21 day vase life in water. In oasis the foliage yellows after 7-14 days but the bracts still look good. See overpage for design ideas by leading New Hampshire florists.

David Goudreault harvesting stems at the
University of New Hampshire



Example Designs from leading New Hampshire Florists



Janet Desmarais (1st Place)
Manchester Flower Studio



Valerie Dawes (2nd Place)
Cobblestone Design Co.



Jeannie Zaconne (3rd Place)
Chalifour's Flowers



Diane Yeo-Churney
Alluring Creations



Heidi Matthews
Sweet Meadows Flower



Jill Tammoro
Chalifour's Flowers



Jim LaMothe
Dubois Flower Shop



Ken Paquin
Jacques Flower Shop



**Ryan Lockhart, Christina Rossi
& Jennifer Smart**
UNH Thompson School

Photographs of designs by Douglas Prince, University of New Hampshire