




## December

"The forest is the heart of nature." - Unknown



### Learning About Poinsettia Growth! For a poinsettia plant to thrive, it needs:

**Light:** Poinsettias prefer bright, indirect light, which is ideal on sunny but warm days in Cyprus.

**Soil:** They thrive in well-drained, organic-rich soil with a pH of around 5.5-6.5. Soils in Cyprus can be enriched with compost for better growth.

**Water:** Poinsettias need regular watering to keep the soil moist but not overly wet. In Cyprus, it's best to water early in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid evaporation.

**Fertilization:** Poinsettias flourish in nutrient-rich soil to develop their leaves and flowers. You can use a liquid fertilizer for indoor plants to enrich the soil.

**Temperature:** Poinsettias grow best in temperatures between 15°C and 25°C. The winter temperatures in Cyprus are ideal for cultivating poinsettias.

**QUIZ!**

#### Poinsettia The secrets of *Euphorbia Pulcherrima* and the environment

- Which of the following is a characteristic of poinsettia leaves?
  - They are only green.
  - They can have various colors, such as red, pink, white, and yellow.
  - They are only blue.
- How does poinsettia help in gardening?
  - It attracts more pests.
  - It adds color and vibrancy to gardens and indoor spaces during Christmas.
  - It provides shade for other plants.
- Which part of the poinsettia can you use to grow a new plant?
  - The fruit.
  - A cutting.
  - The leaf.
- In which season does the poinsettia bloom in Cyprus?
  - Summer.
  - Winter.
  - Spring.

### Learn About Different Types of Poinsettia!

There are many types of poinsettias around the world! Here are some of the main types you can find that are suitable for cultivation in Cyprus:

- **Euphorbia pulcherrima (Traditional Poinsettia):** This is the most common type of poinsettia, with large red bracts (modified leaves) and small yellow flowers in the center.
- **'Prestige Red' Poinsettia:** This variety has large, deep red leaves and is very popular for Christmas indoor decorations.
- **'Ice Punch' Poinsettia:** It features red and white leaves, creating a striking and unusual color pattern.
- **'Marble' Poinsettia:** With pink and cream leaves, this poinsettia adds an elegant and unique look to any space.
- **'Winter Rose' Poinsettia:** It has curled leaves that resemble roses, giving a different texture and appearance.



#### Tip of the Month

Plant trees and plants in your garden or at your school. Encourage adults to use organic fertilizers. This will help keep the soil rich and healthy for plants and animals.

94



#### Endemic Plant of Cyprus

#### Rose Geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*)

**Information:** Rose geranium has strongly aromatic leaves and small pink flowers.



#### Endemic Animal of Cyprus

#### Cypriot Seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)

**Information:** The seahorse is a small marine fish with a unique shape and lives in the coastal waters of Cyprus.

