

BUD DELAY ON POINSETTIA

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Each year many growers have problems with night lights shining on their poinsettia crop. If you have had this problem in the past, look around your greenhouse for yard lights, street lights, or even light shining in from automobiles.

It is necessary to have a fourteen-hour uninterrupted dark period starting about October 1 for four to six weeks to set buds and develop properly. If you suspect a light problem, replace the bulbs with green or blue lamps or, if this is not possible, draw black cloth or plastic to shut out the light. This will

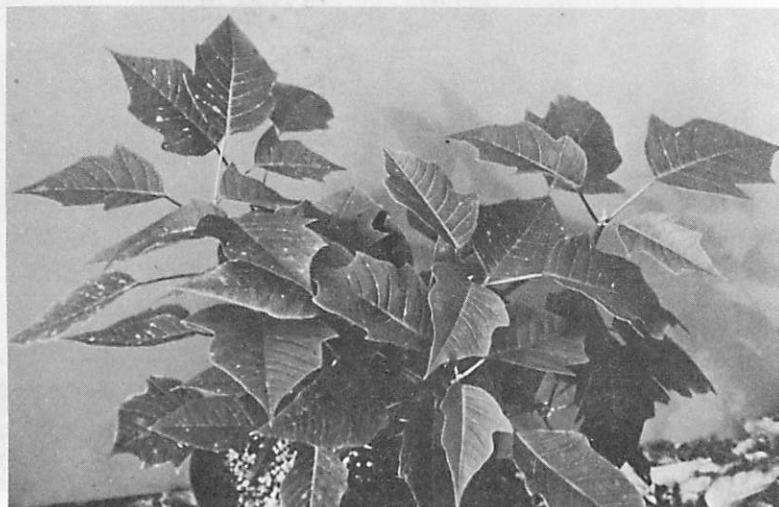


Figure 1. Poinsettia delayed by white spot lights-- picture December 8.

work if the night temperature is not above 65°F. Sometimes bud delay is caused by night temperatures over 70°F.

Beads-of-condensation water on the inside of plastic greenhouses can reflect light. Look carefully about your greenhouse before October 1 to avoid any source of unwanted light. A good, safe yard light would be those that are green or blue.



Figure 2. Poinsettia delayed by high temperatures-- picture December 20.