

## Care of Poinsettia Stock Plants

Believe it or not, they will be arriving soon. Do you have your containers ready, soil sterilized and have you made plans as to where they will be placed on the bench? We suggest that you check the following points:

1. Spray stock plants with insecticide every week to control any insects that may be coming in on them. (See Professor Whitcomb's article in this issue on the new mite collected this year in Essex County).
2. Provide adequate sized containers with good drainage and large enough to provide good growing - a bushel container for the jumbo and one-half bushel for the smaller plants.
3. Soil - good soil structure to provide good drainage. Soluble salts should be low but fertility fairly high after roots become established.
4. Starting the stock plants of poinsettia:-
  - a. Examine stock plants carefully for any freezing or drying out in shipment. Report any malady immediately to the person from whom you purchased them.

- b. Temperature - no lower than 65°F. - better at 72-75°F. with high humidity.
- c. Best to keep the plants syringed frequently rather than to use covers. If covers are used, they should be sterilized and the benches sterilized.

5. Feed the plants to maintain a good nutrient level:- N-50-75 ppm, P - VH, K - 300 ppm, Ca - VH according to the Morgan System and the Soluble salts - 60.