

STABY

## Poinsettia Bract Edge Burn: Symptoms and Causes

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Four different types of symptoms that develop at the end of poinsettia production or during postproduction have been called Bract Edge Burn or Bract Necrosis, which has caused some confusion in interpreting research results and in making recommendations to commercial growers. One symptom is typical calcium deficiency where the margins of bracts become necrotic and is most likely to occur on sensitive cultivars in cool, low-light environments. The second symptom occurs in cultivars, such as 'Sonora', that have distinct points along bract margins when these tips become necrotic. The third symptom is most often observed on 'Supjibi' in cool climates and is rows of small round necrotic spots along or near bract margins. The fourth symptom is causing the most problems for the industry. Under proper conditions *Botrytis* may develop in the shipping box after plants leave the greenhouse, even if there are no signs of injury at boxing. The occurrence of *Botrytis* can be reduced by spraying calcium weekly on expanding bracts, reducing time in the shipping box and selecting less sensitive cultivars.