

## POINSETTIA NUTRITION

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Last fall and early winter quite a few cases of potassium (K) deficient poinsettia plants were observed. Both stock plants and panned cuttings exhibited the deficiency symptoms. Nitrogen insufficiency was also seen.

The potassium symptoms were normally observed on the lower, older leaves. Symptom expression appeared as a yellowing and mottling of the leaf margin. If the deficiency was allowed to continue, browning and death (necrosis) of the entire leaf margin followed. Several of these severe cases were verified by a complete soil test.

Avoid this potential problem which will reduce crop quality (\$) by: 1) Soil testing initially and several times during the crop cycle, 2) Start fertilizing cuttings immediately after root initiation, 3) Maintain a regular high fertility program.

Use a root medium which has been adequately limed and amended with superphosphate (0-20-0). Fertilization at every watering with calcium (3 parts) and potassium (2 parts) nitrates (15-0-18) at 200 ppm (18 oz/100 gals) is generally recommended. For weekly feeding, use 450 ppm (40 oz/100 gals).