

POINSETTIA POINTERS

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SOIL - Soil Test prior to planting to determine nutrient levels.

TEMPERATURE - Poor temperature control is the cause of variations in crop development. Cool temperatures during early vegetative growth results in smaller plants. Early cyanthia development without bract development means temperatures are too warm. Temperature should be uniform throughout the cropping season. Check ideal temperature for your cultivar. Check thermostats and thermometers.

HEIGHT CONTROL - Apply growth regulators before stem elongation. This will vary with cultivar. Use correct pinch date for your chosen cultivar.



ROOT PROBLEMS - Examine roots on a weekly basis. Plan to apply fungicide drenches on a monthly basis throughout crop season. If problems exist, fungicides may be needed more often. Monitor the application of water and drainage of root media during cloudy weather.

INSECTS - Control all weeds under benches and outside greenhouse area. Monitor insect populations. Use sticky boards for white fly adults, then apply the appropriate insecticide. Look for hot spots where insects may build up. Develop a weekly or bi-weekly insect program. Avoid if possible insecticide applications when bracts are in color.

HARVEST - Lower temperature gradually to deepen bract color. Maintain constant air flow (HAF) to prevent botrytis, especially in plastic greenhouses. Do not apply fertilizer after the second week in December.