

Surely You Know This

Poinsettias

Set their buds October 10 to 20. A small amount of light, in addition to normal daylight, or night temperature above 65° will prevent or seriously delay bud formation.

The best night temperature to carry from now to bloom is 60° F. Higher temperature on small plants, or when you are trying to hurry a batch, will actually delay them.

Color of bracts and fullness of the head is best if the temperature is kept down to a night temperature of 60°F.

Day temperature can go to 85° or 90° with no trouble. In fact, high day temperature appears to be better for the development of bracts than the usual 65 to 70°.

Don't pan in soil high in fertility.

Fertilize plants with liquid complete fertilizer one week before you pan them. Carry a medium fertility after panning by regular fertilizing.

Keep soil moist the first 10 days after panning by watering every day whether you think the plants need it or not or use constant watering level 1 inch below the pot.

Hydrangeas

Form flower buds when the temperature goes below 65°F. This year, bud formation should have started by mid September. Leaves can probably be dropped by October 15.

Blindness results when leaves are injured by frost, mildew, or other causes before plants have been exposed to low temperature a sufficient time (probably 4 weeks minimum).

Ease of forcing depends on proper temperature and light conditions in storage. Dark at 33-35°F brings plants through for forcing most rapidly. Even if you don't want them to flower especially early, they force easier and at lower temperature after proper storage. This saves you heat and headaches.