

WHITE PLASTIC POTS

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Last summer several greenhouse growers asked about planting poinsettias in white pots. Several reports printed in national publications indicated roots were inhibited or stopped by growing in this type of pot. After investigating this problem with growers and research personnel, the situation was still unclear. This article deals with observations of poinsettia roots grown in various greenhouse ranges in western Connecticut.

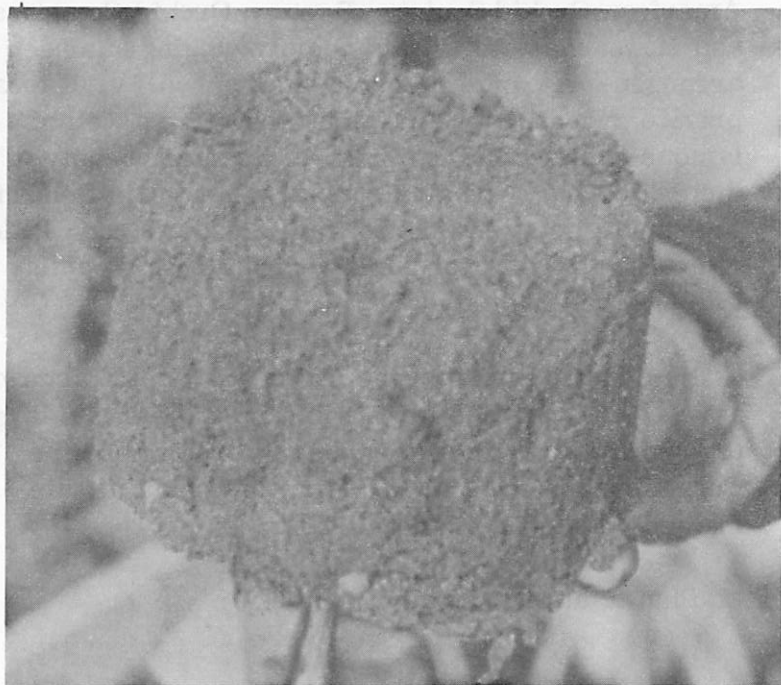


Figure 1. A good poinsettia grown in a thin wall white plastic pot showing extremely fine roots on the periphery of the soil ball.

The observations were made by looking at plant growth, flower habit, and looking at the roots. Plants were grown in thin wall plastic as well as thick wall plastic. The observations showed plants seemed to grow equally well in all pots. Plastic pots do encourage root growth within the soil ball and not about the outer edge of the pot as in a clay pot (Figure 1). Therefore, when observing poinsettia and other plants in plastic pots--whether they are white or green or gray--look in the soil ball for roots.

Observations indicated that white pots did not present a problem in growing poinsettias. If any grower has observed other situations, please contact the author.

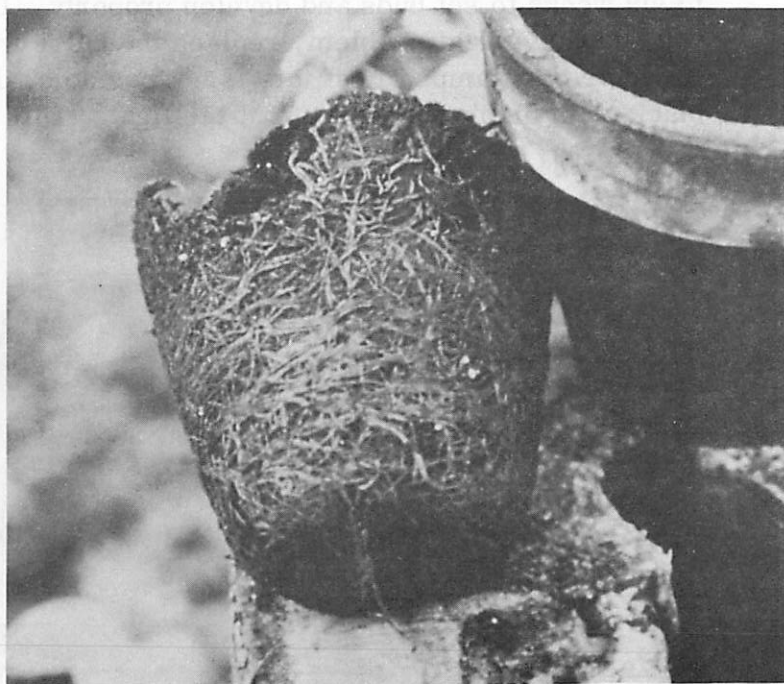


Figure 2. Roots in a clay pot from the same greenhouse.