

Villa Maria Holiday Flowers

Christmas Poinsettias

Department of Land Management
PO Box 732, Villa Maria, PA 16155
724-964-8920 ext. 3385
email: jmoreira@humilityofmary.org

We are growing *beautiful large poinsettias* and are taking orders for the upcoming Christmas season. Come visit our Greenhouse on the farm, Monday thru Friday from 8am-4pm.

Questions? Contact John at the above phone number and email address.



Poinsettia Flowers	Unit	Price
Large Single Poinsettia	6" pot	\$7.00
Double Poinsettia in ovals	12" oval	\$11.00
Large Double Poinsettia	8" pot	\$13.00
Triple Poinsettia in ovals	16" oval	\$16.00
Large Triple Poinsettia	10" pot	\$18.00

Pricing drops \$1.00 each for orders of 50 or more poinsettias; contact John at the above phone or email address to receive a price based on larger quantities ordered.

Poinsettias come in several color options: *Red, White, and Pink* as well as a limited amount of one called '*Monet*'; a reddish-pink and white, speckled novelty variety.

We can also make up the doubles and triples in multiple colors to order.

Above prices include foil wrap, plastic sleeve and, for larger orders, includes free local delivery.

Foil Wrap Options: *Red, Green, Gold, and Silver*

Church Poinsettia orders should be in by **Thursday, December 1st** to guarantee availability.

We will still take orders after that date, but may not be able to guarantee color availability. To place an order or if you have any questions, call the Villa Maria Farm at 724-964-8920 X 3385 and ask for John or email: jmoreira@humilityofmary.org

We will also be selling our poinsettias at the annual *Villa Maria Nativity Display* on the first two Sundays of December; the 4th and the 11th from Noon to 5 pm. Here is a link to the HM website for more information: <https://www.humilityofmary.org/media/news-events>

DIRECTIONS:

Villa Maria Farm is located

- 1 mile east of the Ohio state line on Rt. 422;
- 1 mile south of Route 422 on Evergreen Road. Follow signs for Villa Maria on Rt. 422.

Poinsettia History

In addition to being the most widely known holiday flower of all, the Christmas poinsettia is also the most popular flowering potted plant, with thousands being sold throughout the UK and the United States each and every year. It is a tree that can grow to 40' in tropical climates.

Also known as "the Christmas flower," "lobster flower," or "Mexican flame leaf," the poinsettia has a rather colorful history dating back to the ancient Aztec people who viewed the plant as a symbol of purity. A few hundred years later, Christians in Mexico thought the star-shaped leaves symbolized the Star of Bethlehem that led Joseph and Mary to the stable where Jesus was born. This, coupled with the fact that the plant was in full bloom during Christmas time, caused people to associate them with the holiday, which is why they are still the most used plant during that special time of year for decorating.

Poinsettias also have a place in Mexican legend that tells why the usually red plants are said to be known as Christmas flowers. Long ago, a poor child was said to be wandering down a road on Christmas Eve on his way to church worried that he didn't have a gift to offer the Christ child on his birthday. He picked a few weeds growing along side the road and brought them into the church where the congregation said that any humble gift given out of love was good enough, and soon the weeds turned into colorful red and green leaves, causing the people to call it a Christmas miracle.

A native to Central America, those in North America can thank a man by the name of Joel Roberts Poinsett for bringing the plant back with him to the States after visiting Mexico while serving there as the very first U.S. Ambassador in the early 1800s. Poinsett, the son of a French doctor, was a botanist from Greenville, South Carolina who once attended medical school but had a great interest in plant life.

While in southern Mexico, Poinsett noticed the fiery red blooms flourishing in abundance in an area known as Taxco del Alarcon. Because he already had his own greenhouses at home, he excitedly sent a few of the plants back where he would soon begin growing them and sharing with friends and colleagues.

Now, the poinsettia can be found in several different colors in addition to the traditional Christmas red. The plant blooms naturally in shades of cream, pale, lemony yellow, pinks and peaches, both with splashes of gold and white throughout the leaves, which are erroneously called flowers but are actually the plant's upper leaves known as the bracts.

Poisonous Poinsettias?

Contrary to popular belief, the poinsettia, or any part of the entire plant, is not poisonous. Scientific research conducted by various entities such as Ohio State University and Carnegie Mellon University and Children's Hospital, both in Pittsburgh, have found no toxicity, either to animals or humans.

Of course, the flower is still not meant to be ingested and may cause a cat or dog to get an upset stomach after eating quite a few of them, but there's no need for pet owners to avoid enjoying the beauty of the poinsettia at Christmas time for fear of an accidental poisoning.

National Poinsettia Day

In great honor of the man who first introduced the now familiar plant to the country, December 12th has been named National Poinsettia Day in the United States, marking the date of the death of Joel R. Poinsett. In addition to having the Christmas plant named after him, interestingly enough, Poinsett is also credited with founding what we know as The Smithsonian Institute.

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