Holiday Poinsettias: History & Care Tips

Poinsettias are the quintessential holiday plant. They are considered by many to be an essential part of holiday decorating. With proper care, poinsettias can continue to thrive long after the holidays are past. Getting them to re-flower can be a tricky endeavor and requires commitment. There are two ways of thinking about this. There are those that consider the plants disposable after the holidays and those that are willing to nurture them for the long-term in hopes they will bloom again the following year.

Read our Maryland Grows blog post to learn the history and get general care tips for poinsettias.

New Invasive Pest: Is Spotted Lanternfly Headed to MD?

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that attacks grapes, apples, stone fruits, pines, and other species. This non-native invasive pest was first detected in the United States in 2014 in Berks County, Pennsylvania but is spreading to other counties in the state. Maryland residents should be on the lookout.

Adults lay eggs on multiple flat surfaces including the outsides and undersides of vehicles which allows them to spread. Egg masses will hatch in the spring. Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and leaves. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and eventually contribute to the plant’s death.

- Read our Maryland Grows blog post to learn about this new invasive pest.
More than 5,000 questions on lawn, gardening, and pests have been answered so far this year by HGIC’s team of faculty, staff, and Maryland Certified Professional Horticulturists. We are grateful for your interest and the opportunity to serve you.

**Don’t forget: Our Ask an Expert service is available year-round.** We answer questions on garden planning, lawn care, plant selection, houseplants, nuisance wildlife, insects, and more.

Send your questions and photos to Ask an Expert

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**Grow It Eat It Changes**

Over the past six months, we’ve reorganized our Grow It Eat It (GIEI) information to make it easier to find and use:

- Vegetable, fruit, and herb information can now be found on the HGIC website with the other Plant content.
- The GIEI Facebook page will be merged with the Home & Garden Information Center (HGIC) Facebook page. The change will happen on January 1, 2018.

**Newsletter Changes**

This issue of the newsletter will be the last one for a few months. We value your interest and support and will return in spring with a new version of the newsletter. Until then, you can always find the most current gardening content on the Maryland Grows blog. Subscribe to have it delivered to your email inbox.

**Research Buzz from the UM Campus**

Samuel Ramsey, a Ph.D. student in the Entomology Dept. won the Judge’s First Place and People Choice Award in the Universitas 21’s Three-Minute Thesis competition. Ramsey beat out 16 other graduate students from 11 countries to win both prizes for distilling his thesis, 'Varroa destructor: The Curious Case of the Bee Mite’s Bite', into a 3-minute video for a public audience. Check it out!

**Master Gardeners Make an Impact in 2016**
It's the Season of Giving: Help Us Translate Our YouTube Videos into Spanish With a Year-End Gift

As part of the University of Maryland Extension, we are proud to provide Maryland residents with year-round service, sustainable gardening solutions, and science-based advice on plant and pest problems.

We are funded largely by state funds and we also count on the generosity of individuals like you to provide this valuable service.

We need your help this year to make our educational YouTube videos accessible to a growing audience of Spanish-speaking residents. We are working to provide Spanish-language subtitles and video descriptions for our educational YouTube videos.

Please make a tax-deductible donation to HGIC this holiday season.

Support the Home & Garden Information Center Fund Today!

With our gratitude,
The HGIC Team

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

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