

Pointers for year-

AMONG THE MORE welcome gifts over the Christmas season are certain houseplants which have come to be associated with this festive period of the year — specimens such as the poinsettia, the cyclamen and the azalea, and the most popular of these is the poinsettia.

Often the recipient knows little or nothing about how to care for these pretty little plants. And while there is usually a little card attached to the plant giving some instructions these tend to be somewhat limited, outlining only the plant's immediate requirements in its new home without going into any detail on its year-round care, particularly with respect to bringing it back into bloom for next Christmas.

When your household gets back to normal following the festive sea-

son, place your poinsettia in a sunny window but make sure it doesn't suffer temperatures lower than 62 F (18 C) by night nor higher than 72 F (22 C) by day.

If you can't be certain it won't be too chilly at night, then move your plant back into the room. Similarly, use warm tap water to moisten the soil thoroughly, but only when the soil feels dry to the touch.

When the colored bracts start falling, sometime in the next six weeks or so, don't fret for this is the plant's natural resting period and a very crucial time insofar as caring for it. It should be moved to a cool place and the watering reduced until the soil is almost bone dry.

The plant will revert to nature and reach for the sky unless you

Please turn to Page 19

Italian wines suitable

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