

## end poinsettia care

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prune rather drastically in April, reducing the stems to 3-inch stubs, controlling "bleeding" by rubbing a little powdered charcoal into the cut surfaces. If you wish, cut the prunings into 6-inch slips which may be rooted to make more plants.

Now, re-pot your freshly pruned poinsettia into fresh soil, water lightly and place in a sunny but cool window and when new shoots sprout from the stubs, thin out to three or four so the plant won't be too bushy.

AFTER ALL danger of frost is past in the late spring, sink the pot to its rim outdoors with morning sun only, and keep watered and fed through the summer.

And here is where the crunch

comes in the culture of the poinsettia: the process of bringing it indoors in the fall.

It is absolutely essential that the plant receives up to 12 to 14 hours of unbroken darkness every night, starting the first to second week of October.

Your poinsettia will need lots of sunshine during the day but it must have the Dracula treatment after the sun sets — keep it in a room where no lights are turned on even momentarily, because this would create an artificially long day and would delay blooming.

Given this careful tending and given freedom from pest infestations or other adverse conditions, your poinsettia should give you the same amount of pleasure next Christmas as it did this year.

## for most occasions

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ber that white wines such as Soave and Gavi go best with pasta dishes, risotto, fish and white meat. Red wines such as Chianti and Barolo are best with roasts and game.

the wines for celebrations, are called "Spumantes," which literally means foaming or sparkling. In recent years, sparkling wine, has become more popular in the United States.

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