

The Poinsettia

The poinsettia comes from Mexico and Central America. It has red and green leaves. The poinsettia is very popular during Christmas time. It was named after Joel Roberts Poinsett. He gave the plant to the United States in 1825.

The poinsettia has dark green and red leaves. The leaves can also be orange, pink or white. For the leaves to change color they require, or need, darkness for 12 hours at a time for at least 5 days in a row. The poinsettia plant also needs abundant, or a lot of, light during the day for the brightest color.

The story of the poinsettia begins when a child could not afford a gift to offer to Christ on Christmas Eve. She picked some weeds from the side of the road. The weeds turned into bright red blooms.

Poinsettias are popular Christmas decorations. They are available in most any grocery store. In the United States, December 12 is National Poinsettia Day. This date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett. The purpose of the day is to enjoy the beauty of this popular holiday plant.

