

Holiday Hints

Holiday Classic: Poinsettia

(NAPSA)—In addition to their role as traditional Christmas decorations, poinsettias serve as tokens of goodwill, friendship and joy. Over 50 million Americans get poinsettia plants for the holidays.

While 75 percent prefer the familiar red version, more than 100 varieties are available. White, pink, yellow and even variegated poinsettias are gaining popularity.

Here are care and handling tips from Julie Mulligan, lifestyle expert for 1-800-FLOWERS.COM:



An easy and elegant way to decorate your holiday table can be with a potted poinsettia surrounded by votive candles.

- Select a poinsettia with dark green foliage, strong, stiff stems, and completely colored flowers. Make sure it has no yellow leaves.

- Place in indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day. Keep room temperature between 68 and 70 degrees. Do not place near drafts or heating vents.

- Water the plant when the soil surface feels dry to a light touch. Don't let your plant sit in standing water.

- Do not place your poinsettia outside, as the plant is sensitive to chilling temperatures.

More holiday inspirations are at Mulligan's floral and lifestyle blog at 1800flowers.com/Julie.

For beautiful gifts including the exclusive Poinsettia Iron Centerpiece by Julie Mulligan, a sensational keepsake holiday centerpiece, you can visit 1800flowers.com.