

# Poinsettia Production Program

## Media

For poinsettia production, start with a well-aerated media at an EC of 1 - 1.5 mmhos and starting pH of 5.2 - 5.5. Attention should be paid to maintaining temperature at optimum levels for good growth - leaf unfolding increases between 10° C and 25° C, then declines above 25° C. Flower quality (optimum bract size) is achieved at 20° C for the first 3 - 4 weeks after colour has begun showing and then a temperature of 15° C will develop color and prevent cyathia drop.

## Fertilization

### Growing

Begin fertilizing rooted cuttings with 150 - 200 ppm nitrogen (N) from **Plant-Prod® Solutions 17-5-17 Complete** or **Plant-Prod Solutions 19-8-13 Total Plus** or **Plant-Prod® 18-6-20 Poinsettia Plus**. A constant feed of 200 - 250 ppm N is appropriate for good quality. Maintain media EC at less than 1.2 mmhos and pH at 5.8 - 6.2, using saturated media extract (SME).

Calcium (Ca) nutrition is also important to reduce bract edge burn. Maintain proper levels using **Plant-Prod 15-0-15 Cal Plus** which can be alternated with **Plant-Prod 18-6-20** depending on water analysis or using **Plant-Prod Solutions 17-5-17**.

Foliar Ca sprays might be necessary if temperature and humidity conditions are uncontrollable. Calcium chloride, reagent grade, is recommended at 200 - 400 ppm Ca, weekly, from first color until pollen is shed to prevent bract edge burn.

### Plant-Prod® Solutions 17-5-17 Complete

Contains 3% calcium and 1% magnesium and is an all-in-one formula. Over 70% of N is in nitrate form. Contains a full micronutrient package.

### Plant-Prod® Solutions 19-8-13 Total Plus

Contains 2.5% calcium and 1% magnesium. This modification of 17-5-17 provides a greater acidic potential. Contains an enhanced micronutrient package with 3 chelating agents.

### Plant-Prod® 18-6-20 Poinsettia Plus

Designed specifically for poinsettias and crops requiring lower levels of boron. Over 60% of N is in nitrate form. Contains a high level of magnesium and molybdenum.

### Plant-Prod® 15-0-15 Cal Plus

Contains 11% calcium. Available with and without a full micronutrient package.



Magnesium (Mg) is supplied at high levels in **Plant-Prod 18-6-20** (35 ppm Mg at 200 - 250 ppm N) and depending upon water and media levels this may be adequate. If not, then **Plant-Prod 12-2-14 Optimum** with 6% Ca and 3% Mg may be used instead of **Plant-Prod 15-0-15** for alternating with the main fertilizer.

Molybdenum (Mo) nutrition is very important to poinsettia growth. **Plant-Prod 18-6-20** provides 1 ppm Mo at 200 - 250 ppm N, which ensures that no deficiency will occur. Foliar Mo levels should be maintained between 1-5 ppm. A corrective drench of 50 ppm Mo from sodium molybdate (0.1 g/L) can be used if levels fall below 1 ppm in the tissue. Once symptoms of downward curling are seen on the middle-aged leaves it is too late to correct the problem.

## Finishing

Fertilizer should be reduced drastically in the 2-3 weeks prior to shipping in order to harden off plants. Either **Plant-Prod Solutions 15-0-20 No-Stretch®**, **Plant-Prod 18-6-20**, **Plant-Prod 15-0-15** or **Plant-Prod 12-0-44 Finisher** at 50-100 ppm N is appropriate once a week.

### Plant-Prod® Solutions 15-0-20 No Stretch®

Works to harden plant structure and prevents leggy growth. Results in compact sturdy plants with short internodes. Contains an enhanced micronutrient package with 3 chelating agents.

### Plant-Prod® 12-0-44 Finisher

All N is in nitrate form. Provides excellent green-up in low temperature conditions and helps to improve shelf life of plants.



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