

Tech Shares

Fertilizer Tips

Tech Sheet for Poinsettias

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Overall comments on crop:

- Poinsettias are heavy feeders especially during the vegetative stage.
- Much of the plant growth occurs before bract formation.
- Typical problems are poor size and light green foliage due to inadequate nutrition.
- Adequate Magnesium and Molybdenum will ensure dark green foliage.
- Poinsettias are sensitive to high levels of Boron.
- Poinsettias require higher levels Calcium in the flower forming stage to avoid bract edge burn.

100% Water soluble fertilizer (WSF) program:

- Ideally fertilizer selection should be based on a current water analysis (contact your ICL representative for more details).
- A good general program would be Peters Professional® 15-5-25 or Peters Excel® 15-5-15 Cal-Mag @ 200 to 250 ppm N on a constant basis (100 to 150 ppm N for darker leafed varieties).
- Commence feeding at planting or as soon as cuttings are rooted.
- WSF applications should be reduced several weeks before shipping – either cut fertilizer concentration in half or clear water every other watering.

100% Controlled release fertilizer (CRF) program:

- Osmocote® Plus (5-6 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 8-9 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 8 lbs. per cu. yard.
- Media should be used within 2 to 3 weeks after mixing in CRF.
- Select a longer term product to extend feeding once plants get shipped.



Combination fertilizer program:

- Osmocote® Plus (5-6 mo. @ 70°F in N. zones/ 8-9 mo. @ 70°F in S. zones) incorporated at 3 to 6 lbs. per cu. yard.
- Fertigate with Peters Professional® 15-5-25 @ 100 to 150 ppm N on a constant basis up until bract expansion.

Supplements:

- Add Magnesium in form of Peters Excel® Magnitrate 10-0-0 @ 4 oz. per 100 gallons on a constant basis if Mg is lacking in program.
- Monthly applications of Peters Professional® Liquid STEM™ starting Oct. 1st at 2 fl. oz. per 100 gallons will promote deep green foliage.
- Apply a medium rate of H2Pro® liquid before shipping to help prevent wilting in the post-harvest phase.

Problem solving:

- Calcium sprays (400 ppm Ca) during bract development can prevent bract necrosis.
- Sodium Molybdate drenches (1 gram per 100 gallons) in October and November can prevent marginal necrosis and edge burn of young leaves.

