

## POINSETTIA PINCHING

### How to pinch to promote a proper branching

The purpose of pinching Poinsettia is to promote uniform lateral branching. Pinching can be done by hand, knives, scissors or mechanically. Apart from the apical meristem and the variety characteristics, young leaves and those not full developed are playing a fundamental role in the branching inhibition and capacity

#### **When are the young plants ready to pinch?**

When the young plant is well established and removing the pot the first roots are visible. This happens about 7-14 days after potting depending on rooted cutting quality, variety, pot size and growing conditions. Do not let the cuttings become too hard and old.

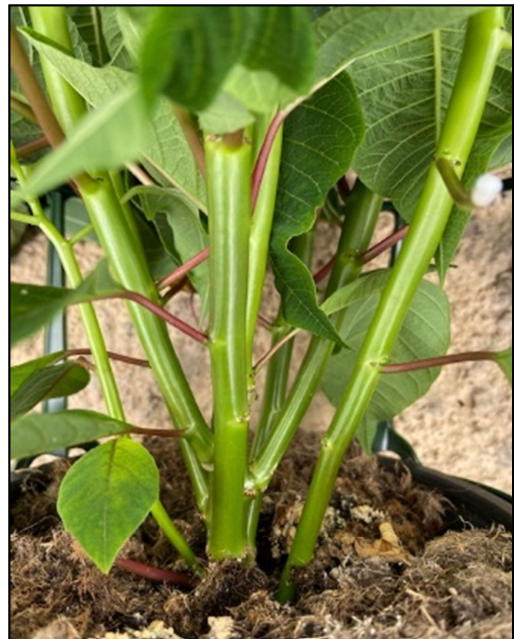
#### **Transplanting**

Rooted cuttings should be unpacked immediately upon arrival, if it's not possible place them in a cool environment (12-15° C) out of the direct sunlight and open the boxes. Rooted cuttings should be transplanted maximum within two days of the delivery otherwise they may be under environmental stress conditions that can directly influence branching capacity.

#### **Growing conditions**

Balancing light intensity, humidity and temperature is crucial and challenging during the first stage. Depending on temperature and humidity levels, place the plants at 20-32 Klux until roots are well established. Avoid heat stress during the early stages. If plants are under stressful conditions, stems can become somewhat hardened and compromise the branching potential. Keep air humidity as constant as possible around 70-85%. To reduce temperature, use misting several times per day and also keep the neighbored surfaces of the greenhouse wet to prolong the effect. After pinching, allow gradually more light and lower humidity.

For cold northern regions, make sure to have a good temperature in the pot. Use your heating system already in August, if night temps fall below 16° C in the greenhouse.



## Water/fertilizer

It is very important, that the plants are well fed before pinching (young leaves with dark green color and strong texture). The most vigorous varieties, if they are not well nourished, do not have enough strength to develop a regular branching.

Start the crop with minimum 1kg/m<sup>3</sup> fertilizer in the substrate. Be sure to apply additional fertilizer before pinch.

During the time from potting to pinching it is very important to avoid drought-stress as well as overwatering. Otherwise, you can create delay in root-development, that can cause branching problems.

## Type of pinch and number of nodes

There are different techniques to pinch Poinsettia. The relatively hard (minimum 0.5 cm of the tip to break apical dominance) that involves removing all not full expanded leaves is the technique that works for most varieties and circumstances.

The number of nodes is driven by the number of desired branches/ flowers, the final growing space and the pot size. In general for a 10,5 cm pot we will pinch leaving 4-5 nodes, for 12 cm pot 5 to 6, while for a 14-16 cm pot 5 to maximum 8 nodes. Additional nodes will not bring a benefit because it will be difficult for the plant to support them and will probably break.



**NOTE:** Growers should use the information presented here as guidelines only. Selecta One recommends that growers conduct a trial of products under their own conditions. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. It is the responsibility of the grower to read and follow all the current label directions relating to the products. Nothing herein shall be deemed a warranty or guaranty by Selecta One of any products listed herein