Poinsettias are live Christmas decorations

FLEMINGTON, N.J. - It has to be the combination of attractive light green leaves, flaming scarlet bracts, and small yellow flowers that makes the poinsettia the favored Christmas flower.

The garden centers, florist shops, retail greenhouses abound in poinsettias these three or four weeks prior to Christmas.

The poinsettia, incidentally, derives its name from Joel R. Poinsett, American Ambassador to Mexico in the mid-1880's. He introduced the plant to the U.S.

Plant breeders have improved the plant over the years. They are much more hardy, can seem to thrive in most homes right on to Easter. They are generally expected to maintain their color and foliage even to May when they are set out in a sheltered spot in the yard.

Selection of a poinsettia early in the season is best. A person will have many types to choose from. Not just in shape, density and size, but color. They are available in pink, white, variegated, in addition to the traditional scarlet.

There are two general types of poinsettias: branched and unbranched. Growers induce branching by pinching off the growing tip early in the season. Sideshoots then develop. There will be more bracts and flowers as a result.

In potting the plants, a florist will generally plant several together. Prices are usually based on overall size and the number of bracts.

It's best for a person to select a poinsettia with large symmetrical bracts and stems covered with numerous and healthyappearing leaves.

Once it's home, one should treat his newly purchased "Christmas Flower" with care. One can prolong its life and enjoy its beauty by-

placing it in a room with sufficient light to read fine print.

avoid drafts or excess heat from appliances, fireplaces, radiators, heating ducts; selecting a place out of the

traffic area; placing the pot in a water-

protect furnishings;

watering plant thoroughly when soil is dry to touch, discard excess water. It won't like wet feet.

Ida's

Notebook

an envelope of snapshots in

the mail. It contained

printed evidence of hap-

penings from the Summer

and Fall Season. Pictured

were achievements of dif-

ferent children, Philip's

room at college, Judy's first

apartment and the progress

There is nothing like a

picture to bring back

memories. I have a large

NOW:

with coal even longer.

of the new heifer barn.

Ida Risser

A few days ago, I received camel-back trunk filled with

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tight tray or container to

and keeping the best temperatures which are no higher than 72 degrees F. day or 60 degrees F. night to prolong the bright colors of the bracts.

When the bracts fade. hopefully, not for several months, a person should cut plant back to eight inches and allow to grow as a foliage plant. It can be

photos from years gone by.

The first ones were taken

when at the age of twelve, I

begged a camera from my

aunt and grandfather. The

two of them finally decided

they'd pool resources and

spend three dollars for a

camera. Don't forget this

was during the Depression!

If it wasn't impossible to get

film, I might still be using

that same box camera. But

placed out-of-doors in warm weather. Night-time temperatures below 50 degrees F. should be avoided.

In addition to the poinsettia, a person might wish to consider a few of the other popular Christmas plants: Cyclamen, Azalia, Chrysanthemum, Begonia, Jerusalem cherry, Kalanchoe, Christmas pepper.

Sandwich Meal

Making that lunchtime sandwich into a meal is simple fresh fruits and vegetables add the necessary ingredients. Pack a whole tomato to slice fresh right before eating Top off many sandwich creations with alfalfa sprouts Sprouts combine well with turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, tomato avocado and cheese

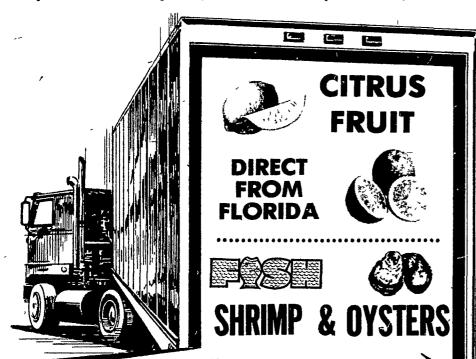
on my birthday, my husband-to-be surprised me with an expensive one which I used for thirty years. Only recently did I splurge and get one that takes indoor pictures without flash cubes. They always seemed to cause so much trouble for other people - like not having any when when you needed them.

Sometimes people are asked to list, in order, what they would save from a burning house. I've always put that trunk of photos at the top of the list. There is one of my first baby in her grandpa's arms - standing on the same spot where he held me. There is one of our first son, at age nine months, sitting on a tricycle with his muscular legs on the pedals. One of our second son, age 18 months, as he sneaked to the barn with a yardstick to "get the cows up." And many others that bring back a rush of memories of all 19 cousins at a picnic or my husband and the first deer that he shot.

At least they are all marked and dated and someday, if I ever sit down long enough, I'll put them all in albums.







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