



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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Yards & Neighborhoods



FYN Topic: Poinsettia Prefers Dry Conditions

Question: I have a poinsettia that has been blooming for years in a large pot. Last year it produced only a few blooms. Now a caterpillar has eaten it down to bare branches. Will it grow back? Tammy via email

Answer: If soil conditions are maintained (not too wet and left to dry out on the surface before re-watering), your poinsettia should recover. Poinsettias with or without leaves will die with too much water. This plant is native to tropical deserts and prefers dry conditions. Remove any excess water from the saucer beneath the plant. Poinsettias do not like to have soggy soil. Normally in the spring, fading bracts are cut off and 4-6 inches of growth is left on each stem on a branch. Keep outside in a partly shaded place for now.

Useful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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