

# POINSETTIA MICRO PRODUCTION

*Euphorbia pulcherrima*

This guide will supply the basic guidelines to produce a successful miniature crop (2.5" (6cm) - 3" (8cm)) both pinched and non-pinched. This mini culture is made possible by the specifically grown and harvested varieties (URC mini) Dummen Orange offers. These mini cuttings and cultivars are ideal for their bract size, shelf life, and compactness. They are easily produced in high density production. Great in combinations, colorful mixes, or as a table decoration.



## STICKING

Direct stick small URC (1.5" (4cm)) into the final pot size 2.5" - 3" (6-8cm) pot. Establish these plants in a warm, humid environment, following standard poinsettia culture. Use of an ebb and flood water system is recommended as fertilization overhead will result in unacceptable foliar damage. Plants should be on tight spacing (6 per square foot for non-pinched or 5 per square foot for pinched plants). To avoid tipping, choose a pot that fits into a preformed tray. Capillary mats are not encouraged as they stay too wet and encourage stretch.

## FERTILIZER

Fertilizer levels should be maintained at 200ppm using a balanced fertilizer appropriate for poinsettias. Fertilizer may not be necessary every irrigation if watering more than once a day due to weather. Clear water between fertilizer applications will help avoid salt buildup and minimize plant burn in the event the soil becomes too dry. Rinse foliage following fertilization via overhead watering with a high phosphorus containing feed to avoid leaf burn.

## TEMPERATURES AND LIGHT

Grow under lower light intensities of 3500 foot candles (36,600lux). Temperatures should follow standard poinsettia production. Be aware that high light and limited soil moisture retention make it easy to stress plants and cause damage. If using lights to delay flowering, turn off the lights the number of weeks before sale date corresponding to the response time of each variety. The small size of these finished plants makes it important to manage crop timing for maximum freshness.

## GROWTH REGULATION

Regular application of chemical growth regulator is required to keep plants short <8" total. Cycocel® sprays at 1000ppm should begin approximately one week past sticking of the unrooted cutting. For Winter Rose, try to apply all growth regulators in the initial 6 weeks of the crop. Late applications on most varieties will reduce bracts to a desirable size. Use Bonzi® as a light drench (.25ppm) late in crop only if needed.



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## PINCHED PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON SALES (12 WEEKS TOTAL) - ADJUST SCHEDULE FOR SALES DATE

Week #	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
36	Stick URC	Use small cuttings (1.5")
36	Begin Lighting	
37-43	Cycocel	1000 ppm weekly
38	Pinch	Leave 3-4 nodes
39	Marathon	Avoid leaching for 1 week
40	Short Days	
41	Remove old leaves	Large leaves only to allow new small foliage to show
45-47	Bonzi	0.25 ppm drench if needed
49	Sell	Plants are ready for sale

## NON-PINCHED PLANTS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON SALES (10 WEEKS TOTAL) - ADJUST SCHEDULE FOR SALES DATE

DATE (WEEK #)	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
38	Stick URC	Use small cuttings (1.5")
38	Begin Lighting	
39-43	Cycocel	1000 ppm weekly
40	Short Days	
40	Marathon	Avoid leaching for 1 week
41	Remove old leaves	Large leaves only to allow new small foliage to show
45-47	Bonzi	0.25 ppm drench if needed
49	Sell	Plants are ready for sale

