



poinsettia trials **2004**

Recommended Cultivars

Not all poinsettias were created equal. Find out which ones are best under your production conditions.

By Allen Hammer, John Dole and Jim Barrett

This year, we changed the way the recommended cultivars are presented. In recognition that poinsettia production is becoming increasingly specialized, we have placed more emphasis on the various container sizes used and how different cultivars perform in

those containers. The best cultivar for an individual grower depends on their location, production practices, market and personal preference. There are a large number of poinsettia cultivars that can be produced successfully; too many for any one grower to be familiar with or even test all of them. This list of

recommended cultivars is meant to aid growers in selecting cultivars to try, especially in light of the many new varieties introduced each year. These recommendations are based on university trials and observations of commercial crops. Primarily, this list includes varieties that have been in our trials for at least two years.

Allen Hammer is professor of floriculture at Purdue University. John Dole is professor of floriculture at North Carolina State University. Jim Barrett is professor of floriculture at University of Florida. They can be reached by E-mail at pah@hort.purdue.edu, john_dole@ncsu.edu and jbarrett@mail.ifas.ufl.edu, respectively.

Figure 1. Recommended red poinsettia cultivars.

Recommended red cultivars	Other colors in series	Vigor*	Production style**						In the North, only recommended for small containers because of low vigor
			4½-inch and other shallow containers (bowls)	Mass-market at close-spacing	Taller plants in 8- and 10-inch containers	Baskets	Straight up	Trees	
Very early finish (before Nov. 11)									
‘Autumn Red’	No	3	SR	R	SR	New	New	New	
‘Early Joy Red’	Pink	4	R	NR	NR	NR	R	R	
‘Early Orion’	No	4	SR	SR	SR	NR	New	New	
‘Red Elf’	Pink	2	SR	NR	NR	SR	NR	NR	Yes
Early finish (Nov. 12-21)									
‘Christmas Poem’	No	4	SR	New	New	NR	New	New	
‘Freedom Red’	Yes	4	SR	R	R	NR	R	R	
‘Olympus’	No	4	New	R	R	NR	New	New	
‘Orion Red’	No	4	SR	R	R	NR	SR	SR	
‘Premium Red’	Yes	2	SR	SR	R	NR	R	NR	
‘Winter Rose Early Red’	Yes	2	SR	SR	NR	NR	New	NR	
Midseason finish (Nov. 22 to Dec. 1)									
‘Christmas Dream’	Yes	5	R	R	SR	NR	New	New	
‘Christmas Feelings’	Yes	3	SR	SR	R	SR	New	NR	
‘Christmas Spirit 2’	No	3	New	New	New	New	New	New	
‘Christmas Wish’	No	4	New	New	New	New	New	New	
‘Gala Red’	White	3	SR	NR	SR	SR	NR	NR	
‘Happy Christmas’	No	2	SR	SR	NR	SR	NR	NR	Yes
‘Independence’	No	3	R	R	R	NR	New	New	➡

*Vigor ratings: 1=very low vigor, 2=low/medium vigor, 3=medium vigor, 4=medium/high vigor, 5=high vigor, 6=very high vigor.
**Production style recommendations: NR=Not recommended, SR=Strongly recommended, R=Recommended, New=Newer variety that that has good potential.