



(... cont'd)

A gingerbread man is a biscuit or cookie made of gingerbread, usually in the shape of a stylized human being, although other shapes, especially seasonal themes (Christmas, Halloween, Easter, etc.) and characters are common.

"The Gingerbread Man" is a fairy tale about a gingerbread man who comes to life, outruns an elderly couple and various animals, and is devoured by a fox in the end.



According to Real Simple magazine, the ginger root in gingerbread . . .

- . . . can aid in digestion (soothing stomach aches),
- . . . help with menstrual cramps and morning sickness,
- . . . can relieve nausea associated with motion sickness,
- . . . and can even assist some with heartburn.



One of the most colorful houseplants there is, the **poinsettia** is a flowering plant.

Indigenous to Mexico and Central America, the poinsettia was first described by Europeans in 1834. It is particularly well known for its red and green foliage and is widely used in Christmas floral displays. It derives its common English name from Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, who is credited with introducing the plant to the US in the 1820s

Wild poinsettias occur from Mexico to southern Guatemala, growing on mid-elevation, Pacific-facing slopes. Wild poinsettia populations are highly fragmented, as their habitat is experiencing largely unregulated deforestation. They were cultivated by the Aztecs for use in traditional medicine. They became associated with the Christmas holiday and are popular seasonal decorations. Every year in the US, approximately 70 million poinsettias of many cultivated varieties are sold in a six-week period.

**Jumble answers: ABIDE, KEFTY, EMBLEM, DISMAL**  
SEALED THE DEAL



If your Poinsettia Plant leaves are falling off it's important to pinpoint the possible cause. Factors such as warm, dry conditions are most often the reason for leaf drop. Stress can also be a factor. Keep the plant in a cool, draft-free area and provide plenty of water.

After the holidays and once blooming has ceased, limit the amount of watering so the plant can go dormant until spring. Then around March or April, regular watering can be resumed, and fertilizing can begin. Prune back the plant to about 6 inches from the top of the container and repot. Poinsettia plants can be kept outdoors in a protected sunny area during summer, if desired. Pinch out the tips to promote branching of new growth until about the middle of August. Once fall returns reduce the amount of fertilizer and bring outdoor plants inside. Once again, limit watering in September/October and give the poinsettia bright daylight temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees F. (16-21 C.) with total darkness at night with cooler temperatures of around 60 degrees F. Once flower has developed definite color, you can reduce the amount of darkness and increase its water.

For more Poinsettia Care – How Do You Take Care Of Poinsettias:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/poinsettia/poinsettia-care-how-do-you-take-care-of-poinsettias.htm>