

Managing Heat Stress on Poinsettias

Poinsettias are started during the hottest months of the year and managing heat stress after transplant can be challenging. Growers are often limited on cooling environments, but there are a few things that can be done to relieve heat stress:

Pull plenty of shade over young plants, especially after transplant of rooted cuttings.

Have shade in place before transplanting. Keep light levels between 3,000 – 3,500 foot candles (15-18 mols/day) until roots begin to penetrate the media.

Syringe the plants several times during the hottest periods of the day with fine mist of cool tap water.

This helps reduce leaf temperature and provides high humidity around the plants. It is critical not to flood pots which could lead to overly wet media conditions, root rot, and possible fungus gnat problems.

Consider irrigating plants when temperatures are at their highest.

Moving regular irrigation schedules to later in the day will help cool the media and keep the roots functioning more efficiently.

Media should be kept moist at all times.

Keeping pots tight on the bench after transplant is commonly done to provide high humidity and a favorable microclimate around the plants.

Examples of severe heat stress on poinsettias, exhibiting poor branching and strappy leaves.



Source: Millstadt, IL, August 2013.



Source: Alva, FL, August 2015.

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