

Poinsettia

Key Growing Tips: Finishing



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Fertilization Starting Three Weeks before Finishing

- Apply 80 ppm N of a 14-4-14 or similar fertilizer until shipping. This is important to make sure that the bottom leaves don't get yellow, and to increase post harvest performance.
- A complete media analysis two to three weeks before shipping is recommended to avoid potential high salt and nutrition problems.
- **Media, pH: 5.8–6.2, E.C. 0.8- 1.0 mS/cm (SME), PourThru: 1.2-1.4 mS/cm.**
- **The micronutrient package** should have elevated iron, so fertilization supplies **at least 1 ppm Fe until shipping.**

VERY IMPORTANT

A complete media analysis should be done every two to three weeks. Tissue analysis should be done periodically to supplement the media analysis, especially if nutrient issues are suspected.

Symptoms of General Low Nutrition



Low nutrition, especially nitrogen, magnesium and micronutrients.

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Iron Deficiency Symptoms

- Iron deficiency symptoms show up on the young foliage and are usually caused by high pH.
- The pH should be between pH 5.8-6.2. It is critical to it check weekly.
- Plants should be drenched with Iron chelate (4 oz/100 gal).



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Late Season Bonzi® Drenches

- **For more northern climates**, the ideal Bonzi® plant growth regulator drench rates are between 0.5–1 ppm, applied 2-3 weeks before finishing. Generally, the Bonzi® drench should be applied at 1 inch below finished height.
- Bonzi® drenches applied too early (four – five weeks before finishing) will lead to delay in coloring and sizing up of the bracts.
- **For southern climates**, the ideal Bonzi® drench rates are between 1–2 ppm. The drench can be applied as early as 4 weeks before finishing. Generally the Bonzi® drench should be applied at 1 inch below finished height.
- Under the very hot conditions of southern Florida, a Bonzi® drench at 2 ppm can be applied twice (four and two weeks before finishing), if needed.

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“Late” Bonzi® Drenches Applied too Early Dramatically Reduce Bract Size



The “Late” Bonzi® plant growth regulator drench on the above plants had been applied at five weeks, instead of 3 weeks before finishing – under northern conditions.

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Variety Specific PGR Recommendations

New for 2020



Serena™ Red

**Serena™ Red
Candy™ Bubblegum**

Early-mid timing, 8 weeks,
Nov. 15 – 22

Bonzi® drench at the beginning of November, and only if needed, at 1 inch below desired height

Sturdy plants, medium – vigorous: **average to high Bonzi® drench rates**



Candy™ Bubblegum



Gemma™ Red

**Gemma™ Red
Draco™ Red**

Mid-late timing, 9 weeks,
Nov. 25 – Dec. 2

Bonzi® drench in the second week of November, at 1 inch below desired height

Sturdy plants with medium vigor: **average Bonzi® drench rates**



Draco™ Red

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Fascination[®] or Fresco[®] Sprays

- Increase bract size by around 20%, if sprayed 14 days before finishing. Earlier sprays result in stretched bracts.
- Improves color of White varieties.
- Speeds up coloring by 3-5 days.
- **Rates:** 2-3 ppm
- Add CapSil[®] at 2-4 ounces (the lowest effective rate) to ensure good leaf coverage.
- Plants should have good roots and be well fertilized to match the increased nutrient demand for the new growth.
- **Make sure that humidity is below 75%.** Apply fungicides against Botrytis as needed. Mural[®] at 4-7 ounces per 100 gal and Palladium[®] at 4-6 ounces per 100 gal. combined with CapSil[®] work well on colored bracts.

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Fascination® Sprays too Early During Finishing



Too early Fascination® spray – here at 4 weeks
Before finishing – resulting in stretched bracts.

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Critical When Spraying Fascination®

Good root system and adequate feed levels



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Temperatures and Humidity

- The humidity should be **below 75%**. Heat and vent if cloudy and rainy, to avoid Botrytis and Powdery Mildew, especially towards the end of the crop.
- Finishing temperatures for the last two weeks should be around 68° F day and night for the best color of White and Pink varieties and Cortez™ Burgundy.
- Red varieties can be finished at 65° F day and 62° F night. This deepens the color and increases shelf life. Only lower temperatures further, if the humidity can be held above 75%, and plants have a good root system.
- If Pink varieties are finished cool, the inner bracts will get a dark pink color, which creates an interesting contrast.

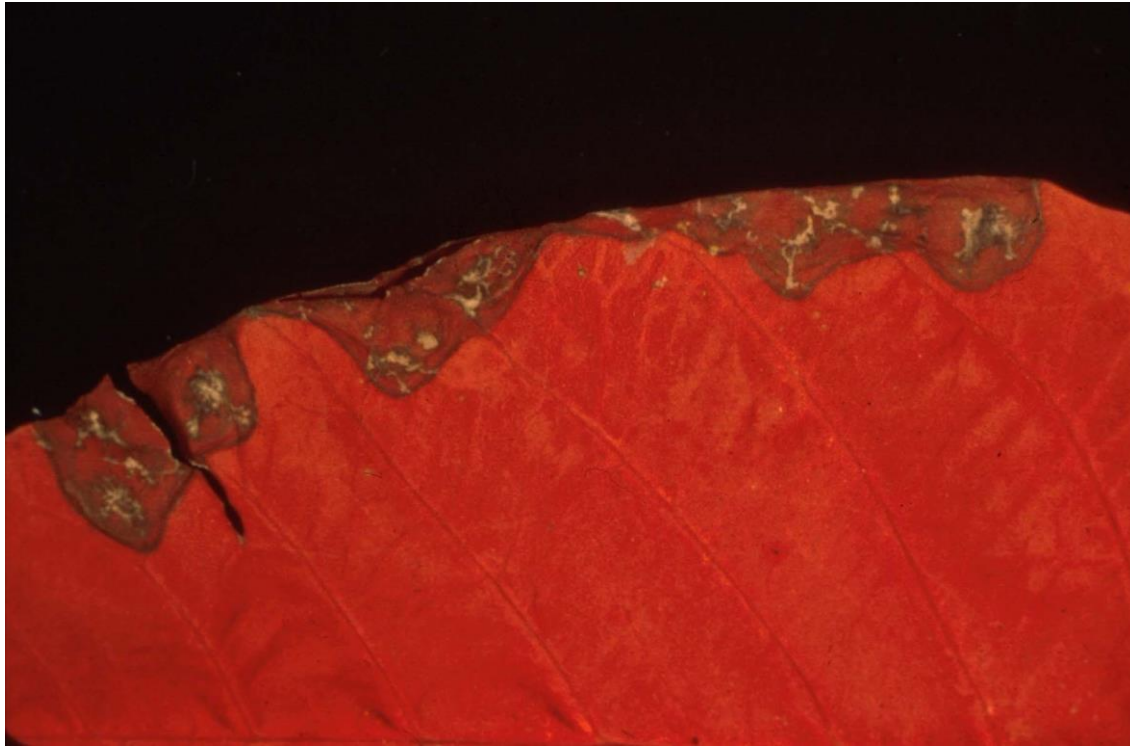
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Late Botrytis Symptoms on Bracts



Botrytis bract edge infection



Botrytis spots

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Pests and Diseases

- **Whitefly:** If late-season control is needed, Avid® 0.15 EC, Talstar®, Talus® 70DF or Tristar® 8.5 SL insecticides can be sprayed - ideally together with CapSil® at 2-4 ounces per 100 gal to avoid residue and enhance performance.
- **Thrips:** Avid® 0.15 EC, Conserve® SC and Mainspring® insecticide can be sprayed - ideally together with CapSil®.
- **Pythium:** If needed, drench with Subdue MAXX® fungicide at 1 oz/100 gal and rotate with Truban® WP 30 WP (6–8 oz/100 gal) or Segway® (1–3 oz/100 gal) fungicides. **Avoid drying out** or over-watering and monitor the EC levels regularly. High salts will likely damage roots, especially if media is not moist enough.
- **Botrytis and Powdery Mildew:** Maintain good air movement and low humidity (heat and vent simultaneously under moist and rainy conditions) especially at the end of the crop. Rotate Mural® (4 -6 oz/100 gal) with Palladium® fungicides (4–6 oz/100 gal) plus CapSil® to avoid residue and enhance performance. Preventive applications can be made on a 14-day interval.
- **Rhizoctonia:** Drench with Medallion® brand (1 oz/100 gal) or Mural® fungicides (2 oz/100 gal).

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Using CapSil to Reduce Fungicide Residue

Palladium® Fungicide Sprays – 6 oz/100 gal - three applications



No CapSil®



With CapSil®

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Bract Color Consistency

- Assure **even heat distribution** and good airflow.
- Check the root system frequently (especially when reducing night temperatures) and avoid excess salt levels in the media.
- Eliminate nighttime light intrusion - if you can read a newspaper, there's too much light.
- Shaded areas in the greenhouse (insufficiently drawn shade curtains) will result in slow and uneven bract coloration.

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Flowering Delay Caused by Shading



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Flowering Delay Caused by Too Much Shade

- Low light intensity can lead to delay in coloring and sizing up of the bracts.
- Ideal light intensity especially for best white and pink color: 2,000 – 2,500 foot-candles (10–11 mols/day) starting three weeks before shipping.

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Flower Delay Caused by Too High Temperatures



Temperature at plant canopy level should be below 72° F.
Check frequently with Infrared Thermometer.

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