

Title Storage and simulated shipping of cut 'Renaissance Red' poinsettias  
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#### Abstract

The effect of several storage and handling treatments on the vase life of cut 'Renaissance Red' poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) stems was investigated. Removing all foliage increased vase life and delayed cyathia abscission. Stems with 100% of foliage (9 to 11 leaves) had fewer days to first abscised leaf than stems with 50% foliage (5 leaves) remaining. Allowing cut stems to dehydrate for 24 h at 20 °C caused the inflorescences to wilt severely and allowed them to be more easily packed in a box. However, wilting reduced vase life and hastened leaf abscission, but had no effect on cyathia abscission. Cut stems tolerated 12 or 24 h dry storage at 1 or 5°C with no decrease in vase life which averaged 24.5 to 28.2 days in deionized (DI) water. Storing cut stems wet at 1 or 5°C for 12 or 24 h reduced vase life to 13.3 to 20.2 days. Storage for 48 h at 1 or 5°C either wet or dry reduced vase life compared to 12 or 24 h storage. Increasing storage duration decreased the number of days to first leaf and cyathia abscission, regardless of storage conditions. Light during 10°C long term storage had no effect on vase life or days to first cyathia or leaf abscission.