



DR. R.E. MOON +
ASSOCIATES
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Gardening by the Moon

December 2023

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Merry Christmas



Poinsettias

Poinsettias are native to Central America and were brought to America by John Roberts Poinsett (hence the name). Poinsett was the first ambassador from America to Mexico in 1825. He sent them back to South Carolina from Mexico and began growing them. Poinsettias grew in popularity after a flower show in Philadelphia and went from being mainly cut flowers to whole plants in the 1900's.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together.

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. Sadly, as Pepita walked to the chapel, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita,' he said, "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. Walking through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt, and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them was sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the colorful red flowers became known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night.'

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves is thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red-colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia>

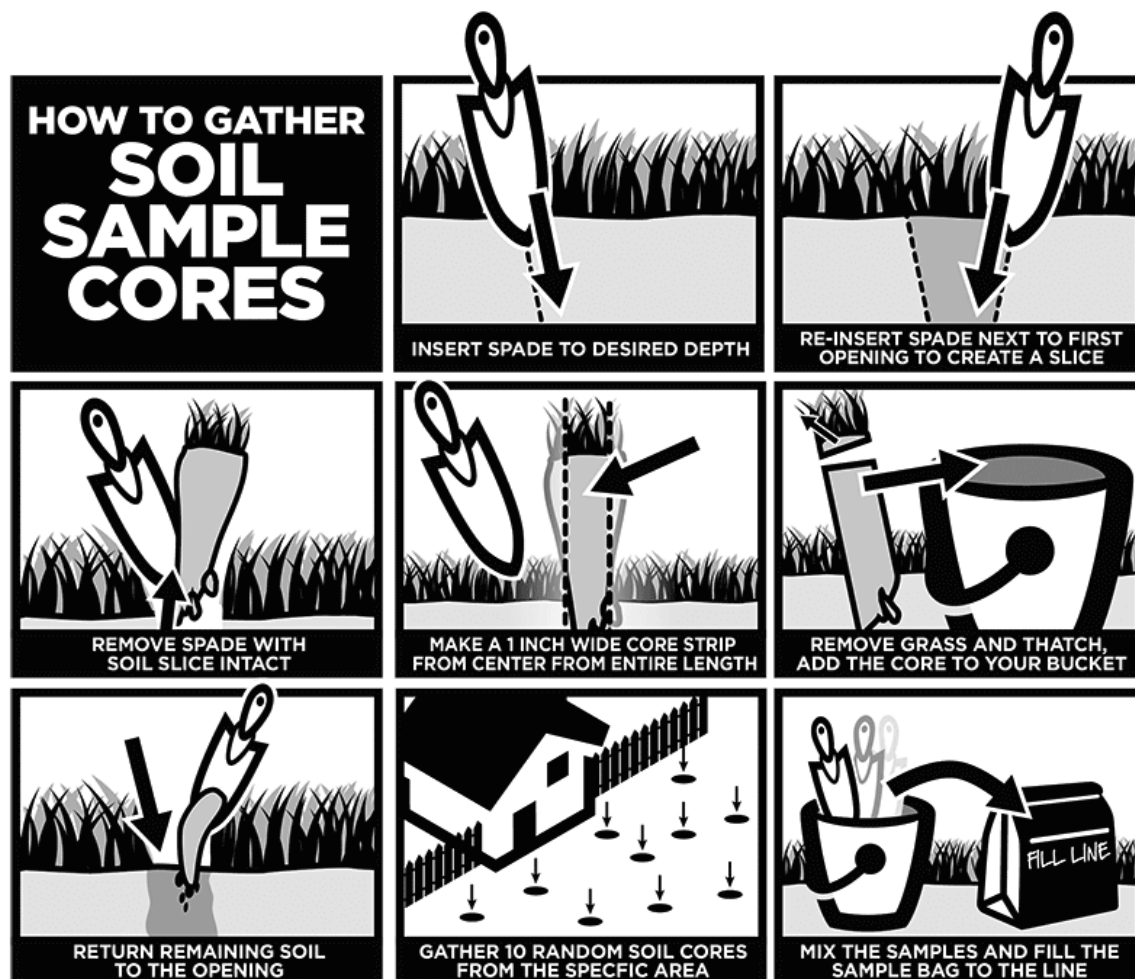
Soil Testing

Soil testing can be beneficial to your turf, beds, and trees. It can aid in diagnosing plant problems and determining soil quality. Like humans, soil can be deficient in essential nutrients and have poor pH. To counteract this, you can take a soil test at any time, but it would be good to pull a sampling of your soil to be tested twice yearly before planting; we recommend sending off soil samples in January and August. Once you receive the results, you can determine the best course of action for treatment and fertilization.

Below, you can see how to gather a soil sample in a gallon-size ziploc bag. Once you have your sample, we recommend using

ServiTech Lab for your soil test analysis-

<https://home.servitech.com/home>



Holiday Tips

- ❖ Fresh Christmas trees should be watered daily with warm water
- ❖ Give a Christmas plant, like poinsettias to party hosts
- ❖ Cold nights are here– remember to protect the 4 P's: *people, pets, plants, & pipes*
- ❖ Irrigation systems should be turned off during this time of year
- ❖ Remove suckers, broken branches, mistletoe, and dead wood from trees
- ❖ Monitor the forecast for extended periods of freezing temperatures
- ❖ Don't forget to check out our social media for more tips & tricks at drmoonconsulting

Merry Christmas from Dr. R.E. Moon + Associates

Be Blessed this new year!
Dr. Robert Moon

Merry Christmas!
"May you live in peace and joy, and have a great year!"
Jill

Merry Christmas and the happy New Year!
I can't imagine this!

Praying for hope and joy this Christmas!
Jack Chamberlain

Merry Christmas!
Suzanne Moon

Merry Christmas from our family for your Blessings!
Lynn Buehler

Wishes Christine to have your Christmas as special as the day this year!

Wishes Christine from our family for a great year!

December 2023 Issue of Gardening by the Moon