

## TECH TIP: POINSETTIA FOLIAGE DAMAGE

**Question:** The foliage on our poinsettias is misshapen. Is this insect damage?

**Answer:** This could be one of two things. We see similar damage from fertilizer remaining on foliage. You can see the new leaves cupped upward holding the water. The goal would be to water under the foliage. If that can't be avoided, then a rinse with clear water after fertilization may help.

This also resembles thrips damage (from the twisting of the newer leaves and some possible white larvae casings on the leaves.) Thrips tend to attack poinsettias when there are mums or other fall flowering crops produced in the same area.

