

HOT Poinsettia Shipping Weeks Ahead!

As is the case each year, poinsettia season is going to require some due diligence from a receiving standpoint. This is going to be exacerbated by a heat wave hitting much of North America in the coming week. You and your team will need to brush up on your rehydration protocols, because some of your cuttings will be coming in hot after sitting in transit longer than you'd like.

Here are some things to consider:

- Sticking hot or severely wilted URCs without rehydration and cooling measures is a bad plan. They will not root well or could possibly die from *Erwinia*. This is well known and well documented.
- Severely wilted URC will usually bounce back and perform well IF you place them in a cooler to eliminate heat and wilting. Four hours is minimum and overnight is best.
- Temperature of the ice and stems of URCs in the middle (versus the outside edge) of the shipping box can predict rooting performance.
- So ... Use an infrared thermometer to measure the stem. Don't measure through the plastic bag because the IR temp gives you the temperature of the plastic, *not* the stem.

Because this is such a critical topic, especially this season, the *Tech On Demand* team has posted a [GUIDELINES DOCUMENT](#) with a chart showing how to handle cuttings (also on the following page) that have experienced various levels of heat stress, as well as how to visually assess turgidity. There's also a [VIDEO](#) that covers how to handle hot poinsettia cuttings. We encourage you to share and go over all of these resources with your poinsettia production team ASAP.



URC Shipping Performance and Action Plan

Use an Infrared thermometer to measure the **stem** temperature directly
[stem=most accurate reading of URC temperature condition].

Shipping Performance	URC Temperature			URC Appearance	Evaluation & Action [4 Hours at 45-50F (7-10C) is the minimum prior to stick, overnight is recommended]
	Ice	URC by Ice	URC on box edge		
Normal	30+F -1C solid Ice	50-60F 10-15C	<70F <21C	Cold Damage by ice	Sort & discard necrotic & black tipped URC
				Turgid-no necrosis	Stick immediately
				Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
				Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
Mild Stress	40-50F 5-10C	60-70F 15-21C	<75F <24C	Turgid-no necrosis	Stick immediately
				Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
				Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
Elevated Stress	50-60F 10-15C	<75F <24C	>75F >24C	Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
High Stress	>60F >15C	>75F >24C	>80F >27C	Wilted-no necrosis	Cooler 4+Hours, stick when turgid
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
High Stress	>75F >24C	>80F >27C	>85F >29C	Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC
				Wilted + breakdown	Cooler 4+Hours, sort & discard dead tipped URC

Poinsettia "Wilt or Turgidity Test"



Turgid=leaves outstretched, tip normal and no leaf edge wilt nor necrosis
Wilted=stem straight to slight bend, leaves hang down, tip normal and no leaf edge necrosis or breakdown
Breakdown=stem bent down, tip dried out, leaf edge dried or necrotic

Cooler-Hydration Process Recommendations:

- ✓ Unpack boxes and place bags in trays to improve airflow, cooling & hydration rate
- ✓ Check stem temperature and place high stress URC in separate area for review
- ✓ Set cooler to 50 to 59 F (10-15 C) with fan on constant operation
- ✓ Add humidity to maintain 90+%,
- ✓ A fog system is best to rapidly improve fully hydrated (turgid) URC
- ✓ Check stem temperature and hydration before sticking [4 hours to overnight]
- ✓ Minimize time out of cooler to mist bench to control re-wilting of URC