

POINSETTIA



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from California ?
or from Guatemala ??
what about Mexico ???



My popular name in USA (Poinsettia) is because Joel Roberts Poinsett is the one who brought me into the USA from Mexico circa 1825.



Should I be prohibited from crossing into the USA because I am Mexican ?



I shiver when I even hear the word COLD wind.

So please don't subject me to sudden cold or sudden heat either.

I also don't like desert heat.



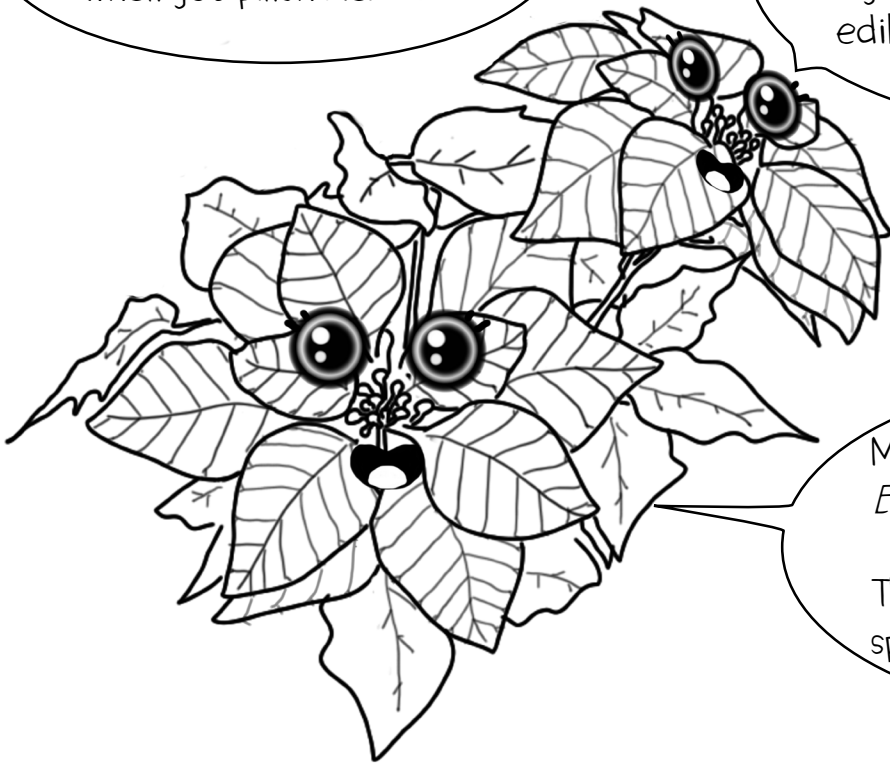
Be very careful with the latex which oozes from me when you pinch me.

Thus I do not understand why scientific monographs on agricultural plants lists my "inflorescences and young leaves as edible vegetables."

Poinsettia is pollinated by both wasps and bees.

My scientific botanical name is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*.

There are several other interesting species of my genus *Euphorbia*.



Millions of us are sold to decorate homes during Christmas.

But I really wish I was outside in the wild.

I would love to find my original home in Guatemala, believed to be in the wooded ravines in Jalapa, southeastern Guatemala.





Are these red leaves ?

Or a Giant Red Flower ?

The red "petals" are used to make a red dye, for the Aztecs and their neighbors.

The actual flowers are the bunch of erect plant parts with yellow on top.

Llora sangre, *Croton draco*, also provides a red dye.

This *Croton* tree is in the same Euphorbiacea plant family as the Poinsettia.

For more information on flora: www.maya-ethnobotany.org
For more information on fauna: www.maya-ethnozoology.org

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