



Poinsettias

Euphorbia Family, Spurges

Etymology

- ❖ Family Name: Euphorbiaceae - Linnaeus came up with the name, after an ancient Greco-Mauretanian physician, Euphorbus.
- ❖ Genera: Euphorbia - 2000 members of this genus worldwide. They are sometimes called Spurges.
- ❖ Species: 1. Dentata – means toothed. 2. Cyathophora – Kythos means cup and phoros means bearing.



Euphorbias/Spurges

- ❖ Any of numerous herbs, shrubs, or trees of the genus *Euphorbia* characteristically having milky juice can be called spurges.
- ❖ They have a cluster of small unisexual flowers that are surrounded by a cuplike structure composed of fused bracts – the cyathium.



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Euphorbia dentata



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- ❖ Common Names: Toothed Spurge, Green Poinsettia.
- ❖ Aggressive annual.
- ❖ Bloom Color – White or Green.
- ❖ Bloom Time – March through November
- ❖ Flowers in dense clusters.
- ❖ Small cup holds male and female flowers – very difficult to see in photos.

E. dentata

- ❖ Leafy bracts usually white or green at base.
- ❖ Opposite Leaves, lowest leaves may be alternate
- ❖ Hairy Stems.
- ❖ The root system consists of a taproot.
- ❖ The plant has a white sap, do not get it in your eyes.



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Euphorbia cyathophora



- ❖ Mexican Fireplant, Wild Poinsettia
- ❖ Aggressive annual, short-lived perennial.
- ❖ Blooms July-October
- ❖ 1-3' Tall
- ❖ Light: Sun, part shade, shade
- ❖ Moisture: Medium.
- ❖ Soil: Gravelly, sandy, sandy loam, medium loam, and clay loam.

E. cyathophora



- ❖ Habitat: Disturbed areas, Roadsides, Open Woods, Flood Plains
- ❖ The leafy bracts surrounding the flower are typically bright red at the base end.
- ❖ Fruit is a three lobed, stalked capsule, 1/5 inch wide, that develops rapidly from the center of the cyathium, initially hanging down, becoming erect at maturity.
- ❖ Do not get the white sap in your eyes.

Health and Wildlife Benefits of Poinsettias

For Humans

- ❖ NEVER TRY THESE POSSIBLE REMEDIES WITHOUT TALKING TO EXPERTS.
- ❖ The Wild Poinsettia herb has been used for breathing disorders, dengue fever, digestive problems, and severe diarrhea.
- ❖ Can be used as an antinflammatory, for mouth ulcers, for constipation and to heal burn wounds, among other things.

For Wildlife

- ❖ Provide nectar for bees and butterflies.
- ❖ The seeds are a good food source for birds.

Credits and Thanks

- ❖ Minnesotawildflowers.info
- ❖ Wildflower.org
- ❖ En.m.wikipedia.org
- ❖ Illinoiswildflowers.info.
- ❖ <https://gulfspecimen.org/wild-poinsettia/>
- ❖ Swbiodiversity.org

