



A monthly informative publication for home owners

# between the cracks



## Pointsettia . . .



### The Christmas plant

Many mistake the poinsettia's leaves as flower petals, but the flowers are actually the smaller, yellow buds in a poinsettia's center. These bracts -- the upper portion of the leaves -- are famously red, although they actually bloom in a variety of hues, such as pink, white and yellow.

Poinsettias, also known as the "lobster flower" or "Mexican flame leaf," bloom in December, making them an ideal Christmas flower.



### So what does a poinsettia have to do with Christmas?

One interpretation of the plant is as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, the heavenly body that led the three wise men, to the place where Christ was born. A Mexican legend tells of a girl who could only offer weeds as a gift to Jesus on Christmas Eve. When she brought the weeds into a church, they blossomed into the beautiful red plants we know as poinsettias, known as "flowers of the holy night".

### Give yourself a Christmas present of great value ...



When doing alterations, you need a good contract, detailed specifications and a payment schedule, otherwise you will be pulling your hair out!

Visit our website and purchase these, building tips and advice on how to manage alterations.



We wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas

### Albert says ...

#### Storm water can be dangerous!

Check the flow of storm water on your property. The force of water is very strong and can push a boundary wall over. Make sure that all weep holes and pipes are open.

Remember that you must allow the water from your neighbour onto your stand to pass through, your neighbor must accept storm water from your stand.



### Use the correct building terms...

**Barge Board:** on the gable end of the roof.



**Fascia:** behind the gutters.

### Did you know . . .

+ The traditional three colors of Christmas are GREEN, RED, and GOLD. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.



+ By the fourth century, the church decided that Christians needed a December holiday to rival solstice celebrations. Church leaders selected DECEMBER 25 for the Feast of the Nativity.

+ The abbreviation XMAS isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

+ In Poland, SPIDERS or spider webs are common Christmas trees decorations because according to legend, a spider wove a blanket for Baby Jesus. In fact, Polish people consider spiders to be symbols of goodness and prosperity at Christmas.



+ US scientists calculated that SANTA would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at over 1 000 km/hr!

+ RUDOLPH the red-nosed reindeer was invented for a US firm's Christmas promotion in 1938.

+ Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that RUDOLPH'S RED NOSE is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system

+ JINGLE BELLS was the first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it on December 16, 1965

+ KISSING under the mistletoe is thought to spring from Frigga, the Norse goddess of love, who was associated with the plant.



+ Most of SANTA'S REINDEER have male-sounding names, such as Blitzer, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh are likely not male, but female or castrati

+ Before TURKEY, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard

### Remember . . .

We do quality control on alterations and new construction, snag lists, full home inspections .... For a full list of our services . . . check our website

