






沙田官立中學
校園植物知多少

聖誕花

Euphorbia pulcherrima

Chinese Name :	一品紅 , 又名為聖誕花	
English name:	Poinsettia	
Family:	Euphorbiaceae	
Scientific name:	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	
Morphology / Features:	The poinsettia occurs in Central America, occurring from Mexico to southern Guatemala. Its range is about 2,000 km (1,200 mi) long, encompassing mid-elevation dry forests. Most wild populations are on Pacific-facing slopes. There is a somewhat anomalous population of wild poinsettias in the northern part of the Mexican state of Guerrero, which is much further inland than the rest of the species' range. Genetic analyses showed that the wild populations in northern Guerrero are the likely ancestors of most cultivated poinsettias	
Leaves:	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> bears dark green dentate leaves that measure 7–16 centimetres (2.8–6.3 in) in length. The colored bracts—which are most often flaming red but can be orange, pale green, cream, pink, white, or marbled—are often mistaken for flower petals because of their groupings and colors, but are actually leaves.	
Flowers:	The flowers of the poinsettia are unassuming and do not attract pollinators. They are grouped within small yellow structures found in the center of each leaf bunch, and are called cyathia.	
Toxicity	Poinsettias are popularly, though incorrectly, said to be toxic to humans and other animals. This misconception was spread by a 1919 urban legend of a two-year-old child dying after consuming a poinsettia leaf. In 1944, the plant was included in H. R. Arnold's book <i>Poisonous Plants of Hawaii</i> on this premise. Though Arnold later admitted that the story was hearsay and that poinsettias were not proven to be poisonous, the plant was thus thought deadly. In 1970 the US Food and Drug Administration published a newsletter stating erroneously that "one poinsettia leaf can kill a child", and in 1980 they were prohibited from nursing homes in a county in North Carolina due to this supposed toxicity.	

Sources: <https://zh-yue.wikipedia.org/wiki/>