

The Study of Seedling Used for Tree Poinsettia Production¹

Yu-Che Yeh² Tsai-Yih Wang³

Abstract

Poinsettia is an important pot flower in Taiwan market. For increasing the selling rate, its need to introduce new poinsettia cultivars, improve the quality of pot flower or increase the types of products. The yield of tree type poinsettia in all kind of products is only 0.05%. Because it spent much time for trunk development, therefore the costs of management increase. A better productive procedure for culturing tree type poinsettia has not been set up. Poinsettia seedlings have some advantages different than commercial cuttings. That includes long internodes, thick stem, growing faster, stronger, less branching and the leave usually dropping from trunk. These advantages decrease the cost of pinch and leave dropping. This study took these advantages cooperated with pinching technique to evaluate an applicable production for tree poinsettia. After LR-pinching, there are 8 axillary buds spreading from the trunk section. Hard or soft pinching only got 5 axillary buds spreading. LR-pinching could produce six more than 5 cm lateral shoots which length increasing top-down. Therefore present a beautiful tree shape. Using 20-25 cm seedlings and did at least three times LR-pinching could produce 45-50 cm poinsettia tree. It increases to 6 lateral shoots by used LR-pinching, furthermore it need at least 3 times pinching for tree poinsettia production from 20-25 cm seedlings. This method not only reduces the labor cost of basal shoots removal but also have the fineness laterals and crown architecture of tree poinsettia.

(Keywords: pinching, axillary bud, pot flower, leaf removal, apical dominance)

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 2. Assistant researcher. Division of Crop Improvement of Hualien District Agricultural Research and Extension Station.
 3. Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, National Chung Hsing University.