Do you have a poinsettia you would like to keep for enjoyment next Christmas? Yes it can be done, and no you don't have to have a greenhouse. Here's the best way to bring your poinsettia back into bloom next Christmas.

1. Keep it watered, at room temperature, and in sunlight till the blooms fade this year. Keep it barely moist, not soggy, and fertilize every 2 weeks.
2. In late March or early April, prune it back to about 8".
3. In late April, repot it in a slightly larger container, or if there are multiple plants, separate them into their own containers. Use a good porous potting soil. A plant is only as good as its roots.
4. Set outside about May 1, where it will get 6-8 hours of direct sun a day. Pots can be sunk into the ground, but must be turned weekly to prevent roots from growing into the surrounding soil. Fertilize weekly.
5. In late July, pinch out the top 2-3 leaves from each stem to keep them stocky. Continue to water & fertilize.
6. When night temperatures dip into the 50's, bring them inside to a sunny window. Continue to water & fertilize.
7. Beginning Oct 1, for 10 weeks, the poinsettias will need "short day" treatment, with darkness from 5 pm to 8 am and temperatures from 65-70. In daytime they need bright light and temperatures from 70-80. Continue to water & fertilize till the bracts show color.
8. Once the bracts show color, continue 6-8 hrs of direct sun, and the feeding & watering schedule, till the bracts are completely colored.
9. When they are fully colored, you may discontinue feeding to prolong bloom, and place in the Christmas display location.

Since several of my children have moved on to their own homes, I have the luxury of being able to store my very large poinsettias in an unused bedroom. But I mean I \*never\* open the door except in daytime to water the plants. I even put a sign on the door: "DO NOT OPEN this door from 5 pm to 8 am!" The sign was as much to remind me as to remind the other family members.

I hope you have as much success reblooming your poinsettia as I had. :-) Let me know how you do.

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