

Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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January Success Tips

- 1. Spring is coming!** Start planning and preparing for your most fabulous garden yet!
- 2. Don't forget Valentine's Day, February 14!** Give that someone special one of our plants that will bloom for years to come. 
- 3. Start warm-season vegetables** like tomatoes and peppers indoors from seed in February.

Roses Are Number One

The rose is the world's most popular flower, with a variety for every landscape situation. Here are some roses and how to use each to its best advantage.

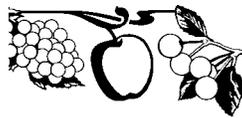
- **Hybrid teas** are the favorite roses for cutting. Their long, narrow buds open into large, many-petaled blooms. These long-blooming plants are three feet or taller, and usually bear on single stems. They look their finest when planted in a mass—plant several varieties to create your cutting garden.
- **Shrub Roses** are a category of roses that are the most practical series of roses for the landscape. They are low growing, low maintenance, and high visual impact. They mix well with other shrubs in borders, work nicely for a bank planting or even in a container on the patio.
- **Grandifloras** grow taller (about 6 feet) and wider than hybrid teas and other rose varieties. They provide huge blossoms in clusters. Use them as background plants behind lower growing flowers, and for color in perennial gardens when other plants are resting.

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FREE PLANT!

Receive a **FREE 4" ANNUAL** with any purchase! Choose from colorful snapdragons, pansies, and more!

Good with this coupon only, thru Feb 28.



Grow a Healthy Fruit Salad!

Transform your yard into a fruit lovers paradise by planting some of the **FRUIT TREES** (peaches, nectarines, pomegranates, persimmons, plums, apples, pears, Asian pears, figs, apricots), **BERRIES** (high anti-oxidant blueberries) and grapes we have in stock now. In addition to these, we have some vegetables arriving, including artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb, onions, and garlic.

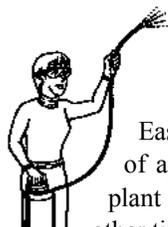
Our selection is at its peak now, and in addition to being less expensive, these plants will quickly establish themselves in your garden and get off to a fast start for the year ahead.

Shrubs that Welcome Spring

We are all looking forward to spring with its warmer weather and a brighter landscape to enjoy. Here are just a few of our many shrubs that bloom early in the season. Come in and select some you especially like!



- **Camellias** fit beautifully into every garden. The perfectly-formed flowers in red, white and pink, are produced on branches with deep green shiny leaves.
- **Ceanothus** (wild lilac) flowers in many shades of blue and violet (plus white) and are the perfect accompaniment to the white, pink, red and yellow blossoms of other plants. These California natives grow in many different heights, forms, and colors. Many are drought tolerant.
- **Cistus** (rockrose) is available in several varieties. Most plants produce larger flowers (1½ - 2") in either pink or white. Many have grayish foliage.
- **Viburnum** is made up of a very large family of diverse plants, most with clusters of white, sometimes fragrant, flowers and attractive leaves. Some produce brightly colored fruit, well-liked by birds.
- **Weigela**, an old favorite, has pink trumpet-shaped flowers that attract hummingbirds. The arching branches, covered with blooms, sweep gracefully to the ground. Foliage is medium green. Some newer varieties are available—their flowers are deeper pink and foliage is purple.



Dormant Spray Now

Do what the experts do and prevent a wide variety of pests and diseases from becoming problems in the spring and summer! Easy to use, dormant sprays effectively kill the overwintering eggs of aphids and mites, most scales, plus many other pests and some plant diseases, including peach leaf curl that you can't control at any other time.

We carry several types of sprays, including oil, lime sulfur and copper-based. Our horticultural oil is nontoxic and best for beneficial insects like bees and parasitic wasps. Stop by and we'll show you what you need to protect your particular plants.

3 Tree Pruning Myths

Myth: The final pruning cut should be flush with the stem to optimize healing.

Truth: Flush cutting removes the branch collar (the swelling where the branch and trunk meet); removing this special tissue slows healing as well as creates a larger wound.



Myth: A tree's root system mirrors its top.

Truth: The entire root system of most trees can be found within the top three feet of the surface; however, its spread can extend two to three times the spread of the crown.

Myth: Pruning certain trees early in the spring makes them bleed, or ooze sap, causing stress, and making them unhealthy.

Truth: While early spring pruning may cause some trees to bleed, it does no harm to the tree.

PRUNING TIP: To keep pruning blades clean, spray them with a cooking oil spray (like Pam) before pruning a pine or other tree that exudes sap.

Shake Your Peach Tree?

Researchers attached electric vibrators to peach tree limbs and turned them on for 15 minutes every two hours. The shoots on the trees grew about 80% shorter than those on trees without vibrators. Fruit weight and size were not significantly affected by the vibration, but overall yields increased by about 10%!



Seed Savvy

For success starting plants from seed take the following precautions, especially if you'll be starting your seeds in a warm place.

First, use our sterile growing medium with good drainage--never use garden soil dug from your yard. If you've ever planted seeds in flats only to have them suddenly collapse and die, you've experienced "damping off". Damping off is caused by several kinds of soil fungi and occurs most often when soil and air temperatures are above 68°.

To produce strong, stocky seedlings, provide adequate light and temperatures of 60-70°. Thin seedlings as soon as they begin to crowd each other.

Plants started indoors need about a week to acclimate to outside conditions of wind and full sun. Place them in a shady, protected area at first, then move them to a sunnier location.

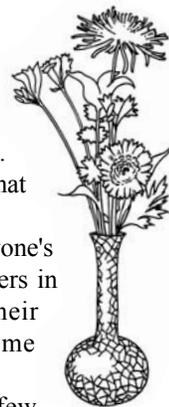
Enjoy the amazing experience of watching a seed grow into something wonderful!

Flowers Make Us Happy!

Now, in the dead of winter, is an excellent time to dream about glorious spring flowers! As you outline your spring gardening plan, be sure to include a cutting garden. (The following information is being provided as a reminder that Valentine's Day is near!)

A bouquet of fresh flowers can certainly brighten everyone's spirit, and researchers have found that having fresh cut flowers in the home affects a wide variety of emotions. Among their findings, Harvard Medical School researchers found some interesting information.

People with fresh flowers in their house, even for a few days, had **fewer negative feelings** and **greater compassion** and **kindness** toward others. The positive feelings carried over at work where the participants felt **happier** and **had more enthusiasm** and **energy** when fresh flowers were in their home. *Flowers truly brighten our days!*



Roasted Root Vegetables



• Peel, seed and cut into 1" pieces approximately 8 cups of fresh winter vegetables of your choice. Try acorn squash, beets, carrots, sweet potatoes, parsnips, rutabagas, turnips, acorn squash, onions, etc.

• Combine ¼ cup orange juice, 2 Tbsp olive oil, 4 cloves garlic, 1 Tbsp fresh rosemary, chopped, and salt & pepper to taste.

• Toss in vegetables.

• Spread the vegetables out on a large cookie sheet or into a roasting pan, and roast at 450° for about 45 minutes, or until browned. This delicious side dish is the perfect companion to a juicy pot roast!



Attracting Birds to Your Garden

Bird migrations are being affected by global warming, according to the annual Great Backyard Bird Count conducted by Cornell University and the National Audubon Society. Many species stayed farther north than they usually do, reducing their winter populations in southern states by more than 50%. Some birds are on the brink of extinction, caused by destruction of their habitats from suburban sprawl, collisions with communication towers, as well as creatures that prey upon them. Here are some things you can do if you want to help birds and attract them to your garden.

Plant conifers to provide the dense shelter needed for hidden bird nesting sites. The seed-producing conifer cones are also a food source. Many deciduous shrubs and trees produce berries for bird food, as well as branches for nesting. The shredded bark of some trees is used by certain birds as nesting material. Vines also make good covers and nesting sites. Perennial flowers provide both nectar and seeds. Leave seed heads on plants so birds can eat them in winter.

Birdbaths, birdhouses, and birdfeeders all serve an obvious purpose for the birds they attract. Be sure you keep them filled with water and food. Occasionally clean your birdfeeders and birdbaths by scrubbing them with a solution of one part chlorine bleach to nine parts water, and rinsing thoroughly.

