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Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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Nov/Dec Success Tips

- 1. Have a colorful fall and winter!** Don't settle for "blah"—we have blooming plants for both indoors and outdoors. People are often amazed at all the color we have in November and December.
- 2. Some sasanqua camellias** are starting to show color and bloom. These are beautiful and dependable winter bloomers. When you mix sasanqua and japonica camellias, you can have camellias blooming for nearly six months!
- 3. Keep bird feeders** stocked to provide birds extra food during the lean winter months.
- 4. Prune pine trees** from mid November through January. Pruning at other times of the year can attract pine bark beetles that can kill the trees.
- 5. Have rabbit problems?** Our *Plantskydd Repellent* is proven to protect your plants from rabbits.
- 6. New!** *Green Light Spinosad* controls leaf miner on citrus plants, as well as loopers on bougainvillea.

Winter Garden Cleanup

Spending a little time in your garden now will really pay off! You'll not only have an attractive, colorful winter garden, but come next spring, you'll have fewer problems with pests and diseases.



Many plant diseases survive the winter in plant debris such as fallen leaves, left over stalks, and fruit mummies (shriveled fruit). Some of the many common diseases that can be partially controlled by fall sanitation include blackspot on roses and brown rot of apricots and peaches, plus certain leaf spots on tomato and strawberry leaves. Simply raking up and composting (or otherwise disposing of) leaves and other plant debris helps eliminate overwintering diseases as well as many pests, including snails and slugs.

Use dormant oil spray to control insects and their eggs that overwinter in bark cracks and crevices of plants.

Great Gardening Gifts!

We've got everything you'll need to please everyone on your holiday gift list, and for decorating your home to make it festive for the holidays! Choose a category below; we have these items and much more!



- ☆ **ELEGANT:** garden art, imported pottery
- ☆ **NATURE RELATED:** bird baths, bird houses, and bird feeders
- ☆ **PLEASURABLE:** windchimes, garden benches, candles, gardening books
- ☆ **DECORATIVE:** arbors and trellises, stepping stones, ceramic pottery, thermometers, colorful garden flags, topiary plants, Talavera Mexican pottery
- ☆ **EASY GARDENING:** top quality pruning shears, hand tools, watering cans, watering wands, moisture meters
- ☆ **PERSONAL:** gardening gloves
- ☆ **FLOWERS & PLANTS:** poinsettias, cyclamen, houseplants, and paperwhites, plus our **GIFT CERTIFICATES**—the gift everyone loves!



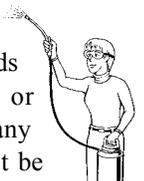
Holiday Color for Outdoors

There's every reason that your yard and garden should be as bright and cheery as the indoors—so fill it with color!

Deep jewel-colored English primroses easily replace flowers that have finished blooming. Jumbo pansies are ideal for any situation, and they'll bloom well into next year. Brighten partly shaded areas with cyclamen or fairy primroses. Also plant colorful snapdragons, stock, and Iceland poppies.

Dormant Spraying

Dormant sprays effectively kill the overwintering eggs of aphids and mites, most scales (even those that are hard-to-kill or require repeated spraying during the growing season), plus many other pests. They also control some plant diseases that that can't be controlled later.



Apply most sprays now, well before bud break. Don't spray when rain or frost is expected. Be sure to cover the entire plant, including the underside of the leaves and all sides of the tree. Also, avoid spraying on a windy day—that would make thorough coverage difficult. Ask us what's best for your particular plants.

FREE Christmas Drawing!

Come in and register for a chance to win one of the
10 (count 'em—TEN!)

\$50.00 POWAY NURSERY GIFT CERTIFICATES!

Drawing to be held Saturday, Dec 23.



Overhangs & Your Plants

Overhangs create special little microclimates for plants living under them. By helping to keep heat in,

overhangs can prevent damage to cold-sensitive plants when temperatures slip a little more than we expect them to.

Plants in containers are especially vulnerable because their roots are more susceptible to cold than their other parts. Normally, soil provides insulation from the cold, but container plants have little insulation and are subjected to much colder temperatures than if they were planted in the ground.

Overhangs can also create a very dry environment. If you have areas where the eaves keep out rain water and the soil stays dry, be sure to water plants there regularly even during the rainy season.



Believe It or Not!

☺ In a recent survey, one in five homeowners compete with their neighbors for the best looking garden and the greenest, healthiest lawn. **And the shocker:** 17% of the respondents admit to stealing flowers from other gardens! (Can you believe this? We're happy to know that the survey was done in Canada!)

☺ The intravenous drip bags normally used in hospitals to deliver medications and liquids to patients have become a gardening tool to some gardeners. The bags, which have an adjustable valve, are said to be ideal for watering hanging baskets!

☺ Smoke from wildfires promotes the germination of seeds of many prairie wildflowers. Now, researchers in South Africa have found that corn seeds exposed to smoke from smoldering for 30 minutes and then rinsed twice in water, show an increase in both root and shoot growth.

Thank You!

We thank you for your business, and for referring other customers to us.

We appreciate every one of you, and value you like a good friend.

We wish you happiness and prosperity during 2007!



Houseplants Clean the Air



Home remodeling is flourishing, raising comfort levels as well as property values. However, some of the toxic chemicals used are left behind to contaminate indoor air, a growing problem as construction practices create buildings that are more airtight. The good news is that there is a brilliant fix—indoor plants!

Houseplants not only beautify a space, they filter toxins from the air, including formaldehyde, benzene, ammonia, and acetone. These chemicals can be found in adhesives, caulking compounds, ceiling tiles, paints and stains, cleaning agents, plywood and more.

According to researchers, many plants filter the air, including spider plants, peace lily, gerbera daisies, and moth orchids, plus certain palms and ferns. They recommended that you place the plants "where you spend the most time breathing", such as next to your favorite chair.

So, after remodeling when you're adding the finishing touches, be sure to include indoor plants.

Mom's Best Holiday Apple Crumble

4 cooking apples, peeled & sliced
4 Tbsp each brown sugar & white sugar, mixed together
1 tsp cinnamon



1 Tbsp corn starch
pinch of salt
juice of 1 small orange
juice of 1 lemon

Drizzle some of the lemon juice over apples to keep them from turning brown. Mix dry ingredients, then stir in apples. Stir in juices and pour into 8" x 11" baking pan. Prepare topping: 2 Tbsp each brown sugar, white sugar, and flour; 1/2 cup oatmeal, 3 Tbsp unsalted butter (cubed), 1 cup dried cranberries*; 1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans. Mix dry ingredients, then cut in butter till crumbly. Add pecans and drained cranberries, and sprinkle over apple mixture. Bake in preheated 350° oven 30 minutes, or until apples are tender. *NOTE: Plump dried cranberries by soaking them 1 hour in water before beginning.



Gracious Garlands From Your Garden

Have an old fashioned Christmas this year! One important element is fresh garlands draped along a stair rail or fireplace mantel, or framing a front door. They also add drama when spiraled around a porch pillar. Here's how to make garlands using natural materials from your yard.

5 Choose the materials—the options are limitless—including branches of pine, boxwood, magnolia, olive, and eucalyptus. Search your garden for branches with berries, seed pods, and dried flowers. Fresh herbs like rosemary, lavender, and oregano also work well, providing fragrance, and drying as they hang. Fresh or preserved fruit such as citrus, apples and pomegranates add color.

5 Make the frame by forming chicken wire into a roll the length and shape you want the garland to be.

5 Attach some sort of padding to the back of the frame to keep stems from marring walls, door frames, etc. Try plastic bags or bubble wrap.

5 Starting in the center and working down both sides, weave branch stems through the chicken wire, holding them on with either florists' wire or a hot glue gun. Fill any gaps with sphagnum moss. Make certain that the width is consistent the entire length of the garland, and that the colors look balanced. Add colorful ribbons and hang with picture hooks and wire.