

The Village Garden Center's January 2009 Garden Club Newsletter



Top Gardening Trends for 2009:

Eco-boosting: Creating natural habitats for wildlife with native plants that attract birds, bees and butterflies. Using eco-friendly plants that are native and drought and disease resistant, and require little care or chemicals. Think organic.

Grow-it-yourself: With the increase in demand for year round fresh fruits and vegetables, local farmers markets are seeing an upsurge in business, community gardens have waiting lists, and plant swaps are on the rise.

Blended gardens: Mixing decorative gardens with ones that have function. Plants like blueberries and raspberries are being used as ornamentals. Segregating fruits and vegetables in a separate area is definitely on the way out.

Locavore: Buying local is all the rage. Gardeners are aware of their role as naturalists and are looking for native plants that thrive in their own backyards. "Native plant cultivars are selected to perform better in specific areas under local conditions. When you select a plant that is native to the local area, it will thrive with little to no water, fertilizer or effort.

Water: Plants that drink responsibly like succulents, cactus, yucca and ferns are in. Water features such as fountains and table top fountains are replacing large ponds. It gives people the enjoyment of water without the feeling of guilt.

Outside inside: It's easy to expand your home's boundaries and add indoor charm to your patio, deck and garden using great indoor plants like ferns and palms. And ornamentals continue to be fashionable beautifying containers, landscapes, mixed or mass planted.

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Did you know....

Back in the late 19th century some towns in England had laws that reduced a person's taxes if he planted flowers and shrubbery in his yard to beautify it. If the person next to him did not do the same, his taxes were raised. With these laws, the towns became attractive for visitors and town folk alike.

Reminder

The January Garden Club Meeting will take place at Perkins Restaurant. It will be January 17, at 10:00 A.M. Please call to confirm the week prior so we know how many people to expect. We will resume regular meetings at the store in February when the store reopens.

GARDEN CLUB SPECIALS - February

30% off to garden club members only
Any one home décor item with a heart on it
Outdoor Potting mix (limit 1 bag)
Red Ardore candle (limit 1 candle)

Info Lust: Lack of time and knowledge have been primary reasons people hesitate to garden. Not anymore. Novices and experienced gardeners hungry for inspiration, information, and instruction are packing master garden classes for instruction and gardening how-to tips. Gardeners are gobbling up information from friends, classes and workshops, local garden media, magazines and the internet and sharing their success stories with bloggers and friends.

Quick and simple: As time starved consumers try to juggle busy schedules, most seek quick and simple solutions to meet their gardening needs. Containers are no longer a trend, but a garden staple in large and small places. Natural materials like cast stone and terra cotta containers and accessories are perfect eco-friendly accents. Big and bold is in.

Global colors: The prediction is a funky mix of colors that reflect a jambalaya of world cultures. Colors are bold, crazy, exaggerated, and in-your-face, almost like pop-art and reflect a playful spirit in the face of world events.

Worldly: American have embraced the world bizarre of vibrant colors, textures, sights and sounds. Asian, African, Indian, and Mid-Eastern influences are showing up in patterns, textures and colors. As we travel more, we tend to bring more of our memories home-creating escapist retreats.

Did you know....

The top ten most popular home grown vegetables are: Tomatoes, Peppers, Cucumbers, Onions, Beans, Lettuce, Carrots, Sweet Corn, Radishes and Cabbage. Tomatoes are grown in 85% of gardens, with Cabbage grown in only 30%.

If you are hankering to get your hands dirty, volunteer to help with plug planting in our greenhouses. We will be looking for people at the beginning of March. Or if you know you are interested, give Megan a call at the store. 635-3300

Happy New Year! Have a great 2009.