

The Village Garden Center's ★ January 2011 ★ Garden Club Newsletter ★

Houseplants Don't forget that your indoor plants need care too. Make sure to check them for insects, and don't forget their regular watering. Most plants don't grow as much in the winter time, so wait until spring when the light changes to give them an extra boost of fertilizer. This is however the perfect time to transplant. Make sure you use sterilized potting soil, and a pot that is at least 2" larger than the old one.

Annuals Won't be long until you are out in the greenhouse picking out your favorite new annuals. Use this time to decide what worked well for you last season, and to choose what new plants might do better for you. Take into consideration their light requirements, water requirements, and what colors you are interested in. Start dreaming...planting season is right around the corner!

Pansies They love the cool temperatures. So remember pansies are great to plant for early spring color. They don't mind a little snow, and they come in a variety of sizes and colors. They are normally the first annual most garden centers carry in the spring. Watch where you plant them though- a warm sunny spot in the spring, can be an extremely hot spot in the summer time. You might have to change their location when the temperatures start to soar.

Peonies They are a beautiful addition to your garden. Peonies have big, beautiful blooms that come in a variety of colors. They require a sunny spot, and soil that has good drainage. It is a good idea to provide support for them with either a cage or stake. They are easily divided and don't mind being moved after they reach maturity.

Yard It may be covered in snow, but there is a beautiful yard underneath just waiting quietly for spring. Now is the perfect time to start planning what you would like to do next season. You don't have to wait for warm weather to decide what you want to do in your yard. Grab the new catalogs, or head out to a garden center and see what is new for 2011. Always been wanting a pond? Well go on- line and find out how to build one. Or if you have a tree that really has seen its better days, schedule now to have it removed, or plan on removing it yourself. Put your ideas in writing....

NPK The acronym for Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium, which is the normal makeup of most fertilizers. The numbers on the fertilizer will indicate in this order the amount of each. For example the fertilizer 10-10-10, would have an equal amount of each.

Eliminate Do what you can to eliminate your need for extra water usage. By getting rid of regular sod you can cut down the amount of water you will need. Remember to always water when it is cooler outside, so reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation. Purchase a rain barrel. Great way to reuse what nature has already shared with us. Plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses that are considered drought resistant. The less we use...the more we have.

Winter You can learn a lot about your garden space in the winter time. Does your space continue to flow when the plants are dormant? Do you desire to be in it even though it is cold and snowy? Are there still nice contrasts between the things that grow and the things that are permanent? Take notice now at your space since you might want to make some changes in spring. The desirable winter garden is the garden everyone wants to live in during the summertime.

Yard of mulch So often people ask us how much a yard of mulch covers. I tell them it covers a space 10 by 10 and three inches deep. The other way to look at it is that a yard is three feet wide, three feet deep, and three feet long. I doubt I need to tell you how important mulch is at this stage of the game. I wouldn't spend a dime on a plant for my yard if I weren't willing to spend the dime on mulch.

Edible It is now a new trend to mix all kinds of edible plants into your regular landscape. Gone are the times of having a space specifically for a vegetable garden. Instead you should integrate your edibles into your decorative beds. The look takes some getting used to, but after a while it starts to grow on you. Instead of having just decorative pots filled with petunias and geraniums, try a tomato plant with flowers spilling over the side of the pot.

Allelopathy The process by which a plant releases chemicals that can either inhibit or benefit other plants. Species competition ensures the biodiversity of ecosystems. All plants and animals have developed techniques for out-competing other species for water, nutrients, territory, and other resources. This will be one of our topics of discussion at our February meeting. We will look at how to use allelopathy in your garden to benefit your space.

Recycle Reuse Reinvent Repurpose Rethink Refresh Refine Return Reduce Rework Reevaluate Recover
Reassess Renew

GARDEN CLUB SPECIALS - February

30% off

(garden club members only)

Item with a heart on it (limit 1)

Outdoor potting mix (limit 1)

Reminder Our January Garden Club meeting is divided into three Saturdays this month. If you didn't attend the December meeting, you need to call the store to find out what we discussed. We are working on landscape designs for your yard. If you have questions please call 635-3300. Thanks