

THE GARDENER'S DIRT

The Latest Scoop from the Scott County Master Gardeners

December 2009

2009 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener class.



Training classes are now over for another year.

Congratulations to this fall's Master Gardener class members, (2010 interns).

Be sure to introduce yourself to the new interns as they work toward completing their service hours requirement and become certified Master Gardeners.



Our Mission

To provide home horticulture information and education to the citizens of Scott County consistent with Iowa State University recommendations. We also strive to increase members' knowledge of horticulture through educational programs.



2009 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Class

New class representative

Marianne Lemon has been chosen by this year's class to be the new class representative to the advisory board.

Congratulations Marianne!

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Thank you to the volunteers who braved the cold and helped with the ISU Extension Office garden clean-up on Saturday October 31st. The garden looks great!

Marianne Lemon	Jeremy Bengé	Doug McDonald	Mark Moeller
Maxine Schroeder	Melody Coffey	John Hale	Diane Soltau
Walter Kurth	Steph Wedeking	Lois Fradel	Chuck Doss
Sue Horan	Colleen Adrian	Janelle Swanberg	Pat Christy
Donna Lauritsen	Sue Laimans	Joan Gentzkow	Rich Craddick
Kathy Wolfe			

I included all the names of the people who signed in. I apologize to anyone I may have missed if they did not sign in.

I would also like to thank all the team leaders who did an outstanding job of organizing their crews and all the volunteers who kept the gardens looking great.

Team Leaders:	Donna Lauritsen	Ron Phillips	Jeremy Bengé
	Pat Christy	Joan Gentzkow	

We greatly appreciate all your time and effort.
Thank You!

Karen Crawford, Committee Chair



Historian Committee

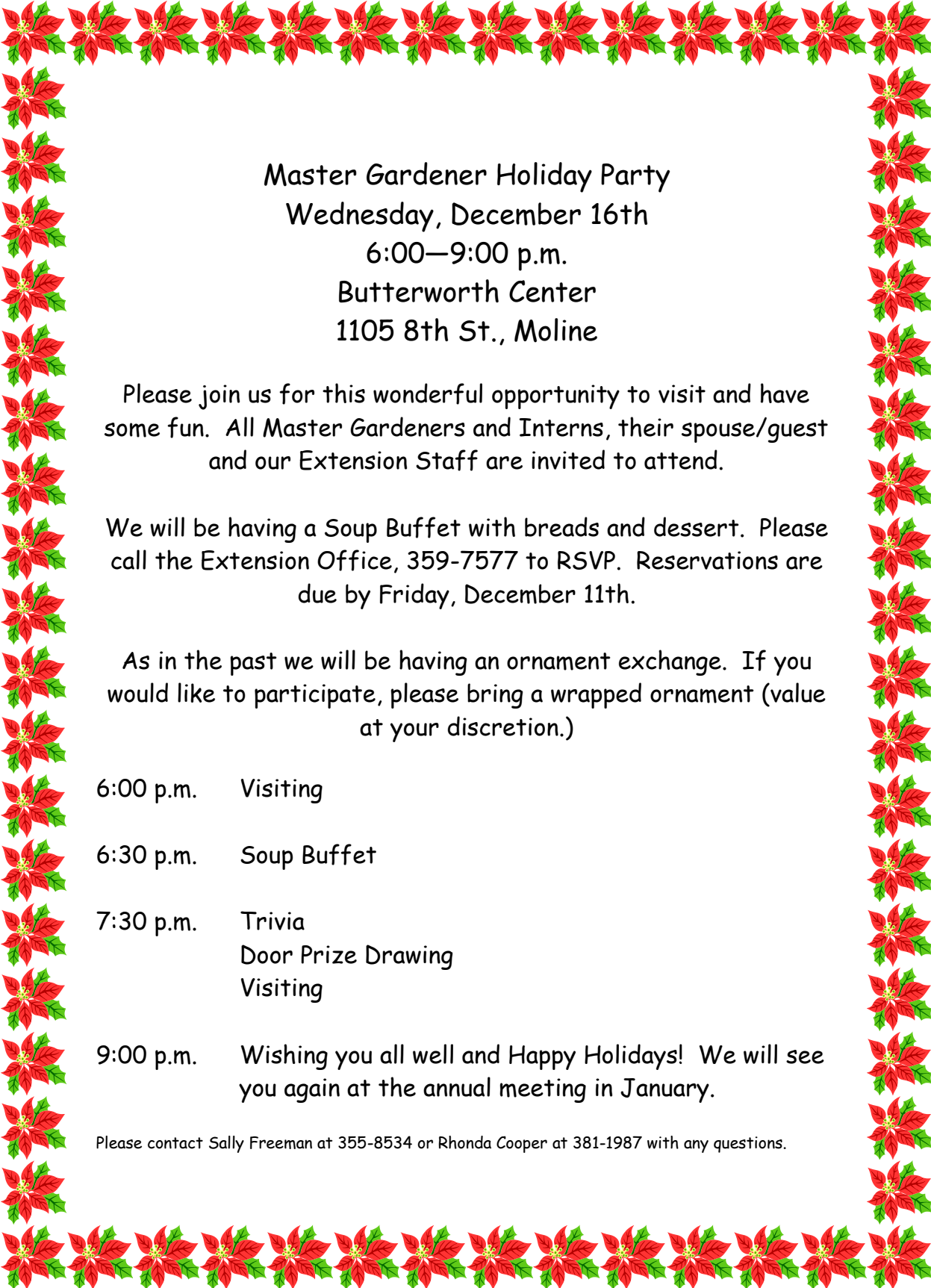
Nancy Nelson, Chair

It's that time again! The Historian Committee is looking for photos showing what you or your committee has been doing during the 2009 year. We are also looking for newspaper articles or any memorabilia pertaining to the Master Gardener program or our members.



You may e-mail them to me at: nancyn4104@gmail.com or you can bring/send them to the Extension Office. We will make copies and return them to you, if you need them back.

Our scrapbooks will be displayed at the January annual meeting.



Master Gardener Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 16th
6:00—9:00 p.m.
Butterworth Center
1105 8th St., Moline

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to visit and have some fun. All Master Gardeners and Interns, their spouse/guest and our Extension Staff are invited to attend.

We will be having a Soup Buffet with breads and dessert. Please call the Extension Office, 359-7577 to RSVP. Reservations are due by Friday, December 11th.

As in the past we will be having an ornament exchange. If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped ornament (value at your discretion.)

6:00 p.m. Visiting

6:30 p.m. Soup Buffet

7:30 p.m. Trivia
Door Prize Drawing
Visiting

9:00 p.m. Wishing you all well and Happy Holidays! We will see you again at the annual meeting in January.

Please contact Sally Freeman at 355-8534 or Rhonda Cooper at 381-1987 with any questions.



HORT CLINIC NEWS

Submitted by Bob Krush

- **CLIENTS:** During October 2009, the hort clinic assisted 128 clients. MGs handled 64 of the 128 clients (50 %). For April through October combined, MGs assisted 837 out of 1482 total clients (56%). In 2008, the hort clinic assisted 1889 clients from April thru October.
- **STAFFING:** Between October 16th and October 31th, MGs staffed the hort clinic on 16 of 22 available sessions or 73%. The MG staffing rate in the hort clinic for 2009 was as follows:
 - April 1-15 = 21/22 = 95.5%
 - April 16-May 15 = 42/44 = 95.5%
 - May 16- June 15 = 27/40 = 67.5%
 - June 16-July 15 = 38/42 = 90 %
 - July 16-August 15 = 32/44 = 73%
 - August 16-September 15 = 25/42 = 60%
 - September 15-October 15 = 24/44 = 55%
 - October 16-October 31 = 16/22 = 73%
 - Overall = 225/300 = 75%

The MG hort clinic staffing rate in 2007 and 2008 were 76% and 82% respectively.

- **VETERAN MGs:** Between April 1 and October 31, 2009 there were 31 veteran MGs who volunteered in the hort clinic. By my count, there were 135 active veteran MGs in 2009, so the veteran MG hort clinic participation rate for 2009 was 23%. In 2008, the veteran MG hort clinic participation rate was also 23%. Following is the veteran MG hort clinic honor roll for 2009. Thank you so much for your help.

Karen Beetham	Bill Brunken	Sue Clark	Bob Cohee	JoAnn Garlough
Sharon Helm	Dan Hoeper	Sandra Jurgens	Bob Krush	Walter Kurth
Wendy Laake	Vicki Liebe	Vicki Mall	Randy McIntyre	Tom Monroe
Inga Nabb	Arnold Olson	Ron Phillips	Dick Sayles	Jeff Sebille
Diane Soltau	Joe Stewart	Sally Stewart	Cindy Stolley	Dean Stotz
David Sunleaf	Kelly Taylor	Bev Theis	Karen Truesdell	Jill Vogt
Stephanie Wedeking				

Special recognition goes to the following veteran MGs who volunteered for more than 10 sessions in the hort clinic:

David Sunleaf (33 sessions), Arnold Olson (29), Bob Krush (29), Sharon Helm (14), and JoAnn Garlough (11). For the second year in a row, David Sunleaf is the winner of a new car. These five MGs accounted for more than half of the hort clinic sessions that were covered by MGs in 2009.

- **SPECIAL THANKS:** I would like to personally thank the following MGs, who along with myself, mentored and instructed the 2008 MG class throughout the year on the workings of the hort clinic. I truly appreciate your help.

Marilyn Buel	JoAnn Garlough	Sharon Helm	Arnold Olson	David Sunleaf
Karen Truesdell				

- **MG CLASS OF 2009:** I have looked at school calendars for 2010 – spring breaks, in-service days, inter-session classes, balanced schedules, unbalanced schedules – and I have tentatively picked Tuesday, March 9, 2010 as the date the new MG class will receive training in “How to Work in the Hort Clinic”. This training is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 pm at the ISU Scott County Extension Office (Cyclone Room). Look for confirmation and more information in future newsletters and from your class president.
- **HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN THE HORT CLINIC !!!!!**
- **HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!!!**

Thoughts From The Belly

By: *Dan Mays* – Ironbelly1@aol.com

There is certainly no shortage of articles admonishing gardeners to clean up their gardens at this time of year. Dutifully, many gardens have already been tucked into bed by early November. Every bit of plant debris and fallen leaf has already been whisked off to the compost pile. The garden has been snugly put to bed, ostensibly to survive the pernicious wrath of winter while waiting for the returning warmth of spring. Magazine and newspaper articles detail the pending doom of rampant diseases lest their sage advice be not followed. These admonitions are usually given further credence by inclusion of the names of a few horrid sounding diseases (Which they probably can't pronounce either.) just to drive the point home.

Although there is some measure of soundness in the clean up advice, I don't listen to "the experts" on this one very much. Veteran gardeners have learned to apply a generous portion of "*Well, that depends ...*" to any sage advice. I tidy up messy elements but, by and large, I wait until spring. I really can't put my garden to bed because I am still actively gardening and will continue to do so throughout almost the entire year. You see, I plan for my garden to display a good measure of color, even at this time of the year. To be sure, it is unlikely you will find me futzing around in deep snow or zero degree weather. On the other hand, I actually look forward to a succession towards "the cold show" as temperatures begin to fall.

As the abscission layers lose their grip on the leaves of my Pagoda Dogwood, the pewter-purple leaves of 'Plum Pudding' Heuchera begin to appear through the barren branches of the tree. Purple leaves were there all summer long, peeking out from beneath the shade. However now, in the diminished light of late fall and early winter, this Coral Bell emerges from the shadows to strut her stuff with dazzling color and textures heightened by the autumnal sun. 'Plum Pudding' is one of the truly superior ground covers available to Midwestern gardeners and will endure until spring clean up. A mass planting of this beauty is requisite; especially peeking through a light blanket of snow.

Of course, many of the grasses and native plants are left standing to shelter and feed the birds. Their tawny, statuesque presence plays well throughout the winter. However, I try to frame the taller, herbaceous charisma with other ground hugging plants. One of my favorites provides a stunning foliar display of reds, yellows, oranges and greens throughout cold weather. This performer is a delightful perennial geranium called 'Karmina'. I first heard about this plant from Harlan Hamernik of Blue Bird Nursery in Clarkson, Nebraska when he spoke at a conference some years ago. He recommended 'Karmina' for the many garden tasks it excels.

Firstly, it makes an excellent edging plant – and this is where you will find it in my garden. It hugs the ground a little closer than many of its brethren but the foliage is so dense that weeds don't stand a chance. It fills in nicely but is still well-behaved; bestowing a crisp, defining texture with its verdant spring foliage. In late spring, it puts on a robust display of pink blooms dancing in the breezes which lasts several weeks. The plants seem to thrive on neglect as the summer stretches into the dog days; continuing their soldierly performance as an edge sentry. As frost approaches, the foliage begins to assume its amazingly colorful display. Unlike flower blooms, wet weather only enhances the colors of the leaves. I often marvel at the sheer perseverance of this plant as I so often enjoy looking at the leaves through a coating of frost or ice. I'll take the diminutive delights of 'Karmina' over a row of Styrofoam rose cones any cold day of your choosing.

Garden hygiene is one thing but creating a visual, cold weather wasteland is quite another. It only takes a little bit of color during the winter to make a big difference. When combined with evergreens, shrub berries, grasses and natives, carefully selected ground covers can make winter gardens a visual delight to be savored.



Labels have arrived!

The new shipment of plant markers have arrived.

Prices are:

ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners—10/\$4.00

All Others—10/\$5.00

They may be purchased at the ISU Scott County Extension Office.

2009 Tree Planting and Care Committee

Wayne Hannel – Chair, Tree Planting and Care Committee

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who assisted the Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee and the Bettendorf Tree Committee (through Bettendorf Parks and Recreation) pruning and mulching approximately 28 trees at Friendship Park in Bettendorf on October 24, 2009.

Wayne Hannel provided a brief educational session about pruning prior to the hands-on educational activity.

Approximately 13 volunteers (9 Master Gardeners) assisted with the pruning. In addition to the Master Gardeners, volunteers came with many backgrounds (some dual categories): ISU Community Tree Stewards = 2; Bettendorf Tree Committee = 6; Bettendorf Park Board = 1.

Master Gardeners assisting with the effort included:

Judy Blake
Wayne Hannel
Doug Truesdell

James Danielson
Doug McDonald
Tracy Tuftee

Chuck Doss
Ed Sharkness

John Hale
Joe Stewart

It was a sunny 38 degrees at pruning time. Very comfortable for pruning. Nice day.

Thanks again! Mother Nature appreciates your efforts in tending to her children.

→ **Remember to turn in your volunteer hours.**

News articles are needed for the Gardener's Dirt
Please have articles to the Extension Office by December 15th



2009 Tree Planting and Care Committee

Wayne Hannel – Chair, Tree Planting and Care Committee

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who assisted the Bettendorf Trees Are Us Committee and the Bettendorf Tree Committee (through Bettendorf Parks and Recreation) planting and mulching 12 trees and mulching 43 trees on 53rd Avenue between Devils Glen Road and Mayfield Drive and planting and mulching 3 trees along Crow Creek Road between Coventry and Bunker Hill on October 30, 2009.

Wayne Hannel provided a brief educational session about planting and mulching prior to the hands-on educational activity.

Approximately 18 volunteers (3 Master Gardeners) assisted with the planting. In addition to the Master Gardeners, volunteers came with many backgrounds (some dual categories): ISU Community Tree Stewards = 1; Bettendorf Tree Committee = 3; Bettendorf Parks = 3; ALCOA = 11.

Master Gardeners assisting with the effort included:

Wayne Hannel

Marianne Lemon

Ed Sharkness

Thanks again!

➔ **Remember to turn in your volunteer hours**

Did You Know????

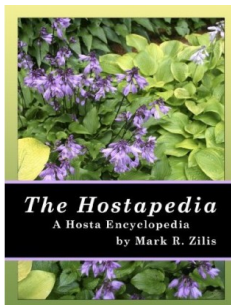
Submitted by Ann DeSalvo

- VanderVeer Botanical Park is having the annual Holiday Luncheon on December 10th at 11:30 a.m. The cost for the special lunch will be \$35.00. The proceeds will be used for improvements to the Park and help fund the many educational programs in the Park. Plan a festive lunch with your friends. Please call the Park office by December 1st to make a reservation and also to find out the location of your lunch. (Hint, our own MG Sally Freeman is one of the hostesses so call early to help fill her home.) Phone—563-323-3298.
- Thomas Edison was enticed to make a summer home in Fort Myers, FL in 1855 because the bamboo growing there was a material Edison researched as a filament for the light bulb.
- Edison and Henry Ford became friends and neighbors in Fort Myers. During WW I they became concerned about the source of rubber so they set up the Edison Botanic Research Company on their property in Fort Myers to discover a new source for latex. Edison tried several thousand plants and found 40 that he could cultivate on a large scale. He focused on goldenrod, a common weed, which grows to 3 to 4 ft with a 5% yield. He developed a strain that grew to a height of 12 feet and had a yield of 12% latex. They dissolved the Company in 1936 because the rubber production was not a commercial success.



Upcoming Classes & Events:

CEU's	Course #	Topic	When	Where	Cost	Instructor	Registration Information
*	-	Iowa Organic Conference	December 4, 2009 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. December 5, 2009 8:00 AM – 5:00 p.m.	Scheman Building ISU Ames, IA	\$125.00	Various	Online at https://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/organic09/quickregister.html
NA	-	Making a Holiday Wreath	December 5, 2009 9:00—11:00 a.m.	Bickelhaupt Arboretum 340 South 14th St. Clinton, Iowa	\$25.00	Master Gardeners	You must preregister for this class - call 563-242-4771
NA	-	Holiday in the Garden A benefit for a greenhouse at Lowe Park	December 5, 2009	Lowe Park 4500 10th Street Marion, IA	-	-	More info at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/linn/news/holiday+garden
NA	-	Horticulture & Cuisine	December 10, 2009 5:30 p.m.	University of Illinois Rock Island County Extension 321 W. 2nd Avenue, Milan, IL	\$35.00	Martha Smith Shirley Camp	More info and register online at: https://webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=3530
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Simplify Your Garden	February 14, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Marcia Leeper	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
*	-	Shade Tree Short Course	February 24-26, 2010	Scheman Building ISU Ames, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	University of Illinois Extension and the Rock Island County Master Gardeners Present Nursery School: Lessons in Gardening	February 27, 2010 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	iWireless Center Moline, IL	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	Hort in the Heartland	March 6, 2010	Clinton Community College	TBA	Various	TBA
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: The Garden in Four Seasons	March 7, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Kelly Norris	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
2	-	ISU Scott County Extension Hort. Clinic Training	March 9, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm	ISU Scott County Extension 875 Tanglefoot Lane Bettendorf, IA	NC	Various	359-7577 ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardeners Only
*	-	2010 All-Iowa Hort Expo	March 19-20 2010	Bridge View Center 102 Church Street Ottumwa, IA	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	Art of Gardening	March 20, 2010	Muscatine Community College	TBA	Various	TBA
*	-	QCCA Lawn & Garden Show	March 26-28, 2010	QCCA Expo Center 2621 4th Avenue Rock Island, IL	TBA	Various	Walk in
2	-	Second Sunday Garden Forum: Great Plants for the Great Plains	April 11, 2010 2:00-4:00 p.m.	Iowa City Public Library 123 South Linn Street Iowa City, IA	NC	Robert Henrickson	Register 319-356-5200 option 4
*	To be determined by sessions attended. Submit proof of sessions attended to the ISU Scott County Extension Horticulturist.						



Thank You!

The Mississippi Valley Hosta Society has donated a copy of *The Hostapedia* by Mark Zilis to the ISU Scott County Extension Master Gardener Library.

Thank You to all members of the MVH Society!

The Gardener's Dirt

Scott County Extension
875 Tanglefoot Lane
Bettendorf, IA 52722-1690
(563) 359-7577 Fax (563) 355-6569
www.extension.iastate.edu/scott



Yard Clippings

Submitted by Christine Rice



An important part in the winter landscape is played by the dead grass and other herbaceous plants, especially by various members of the composite family, such as the asters, golden-rods, and sunflowers. Wreathed in snow or encased in ice, present a singularly graceful and fantastic appearance. Or, perhaps, the slender stalks and branches armed with naked seed-pods trace intricate and delicate shadows on the smooth snow. —Mrs. William Starr Dana, page 216.

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure in the landscape—the loneliness of it—the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it—the whole story doesn't show. —Andrew Wyeth, page 217.

When it's too cold for comfort, the sun-filled garden promises that winter will be brief. —Norman Kent Johnson, page 219.

The cold was our pride, the snow was our beauty. It fell and fell, lacing day and night together in a milky haze, making everything quieter as it fell, so that winter seemed to partake of religion in a way no other season did, hushed, solemn.
—Patricia Hampl, page 218.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. —Anne Bradstreet, page 217.

You mustn't rely on flowers to make your garden attractive. A good bond structure must come first, with an intelligent use of evergreen plants so that the garden is always clothed, no matter what time of year. Flowers are an added delight, but a good garden is the garden you enjoy looking at even in the depths of winter. —Margery Fish, page 238.

A Gardener's Bouquet of Quotations, Editor Maria Polushkin Robbins. New Jersey: The Ecco Press. 1993. Pages 216, 217, 218, 219, 238.

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