



Horticulture Happenings

An Iowa State University Extension Newsletter for Mid-Iowa Gardeners

Nov. 09 Vol. 5 No. 3

In This Issue:

Events Calendar.....p.2

Recipe Corner.....p.2

Holiday Cactus.....p.2

Meet a Master Gardenerp.3

FD Garden Club.....p.3

Veggie of the Month.....p.4

Horticulture On the Radio.....p.5

Spring Memories.....p.5

MG's Trim a Tree.....p.6

Want Ads.....p.6

Submit articles & events to:
Horticulture Happenings
ISU Extension Hamilton County
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303
E-mail: ynilles@iastate.edu

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Helping you become your best.

Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

Hello Winter, Goodbye Garden



The flowering kale pictured above is the one bit of color that is left in my garden now, along with a few struggling violas.

It is time to admit winter weather is here, oops – I just remembered my snow shovel is bent from hauling mulch this summer! Better ask Santa for a new one!

Have you completed your holiday garden wish list yet?

Some garden club folks I know even have their gift giving people trained as to that if a plant is unnamed, they do not want it.

Now some of you may ask why? A plant is a plant after all?

You see, for those who show flowers and plants at fairs and flower shows – a plant must be named in order to receive the full points from the judge.

To this, you may ask - And why would you care to go to all the work and bother to take flowers and plants to a flower show? I like them just fine, left in my yard?

The answer is - because a flower show is a means to help educate the public and in turn, to spread the love of horticulture to others.

We need to give credit to our Master Gardeners and Garden Club members who have been great in helping out our county fairs by sponsoring their flower shows. Thanks to all who "grow to show!"

Horticulture Happenings will be taking a winter break during December and January and will return again in February. May you have a great Holiday season and we'll see you next year!

Yvonne Nilles
Region 7 Horticulturist
Serving Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster & Wright counties

Master Gardeners meeting

ISU Region 7 Master Gardeners will be taking a winter break. There will be no meetings held during the months of December and January. Monthly meetings will resume again in February, 2010.

So take a break - relax, read garden catalogs, and plan for next year's prize winning garden!



ISUE REGION 7 HORTICULTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

- Nov 9...*Pumpkins, Pumpkins*, 6:30 pm
Hamilton Co. Ext-Webster City
- Nov 10...*Pumpkins, Pumpkins*, 6:30 pm
Webster Co. Ext. – Fort Dodge
- Nov 16...*Pumpkins, Pumpkins*, 6:30 pm
Wright Co. Ext. – Clarion
- Nov 17...*Pumpkins, Pumpkins*, 6:30 pm
Humboldt Co. Ext. - Humboldt
- Nov 17...Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, 1:00 pm.
Making Christmas Wreaths
- Nov 18...Town & Country Garden Club
Hamilton Co. ISU Extension
Surprise Holiday Craft, by
Diane Madoerin. 1:00 pm
- Nov 26...Thanksgiving Day!
- Nov 30...*Holiday Greenery*, 6:30 pm
Hamilton Co Ext-Webster City
- Dec 1....*Holiday Greenery*, 6:30 pm
Humboldt Co. Ext. - Humboldt
- Dec 3....Fort Dodge Area Gardeners
Christmas Dinner at Willow
Ridge Country Club. 6 pm.
- Dec 7....*Holiday Greenery*, 6:30 pm
Wright Co. Ext. – Clarion
- Dec 8....*Holiday Greenery*, 6:30 pm
Webster Co Ext. – Fort Dodge
- Dec 9....Town & Country Garden Club
Christmas Luncheon, Noon.
- Dec 15...Fort Dodge Fed Garden Club
Izaak Walton, Noon potluck.
- Dec 17...Region 7 Horticulture Council
Humboldt Co. Ext., 6:30 pm.
- Dec 21...First day of winter

For further details on these events,
contact Yvonne Nilles at

ISU Extension Hamilton County
311 Bank Street
Webster City, IA 50595-2303
Phone: 515-832-9597
ynilles@iastate.edu

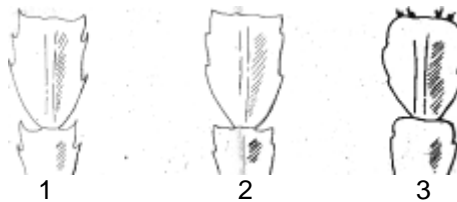
Holiday Cactus I.D.

Did you know that there are actually 3 different types of holiday cactus?

The 3 types can be distinguished by their different leaf forms, flower color and their different bloom times.

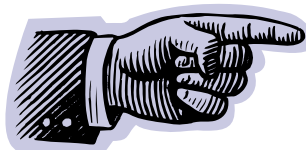
1. *Schlumbergera truncatus*, the Thanksgiving cactus, blooms from Thanksgiving through Christmas. This cactus is the most popular of the holiday cacti and can be found in stores in a wide variety of colors including lavender and salmon;
2. *Schlumbergera bridgesii*, the true Christmas cactus, blooming late December thru March in red;
3. *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*, or Easter cactus, blooms in March thru May with pink or red flowers.

Thanksgiving cacti (1) have sawtooth leaf margins, Christmas cacti leaves (2) have rounded scalloped margins, while Easter cacti (3) leaves have smoother edges and bristled tips.



For additional information on holiday cacti, Download the publication RG 308: "*Growing Holiday Cacti*" available on line at:
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG308.pdf>

We Need You!



Please submit your
Articles, Photos,
Tips & Ideas...
for the next issue of

Horticulture Happenings

RECIPE CORNER



Cranberry Coffeecake

- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
 - 1/3 cup butter
 - 1 1/4 cups cranberries
 - 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- Batter:**
- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature
 - 3/4 cup white sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350°. Wrap outside of 9" springform pan with foil to prevent leaking. Sift together flour, baking pwd., soda, cinnamon & salt. Combine br. sugar & 1/3 cup butter. Bring to boil, and then pour into bottom of springform pan. Sprinkle with cranberries & pecans.

In large bowl, cream together butter & 3/4 cup sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs one at a time, then add vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with sour cream. Pour batter into pan.

Bake in preheated oven for 55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 min., then invert onto serving platter & carefully remove pan. Serve warm. Serves 12.

- Diane Edwards, Wright Co. Master Gardener from Clarion received this recipe from Sharon Evans, former Office Assistant at the Wright Co. ISU Extension Office in Clarion.

**Editor's Note: *This recipe was served at the Nov. Master Gardener meeting - and it is sooo very good!! If you are like me – you may choose to ignore this nutrition information:*

1/12 cake per serving =
Calories: 358; carbs: 39.4 grams;
fiber: 14 grams; fat 21.4 grams

Meet a Master Gardener...

Loretta Daisy

Our Master Gardener of the month is Webster County Master Gardener Loretta Daisy. Although Loretta actually resides in Calhoun County, and lives in Lake City with her husband Bryce, she is very active with Webster County Master Gardeners.

Loretta is also a member of the Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club and serves on the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa State Board as the second vice-president. She is an accredited Flower Show Judge and enjoys working with youth, such as judging 4-H exhibits at county fairs. She also volunteers as a Stephen Minister and is active in her church. Loretta also has a soft spot in her heart for orphan kittens, as she has raised many through the years.

Loretta enjoys floral design and assists each year with the annual Miniature Flower Show, co-sponsored by the Town & Country Garden Club of Webster City, the Fort Dodge Garden Club and ISU Region 7 Extension Horticulture.

If you would like a program given by Loretta or any other of our Region 7 Master Gardeners or Interns, please call your local ISU Extension Office for further information.

Thank you Loretta, for all your many hours of volunteer service!



Webster County Master Gardener **Loretta Daisy** with the Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club's decorated tree.

Fort Dodge Federated Garden Club

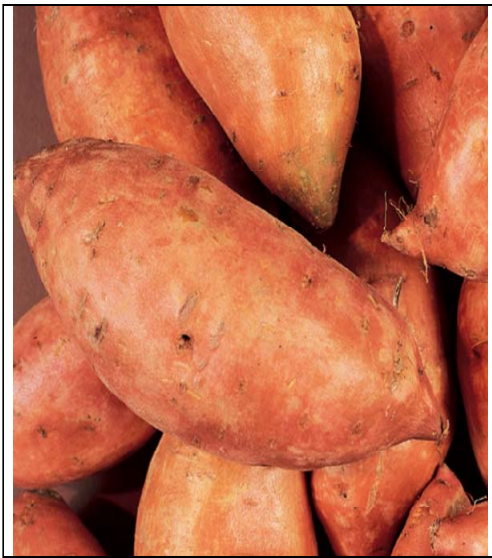
Kathy Messerly, of Fort Dodge led an ornament making workshop with club members creating poinsettias from dyed corn husks and pinecones garnished with glitter and artificial snow.

The tree will be donated to the YWCA benefit auction, an annual event held at the Trolley Center in Fort Dodge.



FD Fed. Garden Club members are shown putting finishing touches on their tree! **L-R:** Sela Bryhne, Marilyn Peterson-Shipp, Millie Nordeen, Kathy Messerly & Judy Touney, all of Fort Dodge.





Vegetable of the Month... *Yams or Sweet Potatoes?*

Are sweet potatoes the same as yams? This nagging question may come up for discussion during a holiday feast – and now – you will have the answer!

In the United States, yams are actually sweet potatoes with relatively moist texture and orange flesh. Although the terms are used interchangeably, the USDA requires that the label "yam" always be accompanied by "sweet potato". A sweet potato has a smooth appearance with a thin skin, while a yam has a rough appearance with a scaly skin. Sweet potatoes are short with blocky tapered ends; yams are long and cylindrical. Sweet potatoes taste sweeter than yams, which are starchier tasting. And finally, sweet potatoes are grown in the United States, while yams are imported from the Caribbean.

For the most food value, choose sweet potatoes, as they are higher in Vitamin A content while yams are rather low in Vitamin A.

ISUE Region 7 Fall Horticulture Programs

"*Pumpkins, Pumpkins*" is the program to be held at ISU Region 7 Extension Offices in November. Learn to grow all types of pumpkins, from miniature types to gigantic varieties available for your garden. Growing gourds, squash and other cucurbits, along with disease problems and pest control tips will also be discussed. Information and ideas on holding pumpkin contests will be covered at this 1-hour workshop. Master Gardeners will also be on hand to answer your gardening questions. This program is free and open to the public. To register, call your local extension office for further details.



Pumpkins on display at Reiman Gardens

This program will be held at the following ISU Extension Offices:

Hamilton County: 515-832-9597
Monday, Nov. 9, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Webster County: 515-576-2119
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Wright County: 515-532-3453
Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Humboldt County: 515-332-2201
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:30 – 7:30 pm



Von Ketelsen in his studio "jungle" at KWMT.

Horticulture on the Radio

Radio personality Von Ketelsen is really hooked on plants!

His office at the KWMT studios in Fort Dodge is overflowing with hanging baskets.

Von plans to host a call-in show to answer horticulture questions while discussing various horticulture topics to start in December. Be sure to listen to Von's Power Lunch program on KWMT, AM 540 to hear the growing details regarding this show.

And who knows – we may even talk Von into taking the Iowa Master Gardener training to be held in our Region 7 area next September.



Springtime Garden Memories

- Photos by Webster Co. Master Gardener Doris Peterson

"It is good to have the pictures of our gardens after the hard frosts have hit," states Master Gardener Doris Peterson. One of Doris's favorite flowers is the delphinium.

The forecast was for hail that day late last spring when Doris took these pictures. She and her husband Norman, who live on their farm near Harcourt, were very thankful hail did not develop that day after all and her beautiful delphiniums were safe from damage.

Doris starts her delphiniums from seed each year and generously shares the seedlings at the local Master Gardener plant exchanges.



For further information on this stately plant, see the ISU publication RG 306 "*Delphiniums*". Download at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG306.pdf>



Master Gardeners Trim a Tree for Charity

ISU Extension Region 7 Master Gardeners held a potluck dinner November 3 along with a workshop on creating tree decorations.

Sela Bryhne presented a workshop on making tussie-mussies tree ornaments from natural materials. The group's tree will be donated for the annual Christmas tree auction benefit for the YWCA in Fort Dodge, held later this month.

Be sure to visit all of the beautiful trees which will be on display at the Trolley Center in Fort Dodge.

Master Gardeners are shown with their unique creations ready to trim the tree!
Front, L-R: Sela Bryhne, Marilyn Peterson-Shipp; Frances Stetson, all of Ft. Dodge.
Back row, L-R: Howard Jensen and Judy Touney, both of Fort Dodge; Lois Leshner, Clarion; Barb Jensen, Fort Dodge; Diane Edwards, Clarion; Greg Copper; Fort Dodge; Wendy Lensing, Jan Jorgensen, Dave Lensing and LeRoy Jorgensen, all of Humboldt.

WANT ADS –

Helping to connect Region 7 gardeners with the good stuff – dirt cheap!

AVAILABLE: Garden lot space in Fort Dodge. May need soil amendments, due to fire the house on this site has been demolished. Call for further information.

HOME SWEET HOME: Swarming bees wanted. Fort Dodge gardener is interested in obtaining swarms for 2 vacant hives. Possibly willing to provide hive and information to a beginning bee keeper in the Fort Dodge area. You won't get stung on this honey of a deal!

WANTED: Tension plant pole(s) for hanging baskets (as in retro 70's type). Also would like to obtain macramé hangers for 8" or larger pots. We will hang around until we hear from you!



Garden Quote:

"Leroy planted 1,111 cloves of garlic. He thought that was a good number to stop at."

- Jan Jorgensen, Humboldt Co. Master Gardener