

November 2021

Dear Members,

The trouble with living in Colorado, especially the Evergreen area, is it's just too gorgeous here! Even on a day that is cold and snowing, the sun comes out and the sky is blue, and you just want to get outside. Now why is this a problem? Housework, shopping and the like are difficult to get done spring, summer and fall. When winter comes, it's hurry up and do the spring, summer and fall cleaning fast because before you know it, it's spring and all those beautiful bulbs you just planted this fall are popping their heads out of the ground and it's time to add another garden or expand an existing garden, so housework be damned!

Life is made of choices: 1. Clean house 2. Plant flowers See you in the garden!

Peace, love and gardens, Cherie Luke EGC President

NEXT EGC MEETING - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2021 IN PERSON AT A NEW LOCATION

CHURCH OF THE HILLS - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

28628 BUFFALO PARK ROAD, EVERGREEN

9:00 am: Social gathering 9:30 am: EGC business meeting

EGC NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY ECO-GARDENS – Landscaping with Native Plants

By Author Dennis Swiftdeer Paige

Copies of his book will be available for sale

NOTE: We are meeting at a new location until further notice as the Fire Department has closed all meeting facilities to the public due to ongoing COVID concerns.



The meeting was called to order by President Cherie Luke. The meeting was held as a Zoom call online. Board members present were Hannah Hayes, Vice President; Helen McLeman, Treasurer; Julie Ann Courim, Technology Officer and Janet Gluskoter, Secretary.

President's Report - Cherie asked if there were any new members present. There was one new member present; Mary Dreger from Denver, (her children live in Evergreen). Cherie mentioned that the board is currently looking for a new 2nd Vice President and asked if anyone present was interested to contact any board member.

Secretary's Report - September minutes were approved by the board and submitted to the October Wild Iris. Janet stated that the EGC ByLaws were approved by the board. The Standard Operating Procedures are currently being updated and will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Helen shared and reviewed the October budget to date and we are doing well on membership.

Despite the pandemic, we did okay last year. The new budget for 2021/2022 was presented; total accounts:

\$23,361.99; total income: \$5,000.00; total expenses: \$9,500.00. It was moved and second that the budget be approved. It was noted that the allowances for the gardens are estimates and if any of the leaders need additional funds to just let Helen know. Helen mentioned that there is another board position open for a marketing/publicity officer.

Vice President's Report - Hannah stated that the November speaker will provide a flash drive of his presentation. It was suggested that he use his own computer, however, Julie Ann will assist if necessary.

Hannah asked if it would be possible to have a plaque installed at the friend's garden in honor of Louise Mounsey's

Hannah asked if it would be possible to have a plaque installed at the friend's garden in honor of Louise Mounsey's 100th birthday. Hannah will meet with Pam Hinish to discuss/plan.

2nd Vice President's Report Position currently open.

Technology Officer's Report - Julie Ann is adding new members to the directory and assisting with email issues.

Committee Reports

Public Gardens Coordinator - Annell Hoy - Not in attendance.

Garden Tour Coordinator - Louise Heern - Not in attendance.

Hospitality - Jan Parks Jan will send a reminder to the volunteers bringing food & drink for the November meeting. Jan presented the beautiful plaque that she and her husband donated as a memorial to Peggy Bertrand. This will be installed at the fire station garden.

Cindy Gibson is asking for a volunteer to fill in for her at the hospitality table for the December meeting as she will be out of town. It was suggested that we place a request through the Wild Iris.

New member, Mary Dreger, is looking for recommendations for a local landscaping company. Helen will send her the name of someone she used. Others suggested were; Sundance, JP Total Lawn & Property, JR's Landscaping.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Gluskoter
Secretary Evergreen Garden Club



Wintertime brings out the rawest version of our trees. They're bare. They're exposed. And they must survive in harsh, dry air amidst bitter cold temperatures. So, do they need any help from us to stay warm? Damian in Chicago asked, "Do I need to cover my Japanese maple tree in winter?" No matter what type of tree you have, here's when you should step in and protect your tree from winter's most extreme elements.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WRAPPING TREES FOR WINTER

If you have a new tree, a tree with thin bark, or an arborvitae, you should wrap it before Jack Frost arrives in town.

DO TREES NEED WINTER PROTECTION? WHAT ABOUT EVERGREENS?

Young trees, or trees of any age with thin bark, benefit from winter protection. Why, you ask? Well, whenever the sun peeks out on a chilly winter day, it warms the tree's bark. Then, the tissue below the bark perks up. But as soon as the sun disappears behind a building or cloud, the bark temperature quickly drops, which may kill the tissue and can leave the bark cracked and dry.

That, my friends, is what we call **sunscald**. But if you wrap your delicate trees, you help protect them from it!

A similar scare can happen to evergreens in winter. Their needles soak up the sunlight on warm winter days, but as soon it gets cool again, the foliage can dry out and <u>turn from fresh green to stale brown</u>.



WHAT'S THE BEST TREE WRAP FOR WINTER? IS IT BURLAP?

It depends on what kind of tree you have. Take Damien's Japanese maple, for example. It's a tree that loses its leaves in the fall *and* has thin bark, so the best way to protect it is by wrapping the trunk in a plastic tree guard. The same goes for any thin-barked tree, like maple, poplar, aspen, sycamore or linden. Ditto for any newly-planted tree that loses its leaves. Wrap the trunk from the base up to the lowest branches to help protect it from sunscald. But if you have an arborvitae or evergreen with one of the below issues, wrap it with burlap instead.

Wrap burlap around your evergreen if it's...

- Weak for any reason.
- o Fully exposed to heavy wind.
- o Dehydrated and didn't get much water this fall.
- Newly planted.

HOW DO I USE TREE WRAP TO WRAP TREES, LIKE ARBORVITAE, WITH BURLAP?

There are two ways to safeguard your evergreen tree with burlap. Not only will it help keep the cold air out, but it may also stop deer from eating it!

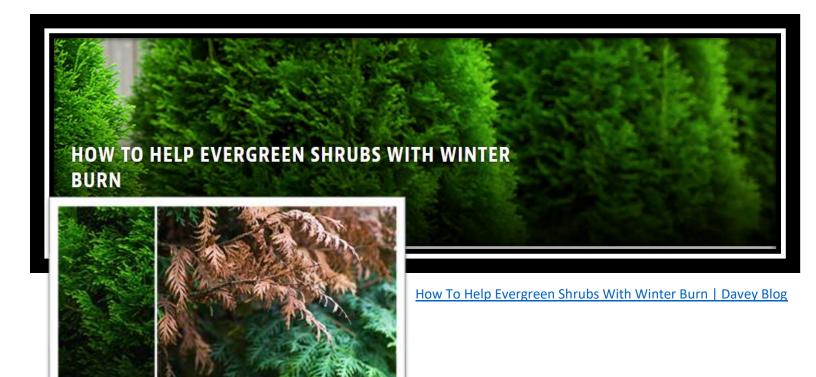
Option one:

- 1. Loosely wrap burlap all the way around the tree, from the lowest branches to slightly above the highest peak.
- 2. Pin the burlap temporarily, cut from the spool and remove pins.
- 3. To secure, use twine to tie the top, middle and bottom of the tree.

Option two:

- 1. Grab three wooden stakes that are slightly taller than the tree.
- 2. Place one stake in front, one on the side of the tree that gets the most wind, and the final one on either side of the tree. You want to form a triangle.
- 3. Stretch a few pieces of burlap across the stakes and secure with staples.
- 4. When you're done, you'll have what looks like a protective fence around your tree.





For people living in cold climates, a sunny, warm day that interrupts an otherwise gloomy winter is something to look forward to.

For evergreens in cold climates? Well...sunny winter days aren't so sweet. Harsh sun actually works against evergreens in winter. Come springtime, these endlessly green plants might turn brown from the damage.

Below, find out why your evergreen shrubs may not have gotten off to a good start in spring.

MY EVERGREEN SHRUBS (BOXWOOD, DWARF ALBERTA SPRUCE) HAVE WINTER BURN. WHAT NOW?

Winter burn sounds pretty straightforward, but what exactly does it mean?

Here's the gist—evergreen shrubs, unlike other plants, hold on to their foliage in winter, and it takes tons of moisture to keep their needles green throughout the season. Anytime bright sun or harsh wind is in the forecast, the needles lose moisture, and since the ground is frozen, plant roots just can't take up enough water from the soil to replace that lost moisture. Eventually, the needles get way too dry, causing winter burn.



HOW DO I KNOW IF MY SHRUBS ARE AFFECTED?

Winter burn starts with the tips of shrub needles turning brown, and then eventually full needles on a whole section of the tree are brown and dry.

Not surprisingly, the discolored section appears on the side of the plant that gets the most sun or wind throughout winter. But that doesn't mean winter burn is immediately obvious. Evergreen shrubs might look green and healthy leading up to spring, and then start to turn brown just as the growing season arrives.

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR WINTER BURN TREATMENT? WILL MY SHRUBS RECOVER?

Odds are, an evergreen shrub that has winter burn will bounce back. Even though brown chunks might make the plant look dead, your shrub will more than likely sprout new needles.

To be sure, prick a small area of an affected branch with your fingernail or a pocket knife. It should be green and moist underneath. Any branches that are still green under the bark are alive and can grow new needles. If any branches are brown and dry underneath, you should prune those out.

Lastly, make sure your shrubs get lots of water throughout spring. They'll thank you with a flush of new green needles!

CAN I PREVENT WINTER BURN BEFORE NEXT YEAR?

Kudos to you for thinking ahead! Yes, there are steps you can take to protect your shrubs.

Here are four things you should do to prevent evergreen winter burn:

- 1. Thoroughly water your shrubs in fall all the way up until the ground freezes. Hydrated plants have a much better chance at dodging winter burn.
- 2. <u>Apply 3-4 inches of mulch to the ground beneath your shrubs and trees.</u> That'll seal in the moisture you're giving them when you water.
- 3. Try an anti-desiccant spray. It's a wax-like coating that helps evergreens avoid moisture loss in winter. Read more about anti-desiccant sprays in this blog post.
- 4. If your shrubs are directly exposed to harsh sun or wind in winter, wrap them for protection. <u>Here's how to wrap an evergreen shrub with burlap.</u>



What to Do When Evergreen Trees Are Dying from Top Down | Davey Blog

If you were admiring your evergreen and noticed brown, dead needles at the top, something is probably wrong. That isn't normal and could be a serious problem. Plus, a pine or spruce tree donning a brown crown is no pretty picture. But does it mean the tree is dying from the top down? Or is the tree just in need of some TLC? Read on to find out why your pine or spruce is browning and what you can do to save it.

HOW TO FIX PINES, SPRUCES, AND EVERGREENS TURNING BROWN FROM THE TOP DOWN

HARSH WINTER WIND

Problem: Frigid winter weather poses a threat to pine and spruce trees, particularly their treetops. The crown is an easy target for harsh wind or sunscald, turning needles brown or purple at the end of winter or beginning of spring.

How to Fix: Avoid winter injury by treating trees with an <u>anti-desiccant spray</u> in fall. Also, keep trees well-watered throughout the year. A tree with too much or too little hydration gets stressed out and is more susceptible to damage.

A PEST OR DISEASE

Problem: A number of pests and diseases can cause a pine or spruce treetop to turn brown. Let's break down a few of the usual suspects:

- White pine weevils lay their eggs on a tree's main branches in spring. By early-to-mid fall, the hatched beetles start feeding on tree stems, cutting off their water flow.
- o <u>Bark beetles</u> leave a yellow-to-brownish tint on tree crowns. You'll also find sawdust on the bark and base of the tree. They primarily target older or weakened trees.
- One of the few needle diseases that attacks from the top down is <u>pine wilt disease</u>. Small worms called nematodes invade trees and quickly cause severe damage.

How to Fix: Inspect your tree for debris or insect remnants that can point to an infestation. Once you've identified symptoms beyond browning needles, <u>call in an arborist for a free consultation</u>. In many cases, using an insecticide or pruning away infected branches will get your tree back in shape.





Since the growing conditions very near to the house were not ideal, I potted small evergreens, junipers, arborvitaes (tried them all) and the like in large pots on our deck and by the front door, to bring the allusion of green trees closer to the house. Unfortunately, three quarters of the way through the winter, despite the winter watering, they would turn brown and by spring would often have to be replaced. At first I thought it was because they were planted in pots, but we also had this problem with some of the newer evergreen trees and shrubs we planted in the ground. It seemed impossible to get them established and through that first winter.

The main cause of winter damage to trees and shrubs is through desiccation, or drying out. When the ground freezes, plant roots are unable to take up water from the soil, so they quickly begin to use up all the water stored in their leaves and stems. This is very damaging, particularly to evergreen trees and shrubs that don't protect themselves by dropping their leaves in winter. Examples: Junipers, Arborvitaes, cedars, holly, etc.

Anti-desiccants, also called anti-transpirants, are sprays that provide a protective coating to evergreen foliage that reduces the amount of water that escapes. Anti-desiccants such as Moisturin are made of chemical polymers, and products such as Wilt Pruf are made from pine oil. A relatively safe way to reduce moisture loss and protect plants against the cold drying winds of winter

Anti-desiccants are gradually washed and worn away over several months, so by springtime they are gone. While all anti-desiccants are marketed as biodegradable, the ones with the most natural ingredients will be safest for you and your plants. I used Wilt Pruf with very favorable results.



HELPFUL INFORMATION TO KNOW <u>BEFORE</u> YOU APPLY AN ANTI-DESICCANT!

Follow all package instructions with your antidesiccant.

DON'T SPRAY TOO EARLY! Wait until at least December to spray conifers, because these plants can be damaged if you apply the antidesiccant too early. These plants must be completely dormant (which involves moving water down to the roots) before applying, or else the spray will trap water in the leaves that will freeze and burst the plant cells later.

PICK A NICE DAY! We get lots of them during the winter season! Anti-desiccants are best applied when temperatures are in the 40s-50s, with no rain forecast for a few days. Foliage needs to be dry when applied, and the spray needs time to dry afterward.

DON'T SPRAY WAXY BLUE CONIFERS such as blue spruce – they already have a natural coating that you don't want to damage.

Anti-Desiccants can also be used for:

Bulbs: You can apply an anti-desiccant to tender bulbs before storing.

Transplanting: If you find yourself transplanting a stressed shrub in midsummer, an anti-desiccant can help hold in moisture until the plants put out new roots.

Pumpkins: Apply anti-desiccant to your carved jack o'lantern to help it last longer.

Christmas Trees, Wreaths and Garland: Antidesiccant can help keep your cut Christmas trees, wreaths and greens from drying out as fast.





ABOUT WILT PRUF

Wilt-Pruf® is a natural pine oil emulsion that is organic, non-hazardous and biodegradable. Wilt-Pruf® spray dries to form a clear transparent and flexible protective coating without interfering with plant growth or materially affecting respiration, osmosis or photosynthesis.

Ultraviolet rays from outdoor daylight react with our film forming polymer which produces a continuous flexible film which forms a coating similar to having numerous bed sheets on a bed. When the top sheet is removed, there are still many more sheets left. The same phenomenon is true with Wilt-Pruf®. As the outside layer wears off with the sun, wind and rain and powders away, another layer forms. This process continues until all the layers have worn off which takes three to four months and sometimes longer depending on climatic conditions. Wilt-Pruf® is the only horticulture antitranspirant that has the ability to provide this long lasting protection.

This information and more are available on their website.

Wilt-Pruf Products Inc. (wiltpruf.com)





VermiHut Plus 5-Tray Worm Compost Bin

\$120 now 17% off

<u>Amazon.com</u>: VermiHut Plus 5-Tray Worm Compost Bin – Easy Setup and Sustainable Design: Patio, Lawn & Garden

\$100

If the gardener in your life wants to start composting but doesn't know where to begin, Diane Miessler, author of *Grow Your Soil*, recommends this vermicompost system. (Vermicomposting is using a population of worms to break down plant matter.) The finished product of "rich compost writhing with red worms brings joy to most gardeners," she says.

Scheurich Froggy Water Supplier

\$14

A more low-tech (and adorable) solution for keeping a plant hydrated that our friends over at the Strategist UK recommend.

\$14 AT AMAZON

For more gift ideas and details on those listed here and below, follow the link below.

36 Best Gifts for Gardeners 2021 | The Straterist (nymag.com)







Europrene 3-in-1 Soil Moisture Sensor

\$10

An inexpensive gift that will change their life, recommended by Truini. "Simply plunge the two steel probes into the ground and the easy-read meter will indicate if it's time to water, whether the plant is getting enough sun, and if the soil is acidic or alkaline," he says.

\$10 AT AMAZON



Spicy Micro Mix Organic Microgreen Seed

From \$7

Actress Isabella Rossellini, the founder of Mama Farm, an artisanal farm in Brookhaven, New York, also loves Johnny's seeds. "They have a catalogue that has exclusively organic products — it's well illustrated and has easy and clear explanations for how to plant the seeds and what conditions they need, things like that," she told us. "Most importantly, their deliveries are reliable. This is essential because planting has to be done during specific months of the year."

FROM \$7 AT JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS



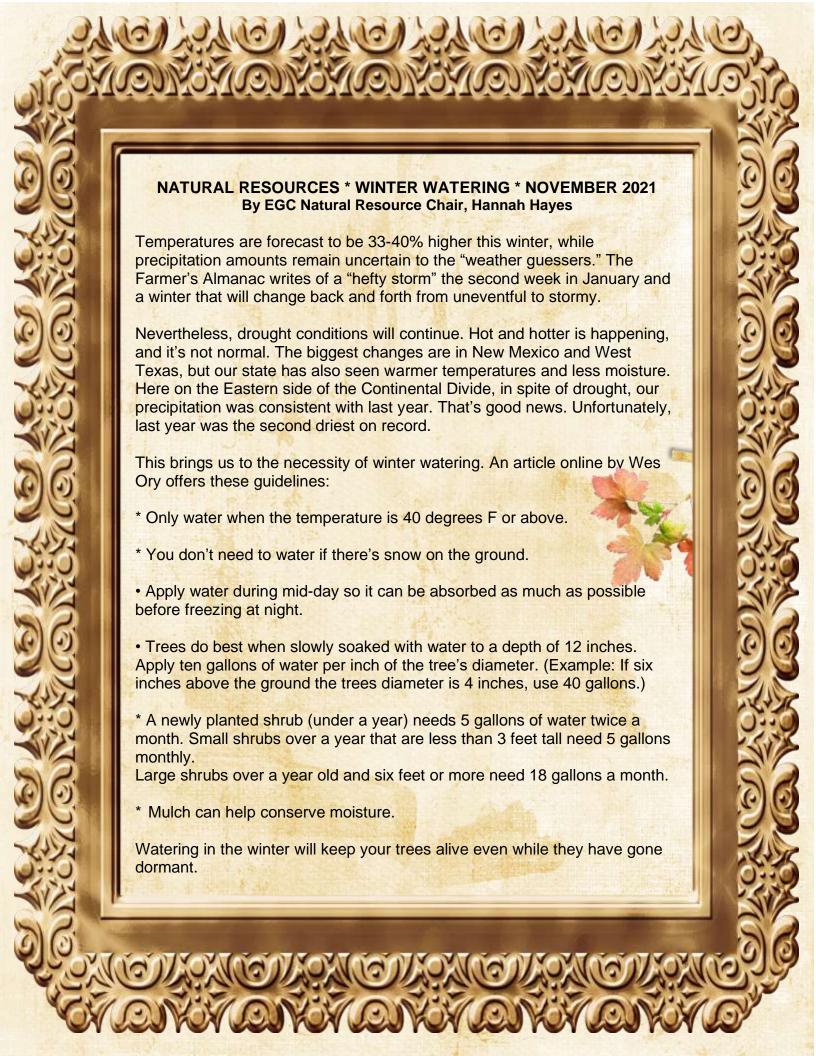


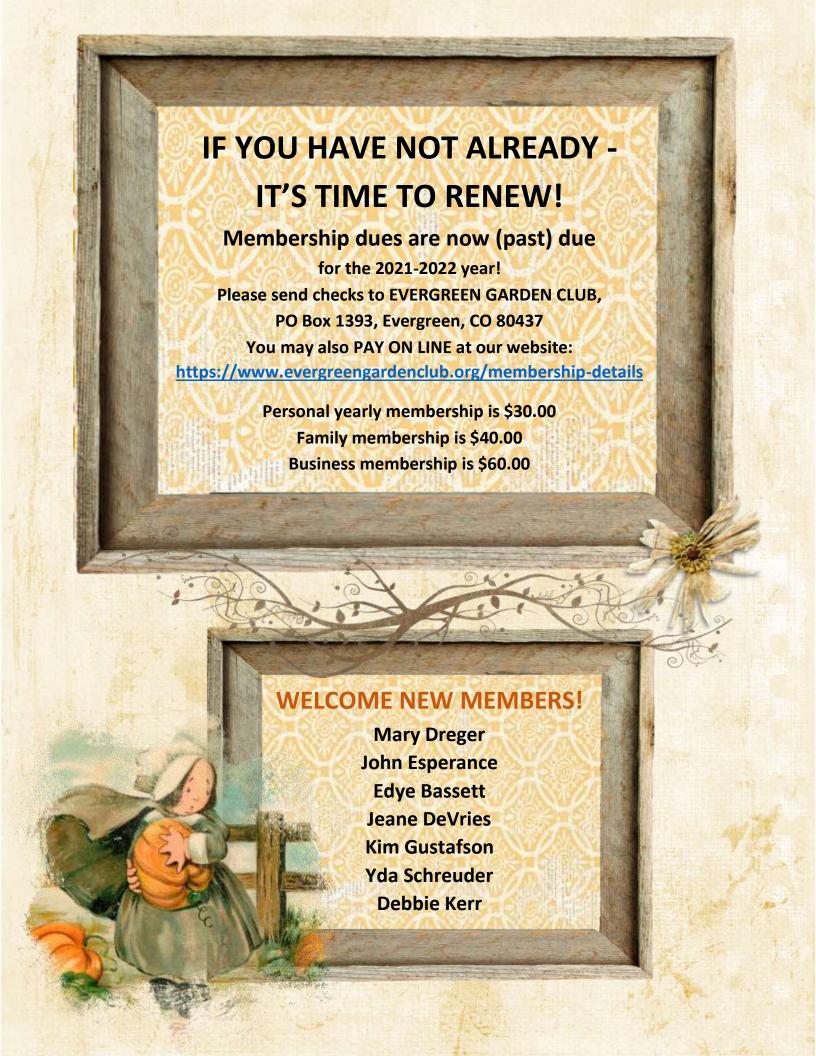
Johnny's Selected Seeds 7-Inch Stirrup Hoe

\$62

Dan Colen, artist and founder of Sky High Farm, a sustainable farm in Hudson Valley, swears by this red steel hoe from Johnny's Selected Seeds. "The blade is sharp; the grip is comfortable," he says. "This one, when you're holding it, is ergonomic — it allows you to use your knees and your back. Without it, I'd be down on my knees pulling things out of the ground or throwing my back out, which I do all the time regardless."

\$62 AT JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS





American Bittersweet Vine: Tips For Growing Bittersweet

Plants

By: Jackie Carroll

Grow your own popular fall decorating accent!

Bittersweet vines are North American native plants that thrive throughout most of the United States. In the wild, you can find it growing on the edges of glades, on rocky slopes, in woodland areas and in thickets. It often winds itself around trees and covers low-growing shrubs. In the home landscape you can try growing bittersweet along a fence or other support structure.

What is American Bittersweet Vine?

American bittersweet is a vigorous deciduous, perennial vine that grows 15 to 20 feet (4.5-6 m.) tall. It is native to central and eastern North America. They produce yellowish green flowers that bloom in spring, but the flowers are plain and uninteresting compared to the berries that follow. As the flowers fade, orange-yellow capsules appear.



plant well into winter, brightening winter landscapes and attracting birds and other wildlife. The berries are poisonous to humans if eaten, however, so practice caution when planting around homes with small children.

Growing Bittersweet Vines

In very cold climates, make sure you plant American bittersweet vine (Celastrus scandens) rather than Chinese bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus). American bittersweet vine is hardy in USDA plant hardiness zones 3b through 8, while Chinese bittersweet suffers frost damage and may die to the ground in USDA zones 3 and 4. It is hardy in zones 5 to 8.

American bittersweet thrives in sunny locations and in almost any soil. Water these bittersweet vines by soaking the surrounding soil during dry spells. Bittersweet vine doesn't usually need fertilization, but if it appears to get off to a slow start, it may benefit from a small dose of general-purpose fertilizer. Vines that receive too much fertilizer don't flower or fruit well. Prune the vines in late winter or early spring to remove dead shoots and control excess growth. Note: American bittersweet and other bittersweet varieties are known to be aggressive growers and are, in many areas, considered noxious weeds. Make sure to check whether or not it is advisable to grow this plant in your area beforehand, and take necessary precautions on its control if currently growing the plant.

Read more at Gardening Know How: American Bittersweet Vine: Tips For Growing Bittersweet Plants https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/vines/bittersweet/growing-bittersweet-













Just Add Water!

In cold weather, a heated bird bath can be a bird's best friend

Winter can be a particularly difficult time for wildlife and most gardeners love to feed the birds. But did you know that open water may be more difficult for birds to find in winter than food? Many times, reliable water sources can be frozen with or without snow on the ground, or evaporated by the cold, dry wind.

When water suddenly disappears, animals expend valuable energy and risk dangerous exposure searching for other sources—which might mean the difference between life and death in the coldest season.

Water sources in winter are a wonderful way to attract a variety of birds that don't normally visit feeders. At a time when natural water sources may be frozen, they provide a reliable source of water for bathing and drinking. Bathing is especially important in cold weather in order to keep feathers in top condition. Research has shown that a chickadee with well-maintained feathers can sustain a 70-degree layer of insulation between the outside air and its skin.

The easiest way to provide ice-free water in a bird bath is to use a heat source. You can find birdbaths with built-in heating elements (generally set to 40–50 degrees Fahrenheit) at online retailers and home and garden specialty stores. You can also purchase water-heating units designed to float on the surface of ponds or to rest on the bottom of birdbaths. These heaters usually cost little to run and safely shut off automatically when pulled out of the water.







SOLAR OPTIONS

Important Safety Tip: Be sure your outdoor outlets are protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to cut off the electricity in case of a short.

Use solar energy to your advantage: Put water sources on the south or southwestern side of your property, preferably sheltered from the wind.

However, when you provide water, remember that sanitation is important year-round. Locating water sources close to your house makes <u>cleaning</u> and maintenance much easier—and you won't have to carry buckets of water far. Be sure the containers are regularly cleaned and replenished with fresh water—more often as more animals use them—to prevent the spread of disease.

Rinse a birdbath daily before refilling it, and clean it once a week using a solution of one-part chlorine bleach to nine parts water and a scrub brush to loosen debris. Rinse again thoroughly before refilling with fresh water.









GROUND OPTIONS

References
The Humane Society of the United States
Wild Birds Unlimited
Rockies Audubon





A 'Beginner's Guide to Forcing Bulbs' is repeated below.



Please send any corrections or submissions for the Wild Iris to louiseheern@gmail.com

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO FORCING BULBS

Reprinted from Better Homes & Gardens



Almost everyone recognizes the daffodil and the tulip. They are superstars of the flower bulb world: the easy-to-grow, can't-get-any-sunnier-in-springtime flowers. But before you rush out to add them to your outdoor garden, consider this: You also can have bulbs indoors in those not-sowarm months.

Forcing bulbs inside is a super easy technique that's simply a sleight of hand—a trickster's way to get blooms by faking out your flowers about what season it really is. It involves very little effort and few materials. The biggest exertion? Scheduling their arrival.

TO CHILL OR NOT TO CHILL

Here's the deal: Bulbs that grow indoors sometimes need a reminder that they've been through winter — however fake it is. In fact, all bulbs except amaryllis and paperwhites need a cold-snap. What makes those two different? They don't get cold at home in their native tropics, so they don't need winter wherever you live. For other flower bulbs though, you will have to chill them a little to get them to bloom inside; just how long depends on the bulb. Generally:

Chill in September, bloom in January Chill in October, bloom in February Chill in November, bloom in March Chill in December, bloom in April

Amaryllis: Chill time none; bloom time 6 to 8 weeks
Crocus: Chill time 8 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling
Daffodil: Chill time 2 to 3 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling
Grape hyacinth: Chill time 8 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling
Hyacinth: Chill time 12 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling
Iris: Chill time 13 to 15 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling
Paperwhites: Chill time none; bloom time 3 to 5 weeks
Snowdrop: Chill time 15 weeks; bloom time 2 weeks after chilling
Tulip: Chill time 10 to 16 weeks; bloom time 2 to 3 weeks after chilling

IF YOUR BULBS NEED CHILLING

- Choose a pot deep enough that you have a couple of inches below the bottom of the bulbs for soil and roots but that it is tall enough that you can cover the bulbs up to their necks.
- Fill the bottom of the container with potting soil.
- Use enough bulbs to fill the container. You can crowd them or give them some air. Cover with potting soil just to the necks of the bulbs.
- Chill the bulbs for the recommended time period.
 The crisper drawer of your refrigerator is just fine for a handful of hydrangea bulbs. An unheated basement, cold space or inside a cold frame also works as a cool spot to keep your bulbs. Keep the soil just damp not wet.
- Start waking up your bulbs by giving them a few weeks of warmer (not warm) and some indirect sunlight.
- Once the bulbs shoot up and are a couple of inches tall, give them more sun and a warmer spot.

IF YOUR BULBS <u>DON'T</u> NEED CHILLING

- Soak the roots of the bulbs in a shallow pan of lukewarm water for a couple of hours.
- Fill a pot with potting soil or garden pebbles; insert the bulbs but leave the top two-thirds exposed.
- Gently tamp down the soil or pebbles around the bulbs. Water until damp, then place in a sunny, warm spot.





References: White Flower Farm



FORCING HYACINTHS WITHOUT SOIL

Hyacinths can be forced in pebbles and water or in glass jars. They still require a cool rooting period if forced this way.

- 1. Place a 2 to 3-inch layer of pebbles such as pea stone, marble chips or river rocks in the bottom of a bowl or pot.
- 2. Set the bulbs on top of the pebbles, and then fill with more pebbles, leaving the top $1/3^{rd}$ of the bulb exposed.
- 3. Add enough water to create a reservoir for the roots but be sure the base of the bulb stays above water level; if they sit in water the bulbs will rot.
- 4. Place the container in a dark, cool area (40 to 50 degrees) 4 to 8 weeks.
- 5. Check the water level occasionally, adding more water when necessary but keeping the water level below the bottom of the bulb.
- 6. When roots have developed and leaves begin to grow, move the bulbs to a bright window in a cool area (below 65 degrees).

You can keep bulbs cool in a refrigerator, but only if there is no fresh fruit stored inside. The ethylene gas released by fruit during its natural ripening process will interfere with flower development. Better to store bulbs in an extra refrigerator, if you happen to have one.

