



LINTON'S

Leaflet



Winter
2010

newsletter volume 16/issue 4

Landscaping * Lawn Care * Nursery
Garden Centre * Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe

Taking Care Of Live Holiday Decorations

by Laura Sherman

The holidays are upon us and it's time to decorate our homes. The smell of a fresh cut Christmas tree just says that the holidays are here. To some people, Christmas just isn't Christmas without a real tree. Linton's carries a fabulous selection of Christmas trees in different varieties and sizes that are locally grown. We also have a large selection of beautiful Poinsettias, fresh wreaths, roping, and potted Christmas Trees. Following are some tips to help keep your trees and Poinsettias looking their best.

Poinsettia's aren't just red anymore. They come in many colors: red, white, pink, and purple. They are a wonderful traditional holiday decoration. Try not to over or under water your Poinsettia. You should water these when the surface of the soil is dry to the touch. Do not let water sit in the foil; this will cause the roots to rot. It should be kept away from window or door drafts and heater vents. An ideal temperature should be between 68 to 75 degrees. If the room becomes warmer, it's okay for a short while. It should never get below 50 degrees. Poinsettias are cold sensitive. Also, avoid fertilizing your plant when it is in bloom. Fertilize after the blooming season with a balanced all purpose fertilizer.

Choosing a tree can be a great family activity. Some people like a very full tree and others like a more slender tree. After you have chosen the perfect

tree for your family, there are some steps to take before you decorate. Before you strap that tree to your car, tarp or cover it to keep it from drying out. Make a fresh 1 inch cut on the butt end of the tree and place it in a bucket of warm water. If you are not going to decorate it right away, keep the tree in a unheated garage in the bucket of water. When you are ready to place the tree in your home, make a second 1 inch cut and place the tree in its stand. With most trees this will take at least 2 people. Keep trees away from fireplaces, heater vents and any other open flames. Watering is the most important thing to remember with a cut Christmas tree. A rule of thumb for watering your tree is: 1 quart of water for every 1 inch diameter of trunk per day. (i.e. 2" trunk = 2 quarts of water per day). Be sure to keep the water level about the base of the tree. If the base dries out, resin will form on the cut end and it will not be able to absorb water and will dry out quickly. This causes dropped needles. If this happens, re-cut the trunk. Use cool burning lights on your tree as it will help retain moisture in the needles.

Using these suggestions will help keep your fresh decorations look even more stunning for an extended period of time. Visit Linton's for all of your Holiday decorating needs. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Photos With Santa & Mrs. Claus

In November & December, you can get free pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus for your non-perishable food donations! Bring your own camera!! (Everyone in the picture must have at least one item to donate.) All food collected will be donated to Guidance Ministries.

All children under 12 will have a chance to pull one coupon from Santas bag as a gift. Coupons cannot be exchanged for cash or put back in to try for something else. If a child pulls a coupon for a "big gift" they must come back on December 11, 2010 to pull another coupon to see which "big gift" they have won. (Employees, family or volunteers of Santa's Pantry or Linton's Enchanted Gardens are not eligible for "big gifts".)

Come join the fun at Linton's Enchanted Gardens on November 6, 7 & 27 and December 4 & 11, 2010 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm and get your picture taken with Santa.

2010 Special Events

November 2nd & 4th
Red Carpet Special Event

November 6th & 7th
Christmas Open House

Saturday & Sunday hours for all events 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Red Carpet hours 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Seasonal Greetings

Flowers and plants have long played a special role in holiday festivities and are as personal and individual as the people celebrating. Use color and design to create a celebratory centerpiece, foyer display or other seasonal conversation starter!

Floral wreaths make beautiful centerpieces. Fill the center with a trio of pillar candles, fresh fruit or glistening balls.

Attending a holiday party? Have Linton's Floral Shoppe deliver a cheerful arrangement, holiday plant or wreath before you arrive. You'll be the talk of the evening!

Christmas Card Recycling

This winter we are partnering with ADEC in Bristol, where one of our team members resides. We will be collecting Christmas Card fronts that will be recycled into new cards by the ADEC residents. This is not only a great way to recycle your old Christmas cards, but to help a local organization turn the old cards into new cards that may be sold to help support their program. Linton's will be collecting the card fronts at our customer service counter during the months of January and February. Please help us to help the residents at ADEC.

Linton's Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00 • Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- * Evergreens can suffer winter injury if their roots cannot obtain an adequate amount of water from the frozen ground. Remember to thoroughly water your plants late in the fall as part of your regular maintenance plan to prevent damage from drying.
- * Keep cell phones, laptops, cameras, and other gadgets out of landfills, and even earn a little cash in the process. Gazelle.com will pay you for your used electronics and send a stamped box so you can mail them in for free.
- * Women who were given flowers as part of a 2005 study by researchers at Rutgers University reported elevated moods for up to three days after receiving the bouquets. Those given other gifts reported no such change.

WNDU Curb Appeal

This year’s winner of the WNDU Curb Appeal was Becky Flinn of Niles, Michigan. This house was definitely in need of our help, and we were up to the challenge!

Becky’s vision for her new yard was to create a low-maintenance “Grandma’s Cottage Garden”, and according to Becky, Linton’s achieved that goal and exceeded her expectations with the addition of a new brick sidewalk and a fountain.

We want to thank Becky for allowing us the opportunity to feature her home and demonstrate our skills. The news segments may be viewed on line by going to wndu.com and searching “curb appeal”.



Evergreens In The Garden

by Debby Fessenden, Assistant Garden Centre Manager

Evergreens play an important role in almost any garden. They provide a backdrop in the summer, but in winter, they take center stage. Imagine a winter garden without evergreens and you will soon see their importance. Once all the herbaceous plants are gone, a garden with evergreens is still alive. The foliage is still at work feeding the plant and making energy even in the cold. That can be a very comforting thought to a gardener.

In design terms, evergreens can provide mass through all twelve months of the year and can be the anchor of the garden providing weight all year long. That’s why they are so useful at gates and entryways. The solidity of evergreens is very useful in providing hedges, screens for privacy, or definition for year round appeal.

Evergreens offer winter color too-far more than just green. They range from the blues of cedars and juniper to the yellows of cypress.

Here are some of the many evergreens we carry here at Linton’s which include many varieties and sizes:

Arborvitae come in many different forms and colors. They can be used as a hedge, screen, or a focal point. They come in spiral, globe, dwarf, and tree forms. They are very hardy and hold good color all winter.

Cedar and Cypress are some of our most colorful and beautiful evergreens. They are easy to grow requiring very little care. They like a moist, well-drained site preferring full sun to partial shade.

Pines and Spruce come in dwarf, mid-sized, and large evergreens. They are colorful and hardy landscape plants. The long needles of pines add wonderful softness to the winter landscape. They prefer full to half-day sun in moist, well-drained acidic soil

Hemlock and Yews can make great screening plants. Yews can be used for foundation plantings as they are shorter. They come in globe, spreading, and upright form and will tolerate low-light areas. Hemlocks can make a much taller screen when sheared, but make a beautiful large specimen plant when left unsheared. Their form is lacy and somewhat weeping. They look lovely with winter snow on their branches.

Junipers come in many forms from tree, shrub and ground cover in many colors and forms. Grey Owl and Saybrook Gold make good foundation plants and the blue upright or rug forms make great color accents. Junipers do best in full sun.

Firs come in many varieties from large trees to dwarf shrubs. The well-known Douglas Fir will do well in almost any sunny location where most other Firs like some shade.

Any of these evergreens will give your garden or landscape winter structure and interest. Come to Linton’s Garden Centre and see for yourself the many varieties that we offer.

As a service to our customers, Linton’s offers
COMPLIMENTARY INTERIOR ACCESSORY CONSULTATIONS.
Please call Andrew Skipper at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!

Experience the Enchantment

Remember back to that special moment in your childhood, the day the family went to select the perfect Christmas tree. That magical day, with the chill in the air and the first snow flakes of the season beginning to fall, the day that signaled the beginning of the Holiday Season.

Experience the enchantment again with a family visit to Linton’s Enchanted Gardens. Select from a wide variety of beautiful cut Christmas trees, wreaths and roping to enhance your home for the Christmas Season.

During your visit to Enchanted Gardens, step inside our Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe and see our Winter Wonderland featuring over 100 themed Christmas trees. You will find thousands of beautiful ornaments and trimmings to decorate your tree and home, and they are all on sale! Buy 2 and get the third ornament free!

Need help finding a gift for that special someone? For the ladies, we offer Vera Bradley handbags, Crab Tree & Evelyn body products as well a full line of jewelry, such as Russian Radiance, Da Vinci Beads and Magnabilities. For a limited time, our select jewelry is on sale and you will enjoy a 50% savings. For the men, we carry Radius Garden Ergonomic Gardening Tools, bronze statuary and bird feeders & supplies. For children, choose from our lines of educational toys from Folkmanis Puppets, Klutz, Webkinz and Melissa & Doug. Still undecided? We also have Linton’s Gift Cards!

Don’t forget loved ones far away! Our Floral Shoppe offers both FTD and Teleflora wire services. Our certified floral designers can help you select a gourmet gift basket, floral bouquet or centerpiece to brighten up anyone’s day!

Linton’s Enchanted Gardens, one stop does it all!

Celebrate Christmas with scrumptious recipes, sweet memories, crafty gifts and clever ideas to warm your holiday home with the “Homemade Christmas” cookbook from Gooseberry Patch. Following is a recipe from this cookbook.

A Great Gift for Only \$19.99!

CREAMY EGGNOG PIE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 T. unflavored gelatin | 1 t. vanilla extract |
| 1/4 c. cold water | 1 t. rum extract |
| 1/3 c. sugar | 2 c. whipped cream |
| 2 T. cornstarch | 9-inch graham cracker crust |
| 1/4 T. salt | Garnish: additional whipped |
| cream, nutmeg | |
| 2 c. eggnog | |

Soften gelatin in cold water; set aside, In a saucepan over medium-low heat, combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in eggnog until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes, or until thickened. Stir in gelatin mixture until dissolved. Remove from heat; cool to room temperature. Stir in extracts. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into pie crust. Cover and chill for 4 hours. Serve topped with a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkle of nutmeg. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

As a service to our customers, Linton's offers
COMPLIMENTARY WEDDING CONSULTATIONS.
Please call Ruth Linton at 293-9699 to set up your appointment!

Mr. Smarty Plants

Dear Mr. Smarty Plants,

How do I get my perennial garden ready for fall & winter?

Signed,
Perplexed by Perennials

Dear Perplexed,

Most perennials have little winter interest, but be sure to leave some seed heads for winter birds if your area is expecting harsh weather. If you have been dead-heading, late bloomers will keep going through late fall. Removing spent flowers diverts energy to making more flowers instead of seeds. Guidelines to follow depend mostly on what you planted. Before first frost, dig, clean and store any summer bulbs: Cannas, Calla Lily and Dahlia. Remove weeds before they drop seed. Don't compost these, but dispose of by burning or at organic waste sites. Let Rudbeckia, Coneflower, Russian Sage, Asters and Mums continue to steal the fall show in the sun. Shady lovers like Toad Lily, Turtlehead and Physostegia will keep brightening up dark spots until first frost.

Dried leafy parts harbor insects and diseases. Remove browning/blackened litter from plants infected with anything to reduce overwintering the problem. Dig out dead or weakened plants. Cut back leaf mass when dividing a big, bushy perennial. Remove 1/3 to 1/2 the old leaf mass to avoid wilting, and balance out the proportion of leaves to the divided root mass. Divide and move spring blooming perennials in early fall. For those that bloom after late June, wait 'til spring to divide or move. Exceptions are: Peonies (remove blackening foliage to prevent mildew, move/divide mid to late fall). Don't prune Evergreen Perennials, Ornamental Grasses, Butterfly Bush, Caryopteris, Hypericum or Alpines in the fall. These perennials should only be pruned in spring.

Mulch with 2-3" of bark if your area's natural snow cover is not very deep or is unreliable. Slope so it tapers down to ground level to prevent moisture collection. If you have any other questions, the knowledgeable staff at Linton's Enchanted Gardens offers free, friendly advice - all year 'round!

Sincerely,
Mr. Smarty Plants

Go Away Winter

Go away winter and leave me alone.
I'm tired of being chilled to the bone.
I want to plant flowers and sit in the sun.
I want to go swimming, winter's no fun.
I want to open up windows and doors.
I want to go barefoot and do summer chores.
I want to mow grass and sit in the sun.
I want to plant gardens and have summer fun.
So go away winter and just leave me be.
Summer is where I want now to be.

Berrylicious

by Jennifer Martinez, Linton's Nursery Manager

Feeding and watching birds is one of the fastest growing hobbies in America. Around 60 million people feed birds in the US. The only outdoor hobby that is more popular is gardening, and the two are natural partners. With the thought of summer berries long gone, it's hard to think about berries for the birds. Everyone loves fresh food (fruit), and our feathered friends aren't any different. So, I wanted to give you some ideas of shrubs and trees, that you can plant, to give the birds in your backyard food for the winter.

Some of the trees that help provide birds with food for the winter, also provide them with shelter. Hawthorn trees have a thick & thorny crown that birds love to hide and nest in. European Mountain Ash, Sweet Gum, Serviceberry, Crabapples, White Fringe Tree, Dogwoods, both Kousa and Pagoda, are favorites for many birds as well.

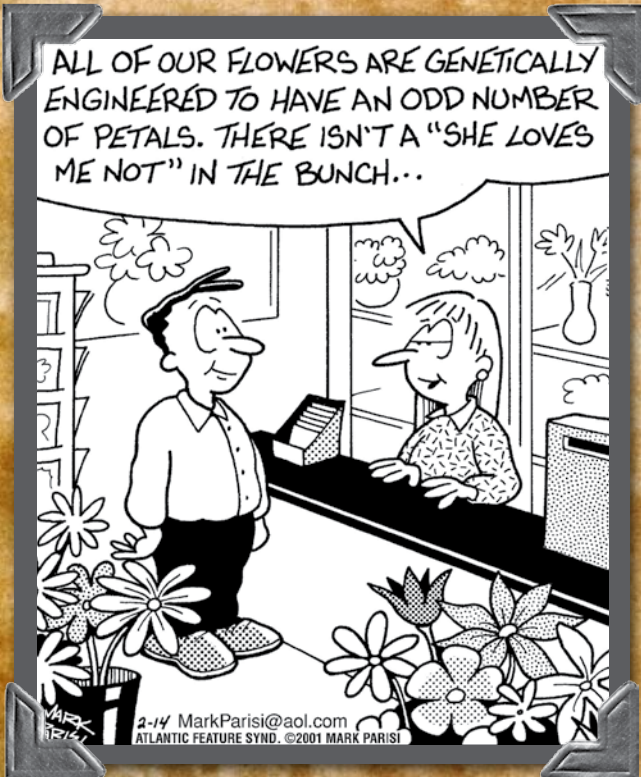
There are plenty of great shrubs that can provide food for the birds in winter, as well. Deciduous Holly or Winterberry, as they are known, are heavy producers of bright red fruit for winter. Birds such as thrushes, mockingbirds, robins, mourning doves, woodpeckers, and bluebirds love the hollies. Elderberry is another wonderful shrub for many birds in the winter. They have beautiful pale pink or white flowers in the summer with dark maroon or bright gold leaves. The clusters of berries that are produced in fall are enjoyed by blue jays, Baltimore orioles, woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, tanagers, & cardinals.

Many Junipers produce tiny blue, grey fruit that are important food sources in the winter. You may see robins, cedar waxwings, catbirds, thrashers, woodpeckers, or mockingbirds enjoying the fruit. And lastly, Viburnums are always a good choice for beautiful berries. Linton's Enchanted Gardens specializes in growing a large selection of bird attracting plants, trees and shrubs.

Plants In Holiday Lore

- * Sweep clean into the New Year. Gather grasses and evergreen boughs from the garden on the eve of the solstice to make a broom. Leave it next to the door. The first person out the door on the winter solstice uses the broom to sweep outward from the door, sweeping the year's trouble away.
- * Foretell true love with herbs in shoes at New Year. Put one shoe on either side of your bed, thyme in one, rosemary in the other, then sleep and dream of your true love.
- * Deck the bedroom with fir. A fir branch on your bed insures good sleep.

off the mark.com



by Mark Parisi



LINTON'S HOURS:

Monday through Friday 8:00 - 7:00
Saturday & Sunday 8:00 - 6:00

Landscaping • Lawn Care
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Floral & Interior Décor Shoppe

Winter & Fall In The Garden

by Mark Linton

Make sure to take walks in the garden in the “off” season. It’s the best time to enjoy the beautiful effects of Jack Frost and snow on the bows of evergreens. The beautiful banks of birches, beech, paperbark maples and rugged barks of hickory and oak are best appreciated on a winter walk. Get a book on native wildlife and take the kids to enjoy identifying bird and mammal tracks. Viburnums, crabs and holly all hold pretty winter fruit that you may find cardinals feeding on, with a snowy background there isn’t a much prettier sight. Enjoy your garden all year!

Proper Landscaping Can Provide Safety

When you think of home security, you probably think of deadbolt locks, alarm systems and outdoor lighting. Did you ever consider that landscaping elements, such as bushes and trees, might add to your safety efforts?

Examine the outside of your home for entry points that can’t be seen by neighbors or from the road. Thieves look for access spots that are hidden from view so they can take their time prying their way into your house. If bushes and shrubs block your windows, trim them so they’re no taller than the windowsill.

Thorny bushes planted at the property line are great, because burglars would probably think twice before attempting to climb through them. The bushes act like barbed wire, but they’re far more attractive. If your bushes aren’t thorny, keep them trimmed to about 24” in height if they’re within 4’ of the sidewalk. This way, they won’t block the view of your home from the street.

The lower branches on your trees should be trimmed to at least 6’ above the ground. If your trees are near the house, make sure you trim the high branches in a way that they won’t provide easy access into second-floor windows.

Consider clearing away the grassy area in front of windows and replacing it with gravel. The sound of someone walking on the rocks will likely get your attention.

Let the professionals at Linton’s help you create a custom landscape for your home. We have flexible programs for both the do-it-yourselfer and custom installations.



**CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, Nov. 6th - 8am-6pm
Sunday, Nov. 7th - 8am-6pm

We welcome you to taste our selection of Gourmet Foods and Sweets served between 10 am and 5 pm. Listen to the Sounds of the Season, as you stroll through our "Winter Wonderland" decorated with over 50 themed Christmas Trees.

**SAVE 50-90% OFF
SELECT HOLIDAY DÉCOR**

- Door Prizes!
- Tropical & Seasonal Plants in The Conservatory
- All Christmas Ornaments - Buy 2, Get 3rd Free!

FREE PICTURES WITH SANTA
Nov. 6, 7 & 27 & Dec. 4 & 11
12:00-5:00pm
(bring your camera and donate a non-perishable food item per each person in the picture. All proceeds go to Santa's Pantry)

**ENCHANTED
GARDENS**

Linton's
Quality & Excellence

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