

December 2011

Tooele County Master Gardener Newsletter

Tooele County USU Extension (435) 277-2400

Upcoming Events

Master Gardener
Monthly Meetings

December 14
6:30 PM

Master Gardener
Awards Presentation/
Graduation Ceremony
&
Holiday Party

January 25th
6:30 PM
USU Extension
Regular Meeting



Need volunteer hours?

Contact
Marianne
Rutishauser
435-882-1485

mtrutishauser@msn.com

Flowers of the Holy Night

There is a charming legend dating back several centuries to a Christmas Eve in Mexico when a small girl named Pepita did not have a gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve services. So her cousin, Pedro, urged her to give a humble gift. So along her way to church she gathered up some plants she found along the road. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened. The weeds blossomed into brilliant flowers! They called them “Flores de Noche Buena”, Flowers of the Holy Night. We call them Poinsettias.

Euphorbia Pulcherrima, Poinsettias, were first introduced to the U.S. by the first American ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, on one of his trips home in about 1825. While many species of Euphorbia are highly toxic, the Poinsettia is not. It has very low toxicity. In fact, during the 14th to 16th centuries the milky sap was used to control fevers and the leaves were used to make red dyes.

In our region, Poinsettias are grown as potted plants. Native to the tropical sun they like bright light, so place them by a sunny window. And while they may like it warm, they do not tolerate hot temperatures, so do not place them next to a heater. Temperatures below 15 degrees can be deadly for the poinsettia, so take care when bringing one home. Poinsettias do not like wet or water logged soil, so water only when the top layer of soil is dry.

I don't recall a time when we did not have a poinsettia in our home at Christmastime. I have found the easiest ones to care for are the silk variety, which we now have since we have young nephews who come to visit. Joking aside, I usually keep one in my office at work and it has become a goal to see how long I can keep it alive each year.

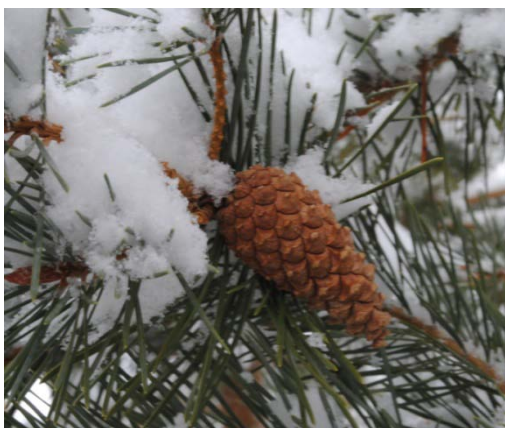
I enjoy the special holiday spirit they add to a room and after researching this article, I will associate them with the birth of Christ as I remember the legend of Pepita. ~Martie~

Demonstration Garden Update

We are resting from our labors until spring planting. So rest up, we will need your help laying sod.

A special thanks to all the “slaves” who labored in the garden and to our sponsors, Wal-Mart, the Tooele County Health Department, Rocky Mountain Power and Landscape Supply for grants and donations in kind.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN



What happened? Why just yesterday it was spring and we were planting our gardens. Time does fly when you are having fun. I reflect back on the many things that have taken place and think what a busy year this has been.

I do hope that each of you who planted gardens had success and had plenty of tomatoes or whatever your favorite item was from the garden. It is hard to think that another growing season has been put to bed.

As I reflect back on the past year I wonder, have I served you well as the president of this organization, or was there more I could have done? I think the most challenging part of the job has been the writing of these articles every month. It seems like I just get one article finished and it is time to start on another.

It has been educational as I have tried new ways to do the garden and my thoughts are that next year I will not only grow my cucumbers on a fence, but try some of the squash and melons. As the picture shows, they did well on the fence and there was more production for

the space used.

By the way – I give you this bit of information just to make you jealous. I am planting

one of my grow boxes with early spring crops like Steve Eyring taught us to do. I am looking forward to some of those fresh vegetables early in spring. If any of you are ready for this kind of gardening, it is not too early.

I want to thank all of you for the support you have given me during the time that I have been the president of the Master Gardeners of Tooele and hope that you will continue to support the president of this organization. This is a big job and we need your help to do the job right.

I also want to thank Martha (Martie) Leo for the great job that she has done in pulling this letter together every month for us. I know that sometimes she has had to do so on short time lines, and she has done an excellent job. Thank you Martie.

One of our unsung heroes of this organization has been Patty Wheeler. There are many hours that are put in every month for this organization that are unseen. Great job Patty and thank you.

There are many others who have worked hard that I have not mentioned by name and to them and to all of you thank you for the support.

God bless you all and may you have a great Holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all you next year and hope to see you at the **Christmas party on December 14th**.



~ B. Wayne Lowry ~

CHRISTMAS DAY

G V A Z N V M T L E Q Z G G A V E Y H E D Z S L S
 Q V E A L A Q X E Z B U T L E E V Q N R D M C V C
 T K S W F A M I L Y M O C E B L K R A I N D E E R
 D K U D E V W O J H A Y X I V C Y A N G E D G X D
 T N A U C E E A A L Q D C S G I L N C X V T X O K
 I J L K H L B B S Y V H E A R D T S M T V H Y M O
 F S C G R F M R Q Q R E Y C J D D S Z G I R R F S
 S M A T I S L T N I E O S K O F Q A G L X U O U V
 N Y T J S H Q T S X C X G Z T R T K G M X F R Z B
 M F N N T Z A T F O S P J P T R A N C K G G G F T
 X T A Y M I M V H Q A Q C U H W O T E J R D N I Q
 R N S L A A D S E S R U Q Z G K V E I J X B S T T
 S X J C S H K L O A J T H E X X N Z E O R D I I Q
 N Y N T C D U B A T H G I N T N E L I S N I L S V
 O H R E A N F D A T E T M X M J I Q M E K S V L T
 W E E S R E X O Q F O A W P A R T Y S P D S E E P
 E Z X A O D C F B Z T S J C Q O J N D B V T R I I
 X R K K L H L S T N E M A N R O N U W M T Q B G M
 G D Z O S H B I N G L R G M X B J A J R R L E H G
 U Y L P T D P V H E T J V K T C S S J M I C L R O
 A N G L E S N E A C S M W H I D P T C E W A L I L
 Q B S O V S A M T S I R H C E T I H W J I O S D C
 W Y S G L Y G K S S M S M S T N E S E R P S S E Z
 K K S T H G I L H C A T L B T S F E Y G A P G X T
 L R D G K G Z L C U G Q U C I S T N E G A P F T Y

ANGLES

CHRISTMASTREE

FAMILY

MISTLETOE

PARTYS

SANTACLAUSE

SLEIGHRIDE

CHILDREN

DECORATIONS

FRUITCAKE

ORNAMENTS

PRESENTS

SILENTNIGHT

SNOW

CHRISTMASCAROLS

ELFS

LIGHTS

PAGENTS

RAINDEER

SILVERBELLS

WHITECHRISTMAS



Tooele County Master Gardeners
Invite you to the

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 14

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Utah State University
Extension
151 North Main St.
Tooele, UT 84074

*Please R.S.V.P. to
Wayne Lowry at
bwlowry@msn.com or
call Patty at (435) 277-2400*

Please bring a side dish to share.
The meat dish will be provided.

Living Christmas Trees

Taken from the Garden View, USU Extension, December 2010

Living Christmas trees are an alternative to either fresh-cut or artificial trees as they can be planted in the yard after Christmas. There are a few things to be aware of, however, if you plan to use a live tree this year. First, choose a variety suitable to be used as a live Christmas tree, and a variety that is also suitable for this area. Some suggested varieties would be Scotch or Austrian pine, Colorado blue spruce and Balsam fir. Be sure you have space in your yard to accommodate a grown tree of the kind you select.

Proper handling is important if you want your tree to survive for outdoor planting. A few simple rules to follow are:

- Buy a tree in a container or one that is balled-in burlap. Choose one that is not too big and is easy to handle.
- If possible, prepare the hole in advance when the ground is easy to dig. Dig a hole at least half again as big as the root ball. Keep the hole and dirt dug out from freezing by lining it with straw and covering with plastic.
- Move the tree indoors gradually to a garage or porch first, then indoors. Keep it indoors no longer than about a week. It should be kept out of direct sunlight and away from heat vents.
- Use only miniature lights. Because of the heat that larger lights give off, they could damage your tree.
- Water your tree, but only enough to keep the root ball from drying out. Too much water along with the warm temperatures may break the tree's dormancy and encourage new growth, which would only suffer winter damage when set outside again.
- After the holidays, take the tree outside gradually, just as you brought it in.
- Plant in pre-prepared hole. Containerized trees could be stored indoors in a protected area and the base insulated with straw and then planted the next spring. They should be kept moist throughout the winter if there is not sufficient snowfall.

Timely Tips for December/January

- Now is a good time to start an indoor container herb garden.
- Clean and sharpen your garden tools so they'll be ready when spring comes. Replace any broken tool; they are likely to be cheaper in the off-season.
- As you trim your indoor plant, you can make new starts by placing the start in a bottle of water or in moistened soil in small pots.
- It is also a good time to go through seed catalogs. What a way to relax and get some new ideas for your garden. Make a list of what you want to buy and when to order.
- Lightly brush snow off small trees so branches don't break. Do this before the snow has time to get heavy.
- This is a good time to get out your garden notebook and begin planning your garden for spring. Be sure to rotate plants that are susceptible to nematodes or other soil insects or diseases.
- Prepare your cages or poles for your climbing plants for the next season.



B. Wayne Lowry
TCMGA President

Help Wanted

Looking for energetic individuals to help set up for the Christmas party on December 15th at 5:00 p.m. Pay is good food and great company. No experience needed. To apply contact Mae Freestone at 435-882-1195 or e-mail maefre@q.com. Drops-ins are also welcome.

2011 Tooele County Master Gardener Board

President	B. Wayne Lowry	435-882-0633	bwlowry@msn.com
President Elect	Mae Freestone	435-882-1195	maefre@q.com
Secretary	Linda Zuckerman	435-843-8383	Napagirl5@aol.com
Treasurer	Kaye Hollien	435-882-2340	Jackkaye9@msn.com
Newsletter Editor	Martie Leo	435-882-4937	Mleo58@msn.com
Publicity	Patricia Rose	435-882-2803	patfroe@aol.com
Program Director	Pat Jessie	435-882-0593	patjessie@msn.com
Arbor Day Chairperson			
*Tooele	Barbara Barlow	435-882-0006	barpaulick@gmail.com
*Grantsville	Gary & Janet Fawson	435-884-1936	gifawson@q.com
*Stockon	Kaye Hollien	435-882-2340	Jackkaye9@msn.com
*Stansbury	Walt Barlow	435-882-3583	Kd7hfz@yahoo.com
Garden Expo	Joyce Tate	435-882-1573	joycet@qwest.net
May Buying Tour	Alan Jeppesen	435-882-5617	jeppintooele@msn.com
June Garden Tour	Jay Cooper	435-833-2313	dirtfarmerjay@gmail.com
Diagnostic Clinic	Louise Hulet	435-843-7594	
Diagnostic Clinic	Sandra Jackson	435-882-5536	jacksonp@msn.com
Diagnostic Clinic	Janeen Pond	435-833-9317	Herblady13@gmail.com
Fair Booth	Alan Miller	435-841-7474	
Party Chairperson	Cory Cook	801-250-1869	ccbig@hotmail.com
Farmers Market	Walt Barlow	435-882-3583	Kd7hfz@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Marianne Rutishauser	435-882-1485	mtrutishauser@msn.com



Green Step

To save energy in colder months, open your drapes or blinds on sunny days to take advantage of solar heating. Close them as the sun sets to keep the cold out. Each degree you lower your thermostat can save up to 8 percent on your energy bills. Drapes provide an extra layer of insulation for your windows, Blinds also provide insulation but are not as effective.