

The Village Nursery Winter 2008

Where Nature is Always Boss

WINTER GARDENING TIPS

It seems that gardening is a year round activity. There is always something to do.

Watering: Just because the weather is cold, doesn't mean the ground has frozen. As long as the ground is not frozen and can accept water, you should water at least your evergreens. Most of the other plants are fairly dormant by now and not using much water. Evergreens, on the other hand, keep their needles all winter and can lose water through those needles. Keeping water supplied to the roots on a weekly basis as long as possible into the fall and winter season will help reduce stress on those evergreens.

Snow and ice on trees and shrubs: As we get into win-

ter, the threat of damage from snow and ice is always near. When snow piles up on evergreens, try to gently brush it off. Don't shake the branches as this may cause them to break. If the snow is frozen on the branch and will not brush off easily, it is best to let it melt naturally to avoid damage. If tree limbs break due to the weight of ice or snow, it is advisable to have the broken limbs removed as soon as the weather permits. Also, the tree will be able to heal the wound better in spring if the wound has clean edges instead of ragged tears.

Warm spells in winter: Sometimes in the middle of winter, we suddenly get a few warm days. For the most part, this is not a big problem, but



you may need to check on a couple of things. If you covered your roses you may need to ventilate to prevent heat build-up. The same should be done with cold frames. On a warm sunny day the temperatures may be rising in the cold frame more than you expect. Remember to close vents as the temperature drops again at night.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Open House Dec 6-7, 2008**
- **Don't' Forget to Water**
-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WINTER GARDENING TIPS 1

WINTER GARDENING WITH KIDS 1

OPEN HOUSE 2

WINTER GARDENING ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

By Dr. Leonard Perry

In the summer months, it's sometimes hard to keep kids out of the garden, especially if you've marked off an area just for them to grow their own vegetables and flowers. But what about winter, when chilly temperatures force you inside? What can you do to keep your children interested in gardening? The answer is "plenty!"

Here are some ideas from the American Association of Nurserymen to get you started

- 1. Windowsill gardens.** All you need is a sunny spot and a few containers of soil. Herbs are an excellent choice.
- 2. Peculiar plants.** What kid wouldn't be fascinated by an insect-eating plant? Many garden centers sell Venus fly-traps. Visit your library for more information on the natu-

ral habitat and growth habits of this unusual plant.

- 3. Watch seeds sprout.** Line a glass jar with a damp paper towel and insert several zucchini or bush bean seeds between the glass and the towel. Place a lid on the jar and check the paper every day to make sure it's still moist. The seeds should sprout in a few days.

(Continued on page 2)



The Village Nursery
16618 Bestmann Dr.
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 68048
PERMIT NO. 1

WINTER OPEN HOUSE DEC 6TH (10-4) DEC 7TH (12-4)

The holiday season is fast approaching and the elves at the nursery have been working furiously to get everything ready. Our annual winter **open house is scheduled for Dec., 6-7.**

The Christmas trees have arrived and look fantastic. We carry beautiful Fraser fir, white pine and scotch pine. But, hurry the trees are going fast. In addition to trees we have wreaths, and other greenery to decorate your home. And of course we have a wide variety of holiday decorations and ornaments.

We are very excited about the gifts items we have for this holiday season. There are many wonderful items from which to choose. From Santas to snowmen to reindeer to moose, you will find something for everyone on your list:

- Weatherland Wind Chimes
- Appletree Design
- Noble Prancers
- Lil Givers
- Christomas

Come in early and get the best selection! Remember us for poinsettias. We carry a wide variety of beautiful

colors and we can personalize them for you. We can even paint them to match your decor.

We also have many items to please any gardening enthusiast. Choose from:

- Houseplants
- Bird Supplies
- Fountains, Birdbaths & Pottery
- Gazing Balls
- Gift Certificates and many other selections



(Continued from page 1)

4. Read a book. Books like *Peter Rabbit* or *The Secret Garden* can spark your child's interest in gardening. Ask your local librarian or bookstore owner for other suggestions.

5. Get a jump on spring. Plan a visit to your local garden center to buy seeds. Or let your child help select varieties from the seed catalogs. Then start seeds indoors to plant outside after the last frost. Ask the experts at your garden center or check your favorite gardening book to determine when to start seeds.

6. Worm farm. Line a large cardboard box with a garbage bag. Fill it with soil,

organic matter, and a few worms. Keep it shady and moist, but not too wet. Add kitchen scraps (vegetables only!) Worms will help teach your kids about the interdependence of plants and organisms as they turn kitchen scraps into valuable compost.

7. Garden crafts. There are several projects you can try with your kids, such as hand-painted plant markers or homemade whirligigs to put between rows to frighten off birds.

8. Terrariums. Carefully place some soil and a few mosses and plants (with roots) inside a clean mayonnaise jar. Keep your indoor garden moist with a plant mister, and cover the opening with clear plastic

wrap.

9. Feed the birds. Stock up on birdseed and suet at your local garden center, and feed the birds this winter. Have your child keep a record of all the species of birds that come to the feeder and what date each first was spotted.

10. Pot People. Draw or paint faces on small clay pots, then fill with soil. Plant grass seed, water, and watch the "hair" grow.

11. Build a birdhouse. Birdhouse kits and plans are available at most garden centers and craft shops. This is a great activity for a cold winter's night.