

THE DIGGERS

Dorchester Garden Club

November 9, 2012

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER 2012

- 10 Tim Farrell, AIFD, AAF, PFCI, presents ***Fashionable Fall flowers for Homes, Holidays and Beyond*** Vollmer Center, Cylburn Arboretum.
- 11 **Blue Star Memorial Dedication** sponsored by the Mountain Laurel GC Veteran's Park Oakland, MD
- 13 **State Board Meeting** hosted by District II at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church 400 Benfield Rd, Severna Park, MD
- 13 **Flowers for All Seasons with David Shover** hosted by Naval Academy Garden Club – registration information available at FGCMD.org. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum 4915 Greenspring Ave. Baltimore, MD 21209
- 17 **Home for the Holidays** featuring international designer Michael Hare presented by LaPlata Garden Club registration information available at FGCMD.org.
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 **Holiday Workshop and Design Demonstration** - Zion Methodist Church 9:00 am- 3:00 pm. Pre-registration, order and payment is necessary. See handbook for details.
- 1 **Kent Island Garden Club Fund Raiser "Holidays in the Home Designs"** Gift table/raffle for designs/50-50/light refreshments. 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Kent Island Volunteer Fire Dept.1610 Main St., Stevensville, Md. 21666 Tickets available at the door \$10.00
- 14 **DGC Annual Holiday Luncheon " Holiday Herbs and Spices"** Zion United Methodist Church – Garrettson Hall – **advance registration required.**



Wreaths Across America - 2012

One way we can show our thanks and appreciation to veterans is to participate in the "Wreaths Across America" project. The mission of the program is – "To Remember, Honor and Teach".

For the last few years our club and District 1 have participated in the WAA ceremony in your community –at the Veterans Cemetery in Hurlock.

This year's Nation Wide Remembrance Ceremony will take place on **December 15, 2012**, details on the specific time will be sent in the next few weeks and we hope you will join us and help lay the wreaths in this moving tribute to our service members.

You can help in advance by making a donation, thus making it possible for us to put a wreath on each grave. Wreath sponsorships are \$15 each and the cutoff date for contributions is November 26, 2012. For additional information contact Bozy Markiwicz at bozyandted@msn.com.

Note: registration information for all programs sponsored by other clubs can be found on the State Website: http://www.fgcofmd.org/Calendar_of_Events.html

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Amaryllis Planting and Growing Tips

Quick Tips:

- Planting Period: October until the end of April.
- Flowering Period: Late December until the end of June.
- Flowering time is 7-10 weeks.
- Larger bulbs produce more flowers.
- Always store un-planted bulbs in a cool place between 40-50 deg. F.

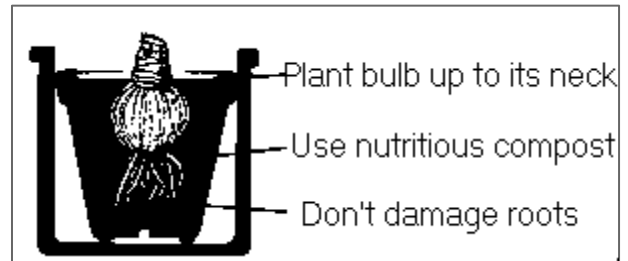
Of all [flowering bulbs](#), amaryllis are the easiest to bring to bloom. This can be accomplished indoors or out, and over an extended period of time. The amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name Hippeastrum. The large flowers and ease with which they can be brought to bloom make amaryllis popular and in demand worldwide. The amaryllis comes in many beautiful varieties including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white.

Preparation for Planting

The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them; store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Planting

Plant bulbs in nutritious potting compost, many are available pre-mixed. Plant the bulb up to its neck in the potting compost, being careful not to damage the roots. Press the soil down firmly to set the bulb securely in place after planting.



Placement and Watering

Plant the bulb, or place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water sparingly until the stem appears, then, as the bud and leaves appear, gradually water more. At this point, the stem will grow rapidly and flowers will develop after it has reached full growth.

Flowering Period

Bulbs will flower in 7-10 weeks as a general rule. In winter the flowering time will be longer than in spring. Set up your planting [schedule](#) between October and April with this in mind. To achieve continuous bloom, plant at intervals of 2 weeks for stunning color in your home or garden.

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After-Bloom Care

After-Flowering. After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. \ Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the

stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 deg. F), dark place such as the crisper of your refrigerator for a **minimum of 6 weeks.** **Caution:** Do not store amaryllis bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples, this will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Plant Again. After 6 weeks you may remove bulbs whenever you would like to plant them. Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom

Source: <http://www.amaryllis.com/pac.htm>

Hardie Newton's Designs

On Friday, October 12th more than 80 club members and guests were treated to an afternoon of designs by Hardie Newton. An author and noted lecturer, Hardy shared her philosophy of design while sharing numerous anecdotes for her work at Airlie Plantation in Warrenton, Virginia.

Hardie believes that "Flower arranging connects us to our earth in the most fundamental ways." and her 5 designs brought this vision to life.



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Make your own Christmas Tree Preservative

If you add tree or floral preservative when you water your Christmas tree it really will extend its life. It's easy and inexpensive to make your own solution, rather than buy a commercial product. There are several 'recipes', all using common household ingredients. In addition to water, they include three basic components: a food source for the plant, an acidifier to reduce the pH of the water (helps the tree absorb water and food), and a disinfectant to prevent the growth of algae, fungus, and bacteria.

Now... some recipes call for mixing bleach and vinegar, which I really don't recommend. However, at the low levels of bleach used in tree preservative, you should be ok, as long as you make the solution in a well-ventilated room and add only a small quantity of bleach to the solution (don't mix it directly with vinegar or lemon juice). Adding a penny to the solution, instead of bleach, is one alternative some people use.

Christmas tree preservatives and cut flower preservatives contain the same ingredients: a food source for the plant, an acidifier (hard water is alkaline - making the water more acidic helps the plant take in water and food), and a disinfectant to prevent mold, fungi, and algae from growing.



Here's How:

Nothing could be easier... mix the ingredients together and keep the solution in the base for the Christmas

tree or vase, for cut flowers. Both trees and flowers will last longer in cooler areas away from direct sunlight.

Make sure the tree or flower always has 'water'. Regularly refill the vase or the base where the tree sits. In addition, you may wish to spritz the tree or flowers periodically with water from a spray bottle. You can store the solution for 4-5 days at room temperature in a closed container, or two weeks refrigerated.

Tips:

- Do Not Drink! If you plan on making enough tree or cut flower preservative to store, label your container and keep it out of reach of children and pets.
- Bleach and vinegar produce toxic vapors when mixed. If you add vinegar or lemon juice, add it to the water rather than mix it directly with the bleach.
- If you don't have corn syrup, you can substitute 4 teaspoons of sugar, dissolved in the water. Some people add a penny to a sugar solution, so that the copper can act as a fungicide and acidifier.
- Another common option is to substitute a can of acidic soft drink, like Sprite or 7-Up, instead of the corn syrup and lemon juice. Just add a can of (non-diet) soft drink to a gallon of water, with a splash of bleach.
- For flowers, you'll probably want to cut the recipe: 1 quart water, 1/2 c. corn syrup, 1 tsp. bleach, 1 tsp. lemon juice

What You Need

- 1 gallon water
- 2 cups light corn syrup
- 4 teaspoons chlorine bleach
- 4 teaspoons lemon juice or vinegar (optional)

Source:

<http://chemistry.about.com/od/chemistryhowtoguide/ht/treepreserve.htm>