



November Newsletter 2011

Winter Plant Protection

Now that we've cleaned up our garden beds, there is one last thing we should do. We must protect our more delicate perennials, mums, roses and even some of our trees and shrubs this winter. Actually, we can protect more than just the delicate plants. Winter winds, animals, the freezing and thawing we have here in Wisconsin can destroy all of our hard work in just one winter season. In this newsletter, I will give tips on how we can achieve this. With everything

from screening, animal repellents, mulching to products that help hold moisture on some of our more tender evergreens and broad-leaf evergreens. We also don't want to be feasting on our Thanksgiving dinner while looking out the window just to see the deer or bunnies having a feast on our newly planted shrubs. Do we? I know they can be cute, but.....

I also included a couple favorite family recipes!

Happy Thanksgiving, Patty

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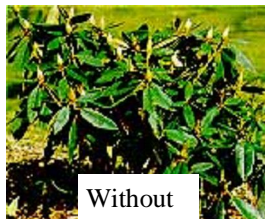
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Anti-Transpirants

What is an anti-transpirant and how does it work? In the winter when there are harsh winds and the ground is frozen, plants are not getting their natural moisture intake so they may burn. An anti-transpirant provides the plants with a protective coating to help them hold their moisture. There are many different anti-transpirants, one type that I use for more than just protecting my Dwarf Alberta Spruce from windburn is Wilt Pruf. It is a natural pine oil emulsion that is non-hazardous, organic, and biodegradable. Wilt Pruf has been and still is one of the best anti-transpirant for the last 60 years or more! These are the other shrubs you can protect from winterburn or moisture



With



Without

loss, rhododendrons, azaleas, hollies, boxwood, arborvitae. Tubers and bulbs do better in storage when first sprayed or dipped in Wilt Pruf. This would also be good

sprayed on the roots if you are storing geranium plants bare-root. It is not damaged by freezing. Let dry outside.

I also carry a leaf shine & moisture care for houseplants. Plus "Vacation" which is an all natural, anti-drought plant treatment. Vacation will eliminate the need for watering fresh-cut Christmas trees for the brief holiday season or up to four weeks. Water Poinsettias with Vacation and they will survive without water up to 2 weeks.

Use Wilt Pruf on

Fresh Cut

Evergreens

It will protect and extend the life of your Christmas trees, wreaths, roping and swags. You will be shocked at how much longer they will hold their needles.

Screening/Wind Breaks/Tree Wrap

Winter winds can be brutal here in Wisconsin. Wind breaks or screening can help strong winds from directly blowing on and damaging your trees or shrubs. Materials such as burlap, plastic or tight netting stretched over stakes that are driven into the ground will help to reduce damage. Make a screen that allows good air circulation. Creating a screen so that it is not actually touching the plants. Screening is mainly for slowing the winds down so there



is no reason to tightly encase the entire plant. Use tree wrap to protect young trees from "sunscald", this is when the bark splits due to the heat of the sun on exposed sides of trees on really cold winter days and for frostbite of young tree bark. Trunks can also be protected against deer or rodents feeding on the bark with a wire mesh extending two to three inches into the ground and 18 to 24 inches above the expected snow line.



Mulching

Mulching for perennial plants is one of the best ways to assure that your plants will have a better chance of survival during the winter. We have repeated freezing and thawing of soil which causes plants to "heave" out of the ground. This is one reason we lose hardy mums. They have a really shallow root system and many are lost without the protection of mulching.

Never mulch too soon though. Mulching needs to be done after the ground starts to freeze but hopefully before the first large snowfall of the season. If you mulch too early you will have mice and other rodents nesting in the mulch plus the plants may not be completely dormant. Usually the end of November is a good time to apply mulch if the ground starts to freeze. Pine needles, straw, compost, chopped leaves, or shredded bark are great materials to use.

Two to three inches around each plant should be good. Leave a little space around the trunk which gives the plants room to breathe. This may help prevent disease too. Mulching deeper (four inches) may be needed in areas that are in windy spots.

Mulching Roses

Top dress or mound roses with 6 to 8 inches compost, garden soil or mulch. Again wait until the ground begins to freeze. You want to make sure that the graft of tender roses are protected. I'm not a fan of styrofoam rose cones. On sunny days they can heat up too much and the roses could start growing too early. Make sure there are some air holes in the cone if using them. There is a paper cone with slits in them already that you may find at your local garden shop.

Climbing roses can be wrapped with burlap and stuffed with straw or the entire trellis can be laid down then mulched with compost and straw.



Keeping Critters From Having Lunch In Your Garden

This fall, you spend all day long digging and preparing your garden for what you hope will be a beautiful display of color in the spring. You find out that only half of what you planted came up. That's very disappointing to say the least.

Now, it's true weather could also be one of the culprits, but it's more likely it's those pesky furry critters. Deer, rabbits, gophers, mice, voles and squirrels just to name a few, are the ones having a gourmet meal with your newly planted bulbs. You can just hear them say, "Ahh! Smell that fresh dirt. I think someone has invited us to lunch."

Moles are sometimes blamed for most of the damage. After all they do dig the tunnels and push things around that are in their way. But really they are only looking for grubs. What is eating your bulbs from down under is most likely mice and voles. They just thank the mole for making the tunnels for them.

The best way to keep them away is to try to deter the mole so that they stop digging all those tunnels in the first place. One way to do this is to make sure your garden is free for weeds and debris. Another is to use rodent controls. There are many products out there that are safe to use around the garden.

Deer, rabbits and squirrels are the masters of the garden. They just look at you from their hiding places and laugh. They will dig up and eat almost anything that they find tasty.

Here are a few things you can try to keep them away:

1. Fencing is one solution that works but it may not be something you wish to use.
2. Using plants that deer don't like may help if you plant them around the plants they do.
3. Products, there are all kinds of smelly solutions that are natural to spray or sprinkle around the garden areas. One of my favorites is called Deer/Rabbit Scram. It is all natural containing things like; garlic, cloves, dried blood and more. It even works under snow for 100 days. So put it on this fall. I had a customer tell me about it first. I tried

it and it worked. I didn't have to replant my lettuce or cole crops for the first time this spring. Of course, what works for one may not always work for another.

4. For squirrels, try setting up their own lunch area far away from your garden if possible. Serve them corn and peanuts.
5. Cover your bulbs with screening or chicken wire. The critter won't like digging in that. It can be disguised by using a mulch. Although you'll have to remove the screen in the spring so your bulbs can grow.
6. Try dog fur or human hair. If you don't have a dog, go to a dog groomer. They should be happy to give away fur. As well as the beauty shop giving you some fresh cut hair. These both work for awhile but the birds love it and will build their nests with it.
7. The last idea would be to plant bulbs that critters don't like.



These are just a few products at Patty's for Pesky Critters

Deer Scram slowly breaks down through biodegradation and remains naturally effective for up to 45 days (or more!) in summer and up to 100 days in winter.

Rabbit Scram is blended from selected organic and natural components, Rabbit Scram rabbit repellent is sniffed off the ground by foraging rabbits before they enter your gardens.

Mole Scram has been proven to quickly and effectively reduce and eliminate mole activity!

Get Away repels by odor and taste. Repels deer, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, dogs and cats. Spray around and on bird feeders to keep squirrels off of them.

Deer Pharm can be sprayed right on foliage and buds. Made with certified organic oils. Also repels small mammals.

Plantskydd has granular, powder concentrate and ready to use spray. #1 most tested. Acts as a fertilizer too. Powder concentrate lasts up to 6 months over the winter on dormant plants. Keeps away: Deer, rabbits, voles, chipmunks, squirrels and opossum.



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**Natural & Organic
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Favorite Family Recipes for Thanksgiving

Gluten-Free Stuffing

By Perry Andrews

My Brother's family is gluten intolerant. His wife owned a Gluten-Free Bakery in St. Paul, MN for many years. She has perfected gluten-free flour and makes her own bread and crumbs to use in this recipe. You can purchase her gluten-free flour to make your own crumbs at Patty's Plants. This Recipe can also be made without bread crumbs using just the rice.

1 1/2 cup gluten-free bread crumbs/cubes

1 cup of wild rice

1 red onion

1 or 2 apples, (depends on apple size I like haralson or honeycrisp)

2 or 3 carrots (again based on size)

1/2 cup chopped pecans

1 stick of butter (maybe a bit more)

Cook the rice for a good long time, wild rice always takes longer and if you don't get it soft before you stuff the turkey, it doesn't get any softer inside as one might expect, (trust me- we've ended up eating crunchy rice, which the kids aren't such fans of), and add to your bowl of chopped ingredients, sprinkle in some sage, thyme, and basil, along with salt to taste. Melt your butter, and pour it over the whole mess. I usually put a little butter into the cavity of the bird as well, before I stuff.. **Note:** May need more butter when using crumbs.

"We're sort of believers in the everything's better with butter philosophy and more butter's even better."

Cooqi's Organic Gluten-Free Baking Mixes at Patty's include:

Multi Purpose Flour, Cake & Pastry Flour, Pizza & Pita Mix and Pancake Mix

Pumpkin Torte

By Paula Bulka (Patty's Mom)

Super Easy Pumpkin Torte Recipe

3 eggs

1 cup sugar

1 large can 100% natural pumpkin

2 t cinnamon

1 t salt

1 cup evaporated milk

1 package yellow cake mix

1 1/2 sticks of melted butter or margarine

chopped walnuts or pecans (opt)

Beat eggs with sugar, add pumpkin, salt, cinnamon and evaporated milk– mix well. Pour into a 9x13 non greased pan.

Sprinkle box of dry yellow cake mix (do not follow directions on box) all over top of mixture.

Drizzle the entire top with the melted butter.

Sprinkle nuts (opt) Bake 350* for 1 hour.

Serve with whipped cream. Yum, Yum