

OSU Extension - Auglaize County Weekly Horticulture Newsletter – 11-22-19

Caring for Poinsettias Now and Beyond Christmas



Poinsettias are extremely beautiful flowers during the Christmas Holiday Season. Proper care of poinsettias after purchase include watering pots thoroughly (to saturation) then allowing the potting media to dry out until the next watering. Never let the pot stand in water. Use room temperature water. Keep temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Place plants near a sunny window, but out of direct sunlight and away from hot and cold drafts. Plants prefer high humidity like in their tropical native environment. The flowering bracts (the colored plant parts are not flowers, but bracts) can stay on the plants for many weeks if kept as mentioned above.

Since poinsettias are perennial plants, you can keep them and make them flower next year, although it is not easy. After blooming, gradually reduce water. Leaves will begin to fall off. After leaves have dropped, store the plant in a cool place at 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit until spring. Water just enough to keep roots from drying out.

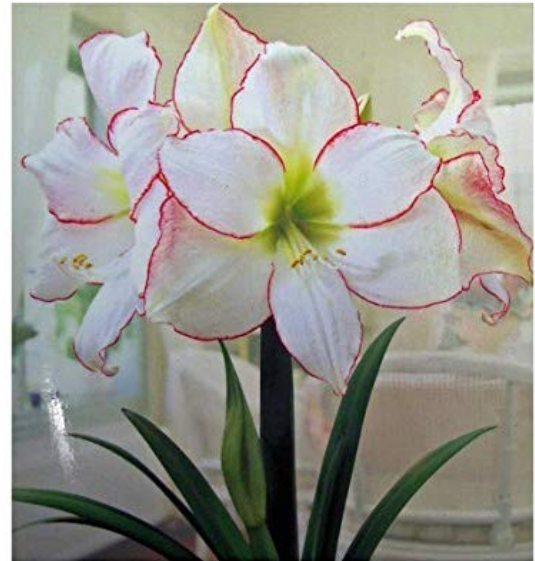
In late April or early May cut the plants back to four to six inches and fertilize. If multiple plants are in a pot you can divide plants as desired. Use a well drained potting media. Water plants thoroughly and subsequently water when potting media becomes dry, never exposing roots to excess water.

Plants can be grown in the house or outside once temperatures stay above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Place plants in the house in a bright, sunny south window at a temperature below 75 degrees Fahrenheit. When placing plants outside place them in a partially shaded area. Fertilize plants every two weeks.

At the end of August cut the plants back to four to six inches. If plants are placed outside take them inside when nighttime temperatures go below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Place them near a sunny south facing window out of a draft. Keep night time temperatures near 62 degrees Fahrenheit and below 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

After September 25th place the plants in a no light area for 12 to 14 hours each day until the colored bracts begin to appear. Do not allow any light into this area. Any amount of light for even a few seconds can prevent the bracts from turning colors. Plants will need light during the day. It is best to also keep the plants at 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit. After the dark period maintain plants as mentioned above. Enjoy these beautiful plants all year long.

Local Observations



Amaryllis

Good morning! I pray you are well! Now we have gone dry again!

It rained only one day this past week. Rainfall on Thursday, November 21st, ranged from a trace near Bloody Bridge and about 1 mile northeast of Fryburg to 0.1" at about 2 miles north of St. Marys. Rainfall for the week was what we had on Thursday. The average rainfall for the week was 0.03". Temperatures were mostly below normal for the week.

I wrapped my bee hive and gave them some fondant on Wednesday night. While doing these things I saw some bees, so they are still alive yet. Now we will see if they can survive the winter. I just have to get some insulation for the top cover.

VegNet

No news this week

BYGL

Plants From All Over Program

Authors

Jim Chatfield

Published on

November 18, 2019



Plants From All Over

“He who only England knows, knows England least”, said Rudyard Kipling. So, add some holiday spice to your Ohio plant loving by enjoying tales from...England and Scotland, Massachusetts, Ecuador, the worldwide web of Mary Maloney, and right here in Ohio at Granny Creek (Joe Cochran’s Arboretum in Knox County), and of course Secret Arboretum. Even a few notes on the plants of China, from ornamental peaches to views from Badaling.



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

Disanthus cercidifolius growing at Crrae Botanic Garden in
Scotland



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension Jas

on Veil teaches about the Cupressaceae at Secret Arboretum



Rhod

odendron sinogrande leaves growing where?

So, the details.

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 12:30 – 4:30.

WHERE: Secrest Education and Discovery Center

WHAT: An afternoon of opening-up to your world of plants.

Come having already enjoyed your lunch. We will have a light repast mid-program.

The Program:

The Plants of Scotland – Jim Chatfield

The Plants of the Trustees Gardens in Massachusetts – Jason Veil

The Plants of My Life – Mary Maloney

The Plants of Granny Creek – Joe Cochran

The Plants of Ecuador – Pam Bennett

The Winter Plants of Secrest – Paul Snyder and All

Plus: A hands-on exercise in winter plant identification and enjoyment, including all the evergreens we use as holiday trees. We will also have winterberry holly bunches for prizes and for sale.

WHY: *"It is not down on any map. True places never are."* - Herman Melville.

HOW: Registration is \$20. Refreshments shall be served. Register by going to go.osu.edu/chatfield (must be lower case "c"). Or you can contact Sarah Mays of OSU Extension at mays.201@osu.edu or 330-263-3831, fax: 330-263-3667.



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

ome Hear Ye Hear Ye Pam Bennett and Mary

Maloney!



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

Has Joe Cochran
retired?



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

Can

fuchsias really grow in hedges?



Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension

An English oak along Hadrians Wall in England

Other Articles

Shade Garden Foliage Perennial Plants

November 20, 2019 | [Meghan Shinn](#)

Source: <https://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/garden-design/shade-garden-foliage-perennial-plants>



Text by Erica Bowman

A shade garden necessitates a nuanced collection of foliage-rich plants. Here is an example of a foliage-based shade garden created in Vermont. Of the foliage plants, the most brilliant seems to be a dwarf chartreuse hosta that offsets the dark glaucous greens of European ginger (*Asarum europaeum*), the silver-speckles of lungwort (*Pulmonaria saccharata*), the aubergine leaves of bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans* cultivars), the deeper purple of coral bells (*Heuchera micrantha* var. *diversifolia* ‘Palace Purple’) and several contrasting shades of foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia* cultivars).

Adding height and interest to the garden’s center are the evergreen Christmas ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), dark red *Astilbe xarensii* ‘Fanal’, the two-toned ‘Frances Williams’ hosta and umbrella-leaved astilboides (*Astilboides tabularis*).

As you can see, a mix of exuberant foliage perennials makes a shady corner anything but dark and dreary.

Cornell AgriTech:

"Tomato medleys are becoming popular"

Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9161249/tomato-medleys-are-becoming-popular/>

Fresh from Cornell AgriTech in Geneva, New York, the newest grape tomato – Moonbeam – has joined a constellation of small heirloom-style tomatoes in the 2020 High Mowing Organic Seeds catalog, released Nov. 1.

Tomato medleys – or variety packs – are becoming popular. A decade ago, attractive small tomato medleys were only found in farmers markets. Today major supermarkets use medleys to engage consumers who want different shapes and colors, and smaller, bite-size fruit, said Philip Griffiths,

associate professor of horticulture at Cornell AgriTech, who started developing Moonbeam in 2006 and made it a selection in 2011. This new variety is a nice addition for these medleys.

"If you look at a lot of medley packaging, they tend to be focused on yellow, orange or red. The color groups are lacking in the white and the black types, such as the Midnight Pear tomato," he said. "Tomatoes like Moonbeam and Midnight Pear help to contrast the medley groups and make them more aesthetically pleasing."

Moonbeam is considered a white grape tomato, with a citrus flavor. In the High Mowing catalog, it joins five other small tomatoes in the catalog's Cornell-developed Galaxy Suite collection: Supernova, a marbled mini-Roma; Midnight Pear, a small, dark pigmented, pear-shape fruit; Comet, a plump, red grape tomato; Sungrazer, an orange colored grape tomato; and Starlight, a slender, finger-shaped, yellow grape tomato.



"Moonbeam is a productive grape tomato that is suited for home gardens, commercial fields and high tunnels," said Griffiths. It has a good shelf life and it is less likely to split.

Griffiths started developing the Moonbeam tomato 13 years ago, but shelved it to pursue other varieties. In 2015, he reached back to his original research and replanted them. "It was then I realized how good a product it actually was," he said.



In 2017, consumer taste tests of the Moonbeam with the home gardener seed association groups were positive, and it was integrated quickly into High Mowing's Galaxy Suite pipeline.

Consumers can cook or roast the Moonbeams, add them to pasta or toss them fresh into salads.

"Integrating tomatoes of different colors, different flavors and different textures is something that makes food more fun and entertaining. It adds to the whole eating experience," said Griffiths. "Moonbeam is a really nice addition to the Galaxy Suite."

Source: [Cornell University \(Blaine Friedlander\)](#)

University of California - Davis

Five new strawberry varieties released University breeders

Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9164542/five-new-strawberry-varieties-released-university-breeders/>

The five new strawberry varieties released by plant breeders at the University of California, Davis, recently may offer consumers new choices, but they have to meet the discriminating preferences of the state's strawberry growers first.



While consumers probably choose on the basis of color, size, taste and texture, growers include several other qualifications before they plant any of the 25 to 30 varieties of strawberries available to them. The weather, soil, water required, size, yield and growth characteristics in their locations are among the most critical.

Top of the list of features the breeders sought in the five latest varieties was disease resistance. From strawberry plants that bloom in the early spring to those that prefer warmer days, their contact with the soil as they ripen makes them vulnerable, especially to soil borne maladies. Inherent resistance is far more preferable than overcoming disease with sprays or other exterior applications.

The time of year that strawberries ripen is a characteristic that can be regulated to some degree by breeding, and further modified by the location where they are grown and by weather characteristics. The plant breeders do what they can to provide early ripening in some of the varieties growers choose from. Berries that can ripen in time for Christmas holiday sales are a premium.

US (VA): New organic cucumber varieties show promise in disease resistance

Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9164420/us-va-new-organic-cucumber-varieties-show-promise-in-disease-resistance/>

In 2018, OFRF provided a grant to Edmund Frost of Common Wealth Seed Growers to assess resistance to both Bacterial Wilt and Cucurbit Downy Mildew among selected cucumber and muskmelon

seedstocks. The project is aimed at helping organic farmers throughout the Eastern U.S., where those diseases pose a particular challenge.

In his recently submitted final project report, Frost says the four trials he completed yielded useful and actionable results. The trials were done on certified organic land at Twin Oaks Farm in Virginia. Read all about the methods, data, and [conclusions for each element of the project here](#).



OFRF provided a second grant to Frost in 2019 to continue the project. This year, Frost is focused on evaluating and advancing cucumber seedstock lines that performed well in his 2018 trials, working with farms and research sites throughout the Southeast and beyond to more broadly assess the selected lines. If the 2019 trial results show these lines have good resistance, they plan on releasing varieties from the project in late 2020.



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