

# Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

October, November, December 2020

## **Fall is for Planting**

We're wrapping up our 30th year in business and what a year it's been! We appreciate all your support this season and we're so grateful to be a part of the respite gardening provides people when the world goes sideways. To that end, while the leaves are changing color and plants are starting to settle in for their long winter nap, it's a perfect time for transplanting! Take advantage of the cooler temperatures and add a few trees to your yard. All of our Shade and Flowering Trees are 20% off through the end of October, so stop by and see all the choices!

Fall is a great time to plant spring-blooming shrubs like Lilacs and Forsythia, as well as perennials like Echinacea, Coreopsis, Hardy Hibiscus and more! We have a great selection and months of planting time left, so make sure you come see us this Fall!

- Kate & the Patt's Staff

## **Puzzle up some fun**

Time spent indoors this winter doesn't have to be boring—puzzle up some fun with jigsaw puzzles from Patt's! We have a



great collection of USA-made puzzles in 100, 500 and 1000 piece counts featuring fun outdoor themes like fruits and veggies, insects, flowers and lots of birds. We have playing cards, too! Watch for a custom puzzle feature Posie in early 2021.

## **Handsome Hellebores**

Quite possibly our favorite plant here at Patt's, Hellebores brighten up the winter landscape like nothing else. Blooming in the dead of winter and into early spring, these evergreen perennials thrive in moist, well-drained soil in partial shade. They make great container plants and come in a variety of colors and bloom-times. Look for festive December-blooming varieties like 'Josef' with pure white flowers that can be grown in a container by the front door or brought inside for a few weeks of indoor excitement. They look great next to your Poinsettias and Amaryllis! Hellebores make wonderful gifts for your favorite gardeners for Christmas and winter birthdays. Many varieties bloom from January through March and April. We love 'Cinnamon Snow,' 'Pink Frost,' 'Ivory Prince' and well... all of them! Colors range from pure white to apricot, maroon, yellow and all kinds of shades in between.



## **Oh my Gourd!**

As always we have a fantastic selection of fun and unique



pumpkins gourds and squash from Taylor Denner Gardens in Juliaetta, ID. Colorful (and often edible) squash are a quirky edition to your fall landscape and look great piled on porches, tucked into containers and sitting alongside your favorite fall plants in your flowerbeds. Come check them out!

### The Gardener's October

- ◆ Continue to harvest fruits and vegetables. Watch for frost and protect plants for extended ripening season.
- ◆ Rake fallen healthy leaves and compost them.
- ◆ Cut back leggy and spent perennials. Divide and replant overgrown perennials, remembering to share with a friend, or plant in a container.
- ◆ Pull finished annuals and compost if healthy.
- ◆ Cut gourds leaving 1" of stem remaining and put on screens to dry.
- ◆ Drain hoses and blow out irrigation systems. Flush drip systems with water to clear sediment, then drain lines. If we have a dry fall, leave a hose out since additional watering will be necessary.
- ◆ When weather cools, plant trees and shrubs. Stake new trees if located in a windy area.
- ◆ Dig and properly store summer bulbs. Ask for our handout about Tender Bulb Care.
- ◆ Prune cane berries. Spread fresh compost and mulch.
- ◆ Plant spring-blooming bulbs as soil temperatures cool down.
- ◆ Leave spent blossoms on rose bushes so hips will form and help induce dormancy for winter.
- ◆ Spray rhododendrons and azaleas and other evergreen trees and shrubs with Freeze-Pruf or Wilt Stop to protect from moisture loss (browning leaves) caused by dry winter wind.
- ◆ **Drop in for one of our Make-and-Take Workshops on any Saturday in October! \$45 Fall Container Workshop or \$50 Gourgeous Gourds Workshop. Call to reserve your spot today!**
- ◆ Start to chill spring-blooming bulbs for early indoor forcing. Ask for our handout on forcing bulbs.
- ◆ Sow Garden Sweet fall cover crop now. Till under and use as green manure next spring.
- ◆ **Visit us for beautiful and unusual locally grown pumpkins, gourds and squash. Take festive photos with our '51 Ford pick up and Posie, too!**

### The Gardener's November

- ◆ **Attend our Holiday Wreath Workshop Nov 28th.** Three time slots available to build your own fresh evergreen wreath with fragrant boughs and pinecones. Call us to reserve your spot!
- ◆ **Join us for Small Business Saturday November 28th.**

### The Gardener's November Continued

- ◆ Clean and sharpen outdoor garden equipment and store for winter.
- ◆ Prepare roses for winter by pruning between knee to waist high. Strip leaves. Attach ramblers and climbers to supports for protection against wind. Mulch to a depth of 10-12" once the ground has cooled down after several frosts. Use a liquid copper dormant spray to protect against fungus and a oil spray to fight off insects. Ask for our handout on Preparing Roses for Winter.
- ◆ Continue to harvest hardy vegetables.
- ◆ Watch for earwigs. Bait or use traps of rolled newspaper. Hand pick snails and slugs or use bait.
- ◆ **Dormant spray fruit trees after leaves have fallen. For information on disease and insect spray schedules for apples and pears, visit your local extension office and ask for a bulletin on spray schedules for fruit trees.**
- ◆ **November is the perfect time to purchase Amaryllis and Paperwhite bulbs** for holiday blooms. Plant every two weeks for extended bloom through the holidays.
- ◆ Collect stakes and trellises; clean and store them for next season. Disinfect seedling containers. Clean gutters of fallen leaves.
- ◆ Continue to rake and compost fallen leaves or run over them with a mower and use as mulch.
- ◆ Clean up and destroy leaves of Crabapple and Hawthorn when they've fallen. After leaf fall, dormant spray with a copper fungicide to protect against fireblight and leaf spot.
- ◆ Prune dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs.

### The Gardener's December

- ◆ Check winter protection of trees and shrubs. Deep water trees and shrubs that precipitation doesn't reach (under eaves, etc.). Dehydration, not cold temperature causes the most winter injury, so be sure to keep things hydrated!
- ◆ Begin planning for next year's vegetable, herb and flower gardens.
- ◆ Watch and treat for pests like scale, mealybugs and mites on plants overwintering inside. Treat with a granular systemic insecticide.
- ◆ To prolong bloom on gift plants (Poinsettias, Paperwhite or Amaryllis bulbs) water plants well and remove the decorative foil so excess water can drain.
- ◆ **Buy your Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias at Patt's!**

## Wonder about Winter Watering?

Winter is tricky when it comes to watering. It's hard to know when to water, how much to water and which plants will need attention throughout the coldest months. It's important to pay attention to the weather, as cold winter wind can dehydrate plants. While it may seem like we get enough rain to spoil an outdoor event, it's rarely enough to adequately water your plants. After most rains in the valley, if you dig down as little as 3-4 inches, the soil closest and most vital to your plant's root system is still bone dry. Enter: you, homeowner, with your trusty hose or watering can.

Just a few extra gallons a month will make a world of difference in reducing the amount of winter damage plants suffer and in improving the overall health of a plant. Newly planted trees and shrubs should be checked every two weeks throughout winter for additional water.

## Soup Season

Cooler weather makes us feel like cookin'! We have plenty of easy-to-make (and easy to gift!) food mixes in Patt's Pantry that are great to have on hand for pop-in guests and to treat yourself.



Patt's Pantry offerings include:

- \* Soups from Thorp, WA
- \* Dips and mustards from Pasco, WA
- \* Popcorn from Othello, WA
- \* Drink mixes (cocoa, cider, lemonade) from Vancouver, WA
- \* Scone & biscuit mixes from Spokane, WA
- \* Honey from Lapwai, ID



## Amazing Amaryllis

Our favorite winter pastime is watching Amaryllis and Paperwhites grow inches each day right before our eyes and enjoying those cheerful blooms in dark winter months. We'll have our bulbs in mid-October. Amaryllis and Paperwhites both bloom indoors with ease, simply plant them in a container in potting soil or sand, place in a sunny window, water occasionally, sit back and watch them grow! Amaryllis come in a variety of colors in shades of pink, white and red and make great gifts for anyone on your list.



## We've got you Covered

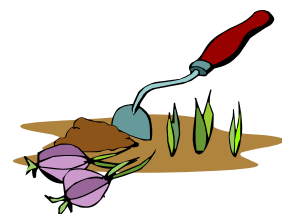
Now that you've harvested the veggie garden, cleaned and tucked away garden accessories, it's time to apply fall cover crop. Planting a fall cover crop (commonly called "Green Manure"), helps prevent erosion, suppresses weed growth and replaces nutrients lost from the soil.

To apply cover crop, harvest your garden, rake up the soil and rake in your cover crop seed at the recommended rate. The following spring when you're ready to plant your veggie garden, simply till your soil or dig the crop into the ground and replant as usual.

The preferred cover crops are members of the legume family. They fix nitrogen into the soil and contribute valuable organic matter. Our cover crop called 'Garden Plowdown' consists of winter peas, buckwheat, rye, vetch and clover.

Cover crops increase the soil's nutrients in two ways. Initially, while the cover crop is growing, it converts solar energy into carbohydrates. Up to 30% of the carbohydrates the growing plant produces are released through its roots into the soil.

These carbohydrates are extremely beneficial and feed the soil microbes that go on to feed future plants. In the spring, when the crop finishes its life cycle, the largest amount of nutrition is released into the soil when the cover is tilled into the ground.





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### Mascot Merch

Our favorite fuzzball has her very own merchandise now! Come see our collection of Posie products like insulated water bottles, tumblers and coffee mugs! Get cozy with Posie sweatshirts for kids and adults alike! We even have cocoa mixes, cider mix and lemonade mix! Of course, paw-tographed copies of “P” is for Posie are always available. Posie’s popular (paw-pular?) wall calendars will be available for purchase mid-November. There’s something for every Posie fan you know and we’re happy to ship items for you!



### **Deck the Halls**

As usual, our gorgeous selection of Noble fir Christmas trees will arrive the week of Thanksgiving. We will also have hand-made evergreen wreaths made right here at Patt’s and customizable to your specifications.



We’ll have Poinsettias, Paperwhites and Amaryllis bulbs and evergreen centerpieces, too! We have great gifts for your favorite gardeners like metal wall art, gloves, indoor pottery, plenty of Posie products, PNW-made food items and a whole lot more fun stuff. Come visit us this holiday season—yule be glad you did!