



Betty's Bloomers Nursery

Issue 4

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Happy New Year

Well here's another new year. It seems like they come around faster & faster as we get older. It is time for those new resolutions – get healthier, lose weight, save money, & slow down. Sometimes, gardening fits into all of those plans. Think about starting a vegetable garden – Grow your own healthy, low-cal foods we are supposed to be eating. Just spending time in our own peaceful back yards helps to balance our stress-filled lives.

Grower tips

Speaking of vegetable gardens, now is a good time to start getting your ground ready for planting. Tilling in organic matter & fertilizer to your soil helps in making your garden soil richer, less compacted, and helps to dry the soil before planting time. Most soils in our area are acidic. Adding lime to your soil now balances the PH and makes fertilizers work better. If you have poor soil or if you don't know how healthy your soil is, you can take a sample to the County Extension Office and for a small fee they will send it off to be tested.

What's in Season?

Since there is not much outside that is green, how about bringing some green indoors? Try new varieties of house plants to brighten up the inside of your house. Generally,

thicker leaved plants tolerate the dry air in your home better than some thin leaf varieties. Philodendrons, ivy, rubber plants, schefflera, & succulents are some easier to grow plants that will tolerate most indoor conditions. During the winter months, check the moisture in the soil more often due to the dry warm air blowing on them. As a general rule the soil should be moist, not too wet. To help add humidity, group plants together in one place, or place pots in a shallow tray with a small amount of water in it. You may need to raise the pot above the water level by placing gravel in the tray. Also, give your plants adequate light. Sunlight coming through the windows will change with the seasons, so you may need to adjust where your plants are sitting.



Bromeliads and orchids are not as hard to grow as most people think. Bromeliad come in all sizes and colors. They are tropical plants that adapt well to indoor conditions, and only require water in the center cup of the plant. Some varieties stay in bloom for 6 months.

Cymbidium orchid are beginning their blooming season now. They

are large grassy plants that will produce tall bloom spikes with up to 10 to 15 blooms each. Cymbidium orchids are tropical plants that grow in the higher elevations, so they are more cold hardy than other orchid species. After they finish blooming put them outside in a shady area until they set their buds again next winter.

To Do List:

Plan, Plan, Plan. Look through gardening magazines, and seed catalogues for new varieties to try. Keeping in mind that not all plants grow in our area, so pay attention to the Climate Zone for each plant. We are in between Zone 8 & 9.

Something Extra

If your houseplants are not looking as dark green as you would like, try watering them with diluted left-over coffee, (let it cool first, of course) Coffee add nutrients that help your plant take in the nitrogen in the soil.

Contact us

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Great Plants! - Great Prices!