

Heaven and Earth Growers



"The purpose of Heaven and Earth Growers is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share grace and fellowship through education, protect the environment with organic endeavors, and take responsibility to the community by sharing our bounties."

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Upcoming Calendar Events:

-January 6, Club Meeting 9:00 a.m. Children's Garden Planning with Sue McCurdy.

-January 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Orchard Trimming at Kline Creek Farm trip. Meet at church for car pooling at 12:30. Children welcome.

-February 6, Club Meeting 9:00 a.m. Seed starting with UIUC speaker.

-March 3, Club Meeting 9:00 a.m. Planning the church gardens with containers, etc.

-April 7, Club Meeting 9:00 a.m. Craig Happel will give a talk on composting and the importance of worms.

-April workshop: Making an English Trough.

-April "Old Fashioned High Tea" sponsored by H&EG. Watch for more information and date.

Topics and dates are subject to change.

Simple Rules for Saving Poinsettias

Place the plant in a room with a constant temperature of 65 to 70 degrees. The heat from drafty windows, vents and air ducts will cause the plant to dry out. Be sure to give the plant sufficient water, but don't over water, and sunlight while it is in bloom.

After the holidays, when the red bracts begin to drop off, cut the remaining ones away and continue to grow the poinsettia as a green house plant, giving it as much sunlight as possible. Next June, when the tem-

perature is 50 degrees or above at night, set the plant outside in a shaded area, letting it acclimate to the bright sun slowly. Early in the summer, cut the plant back, leaving no more than 12 inches of growth. It will sprout new foliage and, with the help of an occasional fertilizer, will develop into a nice bushy plant. It must be brought back into the house before the first killing frost in October. Again, place in a sunny window. In order for the plant to bloom again, it

needs 9 hours of daylight and 15 hours of darkness starting October 1st. Some people place the plants in a dark closet until they begin to show color. Any form of artificial light will delay its blooming so move the plant into a closet each night or cover it with a dark cloth. If this "short day" schedule is carefully adhered to, the poinsettia will bloom again the following Christmas.

A recipe for fresh cut Christmas trees

"Fireproofing the Cut Christmas Tree" by J. Randolph

The mixture is: Add the following to 2 gallons of HOT WATER: 2 cups of Karo syrup, 2 oz. of liquid bleach plus 2 pinches of Epsom salt, 1/2 teaspoon of Boraxo (all available at the grocery store), and 1 teaspoon of chelated iron (available at garden centers). Make a fresh cut at the bottom of

the tree trunk and stand the tree in this solution until it is brought inside. After it is set up, use this solution for watering the tree. Why does it work? The Karo syrup provides SUGAR, and it is only in the presence of sugar that tremendous amounts of water will be taken up by the exposed

tissue at the base of the tree trunk. Thanks to the BORON (in the Boraxo), the water and sugar will be moved to every needle and branch of the tree - boron is what makes sugar move, not only in trees, but vegetables, fruits, and even houseplants. And the
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"Fireproofing the Cut Christmas Tree"

continued from the cover

EPSOM SALTS and CHELATED IRON - Epsom salt is magnesium sulfate, and magnesium (together with iron) is the center molecule in the process we know as chlorophyll production. By making the magnesium and iron available to the tree, you're assuring yourself of green needles. The CHLORINE BLEACH? That stops the mold from forming when the sugar and water are combined.

The love of
gardening is a seed that once sown never dies.
Gertrude Jekyll

Winter to do List:

—Protect shallow-rooted perennials, such as mums, coral bells, shasta daisy, and crocus, from the freeze-thaw cycles of winter, by covering plants with evergreen boughs from leftover holiday greens.

—Place seed and plant orders in January. Take snowy day or night to view these great seed catalogs websites:

<http://www.cooksgarden.com>

<http://www.burpee.com>

<http://seeds.thompson-morgan.com>

<http://www.seedsofitaly.com>

<http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com>

<http://www.langeveld.com>

<http://www.backyardgardener.com>

<http://www.maryjanesfarm.com>

<http://www.seedsofchange.com>

<http://www.gardensalive.com>

H&EG Club News

**Heaven and Earth Growers
Future Programs**

At the upcoming **January** meeting, Sue McCurdy will give a talk about the children's garden she had at a former church. This is one project H&EG will undertake in the Spring/Summer of 2007. Plans are to have the children's garden in the church yard near the exit road. That location has plenty of sunlight for seeds to grow. Some specifics about the garden:

1. Children will plant and take care of the vegetables grown in the garden.
2. Harvest of vegetables will be given to those in need.
3. Weekly weeding will be

done by the children.

4. The garden should be fenced in, preferably with a picket fence. Maybe a scarecrow.
5. Donations for seeds and the fence will be accepted.

Please join us for this interesting meeting on January 6th at 9:00 a.m.

The field trip on January 13th to **Kline Creek Farm** will be highly educational to those who love fruit trees. The park staff volunteers will be pruning the fruit trees in the orchard. Children are welcomed to visit with the farm animals, blacksmith and barn. Meet at church for car pooling at 12:30 p.m.

April workshop will be on making an English Trough, or a container known as hypertufa. The recipe for making one contains sand or perlite combined with cement and peat moss. The containers, bowls, stepping stones or whatever you end up making, are lighter in weight than concrete and have a vintage look. Please consider what you will use as a mold. The mold, wrapped in plastic, could be a bucket, bowl, carton, etc. This will be a fun project so put this on your calendar for April 2007. The cost for the materials for making the trough will be considered.

Watch for future newsletters and information on these events and more. All are welcomed.



Winter Storm
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Heaven and Earth Growers

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There is an appointed time for everything.

And there is a time for every event under heaven -

A time to give birth, and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

- Ecclesiastes, 3:1-2