



El Dorado Nursery & Garden

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Home Gardener's Newsletter



Fall Gardening Tips

1. Make your **fall and winter yard bright and cheery** with our *pansies, violas, snapdragons, stock, calendula, cyclamen, primroses, and ornamental kale and cabbage!* We also have plants with bright *ornamental berries, and colorful foliage.*



Gifts for Growing and Giving!

Gift plants brighten the holidays, and many provide color and fragrance for years to come. You'll be remembered often throughout the year when you give one of these living treasures to someone special. Plus you'll want to use them for your own Christmas decorating!

Poinsettias are the traditional gift plants that everyone loves to receive. Make them the focal point of your own decorating by displaying them in groups, or scatter around your entryway and indoor areas in rows. Our excellent selection of healthy, richly colored plants includes newer varieties and colors.

Camellias with their shiny, dark green leaves will be a welcome addition to anyone's garden. Large flowers in several forms bloom profusely in partial shade. Some varieties begin in late fall, others bloom through spring.

Also choose from our beautiful **Christmas cactus, cyclamen, and paperwhite narcissus.**

DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Choose one of our **LIVING** or **CUT CHRISTMAS TREES.**

Our beautiful **Oregon-grown Noble Firs** will be here the day after **Thanksgiving.**

Also pick up some of our beautiful **poinsettias** and other decorative **gift plants.**



2. **Pine trees are best pruned** from November through January. Pruning at other times of the year can attract pine bark beetles that can kill the trees.

Special Sale!

- ✦ All Camellias, including 'Yuletide', are on sale through November!
- ✦ Continue to save 30% on all Fall Color Shade Trees through November!

3. **Spray peaches and nectarines** after the leaves have dropped. This is necessary to prevent peach leaf curl. Ask us to show you what to use. A second spray in early February is ideal.

4. **Weeds are starting to sprout.** Save yourself time and weed-work by spreading a 3-4 inch layer of mulch to help prevent them.

5. **Keep bird feeders stocked** and bird baths filled with water to help the birds during the difficult winter months.

Top 10 Holiday Garden Gifts

- ✦ Garden gnomes
- ✦ Wildflower seeds
- ✦ Windchimes
- ✦ Pruners
- ✦ Hummingbird feeders
- ✦ Wall art
- ✦ Songbird feeders
- ✦ Bird baths
- ✦ Our Eco-friendly handbags
- ✦ Local honey

Need More Inspiration?

Be sure to visit our **Winter & Christmas Gift Area** for many other unique and useful gifts and save 25% until Christmas!
We also have **Gift Cards** to use anytime, on anything!

Falling Leaves

Leaves left on lawns, groundcovers, and shrubs can become matted. A thick layer of leaves will block beneficial sunlight and can promote disease. Many plants (including boxwood and barberry) seem to easily trap leaves so it is best to remove them by hand.



Leaves also clog gutters and downspouts, and can make pavement slippery. The perfect place for them is in your compost pile, where they will be transformed into something every plant wants!



California:

An Agricultural Leader!

For more than 50 years, commercial growers in California have led our nation in the production of fruits and vegetables. An astounding 83% of all fresh and frozen strawberries are grown in California beds.



Even more impressive is the fact that our wonderful state grows 99% or more of the nation's artichokes, dates, figs, kiwi, olives, persimmons, walnuts, and almonds! In fact, our fair state's number one agricultural export is almonds. Other valuable crops include grapes, cotton, oranges, and flowers.

The best news is that we can grow many of our own favorite fruits, nuts, vegetables, and flowers in our own yards! Now is the perfect time to start planning for next year's bountiful harvest.

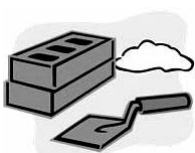
Riddles from the Garden

- Q. What does the letter "A" have in common with a flower?
A. They both have bees coming after them.
- Q. What do you call it when worms take over the world?
A. Global Worming.
- Q. Most people have seen how the Green Giant dresses in the garden, but what does he wear to a corporate board meeting?
A. A three peas suit.
- Q. Why didn't anyone laugh at the gardener's jokes?
A. Because they were too corny.

Ancient Mortar Secret

An online search on how to mix mortar for bricklaying and other masonry results in a mixture calling for 6 parts sand, 2 parts lime, and 1 part cement.

But, according to the *American Chemical Society*, the world's first composite mortar contained sticky rice soup mixed with slaked lime. This secret ingredient, used in China over 1,500 years ago, resulted in a super strong and durable mortar. In fact, in recent tests comparing sticky rice lime mortar with modern mortar, the ancient formula was more stable and even had greater mechanical strength! What a constructive way to recycle leftover soup.



Gifts from Your Fall Garden

Make your own woodland potpourri using colorful leaves and seedpods from your yard. Start now and they'll be ready for Christmas giving.

Collect colorful leaves, green pine (or other conifer) needles, acorns, pods, and small pine cones. Fragrant ingredients you might choose include rosemary, citrus peels, and rose petals and buds for color and fragrance. Thoroughly dry everything in a basket on a sunny window sill for about a week, depending on the humidity.

Mix in a fragrance fixative (such as orris root from a craft store). This will allow the scents to be released slowly. Deposit a few drops of perfume oil (fragrance of your choosing) and toss lightly. Place in a plastic bag, seal, and set in a cool area until the fragrances are well blended (about 6 weeks), stirring occasionally to blend the fragrances.

Place the mixture in a decorative jar, seal, and tie with a big red Christmas bow!



Cranberry-Orange Bread

An excellent bread to make for gifts, and to keep on hand in the freezer for special guests.

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon each baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons margarine, softened
- Juice of 1 orange plus enough water to make 3/4 cup liquid
- 1 tablespoon orange zest (grated orange rind)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup raw cranberries, cut in half
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)



Preheat oven to 350°. Sift together dry ingredients. By hand, mix together margarine, orange juice, orange zest, and egg; and then blend into flour mixture (don't overmix). Fold in cranberries and walnuts and pour into greased 9x5 inch loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Slice when cooled.

Mistletoe Tradition



What would Christmas be without a kiss beneath the mistletoe? The origin of this custom is believed to have come from the early Saxons who dedicated the mistletoe to Freya, their goddess of love. The custom was practiced at Christmas time because it was believed that during the winter, fairies took shelter under mistletoe leaves. These good fairies protected anyone who helped save the plant from winter cold by bringing it indoors.

In Scandinavian countries, farmers hung mistletoe from the rafters of their house to save it from lightning strikes during storms, or in the barn to protect against evil trolls.