



# Garden Talk!

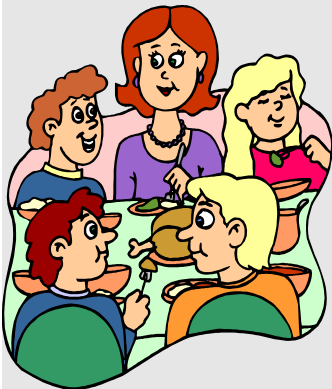
for the Heartland Garden Enthusiast

November 2003

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- Plant Profile
- West Cost Horticulture Tour
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## Happy Thanksgiving



## Cranberries On The Cape & My Other Horticulture Adventures Out East

As I vacationed on Cape Cod in late May, I noticed the hundreds of cranberry bogs all over the Cape. Since we don't grow cranberries in Missouri and I had never seen a cranberry bog before, it took awhile for me to figure out just what the sunken area was that dotted the landscape. At the time, the plants were dor-



mant, so I did not get see them actively growing, but still it was interesting to finally know how cranberries are grown. As we were driving through Hyannis, there was a place along side the road where you could stop and view a cranberry bog and take pictures. Being the curious gardener that I am, I had to have a picture of the bog. I thought, "Wow, I can't wait to show the Master Gardeners how cranberries are grown." My sister, a pre-school teacher, didn't understand how I could be so excited over a large sunken hole in the ground. To her it was just a hole, but to me it was new and exciting horticulture! Well, I took my picture and off we went, only to discover more "new" horticulture crops and practices along the coast.

While walking along the beach on Cape Cod I was fascinated with the *Rugosa Rosas* and the grasses that grow in the sand. It's amazing how those plants survive in such fine sand and near sea water. Cape Cod is known for their lighthouses up and down the coastline. One lighthouse we stopped at had a gift store nearby and they sold Cape Cod Cranberries! I was finally going to get to taste a real cranberry from the east coast. It was very good! It sure beats eating frozen, canned, or bagged berries that have been processed and shipped across the country.

We traveled by boat over to Nantucket Island where the houses had the 1600's architecture and style. While my family was interested in the tourist things and exploring Nantucket, I was admiring residence gardens. The gardens on the Island were very formal. (continued on next page)

### **This could be your last issue.**

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You can find current and past issues of *Garden Talk* at <http://outreach.missouri.edu/adair/horticulture/gardentalk.htm>



# WEST COAST HORTICULTURE TOUR

I recently attended a national horticulture study tour in the southwestern United States. The trip was sponsored by RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment). It is a non-for-profit association representing producers and suppliers of specialty pesticides and fertilizers. RISE serves as a resource and advocate on pesticides and fertilizers and provides current and accurate information on issues and research affecting the industry. It also monitors legislative and regulatory issues in Washington D.C. and in the states.

Specialty pesticides are pest management tools used to protect health and safety as well as enhance the quality of life and the environment. The problems caused by plant diseases as well as pests such as cockroaches, termites, fire ants, mosquitoes, weeds, and rodents, call for the safe and responsible use of pesticides. Without pesticides, pests pose a serious health and safety risk to children and adults and can cause serious damage to homes and structures. Specialty fertilizers provide essential plant nutrients including micro-nutrients. These products are formulated to deliver the optimal amount of nutrients to plants to promote healthy and vigorous growth. Healthy plants are better able to withstand environmental stresses like drought, insect infestations, disease, weeds, air and water pollution. The safe and responsible use of fertilizers improves our environment by promoting the vigorous growth of desirable plants.

The first stop on the tour was Las Vegas where we toured a cactus nursery, orchard, elementary school gardens, and a chocolate factory. Las Vegas receives only 4 inches of rainfall a year and has 152 days with temperatures over 90 degrees. It has 99 days with temperatures over 100 degrees. The soil in the area has a pH of 8.0-8.5 with less than 0.1% organic matter.....and we complain about a little clay. How would you like to garden in or near Vegas? We then traveled to Arizona where we made stops in Lake Havasu City, Parker, and Yuma. There we toured a sod farm, golf course, and chemical manufacturing company. In Lake Havasu we saw the famous London Bridge. Lake Havasu went 4-5 years with no rain and summer temps between 110-120 degrees. Southwest Arizona has a lot of irrigated cotton and alfalfa fields. The last two and a half days of the trip were spent in southern California. We went to the San Diego Zoo where we took a bus tour of the zoo to see the different landscapes. The zoo raises much of it's own plants to feed the animals as well as plants to feed animals at the Cincinnati and Bronx zoos. The pandas at the SD zoo eat 11 tons of bamboo a year, 3 tons of ficus are used per month for animals, and 550 pieces of eucalyptus are used each day. Thirty-five people oversee the landscape plantings at the San Diego zoo. Later in the afternoon we visited Ecke's Poinsettia Ranch in Encinata's CA. Albert Ecke started the business in 1880 by selling cut poinsettias on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. Ecke's are known for breeding poinsettias and for the cultivars we have today. Did you know poinsettias can last up to 30 days as cutflowers? While in southern CA, we also visited the Tru-Green Chem Lawn facility and enjoyed the ocean at Seal Beach.

Look for more articles about RISE and the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers in upcoming issues of Garden Talk.

## Upcoming Events

**November 3-4:** MVTA Lawn and Turf Conference & Trade Show; Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake Ozark, MO; featured speaker: Whitey Herzog

**November 5, 12 & 19:** Farm and Small Business Estate Planning Classes held in Unionville, Memphis & Mexico via ITV. Cost \$35 per person, \$45 couple. Pre-registration required.

**November 6-8:** Small Farm Trade Show, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, MO

**November 14:** Fall High Tunnel Vegetable Field Day, MU Bradford Farm, 9 am-12:30 pm.

**December 5 & 6:** Missouri Livestock Symposium, Kirksville Middle School, Kirksville, MO.

**January 9-10:** Great Plains Vegetable Conference, St .Joseph, MO

# GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

## Ornamentals

- Continue watering evergreens until the ground freezes.
- Now is the ideal time to plant trees and shrubs. Apply a 2-3" layer of mulch, but stay several inches away from the trunk. Keep the soil moist.
- Remove spent flowers and foliage of perennials after they are damaged by frost.
- Cover water gardens with bird netting to prevent leaves from fouling the water. Oxygen depletion from rotting organic matter can cause winter kill of pond fish.
- Prevent water gardens from freezing solid in the winter. Cover with an insulating material or float a stock tank water heater in the pond to prevent ponds from freezing.
- Place a 6-10" deep layer of soil and mulch around roses after a heavy frost. Prune just enough to shorten long canes. Save major pruning for spring.
- Mulch flower and bulb beds to prevent injury to plants from frost heaving.

## Fruit

- Keep mulches pulled back several inches from the base of fruit trees to prevent bark injury from hungry mice and other rodents.
- Fallen, spoiled, or mummified fruits should be cleaned up from the garden and destroyed.
- Harvest pecans when they start to drop from trees. Shake nuts onto tarps laid on the ground.
- Mulch strawberries for winter with straw. This should be done after several nights near

20 degrees, but before temperatures drop into the teens. Apply straw loosely, but thick enough to hide plants from view.

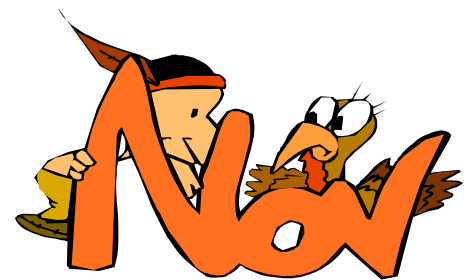
- Commercial tree guards or protective collars made of 18" high hardware cloth will prevent trunk injury to fruit trees from gnawing rabbits and other rodents.
- A dilute whitewash made from equal parts of interior white latex paint and water, applied to the southwest side of young fruit trees will prevent winter sun scald injury.

## Vegetables

- Any unused, finished compost is best tilled under to improve garden soils.
- To prevent insects and diseases from over-wintering in the garden, remove and compost all plant debris.
- Tilling the vegetable garden in fall exposes many insect pests to winter cold, reducing their numbers in next year's garden.
- Overcrowded or unproductive rhubarb plants can be divided now.
- For Thanksgiving, weave a holiday wreath of garlic, onions, chili peppers, and herbs.

## Miscellaneous

- Roll up and store garden hoses on a warm, sunny day.
- To prevent injury to turf grasses, keep leaves raked up off the lawn.
- Continue mowing grasses as long as they keep growing.
- A final application of fertilizer can be applied to bluegrass and fescue lawns now.
- Be sure to shut off and drain any outdoor water pipes or irrigation systems that may freeze during cold weather.
- Clean house gutters of leaves and fallen debris before cold, wet weather sets in.
- Rake up and collect fallen leaves. These can be plowed under directly to enrich garden soils or allowed to slowly decay in large piles.
- Setup bird feeders. Birds appreciate a source of unfrozen drinking water during the winter.



## Garden Talk!

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