



# Organic Newsletter

Winter Edition, 2010

## Amaryllis Aftercare

During this holiday season you may have bought an amaryllis or even received one as a gift. Once those beautiful blooms begin to fade, these bulbous plants can be made to flower again for next year's holiday season.

Once the flowers are spent you remove only the flowers (and the ripening ovary) and wait for the stalk to yellow on its own before cutting.



Over the winter months keep in a sunny windowsill, (southern works best) watering only when upper inch of soil is dry to the touch. Amaryllis will also benefit from fertilization once a month. If using a houseplant fertilizer make sure to use one formulated for flowering plants.

About 16 weeks before you wish it to flower, reduce water and wait until the foliage has died back. So for instance to have blooms around mid-December reduce water in August. Also keep in mind that no one can control Mother Nature, so allowing a week or two in case of error is a good idea.

Once the leaves have died back remove them and place bulb in a cool (around 55°F) dark place; such as a closet or basement. After eight weeks move the bulbs to a sunny location and water. Until new growth appears keep soil lightly

moist. From this point it will take about 8-10 weeks for them to flower. Once in bloom keeping your amaryllis in indirect light will prolong those beautiful flowers!

## Winter Warning:

With old man winter on his way, snow isn't far behind. If you have Emerald Green Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Emerald'), knocking snow off that accumulates on this multi-trunked tree will help reduce the chance of them breaking or falling over.



Garden  
Humor



**What lives in winter, dies in summer, and grows with its root upward?**

~\*~

**An icicle!**

## Plants for Winter Interest

During these bleak winter months when the garden is resting and waiting for the return of spring, there are a few plants that can bring color to this winter wonderland.

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*):



This deciduous holly has an upright multi-stemmed habit usually reaching a height anywhere from six to ten feet. Winterberry hollies prefer a moist soil and are tolerant of poorly drained soil. They can be planted in full sun to part shade; however more sun equals more fruit! Like all hollies they are dioecious meaning there are male and female plants; which means only the females will bear this gorgeous fruit. For a spectacular winter show while also providing food for wildlife you can't beat this native plant!

Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*):

This tri-leaf maple provides year round interest beginning with its wonderfully peeling cinnamon colored bark. It has lobed soft green leaves with silvery undersides that will also provide a red-orange fall color. Topping out at 30', this tree is slow growing, can be grown in either full sun or part shade, making it perfect for a small yard!



Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corlyus avellana* 'Contorta'):

This plant with its twisted foliage and branches provides an unusual accent to the landscape.

Harry Lauder's Walking Stick reaches a height and spread between six to eight feet, loves full sun and tolerates poor dry soils. Interesting



to look at with foliage, the best season of this plant is surely the winter when the curled and contorted stems can be seen more easily.

Chinese Witchhazel (*Hamamelis mollis*)



This witchhazel is your remedy to those late winter blues! This large shrub/small tree, blooms in March with long lasting yellow strap-like flowers that exude a wonderful fragrance. It prefers full sun to part shade, moist fertile soil and also provides a beautiful yellow/orange fall color!



## Organically Grown

### Rack of Lamb with Warm Apple & Lentil Salad

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons coarse dry breadcrumbs, preferably whole-wheat
- 1 1/2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1 1 1/2-pound rack of lamb, Frenched and trimmed (see Tip)
- 3 teaspoons Dijon mustard, divided
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 1 15-ounce can lentils, rinsed, or 1 1/3 cups cooked lentils
- 1 Organic Granny Smith apple, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery with leaves, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup reduced-sodium Organic chicken broth, or water
- 2 teaspoons sherry vinegar, or cider vinegar

#### Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 450°F.
2. Mix breadcrumbs, 1/2 teaspoon oil, 1/2 teaspoon rosemary, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper in a small bowl.
3. Heat the remaining 1 teaspoon oil in a large ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. Add lamb, meat-side down, and sear until browned, about 1 1/2 minutes. Turn it over and spread 2 teaspoons mustard over the meat. Sprinkle the breadcrumb mixture over the mustard. Transfer the lamb to the oven and roast until a thermometer inserted in the center registers 140°F for medium-rare, 15 to 20 minutes. Transfer to a plate and tent with foil to keep warm.

4. Return the pan to medium-high heat (be careful: the handle will still be hot). Add shallots, the remaining 1/2 teaspoon rosemary, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper and cook, stirring constantly, until starting to soften, about 1 minute. Stir in lentils, apple, celery, broth (or water), vinegar and the remaining 1 teaspoon mustard; bring to a lively simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the liquid is slightly reduced and the celery and apple are starting to soften, about 4 minutes. Cut the lamb into 8 chops and serve over the lentils.

*Note: We recommend using certified organic ingredients, when available, in all recipes to maximize flavors and nutrition while minimizing your risk of exposure to pesticides, chemicals and preservatives.*

~\*~

*The Organically Green Team Wishes  
You Joyful Holidays and a Warm  
Winter!*

~\*~

*"Someone painted pictures on my  
Windowpane last night --  
Willow trees with trailing boughs  
And flowers, frosty white,  
  
And lovely crystal butterflies;  
But when the morning sun  
Touched them with its golden beams,  
They vanished one by one."*

*- Helen Bayley Davis, Jack Frost*

## *Services for 2010:*

We offer the following services to help increase the enjoyment and beauty of your property:

### Tree / Shrub:

- ❖ Shrub & Tree Spraying / Fertilization Programs
- ❖ Integrated Pest Management
- ❖ Soil Restoration
- ❖ Plant and Soil Stimulation Program
- ❖ Deep Root Feeding
- ❖ Root Growth Enhancement
- ❖ Mature Tree Restoration
- ❖ Air Spading
- ❖ Radial Trenching
- ❖ Vertical Mulching
- ❖ Anti-Desiccant Spraying
- ❖ General Tree and Shrub Maintenance Removal

### Turf:

- ❖ Lawn Renovation
- ❖ Fertilization
- ❖ Overseeding
- ❖ Core Aeration
- ❖ Estate / Property Purification

### Organic Pest Control:

- ❖ Flying Insect
- ❖ Deer / Geese
- ❖ Rodent Repellent
- ❖ Organic Tick & Flea Control

*We also offer Outdoor Holiday Décor.*

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