

Gardener's Corner
January 2025

Happy belated New Year! With the current snowy weather, it is hard to believe that my family was planting tulip bulbs in Michigan the Saturday after Christmas!

Hope you all survived the holidays in good order and are preparing to think about spring gardening. To help get you through the winter, here is an article from **Garden Design** entitled, *16 Winter Flowers for your Garden*: https://www.gardendesign.com/flowers/winter.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Winter-Flowers-1-2-25. My personal favorites are Hellebores (Lenten Rose or Christmas Rose). I have several varieties in my garden. They are easy to grow, and the foliage stays green almost all year long.

Some tips from the **Missouri Botanical Garden** about your houseplants include the following. Foliage of houseplants should be kept dust free so that leaves can get optimal light. Using pebble trays or a humidifier can ensure that houseplants get adequate humidity. Inspect plants for common pests such as aphids, spider mites, scale, mealybugs, whiteflies, thrips and fungus gnats. If you bring new plants in, they should be quarantined and inspected for pests before setting them with existing ones.

Once your amaryllis have bloomed, remove their flowers and put the plant in a sunny window to allow for leaf development. Water them so that the soil is evenly moist. An occasional dose of all-purpose fertilizer will also be helpful

Regarding your outside flora, let ice melt off branches of trees naturally to help prevent broken branches. Also avoid walking on frozen lawns to keep from injuring turf grass.

I just came across a website in **MU Extension's Garden Spade** that might be of interest to you. The site is <https://www.missouriplants.com/>. It is a compilation of plants that grow wild in Missouri with interesting information about where they are found and their characteristics. For those of you who like natives, this may be helpful. The site also identifies if a particular plant is not native but has been introduced into our State. Another website that might be of interest to those of you who grow natives is Native Plants Database at: <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>.

Videos to watch while waiting for the snow to melt:

10 Perennial Groundcovers that are Attractive and Hardy! offered by Rosanne's Garden. Ground covers are an important layer in the garden, adding visual interest and complexity. She introduces 10 interesting and attractive groundcovers that either she or friends and neighbors are growing in their USDA Zone 4 gardens. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ_RUD8TBBU

The Weed Assassin's Guide to Killing Stuff: And Other Beautification Tips offered by Ken Williams Kenzhort. If you struggle to keep up with weeds in a native garden, this video contains a lifetime of knowledge in not only killing weeds, but in preventing them in the first place. Many of the traditional garden practices that work to keep our wallets chained to yardwork are here debunked and replaced with science-based common sense. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqX3kjbkAr8>

Top Ten Things New Native Gardeners Need to Know offered by Ken Williams Kenzhort.

This webinar presented to West Cook Wild Ones as the first of a three part series of talks intended for gardeners just entering the world of Native Plants. It also contains information that might be useful to experienced native gardeners. Emphasis is placed on practical methods, and on wonder.

Because “10 Things” is a lot of information, some viewers might want to watch only a few topics at a time, as time permits. In an attempt to get my channel monetized, some content on this channel has moved to a newer YouTube channel, “Kenzhort other stuff”. Please check it out for more focused discussions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJuMSHIFje4&t=154s>