

GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old, familiar
carols play, and wild and sweet, The words repeat, Of
peace on earth, good-will to men!" —Henry Wadsworth
Longfellow



IN THIS ISSUE

News from the garden

It's been an incredibly quiet and warm fall, although a little wet. Temps have only dipped into the freezing a few times, which is nice, but the poor flowers are confused as to whether they should be blooming or hibernating!

Getting Inside festive!

The season is now upon us to put away the summer relics and bring forth the Christmas ornaments and other holiday-festive stuff that has been piled in the back of the closet all year.

Unfortunately, I have been hampered by a shoulder injury that has left me unable to move my arm hardly at all without excruciating pain. So, the picture you get to see in this issue is of the little (inside) festivity I have managed to accomplish. This is Houdini, hogging the heat and wondering where his Christmas stocking is going to go! In my decorating, I have a subtle mix of fake Ficus trees, real trees (Hibiscus), and small live plants. These are intermingled in the area around the window (far left) with a thick and cozy festive rug for the toofies!

Hope you have all found your indoor/outdoor festive inspiration to create your own plateau of winter wonderland. *I will eventually get to my outside decorations but probably not without a little help from my neighbors!* But hey, tis the season for neighborly love!!



News from the garden

There is no news from the garden except that I CAN'T BELIEVE THINGS ARE STILL BLOSSOMING!!

By Lauren M.

Just recently, I noticed my christmas cactus was blooming. Then I noticed that my lily was also blooming. And, can you believe it, I have a poinsetta that is going on three years of growth now! This makes me stop and think why do some plants die off after their blooming season when some just keep on growing, refusing to die.

Poinsettias, I found out, are actually perennial plants however, most people treat them as an annual plant. I remember a few years ago Home Depot had a sale on them and they had a really good stock of them. I bought like half a dozen and set them all around my porch and stairs. Two days later, there was a big frost and they all died. My friends told me they were not outdoor plants (something someone might have mentioned to me before they all passed!) So when I bought my house, I thought I would try again to showcase these wonderfully bright and cheery plants. Turns out, I have learned some new things about them that I feel I can confidently share in my blog-seeing as my plant is still thriving!



First of all, don't be so hasty to toss it out once it has stopped blooming. Sometimes, it just needs a little "me" time alone to hibernate and comptimplatate what it will do next. What I did was kept it watered and warm and sat it near the East-side window. After a little while I noticed new growth and then new blooms. Today, I am in my third year with this plant and feel confident that I can make it to another year as well.



For my other plants (the cactus and the lily) they often surprise me by budding when I least expect them too. One key thing I have found with those two is that they only like to get water when they are ready and willing for it. So I usually wait until the leaves have slumped down and the plant looks like a drama queen, keeled over and about to wither away. I give it a burst of water and the next day it's piped back up and beautiful again!

Until next time—Happy Holiday Gardening!!

To inspire your holiday decorating, check out the following Website Resources: (All links link to external websites):

- [17 DIY Christmas Decorations That Will Last for Years to Come](#)
- [75 Designer-Approved Christmas Décor Ideas to Try This Holiday Season](#)
- [20 Ideas on How to Decorate Your Entire Home for Christmas](#)
- [124 Christmas Decorating Ideas For A Beautiful Holiday Season](#)