

## Horticultural Points of Interest – January 2017

- **Flowering Indoor Plants**

- Short Day Flowering Plants
  - Poinsettia, Christmas Cactuses, Kalanchoe, Gardenia and some Begonias
  - Generally need a Night Length of 12 to 14 Hours to set Buds
    - Room Lights at Night will interrupt this Period and prevent Bud Set
      - Particularly sensitive to red Light so Incandescent Lights are especially bad in this Regard
    - Typically requires 4 to 6 Weeks of long Nights
- Long Day Flowering Plants
  - Most Plants fall in this Category
  - Lack of Sun in the Winter may curtail Flowering
  - Augment Daylight with Fluorescent or Similar Lighting or Grow under Lights
    - African Violets and similar plants flower prolifically with 14 to 16 hours of Light
- Dormant Period Flowering Plants
  - True Cacti and some Succulents must undergo a Period of Dormancy in order to flower in the Spring
    - Withdraw Water slowly eventually watering only enough to prevent shriveling of Bodies or Leaves
- Cold Period Flowering
  - Phalaenopsis Orchids do best with temperatures of 60° F or more but a period with nighttime temperatures of 50° or 55°F will trigger flowering

- **Plants by Internet or Mail**

- Catalogs arrive now
- Major Advantage is to obtain Plants that may be impossible to find locally
  - Plants will be much Smaller than locally grown Stock in order to keep shipping costs under control
  - Probably no Flowers the 1st year. Shrubs often several or many years from Flowering
- Beware of Descriptions like “#1 Size” or “Field Grown”
  - Pot Size is the best Gauge of what you will Receive
    - No Pot Size, Beware!
    - Most mail order firms provide Perennials in 3 or 4” Pots
      - Very small indeed
- Beware of jazzy plant names such as Wonderous Blue Penstemon
  - If you want named cultivars, make sure that is what you are getting.
- Be *very* Careful of the Shipping costs, which can add significantly to Cost
- If you have internet access, check the Supplier on the Garden Watchdog of Dave’s Garden (<http://davesgarden.com/products/gwd/>)
  - Based on feedback from Gardeners like us who have purchased products from these Vendors
  - Perennials from Suppliers in the Garden Watchdog’s top 30 will be high quality