

Horticultural Points of Interest – November 2016

- **Houseplants Outside for the Summer**

- Plants benefit from the extra Light and Humidity Outside
- Going Out
 - Put out when temperatures are 60° most nights
 - Some plants like cacti (when dry) can go out with night temperatures consistently in the mid to high 40's
 - Sun is much Brighter than through Windows in Winter and plants must be acclimated slowly to prevent Sunburn
 - Most houseplants should have only partial sun because of the huge difference
 - White areas on the leaves signal sunburn
 - Even Cacti will Sunburn if not acclimated slowly (weeks)
 - Rain can be an issue with some plants especially in prolonged periods of Rain
 - Protect Cacti, some begonias, and other plants susceptible to high soil moisture or water on their leaves to prevent fungus or rotting
- Bring Back in
 - Return indoors when nighttime Temperatures consistently dip into the 50's for most plants
 - Insects
 - Most plants will need no extra protection on return
 - Check plants frequently the first few weeks
 - Plants susceptible to Mites over the winter should be sprayed once or twice with insecticidal Soap beforehand
 - Quite safe and very effective for Mites
 - Make sure to spray leaf undersides
 - Plants susceptible to Mealy bug or White Flies and which have previously had problems with these pests should be sprayed with a systemic insecticide before coming in
 - Use Caution as these can be dangerous
 - Leaf Drop
 - Plants being moved indoors often react with some leaf drop
 - Ficus Benjamina is notorious for such leaf drop
 - Leaf drop may continue for a period of time but once the plant acclimates it should slowly stop and normal growth will resume

- **Starting Perennial Seeds**

- Need to start early since many perennial seeds need a one month or even several months pretreatment before they will germinate
 - Pretreatment simulates effects of winter season on seeds
 - Usually involves moist storage in a Refrigerator for a Time



- November is a good time to Collect or Purchase seed
- **Starting Perennial Seeds (Continued)**
 - Seed should be stored in a sealed container in the Fridge until pretreatment is to begin
 - Some Perennial Seed Vendors who provide Germination Information:
 - Diane's Seeds (<http://www.dianeseeds.com/Index.html>)
 - Swallowtail Seeds (<http://www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com>)
 - Prairie Moon Nursery (<http://www.prairiemoon.com/seeds>)
 - Must overcome Seed Dormancy to get Seed to Germinate
 - Determine what your Seeds Need to Germinate
 - Directions from Seed Vendor
 - Directions from the Web
 - <http://webhome.idirect.com/~jehan/Information/orgsseedx.htm>
 - <http://tomclothier.hort.net/index.html>
 - With proper Treatment can be nearly as easy as Annuals
 - Using Coffee filters for Germination avoids Seed loss due to Damp off Fungi
 - See November 2008 on the Horticultural Society Website for more details
 - <http://www.nshorticulture.org/links>
 - An excellent way to create a Drift of Perennials in the Garden
 - Inexpensive & Fun
 - Does require a Source of Light
 - Bright Window or Fluorescent Lights
 - Shop Lights are Fine
 - 1 warm white plus 1 cool white is especially good
 - 16 Hours/day with a Timer is very effective
 - Move lights up as plants grow so that the lights are always 6" or so above the growing tips

Happy Thanksgiving