



YELLOWSTONE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



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Featured Gardeners - Andrew Marble and Gail Tesinsky

Gardening happens all year round, and because the winter months are quite different here in Montana than they are in more southern locales we tend to seek out good conversations rather than weeds this time of year. I



was able to catch up to Andrew Marble of Billings Nursery and Landscaping in December and he was gracious enough to

grant me some phone time for a few questions and a nice chat about local gardening and landscaping.

Before I called Andrew, I took the time to do a little 'research' on Billings Nursery with a visit to their website. It's a really lovely site that gives a great nutshell history of the four generations of the Marble family that has created and sustains a great gardening resource for the greater Billings area. Second, third, and fourth generations of Marbles with their unique interests and talents (Andrew loves landscaping and construction, Jason is a pro with edible plants and home gardening, Richard is the nursery man and Bobbie masters small landscapes and beds) give the business a broad base from which to serve their customers. Sixty-four years and running – that's a fine run indeed. While Andrew isn't aware of any certified Master Gardeners in the Marble bunch, he's been eyeing the program for some time and is considering making the time for a class or two this year to meet more of the fine folks involved in Yellowstone County.

With all that experience and diversity, there is a wealth of advice and knowledge at hand. *What is the most common mistake that these professionals see folks make in the garden and landscape?*

Andrew was quick to note that overplanting, specifically of woody shrubs and trees, is a

Gail Tesinsky is not a person; she's a force of energy. I kept holding myself to the chair, thinking I would fly around the room at any moment from so many ideas during the interview. Her blond hair, bright eyes, red sweater, and boundless enthusiasm really brightened that gray afternoon! She does not recall not gardening. Having been raised in a family of ten, everyone participated in growing flowers and vegetables. Her preferred way of learning is hands-on.



Working with her hands brings her joy. She is a former hairdresser, transferring many of those manual skills plus knowledge of design and aesthetics to her rock and vegetable gardens.

Gail has worked at a Laurel greenhouse for eight years, so the MG class was a mere enhancement of a long relationship with gardening. The business recently changed ownership. The new owners recognize and cherish her knowledge, while she appreciates their willingness to learn. Not only has her learning about gardening come from work and experimenting on her one and a third acre, sun room, and greenhouse. She has taken numerous online gardening courses, often through the "provenwinners" website, to keep herself growing. In her greenhouse, she winters cannas, geraniums, and petunias. I imagine they're busting out right now from her attentiveness!

For the future, Gail looks forward to the upright petunias which are being developed as I write. She has so much knowledge that I only have space to share some top-tens: never use fresh manure (I assume due to pesticides not having had time to break down), and chicken manure is the best if you use any at all; pots are great for the elderly, so they don't have to bend so far.

Gail grows tomatoes and cucumbers in pots.

Andrew Marble cont.

very common tendency that causes folks problems. Though there's a time and place for 'cottage garden' style, planting too densely leaves plants susceptible to insects and disease, results in a wild, unkempt appearance, and keeps the plants from developing to their full beauty and potential. He's also a big fan of drip/automatic irrigation, but he observes that many customers still tend to overwater. Because we are in high plains desert with generally heavy soils, the plants that do best here don't need or tolerate daily watering. While willows might love that, few other items in the lawn or garden will do well when the ground is saturated. It is better to have automatic systems set to run no more than every other day on turf (longer, not more often when it's hottest and driest) and never more than once a day on garden areas.

I asked Andrew if there was one or a few simple things that anyone can do in the front yard to make it look great, even if they don't have the proverbial 'green thumb.' His word was 'declutter.' Simplicity is attractive, he said, and low- or no-maintenance is just not realistic. Doing the weeding, trimming, and pruning that keep a front yard looking great is easiest when plants are not crowded (see question one) by each other or structures. Diligence when keeping areas free of seedling weeds and trees that come in on the wind pays off great dividends in the long run. Weed fabric is a great barrier for mulches and as a base when creating new landscapes, but they do not mean you will not have weeds. Choosing varieties that are more compact and that require less water is also important to having a yard that is most often performing at its best. Today there are many fun varieties of conifers and shrubs that require little to no pruning and low to moderate watering, and many cultivars of common garden favorites that do well in low-water xeriscapes

This is one of the things that Andrew finds *most positive about gardening in the last two or three decades* – the great new cultivars that help more gardeners be successful in maintaining attractive and healthy spaces. While native plants are important and have a place in any ecosystem, most folks are unwilling or unable to deal with what it takes to manage a purely native landscape. Having cultivars available that are more compact for small yards, that are more drought or disease tolerant, and that spread less vigorously than their native ancestors make healthy, inviting spaces more accessible for more gardeners.

With the snow covering the landscape and my time with Andrew ending, I wanted to know what he felt was *most important in preparing the hardy plants in a yard and garden for a Montana winter.* Balance, he said. Cold temperatures are not such a big deal – it's the quick freeze from a warm period or a vigorous freeze-thaw pattern that can wreak havoc. Finding a balance between withholding water from deciduous trees to induce hardening off in the fall and watering conifers well to prepare for the cold in the same landscape can be a trick, for certain. It's even important to water those conifers during mild open (not snowy) spells in the middle of winter to keep those needles hydrated and healthy.

Thanks, Andrew, for taking the time to chat. May your gardens rest well!

Interview by: Corinna Sinclair

Gail Tesinsky cont.

Pay attention to low temperatures in the spring, since some annuals, notably coleus, do not tolerate temperatures in the 35-45 F degree range. She didn't used to cut back perennials because they fed birds and served as protection, but she does cut them back now, and they perform beautifully. And insect infestation is typically preceded by extreme temperature changes. Consider neem oil and vinegar to address insects. Lamium is her favorite perennial, partially because it adjusts to varying light conditions. What a wise sage she is! Another super idea- her grandchildren have a Grandchildren Garden. Will she consider adoption?

I hope too that Gail teaches a class on gardening where deer live. She's a walking font of information. "Fine, Fuzzy, and Fragrant" plants keep them away. The best plant for shooing them is Datura. Keep apples cleaned up to keep deer visits infrequent. Squirrels help with knocking down apples! If provided the opportunity, deer will ruin apple trees. She also hangs CDs in her yard to spook them away.

In her words, she loves the MG program. Her involvement included the Moss Mansion and the Zoo, where she donated plants, although in the past few years, she has worked primarily with Chris Smith on the downtown courtyard.

In her spare time... where does she get it? She races cars and works at Michael's during dormant season. She draws the line at irrigating and mowing, leaving those tasks to others. And the true mark of a Master Gardener: Her favorite television show: Don't call if AG LIVE is airing.

Interview by: Bess Lovec

Winter's Garden

High shadows loom on garden walls.
They tremble in the winter's breeze.
As from the heavens powder falls,
they mimic naked limbs of trees.

They tremble in the winter's breeze;
forlorn, they sway as low winds moan.
They mimic naked limbs of trees.
Frail shadows now have thicker grown.

Forlorn, they sway as low winds moan.
The winds surcease, no more to blow.
Frail shadows now have thicker grown.
On arms of trees are coats of snow!

The winds surcease, no more to blow.
As from the heavens powder falls,
on arms of trees are coats of snow.
High shadows loom on garden walls.

Copyright © Andrea Dietrich | Year Posted 2015

Watering Cans have been a gardener's most valuable tool throughout the years.

What once was referred to as a watering pot started out with a very primitive design. In the late 1400's to 1500's the medieval design was made of clay with small holes on the bottom of the pot that when immersed in water would fill the pot. The pot was tapered toward the top creating a neck with a small hole that would be covered by the user's thumb to control the flow of water.

As the design of watering pots began to evolve in 1692 a man named Timothy Keeble began referring to water pots as watering cans and this new name stuck. John Haws was the next inventor to change the watering can. In 1886 he put in for a patent on his invention of the new and improved watering can making it easier to use. Watering cans have been made in many different materials such as clay, copper, metal and plastic. To learn more about the history of watering cans or collecting watering cans click the link below.

<http://www.marthastewart.com/911212/history-and-presentation-antique-watering-cans>

Submitted by: Donna Canino

Gardening Series: Growing Microgreens Indoors Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Join Claire Johnson and Parker Graves, Gainan's Garden Center experts, as they demonstrate how to grow microgreens. (Microgreens are salad vegetable shoots.) Samples will be available for tasting. Call 657-8290 for more information. Thanks to Gainan's and the Yellowstone County Master Gardeners for co-sponsoring this event.

Date: January 18, 2017 Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Location: Community Room Contact: 406.657.8290
Address: Billings Public Library. 510 N Broadway. Billings, MT
Email: <mailto:refdesk@ci.billings.mt.us> Cost: Free



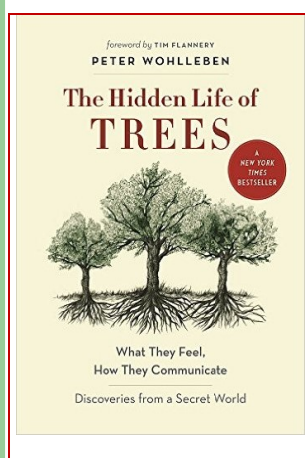
Old World Garden Farms - Calling All Gardeners - We Need 5 Volunteers!!

This coming January, Old World Garden Farms are helping to launch an incredible new garden website that will showcase everyday gardens from everyday gardeners around the world! It is designed to be a place for gardeners to share their gardens and their garden tips - no matter the size or type! They need 5 volunteers whose garden they can showcase for the launch. So whether you have a Backyard Flower Garden, Vegetable Garden, Water Garden, Herb Garden, Railroad Garden - or any kind of garden.

Send an email to thefarm@owgarden.com with a picture or two and a short description of your garden. The 5 volunteers selected will also get a sneak preview of the site as well as having their gardens featured on the site for the launch!

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate By Peter Wohlleben

As gardeners and landscapers, we deal extensively with plants. Yet for many, our real understanding of the life of plants only scratches the surface. Would you, for example, believe that trees “talk” to each other, help each other out when a tree is ill or hurt, warn other trees of impending danger, and support their young?



Part of why we are not aware of the communications and connections between trees is that trees live in a very long time frame and even their electrical and chemical communications are slow compared to smaller, shorter-lived organisms. If trees are living within a supportive forest environment, they can live hundreds of years. There is a spruce in Sweden, for example, that is over 9,500 years old.

The key element is that trees survive well in an intact, healthy forest. They create a microclimate that provides protection from wind and weather (such as drying heat). They warn each other of danger, such as predators like porcupines or insects. They share food with ailing member trees. There is a structure to the forest that helps all the individuals within. Trees that ordinarily live this way do not do well when planted alone. Lone trees live much shorter lives.

The Hidden Life of Trees explains in detail accessible even to lay persons how trees communicate. They use tree equivalents of our senses. They send and receive chemicals through the air and through their roots, they use electrical impulses and vibrations in their roots, and they use visual signals such as flowers to attract pollinators and leaves turning color to signal the cessation of photosynthesis which insects appear to understand. They use a complex system of underground fungi to share nutrients and communicate between trees. Trees can even distinguish the roots of their own species from other tree species. It also seems possible that all beings in the forest are communicating as a community.

Planted tree farms do not exhibit these amazing abilities to communicate and support member trees. It is thought that their roots are too damaged from planting to be able to share information, selective breeding may damage their ability to communicate, and they often have no fungal network so these forests are “silent” compared to intact forests. Tree farm members live like loners—they do not live long lives and they do not support each other.

There are some species of trees such as birch and aspen that have evolved to live as loners. They live shorter lives than forest species and they use different methods of defense and growth because they do not have the forest community to feed and warn them.

There is much more fascinating information about the lives of trees in this little book. There is so much there that I plan to carefully read the book again to catch what I missed the first time through. Also, there is so much new research being done to expand our knowledge of tree communication that I look forward to a follow-up book at some point to increase our understanding even further in this area. We can only become better gardeners as we gain greater understanding of all plants and their “hidden” lives.

Book Review by: Ann Guthals

Silverleaf Buffaloberry vs. Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia* vs. *Shepherdia argentea*)

Silverleaf Buffaloberry, which is native to North America, and Russian Olive, which is a non-native and considered invasive, are closely related and at first glance are hard to distinguish from one another.



They have the same color of leaves and grow in similar areas, have thorns and can take on a shrub-like appearance. However, when you examined them close up, you will find that the Silverleaf Buffaloberry leaves are arranged in opposite pairs and its thorns are oppositely arranged. Russian Olive has leaves arranged in alternate pairs and its thorns are alternatively arranged. Russian Olives have silver berries that become tan as they mature while Silverleaf Buffaloberry have yellow or light orange berries that turn red late in the season.



An excellent chart with great pictures explaining the difference between these two plants can be found at:

http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/sites/default/files/resource-center-documents/2014_05_12_RO_vs_Buff.pdf

Submitted By: Elaine Allard

ROASTED CAULIFLOWER

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Head Cauliflower | 4 Tablespoons Olive/Canola Oil |
| 1 Lemon, Zested and Juiced | 1 Tablespoon Cumin |
| 1 Tablespoon Garlic Powder | 1 Teaspoon Ground Coriander |
| 2 Teaspoon Salt | 1/2 Teaspoon Pepper |
| 1/4 Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese | |

Preheat the oven to 400 and lightly grease a small baking sheet or cast iron skillet.

Remove any green leaves from the cauliflower and trim off the hard part of the core. In a medium bowl, whisk together the oil with lemon zest and juice, cumin, garlic powder, coriander, salt and pepper. (You can add or change seasonings to your taste.)

Use a brush or your hand to spread the marinade evenly over the head of cauliflower. (Any leftover marinade can be stored in the fridge for up to three days and used with meat, fish or other veggies.)

Place the cauliflower in the prepared pan and roast until the surface is dry and lightly browned, 30-40 minutes.

Let cool a bit before slicing into wedges, serve warm with parmesan sprinkled on top.

Submitted By: Sheri Kisch

So you have all the Christmas decorations stored, the income tax information compiled in a folder and now without any other interruptions, let's get the seed catalogs all spread out and start making plans. You probably have a list of your standard vegetables and varieties. Have you ever thought about trying something entirely different just to see if it would grow well? Try two variety types to see which one produced more? How much space do you have for how many vegetables? When I look through catalogs, it's like a kid in a candy store - I'd like one of each item. What do we believe and expect from catalog products?

Keep in mind as you swoon over all the pretty pictures that their purpose is to entice you to buy first-most, and to educate you last-most. Those pretty silver Artemesia that are 'hardy and easy to grow' could barge into your property like a band of evil pixies, then float over the fence on the wind and take over your neighbor's lawn, the back alley, and the cracks in the sidewalk out front! What the catalog might not tell you is that your Montana climate will turn those hardy annual plants into perennials that come from seed and from all the root bits, and if you aren't ready for that it could be a three-year weed-pulling seed experiment gone bad.

When buying seeds it's important to do your homework. Some seeds need special care to sprout. If you are preparing to pay \$5 for a packet of 5 geranium seeds, for example, you should be aware that they are that expensive for a reason. That doesn't mean to avoid them, it means you will want to know all you can about geranium seeds before they arrive in your mailbox. You won't want to waste them because you didn't know they want warm feet until they come up, and then watered from the bottom to avoid any extra moisture at the base of the seedling to avoid damping off. Pansies, on the other hand, better not be on that heat mat - they like it cool. And some seeds will want to be dark when others need to be exposed to the light! They won't tell you those things in the catalog.

Avoid preventable failures by having at hand (hard copy or online) a good seed identification guide that includes germination information (light requirements, moisture preferences, temperature, scarification, etc.), pictures of seedlings and first true leaves, time to germination, susceptibility to fungus or rots, and other helpful facts. You will want specific germination information on every seed you plan to buy for the best success. If you find something you want to try that needs to be seeded indoors, assemble any lights, heat mats or cables, and watering supplies before they arrive so you know what kind of space you'll need. It can be a very enjoyable thing to have seedlings in the house on those dreary February days!

The same diligence can be done for buying plant material. Know as much as you can about the plant, its best condition before planting, best time to plant, and best initial care requirements before you buy. Know what it is susceptible to, and what it wants for light, water, and soil. If you always have a reliable secondary source of information, you increase your rate of success and can spot 'creative marketing' before you fall for it.

It should be pointed out that if you are looking for specialty potatoes Montana has a Premier Seed Potato production that supplies seed potatoes to Idaho, Washington and other states that are famous for their potatoes. (<http://www.montana.edu/news/11804/montana-certified-seed-potatoes-available-at-local-nurseries-garden-centers-and-extension-offices>) Nina Zidack of the MT Potato Lab "wants to encourage home gardeners to plant Montana-certified seed potatoes." One reason is that certified seed potatoes grow better potatoes than potatoes bought in a grocery store or potatoes left over from previous seasons. Potatoes sold in grocery stores are often treated to restrict the sprouting of tubers, Zidack said, "and more importantly they may come from other states and carry virus diseases and tuber and soil-borne pests, or come from areas that have frequent outbreaks of Late Blight." The Irish

Cont. on page 7

Catalogs, etc., cont. from page 6

potato famine was caused by Late Blight, the most destructive disease of potatoes, which can also infect tomato, eggplant, pepper and petunia. Spores from the fungus may be wind borne and carried 50 miles or more. "Increased planting of Montana-certified seed in gardens will reduce the risk of introducing pathogens or other pests which would cause serious disease outbreaks resulting in monetary losses to [home and professional] growers," Zidack said. If you have questions about sources for certified seed potatoes, contact your local extension agent or Nina Zidack at (406) 994-3150, potato-cert@montana.edu.

Don't forget that your Master Gardener Association and Extension is a great source of information when you are trying new things. Use the online resources and your personal relationships through Master Gardeners to help you be a successful seed planter!

Submitted By: Sheri Kisch and Corinna Sinclair

The Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Seattle Convention Center, Seattle, Washington - February 22-26, 2017. Below is all the information you will need in order to make your own travel and hotel arrangements as well as purchase your flower show tickets.



Montana Master Gardeners will host a **Meet & Greet meal (excluding alcohol) on Thursday evening, February 23, 2017**. If you are attending the show and want to join the Montana group for a **free dinner please RSVP to me by February 1, 2017** so Dara can confirm your reservation number at the restaurant. She will email you the dinner details at that time.

For hotel options go to: https://www.gtameetings.com/nfg_show.shtml. The Crowne Plaza is the hotel we have used in the past. It is a very nice hotel, right in downtown Seattle and only 2-3 blocks to the Convention Center, they have the best rate for being so close to the show.

Airlines:

Alaska: <https://www.alaskaair.com/?semid=2f1d1c73-c070-d629-0bd2-00001543d541::19420799::||Evergreen||&gclid=Cji--lfjztACFQpmfgodKqojPw>

Delta: http://www.delta.com/?Log=1&mkcpgn=SEzzzGGusaCSpriBD&clickid=2f1d1c73-c070-d629-0bd2-00001543d541&tracking_id=284x4477397&s_kwid=TC|8489|delta||S|e|137847920838

Flower Show Tickets: <http://www.gardenshow.com/tickets/>. Early bird tickets (before February 21) are \$17 per person/per day, after that they are \$22.

Flower Show Information: <http://www.gardenshow.com/>. This lists all the show details and seminar schedules as well as exhibitor info.

This is a wonderful show and we always have a great time and learn many new things...as well as coming home with some fun souvenirs. Please consider attending, it is well worth it!

Dara Palmer, Assistant Master Gardener Coordinator
Email: dara.palmer@montana.edu Tel: (406) 994-2120

Landscaping with Native Plants

Native plants may be a wise choice for many landscapes for several reasons. First of all, once native plants are established they seldom need watered, which can be very cost effective due to the rising cost and shortage of available water. Besides providing ground cover, drought resistant deep rooted native plants help hold soil in place and prevent erosion by taking up water that might otherwise cause flooding. Also, native plants help with biodiversity in the environment by producing the exact type of nectar, pollen and seeds that are needed as a food source for native birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Furthermore, native plants that have evolved to grow in our conditions are usually less susceptible to diseases and therefore require fewer pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals which is better for the environment.

Even with native plants, it is important to pick the right native plants for your area. Before selecting, look around your area and see what is growing in undisturbed natural areas. If you decide to collect native seeds, it is best to only take a portion of the available seeds from one area and leave some seed pods to insure the plant continues to thrive in that area. (Also, seed collection is prohibited in national parks.) The native flower seeds of yarrow, Lewis' blue flax, blanket flower and lupine are easy to collect and fairly easy to grow. Many native seeds need to be planted in the fall or winter because they need to be exposed to cold temperatures in order to germinate. Some seeds take scarification or abrasion and take several years before they germinate. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has a booklet entitled [Creating Native Landscapes in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains](#) which gives pointers on how to get native plants established and has native plant choices listed according to their bloom period. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1167611.pdf A list of pollinator friendly plants that are native to Montana can be found at: https://plants.usda.gov/pollinators/Montana_Native_Plants_for_Pollinator-Friendly_Plantings.pdf

Native landscapes provide a natural beauty which mimics nature and changes with the seasons. Instead of mowing or cutting back plants in the fall, learn to enjoy the seasonal beauty of dried materials in the landscape and let the plant function as a windbreak and wildlife habitat. A link to a list of native plants of our region that can add variety and beauty to your landscape can be found at: <http://www.plantnative.org/rpl-mtwy.htm#gr> If you are looking to buy native seeds at a nursery, the Montana Native Plant Society has information on sources for native plants and seeds for our area. . Blake Nursery in Big Timber, Oasis Environmental Nursery in Livingston, and Lawyer Nursery in Plains, all carry native plants.

Note: Wildflower Seed Mixes are not always Native species.

Submitted By: Elaine Allard

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues." ~ Hal Borland



The upcoming **International Master Gardener Conference** will be in Portland, Oregon at the Oregon Convention Center July 10-14, 2017. Early registration deadline is January 13, 2017. This is going to be super fun!

There are social events, movies, a tradeshow and tours, plus full days of seminars and keynote speakers. Lunches are included in the conference price. This conference is open to anyone!

The International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) has been held every two years since 1987. The IMGC provides an opportunity for Master Gardeners, State and County coordinators to come together and learn through seminars and tours, celebrate successes through the International Search for Excellence Program, and meet and network with Master Gardener volunteers, faculty and staff from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and South Korea.

Check out their website and blog via the link below. They also have a Facebook page as well as online Newsletters covering facts and details about the conference and Portland.

Website & Blog: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2017IMGC/>

Newsletters: <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/newsletters/>

Everything Edible: Roots to Fork 3rd Annual Lewis & Clark County Master Gardener Celebration Saturday, March 4, 2017

Please see the registration information, including agenda, pricing, hotel info and the registration form for the Lewis & Clark County Master Gardener Celebration to be held March 4, 2017 in Helena. Look like a GREAT time!

Make check payable to: Lewis & Clark County Extension Fund
Mail to: Gold Country MT , Master Gardeners Assn., 100 W. Custer Avenue, Helena, MT 59602
Registration Form: http://www.lccountymt.gov/fileadmin/user_upload/Education/Extension/121316_Registration_Form.pdf

Hotel Accommodations: Comfort Suites, 3180 N. Washington St., Helena, MT: 406.495.0505. This is legislative season so make your reservations early. The hotel provides a shuttle to/from the Fairgrounds, rooms are at state rate (\$95, single/double occupancy), there is continental breakfast, and vehicle plug-ins. Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds is located 2.5 miles due west on Custer Avenue. Room block expires Feb. 16, 2017, reference: Master Gardeners. Registrants are responsible for their own accommodations.

Facebook: Gold Country Montana Master Gardeners Association



Yellowstone Master Gardeners
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Deadline for submissions is:
March 15, 2017

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gardenguide.montana.edu/](http://gardenguide.montana.edu/)
[http://www.facebook.com/
msuextension](http://www.facebook.com/msuextension)



The winter comes: the frozen rut
Is bound with silver bars;
the white drift heaps against the hut;
and night is pierced with stars."
- Coventry Patmore

"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy." ~William Blake

"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape – the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show." ~ Andrew Wyeth

"Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream." ~Josephine Nuese

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."
~ Edith Sitwell

"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them."
~ Vincent A. Simeone

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."
~Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass