

**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



**What Holiday Plants And
Greens Are Hot
This Christmas?**

Poinsettias with unique cream and pink colors are getting the most attention by shoppers. Local poinsettia crops looked great this year. For example the variety 'marble' has unusual deep creamy bracts with a rosy-red heart. 'Pink Peppermint' has a softly speckled peach-pink bract. Depending on the lighting, pink peppermint is perceived as either pink, peach or pastel. 'Monet' has an outstanding deep pink, translucent color.

Multi-bloomed plants are stunning while single-stem plants are also popular displays for end tables, or windowsills. Another poinsettia favorite of mine is "jingle bells."

For consumers wanting to celebrate, decorate with traditional red poinsettias, choose green plants with excellent branching and dark green foliage. 'Celebrate,' or 'freedom' are my choice of the best red poinsettias.

New cyclamen cultivars have 2 to 3 inch flowers with stunning holiday colors including pink, rose, white, salmon, and violet bi-color. These dwarf, compact flowers can spread to about ten inches.

Unfortunately, cyclamen is difficult to grow in the home. Cyclo-

men requires cool night time temperatures less than 50°F, and bright indirect sunlight, without it, the leaves turn yellow and the buds die quickly. Also, water cyclamen plants as soon as the soil dries out. Do not water directly into the crown of the plant. Given proper care, cyclamen bloom until March.

For holiday decorating, gardeners need look no further than their backyards. Prune yews, Japanese or American holly, juniper, false cypress, arborvitae or red cedar for lovely greens. White pine, douglas fir and norway spruce are also good 'green' sources. However, use only the inside branches. Select and remove them carefully to avoid destroying growth from the cut tips.

In my mind, 'pine' cones are under-used in holiday decorations. Use spruce tree cones to make a garland for decorating a Christmas tree. Older pines, spruce and fir trees supply cones to decorate wreaths and arrangements.

The winterberry holly (Ilex verticillata) a native shrub drops its leaves in autumn leaving the berries to enjoy. The berries ripen in September and persist through January depending on feeding birds. Other bird loving bushes and trees with berries include

Miniature Horses Bring Family Pleasure

**LINDA WILLIAMS
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.)** — Horses have always been a part of Ann and Russell Whitfield's lives. Growing up in sunny Florida, Russ rode in rodeos. Ann, who lived in Everett, showed hackneys and saddlebred horses.

The couple met through a classified ad in the newspaper, got married, and pursued their joint interest of horses.

Although they live in a spacious home in picturesque, rural Bedford County, the standard version of equestrians did not fit into the picture of the Whitfield's two-acre lot. So, they downsized!

Ann Whitfield purchased the first two miniature horses at a sale in West Virginia. Her husband, Russ, was delighted as were their two children, Caitlin and David.

"Silver and Princess looked like good horses," Ann says. "So, we found ourselves a trainer, Bill

roses, hawthorns, buckthorn and elderberry. Or, make a brush pile for the birds out of Fall pruning.

Lastly, here's a gardener's Christmas wish-list. There are a few simple holiday ideas that cost little but mean a lot.

- Give the gift of an IOU for plant sitting or pet sitting while on vacation.

- A box of gardener's stationary, greeting cards and a subscription to a gardening magazine.

- A selection of herbal teas or a bag full of fresh greens for decorating.

- All sizes of clay pots including pot shards for using in table displays.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

Eperthamer, from York Springs, and Silver walked off with a host of awards at the American Horse Registry Association's national show in Columbia, Missouri. Included were the National Champion Open Driving Horse title, the National Champion Mens Driving Horse (driven by Eperthamer), National Champion Ladies Driving Horse (driven by

Fran Eperthamer), and National Champion Amateur Driving Horse (driven by Ann Whitfield).

Princess, a 2-year-old, won a reserve champion award and even their yearling, Star, was a top ten horse.

David, 16, won a national youth driving championship aboard Silver.

(Turn to Page B16)



Caitlin is proud of all the horses but considers Silver to be her own.

NEED YOUR FARM BUILDINGS PAINTED?

Let us give you a price!
Write:
Daniel's Painting
637-A Georgetown Rd.
Ronks, PA 17572
(or leave message)
(717) 687-8262
Spray on and Brush in Painting



GENERATORS
Sales ★ Service ★ Rentals
★ Complete Generator Systems
★ PTO ★ Portables ★ 2-1600 KW
"We Service It If You Have It
And Sell It If You Need It"
34 W. Mohler Church Rd.
Ephrata, PA 17522
Tel: 717-738-0300
Fax: 717-738-4329

FALL AG-LIME APPLICATION DON'T PUT IT OFF PUT IT ON

AT FALL HARVEST TIME

- SOIL TEST TO DETERMINE PH AND AGLIME NEEDS
- APPLY AGLIME EARLY FALL TO COMPLETE SPREADING BEFORE WINTER



Hi-Calcium

Hi-Magnesium

For prompt delivery contact your local Martin Limestone dealer or call Blue Ball, Pa.

Martin LIMESTONE

(717) 354-1370
(800) 233-0205