



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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December 2003



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Holiday Blooms for Every Room

Karen Hull, *Johnson's East Greenhouse Manager*

This is a very exciting time of year. We are busy making holiday plans and "to do" lists. There are family gatherings and holiday parties to attend. There are trees to decorate; lights and garland to put up.

When decorating your home for the holidays, remember to use blooming plants ... always a welcome addition to any decor. It's nice to enjoy fresh blooms indoors when the wind is blowing outside and the colder weather has set in, and we have a wide variety of blooming plants to complement any home.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are probably the most popular Christmas plant. You see them in every home during the holidays. At Johnson's, we have homegrown (*and all in the family*) poinsettias. Our poinsettias are grown by Wes Johnson (*Marty and Linden's brother*), who owns and operates Hesston Plant Company in Hesston, Kansas. And these Johnson poinsettias are beautiful! Among the red, white and pink poinsettias we'll have Plum Pudding, Winter Rose and Monet.

Paperwhites

Paperwhites are a bulb in the narcissus family and will bloom 2-3 weeks after planting. These easy-to-grow bulbs have a very strong fragrance and small white blooms.

Amaryllis

The amaryllis is a bulb that produces large, striking flowers. The bigger the bulb, the bigger the bloom. We have varieties ranging from miniatures to the huge Red Lion. Here are a few new varieties this year:

ROYAL VELVET—rich, velvet-red color.

CYBISTER—a cross between a miniature and a regular amaryllis. Varieties available are **Chico** (*pink*) and **Ruby Meyer** (*red*).

AMPULO—pure white trumpet-shaped flowers.

When planning the timing of your amaryllis blooms, allow 5-6 weeks. We also have convenient gift-boxed amaryllis with everything needed including the pot, soil and bulb. All you do is add water! This is an excellent way to mail your Christmas gifts.

Christmas Cactus

Christmas Cactus are becoming more and more popular for holiday blooms. Chances are your Grandmother had (*and probably still does have*) a Christmas Cactus or two. When in bloom these are stunning! Christmas Cactus requires a drop in night temperatures (*not under 50 degrees*) for 5-7 days to set on the buds. Placing the plant near a window is usually enough of a drop in temperature to achieve this.

When making your holiday plans this season, think of different ways to use flowering plants around your home. We have blooms for every room in your house, and you'll enjoy them long after the holidays are just a memory. ■