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## Scent- Potpourri adds spice

By Rustle Shand  
special writer

**H**OME FRAGRANCE in the form of potpourri is considered to be the hottest element in home decor to come our way since color replaced beige and brown interiors.

It's particularly stirring at this fragrant time of the year.

Fragrance can be used like color to create a feeling of warmth and welcome at the entrance, add an atmosphere of elegance and luxury to the living room or to create a mood of quiet serenity in a bedroom.

The art of scenting interiors is also a winter replacement for the day when people greeted the onset of cold weather differently than most of us do today. Our hearty ancestors used to hitch up their wagons and head for the woods. There, they'd gather up everything suitable for firewood, branches, fallen trees and botanicals — a large stockpile to insure a warm and pleasurable winter.

As the bounty sat in the kitchen waiting to be used, it filled the air with nature's outdoor goodness. And when a branch or twig was thrown on the hearth, the fire crackled with all the aromas of rich and fragrant forest.

Now, we can reap the feelings and fragrances of winter, as it used to be, with potpourri in wonderful blends of spices, forest botanicals and pine cones, direct from the woods then steeped in scented, natural oils.

**LIKE MOST PEOPLE**, this writer has always had a bit of fragrance somewhere in the house. A small sachet tucked in a drawer, a bowl of perfumed soap in the bathroom, a small bowl of potpourri at the entrance and at Christmas, fragrant pine boughs here and there.

Then when fragrant oils and light bulb rings teamed up to add fragrance throughout the house, those were added to the must-have home fragrance list.

But, in the past couple of years, potpourri — that fragrant mixture of



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

The mixture available at Jacobson's includes offerings from Scarborough, Claire Burke and Aromatics. The sparkling glass ornament filled with Noel is \$9. Matching fragrance in candles, \$3. Claire Burke's jars of potpourri start at \$7.50 and include Apple Jack and Peel. Fireside potpourri is \$10, available in three scents: bayberry, cinnamon and pine. Small Christmas bags filled with fragrance can hang on the tree, decorate gift boxes or tuck into Christmas stockings, \$1.75.