

# Loving care to tender bulbs will preserve them

**GARDEN SPOT**

Many people enjoy growing tender bulbs in the summer and if time is spent caring for them after they finish their show, they can be replanted in the spring for another season of enjoyment.

Tender bulbs won't live in cold weather.

Canna, caladium, dahlias, begonias, elephant ears, exotics, foliage plants and flowers fit into this category. The foliage on some of them is unbelievable! Huge leaves on elephant ears or tiger stripes on a tall canna are sure to elicit favorable comments.

You can either choose to treat them as annuals and discard them, remembering that some of them are expensive, or hold them over for another season. Here's what to do when frost blackens the foliage:

Carefully dig up the bulbs so they won't be damaged. Cut off

excess foliage and brush off loose soil. Set the bulbs out in a warm, dry place with good air circulation to dry for a day or two. When dry, brush off remaining soil, being careful not to bruise the bulbs when handling, as this promotes mold.

After the bulbs are dry, cut off any remaining foliage and pack the bulbs in a few layers of an appropriate "medium" such as perlite, vermiculite, cocoa hulls, clean sawdust or peat moss.

Store in a container with layers of bulbs separated by layers of medium of choice in a dry place until spring.

Optimal storage temperatures vary for different bulbs, but typically range just under or over 50 degrees. Don't worry yourself needlessly—few people have temperature-controlled storage areas; store your bulbs the best you can. Don't let them freeze.

A few cautions: Tuberous begonias need to be taken care of before frost. Dahlia stems may have water in them. Hang them upside down to drain. When digging gladioli, you'll notice that the shriveled old corn is there, as well as new corns. Separate them and discard the old, store the new.

Remember, not all summer-blooming bulbs are tender. Lilies, for example, are winter hardy, as are alliums. Hardy summer bulbs, like most of their spring-blooming cousins, are perennial performers and can overwinter in the garden.

Thanks to the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center for its input.



Call for colchicums: Colchicums are sometimes called naked ladies.

them if they weren't there.

Several people have asked what they were so I thought you might like to learn about them, too.

Colchicums are in the lily family, not the crocus family (iris), although they do resemble a crocus for more than they do a lily. They grow from corms rather than bulbs.

If you order plants by mail, place your order in the spring. Otherwise buy them in August or September and plant them as soon as you have them; they have a tendency to bloom soon after they're out of commercial storage.

Plant the corms in well-drained, fertile soil with the top of the corm 3 inches below the

surface. The foliage is quite wide, so give them room by spacing them 8 to 12 inches apart. It may take a year or so for them to bloom, but be patient.

They like morning sunlight; afternoon shade is believed to be beneficial by prolonging the blooming period.

A site under an overhanging tree or shrub branches will protect them from heavy rain, hail or early snow.

I planted my plants in the wrong location according to this research, so will transplant them to a more suitable place next year. No wonder they wilted in the hot afternoon sun!

I learn so much from doing this column.

There are many cultivars from

which to choose, so take your time when you make your selection. Mark the place where you plant your colchicums so you won't disturb their garden place. Caution: They are poisonous.

**Travel plans**

Good news! Space is still available on my river cruise to Holland, Belgium and the Florida. The early booking deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, 2001! For information and/or a brochure, call Jean at The World of Travel, (248)203-0022. Don't miss this special opportunity.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone.

**If You Don't Visit Acorn You Won't Know What You're Missing!**

Kitchens, Baths, Appliances Accessories. All special prices, all special deals, all for a limited time. AND, YOU NEVER PAY RETAIL AT ACORN!

**YOU ALSO GET THE ACORN ADVANTAGE:**

- Experience - It's the name you want for a well planned kitchen. It's the reason we're the best!
- Selection - We have the largest selection of prices - no to your budget.
- Convenience - We have the best location in town. You'll never see a sign at ACORN.

**40 to 50% Off List**

**Get a FREE Dishwasher From ACORN.**

Get a FREE Frigidaire dishwasher OR a \$500 allowance on your ACORN dishwasher with the purchase of 10 or more ACORN Solid Surface Countertops.

**ACT NOW, OFFER ENDS SOON!**

Previous orders excluded. Model # FDB-125

**Appliance Floor Model Close-out!**

Includes all Appliances:  
Refrigerators • Washers • Dryers • Dishwashers • Cook Tops • Stoves

**WE MUST MOVE EVERYTHING!**

**Most Items Below Cost! Save as much as 50%!**

**ACORN KITCHEN & BATH DISTRIBUTORS**

111 S. Telegraph Rd.  
Pontiac, Michigan 48150  
South of Ed-Huron Shopping Center  
Call (248) 335-0111

**KITCHEN REFACING FREE ESTIMATES**

- Now Available Affordable Granite Countertops
- The Leader in Cabinet Refacing
- Factory Direct
- Much less than replacing
- Solid Oak, Maple, Cherry
- References in your neighborhood

**Call (734) 421-8151**

West (734) 421-8151  
North/East (310) 751-1848

www.cabinetrefacing.com

**CALENDAR**

English Gardens will conduct free Holiday How To decorating demonstrations Saturday, Sunday, Nov. 17-18, at all five stores, including those at 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield (phone (248) 851-7606) and 4901 Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak (phone (248) 280-9500). The demonstrations will include How to Make a Bow, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.; How to Light a Tree, 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.; Holiday Decorating Trends, 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and What's New in Holiday Lighting, 12:45 p.m., 1:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. For the nearest English Gardens, call (800) 335-GROW.

The Metro Detroit Hosta Society will meet 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at Congregational Church of Birmingham, Cranbrook Road at Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. Guest fee \$3.

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

**BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS**

**Baby's First Holiday**

Looking for an inexpensive way to say "Happy Holiday" to your family, your friends, or perhaps your loyal customers?

Why not try the Observer & Eccentric

**Holiday Greeting Package**

The Observer & Eccentric will be running special greeting pages on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's to give you an opportunity to wish a Happy Holiday to everyone!

**Run in all 3 Holiday Greetings**  
(Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's)

**Publication Dates**  
Thanksgiving: November 22  
Christmas: December 20  
New Year's: December 26

**Deadline**  
November 14th  
December 14th  
December 21st

For more information regarding this great promotion please call  
**734-953-2073**  
Fax 734-953-2232

**BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS**

**Celebrate The Season!**

How much of your business revolves around the holidays?

...Enough, said!

We at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers understand how crazy the holiday season can be, and we want to help if your business wants to gain an extra advantage in the community for holiday decorating and shopping look no further than "The Observer & Eccentric Holiday Directory".

From trees to tinsel or wrapping paper to holiday goods, you and your business can be a part of one of the most insightful and helpful tools for holiday shopping!

For more information about how you can advertise in this special directory, please call:

**Dylan Bawulski**  
(734) 953-2073  
Fax (734) 953-2232

Sat Package	2nd Package
November 22nd & 29th	December 6th & 13th
2x2=\$320	2x2=\$320
2x3=\$480	2x3=\$480

Purchase one of these packages and get December 20th for FREE!

**BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS**

**NOVEMBER**

		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28
29	30			

Only 15 more days 'til we have Christmas!

**BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS • BUSINESS OWNERS**

**Make your check payable to:**

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for returned photos, the photo to be used, your message, your name and a day time phone number.

**Mail To: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**  
36251 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia, MI 48150  
Attn: Dylan or call 1-800-879-SELL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_