

## Master Gardener Series November 2008



- 1 [Dia de los Muertos \(Day of the Dead\)](#)
- 4 Election Day -please exercise your right to vote
- 11 [Veterans Day](#)

### GARDENING TASKS FOR NOVEMBER

Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples and many fruit trees, are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.

If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area, such as a garage or basement.

Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.

Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon, the plant's crown can rot.

Excerpt from the Purdue Website:  
<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/nov08gc.html>

### VETERANS DAY PARTY

While Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who died while serving their country, Veteran's Day is the time we honor all veterans. If there is a



veteran in your family, neighborhood, or local nursing home, November 11 is the day to honor him or her.

A personal note and greeting card are the perfect way to say, "Thank you" to a veteran. At work, ask all employees to bring in mementoes and photos of their loved ones who have served, or are serving for a display table. Ask

someone to do a poetry reading, or ask the local National Guard to do a flag folding ceremony.

At home, display an American Flag, and if the veteran lives in your home, honor the day with special food for the occasion and a display of awards, medals and photos that are meaningful. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July decorations can be put to good use, and your veteran will know that you are well aware of how special this day is to him or her.

### RED, WHITE, AND BLUE DESSERT

1 lg. angel food cake  
1 sm. can evaporated milk  
3/4 c. powdered sugar  
1 (16 oz.) sour cream  
1 can blueberry pie filling  
1 can strawberry pie filling

Brush crumbs from cake and remove top crust. Tear into small pieces.

In a large bowl place Cool Whip, evaporated milk, powdered sugar and sour cream. Mix well. Add cake pieces and mix well. Spread 1/2 of this mixture in a large glass bowl (a small punch bowl works well).

Spread blueberry pie filling on top of this layer. Spread remaining angel cake mixture over the blueberry layer. Spread strawberry pie filling over the top. Refrigerate for several hours.

*Other recipes that you would normally use for Fourth of July will work well for this special event.*

## VETERAN'S DAY FLOWERS

Poppies are symbolic of dead veterans, and traditionally worn on Memorial Day, however, they are popular on Veterans Day as well. Paper poppies are appropriate to use on Veteran's Day for table decoration. A reading of "In Flanders Fields" written in 1915 by John McCrae, will be very touching.

### In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

This was the poem written by World War I Colonel John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada 's First Brigade Artillery. It expressed McCrae's grief over the "row on row" of graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders ' battlefields, located in a region of western Belgium and northern France. The poem presented a striking image of the bright red flowers blooming among the rows of white crosses and became a rallying cry to all who fought in the First World War. The first printed version of it reportedly was in December 1915, in the British magazine *Punch*.

McCrae's poem had a huge impact on two women, Anna E. Guerin of France and Georgia native Moina Michael. Both worked hard to initiate the sale of artificial poppies to help orphans and others left destitute by the war. By 1920, when Guerin, with the help of the American Legion, established the first poppy sale in the U.S., the flower was well known in the allied countries — America, Britain, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — as the "Flower of Remembrance." Proceeds from that first

sale went to the American and French Children's League.

Source:

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/flanders.asp>

For additional information on military records, visit the National Archives on line at <http://www.archives.gov/>