



# Gardener's Gazette

DECEMBER 2011

## *Just in the Nick' of Time Christmas Trees Are Here!*

The season is upon us – Christmas trees have arrived at Schulz Nursery.

Look for our beautiful, freshly cut specimens of noble fir, Fraser fir and others to bring the lovely scents and sights of the season into your home or workplace. We also have some living trees available – plant them in your yard after the holidays are over.

Schulz also carries Christmas tree stands, freshly cut garlands and wreaths, and a wide variety of holiday home and garden decorations. Our Broadway store also offers a selection of artificial Christmas trees.

The origin of the Christmas tree is associated with St. Boniface, who lived from 672 to 754. In Geismar, Germany, he is said to have cut down an oak tree representing the Norse god Thor, then declared the fir tree that grew in the roots of the old oak a symbol of Christianity. Today, this lovely symbol of the holiday spirit is found all over the world.



Photo by DeaPeaJay/  
Creative Commons

## *You're Invited!*

Join us for our annual  
**Holiday Open House**  
at Schulz Nursery in Marion

11a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 17

**20% off Christmas Trees  
and Poinsettias!**



Enjoy holiday snacks and hot  
chocolate while listening to  
Christmas music

## Poinsettias Celebrate the Season

By Peter Garza



Poinsettias are native to Mexico and now are seen throughout North America as a symbol of the holiday season. In addition to traditional red, they also can be found in white, pink, peach, yellow, marbled or speckled.

With the scientific name *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, poinsettia gets its common name from Robert Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Enchanted by the brilliant red plants he saw on a December visit to Taxco, he had some sent to his South Carolina plantation, where they thrived in his greenhouse.

The poinsettia's association with Christmas began in 16th-century Mexico. Legend says a young girl who was too poor to provide a gift for the celebration of Jesus' birthday was inspired by an angel to gather weeds for the church altar. Crimson blossoms sprouted from the weeds and became poinsettias.

The poinsettia's beautiful color is seen in its bracts rather than in its fairly inconspicuous blooms. A bract is a modified leaf that arises from the stem where the flower or flower cluster grows.



*The poinsettia first became associated with Christmas in 16th-century Mexico. Photo by Scott Bauer*

*Peter is the store manager at Schulz Nursery in San Antonio. He can answer your questions about the floral-grade poinsettias available at Schulz as well as other seasonal landscape plants.*

## *Primroses: Warm Hearts for Cool Weather*

By Kristy Hoffman



English primroses are showy plants with cheery flowers in shades of white, yellow, crimson, blue and pink, all with yellow centers. They do well as winter annuals in our region.

Primroses are not difficult to grow, especially in pots and hanging baskets. Of the genus *Primula*, they grow 6 to 18 inches high with light green, hairy leaves. They prefer light shade and a rich, well-drained soil, and should be protected from the hot sun during winter warm spells. Keep the soil moist, and pinch off spent blooms to promote new ones.

Native to the Himalayas and the cool regions of Southeast Asia and Europe, primroses represent first love in "flower language" and they are the sacred flower of Freya, the Norse goddess of love. Primroses were frequently mentioned by Shakespeare. In England, they



are said to be the first flowers to bloom in spring. *Kristy is the store manager of Schulz Nursery in Marion. She'll be glad to answer your questions about winter gardening.*

## Farmers' Almanac: Yule-tide

"The term Yule or Yule-tide (Yule-time) was initially celebrated by the historical Germanic people as a pagan religious festival, though it was later absorbed into, and equated with, the Christian festival of Christmas."



## Aggie Horticulture: Spinach Harvest

"Harvest spinach when plants are 6 to 8 inches tall. Clip the leaves just above the crown about 1 to 2 inches above ground level. Water and fertilize lightly and the plants will continue growing. Spinach and other greens contain lots of Vitamin A."

## Take Good Care of Holiday Plants

By Trace Hazlett



Freshly cut Christmas trees and potted poinsettias will last the season looking fresh and beautiful with proper care.

Christmas trees will last longer than five weeks and can be enjoyed through the entire holiday season if you treat them right. Be sure to cut an inch or so off the bottom of your Christmas tree as soon as you purchase it so it will be able to take up water. We'll do that for you at Schulz Nursery.

Put your tree in a bucket of water as soon as you get it home. Trees can be stored for several days in the garage or someplace cool and out of

the sun. Check the water daily, and replenish it as needed. When it's time to decorate the tree, use a Christmas tree stand that holds water, too. The tree will use the most water in the first 24 hours after it is cut, but keep checking daily and replenish as needed.

Place the tree away from sources of heat, such as fireplaces, heaters, vents and direct sunlight. Ceiling fans will dry the tree, too. Miniature or LED tree lights are less drying than older, larger ones. Inspect light strings before putting them on the tree, and discard any that are worn or frayed. Turn off the lights when you leave the house or go to bed.

After the holidays, be sure to recycle your tree. If you bring your Christmas tree to Schulz Nursery on Broadway, we will shred it and turn it into mulch for free. Bring a container to take the mulch home for your garden. **Call us on Dec. 26 at (210) 804-0600 for dates and times.**

Poinsettias also appreciate some TLC. Place them in indirect sunlight for at least six hours a day, but avoid direct sunlight. They prefer temperatures between 68 and 70 degrees F., just like we do. Protect them from cold, rainy, windy weather, including when you're transporting them home, and by "cold," we mean less than 50 degrees. Protect poinsettias from indoor and outdoor sources of heat, as well.

Water poinsettias when the soil is dry, but don't overwater or allow them to stand in water. It's best to remove the pot from a decorative container or foil wrapper to water the plant, then let it drain in the sink. Don't fertilize poinsettias while they are blooming.

*Trace is the operations manager for Schulz. He will be happy to answer questions about holiday plant care and all your garden and landscape needs.*



KID, PET  
AND PLANET  
FRIENDLY

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## Make All Your Loved Ones Merry with Gifts of the Season from Schulz Nursery

Schulz Nursery is Holiday Central this time of year. Not only do we have a large selection of winter-hardy flowers and plants and all the tools and supplies to make gardeners happy, the gift shops at our stores on Broadway and in Marion are loaded with lovely and whimsical items that will bring a smile to anyone's face.

In addition to freshly cut Christmas trees, garlands and wreaths, Schulz has a grand array of holiday decorations for trees, tabletops, doors and doorways.

There are Christmas angels, stars, Santas, bells, buckets, centerpieces, crystal ornaments, coffee mugs, snowmen, candle holders, holiday pots for plants, Christmas tree stands and lights, and at the Broadway store, artificial Christmas trees.

For gifts throughout the seasons, consider clocks, mirrors, bird houses, bird baths and feeders for songbirds and hummingbirds and nature-, garden- and barnyard-themed pottery and wood-crafted items.

And don't forget sun-catchers, wind chimes, patio furniture, scented oils and vessels to burn them in, wall hangings and more.

For the gardening enthusiasts on your list, Schulz carries gardening hats and gloves, both decorative and practical watering cans, outdoor thermometers, plant stands and a large selection of Talavera pottery.

We also have garden totes and carriers, chimineas, outdoor lanterns, beautiful fountains, statuary and all manner of garden tools, hoses and other supplies.

Still stumped? Give a Schulz gift certificate to allow gardeners and non-gardeners alike to choose for themselves. And don't forget the poinsettias!



Plenty of holiday decorations and holiday-themed gifts are available at Schulz Nursery.



We also carry gifts for any season of the year for gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

There are Christmas angels, stars, Santas, bells, buckets, centerpieces, crystal ornaments, coffee mugs, snowmen and candle holders and holiday pots for plants.

## Papa Murphy's Donates Pizza Dinners

Residents of the Ronald McDonald House at the Medical Center were treated to a complete pizza dinner on Nov. 22, prepared and delivered by the staff at the Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza at 447 Hildebrand Ave.

This Papa Murphy's location, as well as the store at 20821 U.S. Hwy. 281, is owned by Trekker, Ltd., the same company that owns Schulz Nursery.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio operate charitable facilities to provide safe temporary living accommodations

for critically ill children and their families while they are receiving medical treatment in the San Antonio area.

Trekker's donation of pizzas, salads, dessert pizzas and beverages was coordinated through the Friends of Ronald McDonald House, a volunteer group that raises funds for the local Ronald McDonald House Charities and conducts activities such as weekly meal preparations, cookie-baking and holiday decorating that help make the Ronald McDonald House a home.



**HILDEBRAND**  
447 W HILDEBRAND AVENUE  
(210) 734-7272

**DE ZAVALA RD**  
5238 DE ZAVALA ROAD  
(210) 558-0408

**MILITARY**  
1115 SW MILITARY DRIVE  
(210) 924-7272

**N LOOP 1604**  
1160 NORTH LOOP 1604 W  
(210) 493-2300

**BANDERA**  
11600 BANDERA ROAD  
(210) 628-4009

**US HWY 281**  
20821 US HWY 281  
(210) 545-7272

**CULEBRA**  
10650 CULEBRA ROAD  
(210) 681-7544

**POTRANCO**  
10722 POTRANCO ROAD  
(210) 680-7272

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
WALNUT AVE  
606 SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE  
(830) 625-8888

**SEGUIN COURT**  
1346 E COURT  
(830) 379-7272

**Papa Murphy's**  
TAKE 'N' BAKE PIZZA

Join the TAKE 'N' BAKE Revolution

**\$2.00 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA**  
Limit one per customer. Expires December 31st.

## Celebrate the Spirit of the Season With Us

Schulz Nursery is accepting new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots at our locations on Broadway and in Marion until December 15.



The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program collects toys each year to distribute as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.

**SCHULZ NURSERY**

**May Your Holidays Be Filled With Joy!**



Try any of these great products now available at both our Marion and San Antonio stores. Visit [www.garden-ville.com](http://www.garden-ville.com).

Organically grown herbs, fruits and vegetables are more nutritious than their chemically grown counterparts and have superior taste. Organic gardeners don't want to ingest or feed their family foods that contain chemicals from pesticides. A plant grown organically and in the proper balance will naturally repel pests and diseases.

**Garden-Ville Volcanite** – Re-mineralizes the soil with a proprietary blend of five different crushed volcanic rocks to make plants hardy and robust. \$16.99 for 40 lbs.



**Garden-Ville Greensand** – Rich in iron (17%) and used for more than a century to amend iron-deficient, high alkaline soils. \$9.99 for 40 lbs.

**Garden-Ville Living Mulch** – A blend of well-made compost and native tree trimmings for extra beneficial microbes and nutrients to feed and mulch plants at the same time. \$3.99 for 2-cubic-ft. bag.

**Garden-Ville Potting Soil** – Evolved over 30 years of use by many growers, each making suggestions for how to make it drain better, last longer, cost less, grow better, useful for a broad variety of plants. Contains peat moss, coir, rice hulls, compost, iron-rich red sand, orange sand and granite sand. Use for potting, flower beds and raised-bed gardens. \$9.99 for 1-cubic-ft. bag.



**Garden-Ville Manure Compost** – All-purpose blend of vegetative material and manures. Ideal for conditioning the soil. A blend of stable bedding, horse manure, hay horse feed, vegetable matter and liquids. \$5.99 for 1-cubic-ft. bag.



**SCHULZ**  
NURSERY

# Gardener's Calendar

December 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>By the moon, best planting dates</b> Aboveground crops: 3, 4, 7, 8, 25, 26 Root crops: 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21 Flowers: 11, 12, 18, 19 Vines: 3, 4 Kill weeds, pests: 1, 2, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 27, 28, 29		It's a great time to plant trees. Water once a week if it doesn't rain.	Continue to set out transplants for broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, lettuce and greens in December and January.	7:30 pm, Trinity University's Christmas Concert, Laurie Auditorium, first-come, first seated, free, (210) 999-8212.	9-11 am, Dinosaur George, Hardberger Park, \$3, \$5 family, (210) 207-3111 for reservations.
	Houseplants will appreciate feeding with Miracle Gro Miracid every two weeks.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Live Oaks, \$6.80 each at Schulz! 6 to 8 feet tall!</b> (While supplies last) Visit <a href="http://cpsenergy.com">cpsenergy.com</a> for rebate info.</p>		7 pm, Urban-15's Holiday Laser Show, Urban-15 Studio, through Dec. 10, <a href="http://www.urban15.org">www.urban15.org</a> for details.	Move container plants out of windy exposures to protect from cold.	9-11 am, Fossil Fun, Medina River Natural Area, \$3, \$5 family, (210) 207-3111 for reservations.
Keep birdbaths and birdfeeders well stocked during this season.	Get those spring-flowering bulbs in the ground this month.			Most container plants reduce growth rates now. Cut back on water and fertilizer until spring.	It's not too late to plant pansies, violas, snapdragons and other winter annuals.	<b>Holiday Open House at Schulz in Marion, 11 am -2 pm, 20% off Christmas trees and poinsettias!</b>
Holiday Saxophones with Regency Jazz Band, 2-4 pm UTSA downtown, 7-11 pm, Guadalupe Theater, (210) 271-3151 for ticket info.	Feed houseplants with Miracle Gro Miracid every other week.	9 am - 12:30 pm, Holiday Art Camp, ages 5-7, SA Children's Museum, through Dec. 22, (210) 212-4453.	Water shrubs and trees if they are suffering from prolonged dry weather.	Plant spring bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers for a show of color in spring.		December is a good month to prune oak trees. To prevent oak wilt, paint the wound immediately.
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Take a stroll on the River Walk to see the holiday lights.	Remove mistletoe from mesquites and other shade trees with a pruning pole.	After they freeze back, you can cut lantana, salvia, esperanza and other root-hardy perennials to the ground or leave them for cover and food for birds.	8 pm, Alamo Bowl, Alamodome, <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a> .		<b>New Year's Eve</b> 6-midnight, Celebrate San Antonio, food, fun and fireworks, Hemisfair Park.

## Snapdragons

**84¢ each**

(Reg. \$1.29, limit 10)

Void after Dec. 31, 2011. One coupon per household. No photocopies. No other discounts apply.

## 4" Bedding Plant

**Free With Purchase**

**\$1.29 Value**

Void after Dec. 31, 2011. One coupon per household. No photocopies. No other discounts apply.

**50% OFF**

**Any one non-Christmas item**

Void after Dec. 31, 2011. One coupon per household. No photocopies. No other discounts apply.

## Schulz Nursery is on Facebook

Visit our Facebook pages to check sales, specials, activities, seminars, new products and other news. Look for Schulz Nursery Broadway or Schulz Nursery in Marion.



Open Daily 9am-6pm

**Schulz San Antonio**  
**3700 Broadway**  
**210.804.0600**

Take 281 South to Hildebrand Ave., turn right on Broadway. We're across from the Witte Museum.



Open Daily 9am-5pm

**Schulz Marion**  
**100 W. Huebinger**  
**830.914.2384**

Take 10 East to FM 465. Take the Marion exit and turn left at the fork. Go 1 block past the middle school. We're on the left.

## Plant of the Month



Photo by Kevin Collins

**Primrose**

Reg. \$5.99

**On Sale**

**4 for \$20.00!**