



January 2012

It's a New Year.

January always brings in a feeling of excitement for me. It means new beginnings and a time of reflection of the past. The beginning of a new year is a time to imagine what could be.

For the past several years, I have made New Year resolutions, not in the traditional way most people make resolutions, such as: "I need to lose weight," or, "I want to join a gym". However, I want to learn at least two different forms of art.

My first goals were to learn how to spin fiber and to make soap. This started me on an incredible journey of the past and the way people did things to survive. I have always been enamored with the homesteading trend, but it was incredibly hard to find sources to teach these things 15 years ago. Thankfully, I found a wonderful lady in the area that took me to a beginners spinning class and helped me for years down the road on perfecting the art of spinning. It is probably one of the most peaceful, relaxing things I have ever done in my life—aside from working in my garden.

As far as making soap, it was a very easy thing to learn with the help of a friend and a very well-written book. I think I created a monster though because now my husband, Michael, has a hard time using anything but handmade soap. If we run out, he will go to a store that sells home-crafted soap and buy several bars at a time. If you have ever priced this type of soap, you would know that it is very pricey! So, one thing I need to do right at the turn of the New Year is make several batches of soap.

For 2012, my goals are to learn how to build a root cellar so we can store all of our produce that we work so hard to grow, and maybe, to see what it will take to welcome several heirloom sheep to our humble, little, "Old McDonald" farm! We will see what Michael has to say about that! I will keep you posted dear readers.

~~Take Peace this New Year~~

Susan

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

2011 has been an exciting year, with lots of the changes we must contemplate: new varieties of plants & seeds (always a blast), ever rising fees and costs associated with operating a business (always a bummer), and genetically modified plant technology on the increase (Wow! What to do?).

We were pleased to notice an increase in new customers, as well as continued support from all of our existing customers—a huge blessing to us all. Thanks to each and every one of you for a tremendous 2011!

Looking ahead to 2012, we have much more in store for you. We will continue to seek out the newest and best of seed and plant varieties. By no means will we give up on the "tried and true" products that brought us to where we are; however, we are simply responding to customer demands, which dictate a strong presence of organic and sustainable products.

Some say that we will become a dinosaur in our industry and whither away if we do not embrace this "GMO" (genetically modified) seed technology. We think not! In fact, sales of open-pollinated and/or heirloom seeds and plants have actually increased exponentially for the past 4 years. So, we will stay the course. At Andrews, it is our mission to remain relevant to you, our valued customers. So you see, the more things change...the more they do remain the same.

Again, a big thank you to all of our greatly valued customers for being a part of the Andrews Seed family, our relevance, and the resulting success of our endeavors.

-Mike

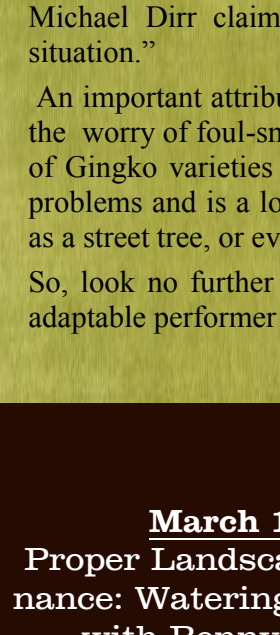
A new year means a new, fresh start! It also means a time to set some new goals! I'm so glad I was raised in a family that didn't emphasize setting goals of a physical nature (i.e. improvement to our physical selves—not that it's a bad thing or a wrong thing, but it's an almost sure-to-fail thing. Of course, I always have a few pounds to lose, but doesn't everyone? In most cases, even those who set that type of goal don't follow through and are followed by the inevitable guilt. Why put yourself through that?!); rather, we have always focused on learning new things to grow our knowledge, skills, and our minds! This year, my personal goals are to learn how to make soap and homemade cheese, as well as expand my knitting skills (perhaps tackle a sweater or two)! At the store, I plan to learn the intricacies of hydroponic gardening, composting and improve all of our social media. But, most of all, apart from learning, my goal is to enjoy. I, and many other gardeners (some I have talked with anyway), are always looking so forward to what the next season has to offer, that we completely forget to enjoy the present one. Shame on us! Isn't that what gardening is about? Watching all of our plants grow and perform gloriously at their appointed times? Well, I think that's what it should be about, and I need to practice it much more than I currently do! So, there you have it. That is what I'm doing going into 2012!

Before I rush off into 2012 (wait...I'm not supposed to be rushing...I'm supposed to be enjoying...), let me just say that 2011 had some great moments. March of 2011 saw the launch of our new city beautification project, Adopt-a-Pot. We have experienced overwhelming support, and I am just so thankful for it! It is a scary thing to put your idea out there, untested, and hope for the best. I couldn't have asked for a better start! So, to our wonderful friends, customers, community, and volunteers—thank you!

I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful 2012! Don't forget to enjoy every bit of it!

~Laura

# Our Favorite Ginkgo



It's hard enough to find a tree that tolerates pollution, disease, and insects; but ask this tree to also remain narrow throughout its lifespan, and your search may seem hopeless. Fortunately, there is an amazingly adaptable Ginkgo biloba selection that rises to the occasion—the 'Princeton Sentry' Ginkgo.

A native of Asia, this species is held in especially high esteem in Japan, where it is frequently planted on city streets and in areas surrounding temples due to a sap-like substance in the trees leaves that is reported to act as a flame retardant. Some accounts even say Ginkgo trees saved some temples from fire!

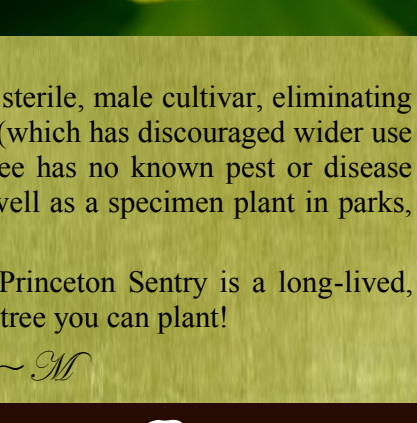
'Princeton Sentry' has also shown great endurance—adapting to harsh urban landscapes since it was first sold in 1972. With a mature height of 50-60 ft., and a 20-25 ft. spread, this member of the Ginkgoaceae family dominates its surroundings, evoking a column-like feel with its straight, sturdy trunk, narrow habit, and uniformly upright branching. It offers clean, green, waxy foliage that contrasts well with its grayish-tan bark. The bark appears smooth when the tree is young, but it becomes furrowed with age. Each fall these leaves put on a beautiful, bright yellow display, then tend to drop all at once, alleviating the multiple trips over the grass with a rake.

Hardy to zones 3-8, 'Princeton Sentry' can also tolerate a broad pH range and adapts well to common landscaping obstacles such as drought, air pollution, and compacted soils. Ideally, this cultivar prefers full sun conditions and sandy, moderately moist soil. However, as plant expert Michael Dirr claims, "This tree grows in almost any situation."

An important attribute of 'Princeton Sentry' is that it is a sterile, male cultivar, eliminating the worry of foul-smelling fruit that female trees produce (which has discouraged wider use of Ginkgo varieties in the past). This deciduous shade tree has no known pest or disease problems and is a low-maintenance selection that works well as a specimen plant in parks, as a street tree, or even in a courtyard.

So, look no further for what we think is the ideal tree! Princeton Sentry is a long-lived, adaptable performer that just may be the most trouble-free tree you can plant!

Happy Gardening! ~ M



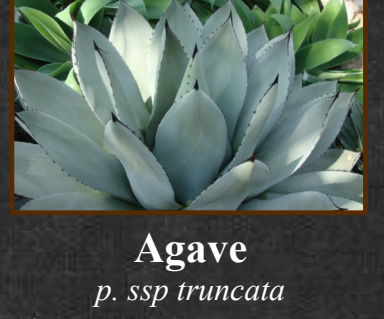
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## Get Busy!

It's time to rest for gardeners and gardens alike. Take advantage of the slower days by getting a few things ready for next year's garden!

1. Map out what you grew and where from last year. Make a crop rotation plan.
2. It's time to start some of your seeds indoors! Start your tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and many of your annual summer flower seeds now! Visit us to learn about the equipment you will need to have the best success!
3. Winter moisture can wash away some nutrients from your soil. Keep it covered up with a good compost-type material.
4. Build a compost bin.
5. Clean, oil, and sharpen all garden tools.
6. As weather permits, start trimming back and cleaning up your flower beds.
7. Add new houseplants to your home for the health benefits from the oxygen they release.
8. ...and for the most fun of all, PLAN for the upcoming season!



### Agave

*p. ssp truncata*

'Hardy Century Plant'

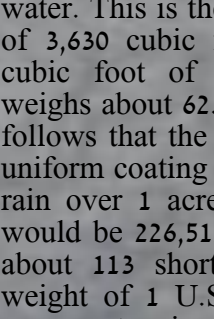
We were excited to get this particular variety of Agave in as it is a zone 6, unlike all of its zone 7, 8, 9, and 10 brothers. Though we are considered a zone 5 (to be safe), zone 6 plants can survive if provided some protection. It's a compact variety, only growing 18"x18", and is drought tolerant as well as rabbit & deer resistant. I, personally, love Agaves as container and houseplants. They require VERY little water and always look great!

## Quotables

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.  
- Edith Sitwell

## simple seed

We love this new, easy way to feed the birds! Pick up this inexpensive, pre-filled bird feeder for yourself or for a friend for great January fun!



## Point of Interest

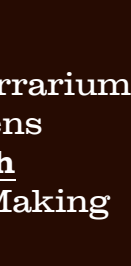
From the Farmer's Almanac

An acre of ground contains 43,560 square feet. Consequently, a rainfall of 1 inch over 1 acre of ground could mean a total of 6,272,640 cubic inches of water. This is the equivalent of 3,630 cubic feet. As a cubic foot of pure water weighs about 62.4 pounds, it follows that the weight of a uniform coating of 1 inch of rain over 1 acre of surface would be 226,512 pounds or about 113 short tons. The weight of 1 U.S. gallon of pure water is about 8.345 pounds. Consequently, a rainfall of 1 inch over 1 acre of ground would mean 27,143 gallons of water.

Have you ever thought about rainfall in those terms?

Written by:

Mike Kurth



Susan Kurth



Laura LeBoutillier



## 2012 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

### March 17th

Proper Landscape Maintenance: Watering & Pruning with Benny Seiders

### April 21st

Container Planting Made Easy

### May 19th

Healing Herbs with Deni Morgan

### June 16th

Planting for the Heat

### October 20th

The Ins & Outs of Terrarium and Fairy Gardens

### November 24th

Garland & Wreath Making

\*ALL SEMINARS BEGIN AT 10AM & ARE FREE TO ATTEND