



January 2011

ANDREWS Seed Co.

Visit [www.andrewsseed.com](http://www.andrewsseed.com) to view this monthly newsletter or subscribe by e-mailing us at [andrewsseed@gmail.com](mailto:andrewsseed@gmail.com)

### Elusive Blooms

I have been asked a lot lately why it is so hard to get Christmas cactus to re-bloom from year to year. Here is the secret: **BE CONSISTENT & FERTILIZE.** Meaning: Water and fertilize on a super regular basis. I water mine every 10 days and throw some fertilizer in every 20 days. (I get regular, sometimes twice a year, blooms!) There you go! Put your cactus on a schedule and you will be sure to see some blooms!



GOOD stuff!



Echinacea 'Big Sky Sundown'

A stunning, all-summer-long-blooming, perennial! A very hardy perennial that loves our sun and heat. What more could you ask for! Vibrant orange cones surrounded by large bright orange and rose shaded petals. A great flower for a cutting garden. 32-40" high. Looks especially beautiful planted next to something blue (a blue hued grass or 'Berggarten' sage.)

### Reminders!

Indoor seed starting is fast approaching. Are you ready?

#### Seed starting checklist:

- Pots & Trays
  - Seed Starting Mix
  - Grow Lights
  - Heated Seedling Mats
  - Grow-Domes
  - Plant Labels
  - Fertilizer
- And, of course,
- SEEDS!



Start perennial flowers, geraniums, petunias, peppers, eggplant and tomatoes now!

When you find yourself enjoying good weather anytime this month, plan to give your trees their first application of **Dormant Spray!** Spraying this will help control bacterial blights, leaf curls, other fungal diseases, and will kill overwintering insects & diseases on peaches, apricots, cherries, nectarines, apples, pears and asian pears.



### Quotables

There is hardly anything in the world that someone cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and the people who consider price only are this man's lawful prey. It is unwise to pay too little.

-John Ruskin (1819-1900)

## Welcome to Andrew's Seed's first newsletter!

In this monthly newsletter, we hope to give you a greater amount of fun, fascinating, sometimes random, and pure down to earth information!

Join us for a monthly dose of dirt!

### WITCH HAZEL (We think a lot of this plant!)

Witch Hazel is a must-have shrub for fragrance and color in the winter garden. At a time when few plants are blooming, witch hazel will provide the landscape with beautiful yellow to cream to terra-cotta flowers. This North American native shrub is hardy in USDA zones 3-9. Witch hazel can reach from 12 to 20 feet high by 6 to 15 feet wide, depending on the variety. The fall colors that Witch Hazel adopts will take your breath away. They like to be grown in morning sun and afternoon shade. This shrub is one that everyone should find a place for.



### JANUARY GOALS

I have one goal this January, and that is to catalog my garden. Our garden is twenty years old. We have been adding trees, shrubs, and perennials, and we try to keep track of the botanical names in our heads. Needless to say, this is a poor idea at best! We only "think" that we will remember all the names. I will be attempting to graph out and label all of the existing plants.



I say existing because many things that we started out with twenty years ago are no longer with us. Some have met their demise through temperature extremes, soil dissatisfaction, or natural life expectancy; moreover, Michael and I will often throw towards the burn pile or compost anything that does not measure up. I have kept the identification tags in a hat box through the years. It will take time and diligence to sort through all of them, but I am determined to complete this task before spring arrives. I keep telling myself that it will be a very peaceful, fun winter project.

### Be thinking!

What are your goals for the garden this year? Now is a great time to set yours! What kind of garden do you want? Zen? English? A cozy place to relax or entertain? *This is the year to define it and do it!* January is the perfect time to research—sit back with a good garden book (or the internet), look at pictures, get inspired, and read about different varieties of plants! Think about structure and form. Look out at your yard and envision what you want. Whatever your vision, you can attain it! This is my picture inspiration for 2011. The most important and freeing thing I have learned is that NOTHING is permanent in the garden. You can try any kind of style and not be stuck with it. If you plant something and it doesn't end up fitting in with everything else, throw it out or give it to a friend! Don't ever settle for subpar in your garden! After all, it's what you have to look at all year!



### (part 1 of...) Not just your average poo!

I've often wondered if all (animal) poo was created equal when it comes to using it as compost in my garden. I get an invariable "NO!" from anyone I ask or anything I read. There are several things you must consider when deciding whether or not poo is for you! (This pertains to those who fancy gathering poo themselves rather than buying it by the bag, which is usually good stuff if bought from a reputable source...ahem...Andrews Seed!) **Consider what the animals have been fed.**



Animals allowed to graze on hay and grass have FAR healthier manure than those fed on a high-fat grain diet; however, the absolute best is to get manure from animals fed and raised for organic meat/eggs. The other thing is weeds. **Look at the area where the animals have been feeding—are there horrible/noxious weeds present?** A good portion of weed seeds make it all the way through the animal and come out still intact. Weeds are something we already battle in the garden, it's best not to introduce more! (Some weed seeds will be killed if you use a high temperature composting method.)

You can use poo from all sorts of animals. All can be considered 'hot' (high in nitrogen) until fully composted, but some aren't quite as 'hot' as others. Examples of animals that produce hot manure are chickens, turkeys, rabbits, cows, goats, pigs & sheep. Animals producing not-so-hot manure are alpaca, llamas, horses, and donkeys. Some are better mixed with other ingredients before applying to your soil, while others, when fully composted, can be applied to your soil in their pure form.

A couple important things. Manure must be handled with respect. Most bacteria evident in manure is killed during the composting process, but there can still be traces left behind. With that being said, ALWAYS wash your produce before you eat it! Never include poo from meat-eating animals (human, cat, dog, or other wild animals) as they contain more serious pathogens. (Additional Note: Urine is a cleaner form of nitrogen than poo, so feel free to include it occasionally in your compost!)

Next Time: **From Poo To Compost: How To Get It There!**

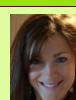
Written by:



Mike Kurth



Susan Kurth



Laura LeBoutillier

## 2011 SEMINAR SCHEDULE COMING SOON!