

# Flowercraft Garden Center

San Francisco's #1 Nursery

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HOME

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## GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

### Holiday Containers

Celebrate the rest of the year by using the colorful plants we have in stock to brighten and decorate your home and bestow as gifts!

**OUTDOORS:** Make use of any empty containers that previously held summer blooming annuals. In the center, plant a conical-shaped evergreen (dwarf *juniper*, *spruce*, etc.) or one of our *berried* plants. Add a plant with *gray foliage*. Pine cones and red or green bows are lovely finishing touches.

Red and green color schemes are just one option. Try bright yellow flowering *primroses* and accent with gold ribbon and cobalt blue ornaments. Or use white *cyclamen* with silver bells and ribbon accents, and a red *poinsettia*.

**INDOORS:** Choose a new decorative pot, or use one you already have, covering it with festive fabric. Select one of our blooming *cyclamens*, *camellias*, *kalanchoes*, *poinsettias*, or *Christmas cacti*. Add a tall plant with strap-like leaves (such as *dracaena*). A trailing plant (variegated *ivy* or *vinca* are marvelous) draped over the rim is an attractive accent, especially when set off with a big red bow.

Thank you valued customers!  
May your Holidays be Joyous  
and may the New Year bring you  
Contentment & Prosperity  
in overflowing measure.

### Plant Winter Color!

The days between Halloween and Thanksgiving are the lull before the holiday season—what a good time to brighten up key areas in your yard so that it will be ready for all of the festivities and be more colorful during the coming gray months!

**Cyclamen's beauty** is not just the star-shaped blooms of vibrant pink, rose, and violet, but also its unique roundish leaves with silver patterning.

**Sasanqua camellias** are prolific bloomers, drought-tolerant, take sun, and are already in bud and bloom! Some are fragrant and range from single to multi-petalled forms of white, deep pink, red, burgundy and bi-colored varieties.

**Flowering Kale** is a fabulous attention getter with its frilly leaves and unusual form. The plants produce open rosettes of blue-green leaves with frilly edges in purple, rose, cream or white.

**Snapdragons**—even some adults find it hard to resist squeezing this dragon-faced flower to get its "mouth" to open and close! Choose from snowy white, crimson, yellow and pink varieties.

Other cool season flowers to plant now include *stock*, *anemones*, *ranunculus*, *primroses*, *pansies* and *violas*, and *Iceland poppies*.

Flowercraft Garden Center Gift Cards—the perfect gift that takes the guess-work out of giving!

### Fall Gardening Tips

- 1. Clean out weeds** and apply a **new layer of mulch**. This results in fewer weeds, plus gives your yard a well-tended look!
- 2. Rake up fallen leaves** often so they don't smother lawn areas or start to rot on a wooden deck. Compost these leaves and next year you'll have a much needed treat for your garden soil.
- 3. Plant up containers with bulbs** for decorating your front entry, patio and interiors, and to use as gifts.

### Christmas Tree Trivia

Cut trees are still thirsty and may consume as much as a *quart of water a day* during their first week in your home ❄️ Christmas trees have been sold commercially since 1850! ❄️ Burning your tree in the fireplace contributes to creosote buildup, so recycle the trunk and needles as wood chips and mulch, which is good for your garden ❄️ The first American community Christmas tree was put up in New York City in 1912, with the Rockefeller Center tradition beginning in 1933 ❄️ The original idea for electric Christmas tree lights is attributed to Thomas Edison's assistants.

Come in and pick out your favorite **living** or **fresh-cut Christmas tree**. Pick up your cut tree starting the day after Thanksgiving. Complete your display with our *poinsettias*, *houseplants*, *wreaths* and *garlands*, *amaryllis*, and other *blooming plants*!

## Edible and Beautiful Wreaths for Birds

Here's a novel gift idea the whole family can contribute to making: *an edible wreath to feed the birds*. Start with a bare wreath form, or purchase a plain evergreen wreath to form the base. You'll also need florist picks (wired wood picks), wire, and glue.

Start a family tradition by going on a scavenger hunt—look for *winter berries, acorns, and other seed pods*. Prepare fruit (ovens or a dehydrator will remove the extra moisture) such as *pears, apples, apricots, oranges, or cranberries*. You can also purchase dried fruit.

Other additions: *banana chips, raisins, Cheerios, whole shell peanuts, or pinecones* covered in peanut butter and dipped in sunflower seeds.

Thread wire through dried fruit and pinecones, or use handy floral picks to secure them to the wreath. Nuts, cheerios, and large seed pods can be glued directly onto the picks.

Hang the wreath where you can observe birds enjoying it, preferably 10 feet away from trees and fences where squirrels are less likely to get to it.

Dried flowers and a bow will complete a unique gift you can give to neighbors, teachers, and other special friends!

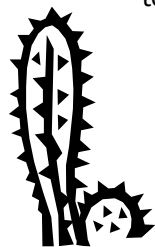


Summer, fall, winter, spring,  
The seasons rotate as each brings  
its special beauty to this earth of ours.  
Winters' snow and Summers' flowers  
Frozen rivers will flow come spring,  
There is a renewal of everything.  
~ Edna Frohock

## Cutting Edge Cactus

Inspired by the energy efficient cactus, a Bangkok-based architectural firm has designed a towering new office building that looks like a huge barrel cactus and mimics the plant's ability to thrive in the hostile desert (spines not included).

Dubbed "The Cactus Project", the new *Minister of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture* building will have windows fitted with adjustable sunshades that automatically open and close according to the intensity of the sun in the hot, dry environment of Qatar. A small dome at the base of the tower will use plants to clean up waste water, and include an edible garden and other plants.



## Spruce Up Your Foundation!

Foundation plantings define and complement a house the same way a mat and frame enhance a picture. They unite the house with the site and can be used to accentuate or soften architectural features of the home.

Here are some key guidelines to get you started, whether you are replacing one foundation plant or all of them.

⌘ **Front Door Focus:** To guide one's focus toward the entrance, plant tallest vegetation at the corners of your home with plants of decreasing height leading towards the door (this guideline creates a tunnel effect). Tall plants can be softened with shrubbery that grows horizontally.

⌘ **Pleasing Proportion:** Plants that can be maintained at no more than two-thirds of the house's height are optimal for corners. In general, all other foundation plantings should grow to a maximum of one-third of the height of the house.

⌘ **Show off with Shape:** Soften sharp architectural angles with curved planting beds. For a more natural look, use larger sweeping curves.

⌘ **Home Care:** Protect your exterior from mold, sill rot, and water and root damage by installing plants at least 3 feet away from the foundation. Under windows, plant lower growing shrubs, or plants you can easily keep pruned below the lower sill. Trim overgrown shrubs away from walls, or simply replace them with smaller varieties.



## After Thanksgiving Day Frittata

*Skip making sandwiches and serve a frittata for brunch instead!*

- ¼ c. butter (add as needed)
- ½ c. chopped onions
- ½ c. diced tomatoes, seeds removed
- 1½ c. chopped leftover cooked turkey (or chicken)
- ½ c. diced vegetables (green beans, zucchini, and/or bell peppers)
- 8 lg. eggs, slightly beaten
- ¼ c. grated parmesan cheese



A medium-sized skillet with an ovenproof handle is essential. Place Arack 4 to 5 inches from heating element and preheat broiler. On stovetop over medium-high heat, melt some of the butter in a skillet and add onions—sauté until limp (about 5 min.). Add tomatoes, turkey, and vegetables—cook until heated through (about 3 min.), stirring occasionally.

To hinder food sticking to the bottom of the pan, you may need to add more butter. Pour beaten eggs over mixture, reduce heat to medium. Once edge begins to set, use a spatula to allow liquid eggs to flow underneath edge (about 2 min.) until it sets (top and center will still be loose). Sprinkle parmesan evenly over top and transfer skillet to broiler. Broil until top sets (between 1-2 min.). Cut into 6 wedges and serve with warm bread or biscuits. Can also be served cold.

## AN IMPORTANT NEW WORD: BIOMIMICRY

"**Biomimicry**" (from *bios*—meaning *life*, and *mimesis*—meaning *to imitate*) is the science of studying the best blueprints found in nature and artfully imitating those designs in order to solve human problems.

**Examples:** *The Cactus Project* and *Velcro*.