

Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources

Christmas time is here and many enjoy decorating the home with poinsettias and a cut Christmas tree. Poinsettias are the most popular plant this season and contribute over 250 million dollars to the U.S. economy at the retail level. Additionally, U.S. consumers consistently spend over 1 million dollars annually for cut Christmas trees. Below are a few tips on how to extend the enjoyment of these traditional Christmas plants.

Poinsettias are not hard to keep healthy indoors. Give the plant as much light as possible (e.g. under a skylight or near an east or south facing window). If possible, expose the plant to one or more hours of direct sunlight each day. Poinsettias prefer a constant temperature of around 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Drafty areas near vents, radiators, or ceiling fans should be avoided.

Caring For Poinsettias & Cut Christmas Trees

Also, it is never a good idea to set plants of any kind on a television or other electronic equipment.

Water the plant as needed, but don't over water. Poinsettias are susceptible to soil-borne diseases and wet soils can increase the chance of infection. To determine if it's time to water, stick your finger down into the soil at least to your middle knuckle. If you can feel moisture, wait another day and check again before watering. Never let the plant stand in water. Pour off water that may accumulate in a saucer or dish under the pot and remove the pot from the cellophane pot cover when watering.

You can fertilize the plant every couple of weeks with ordinary houseplant food. A well cared for poinsettia can last for several weeks after the holiday season.

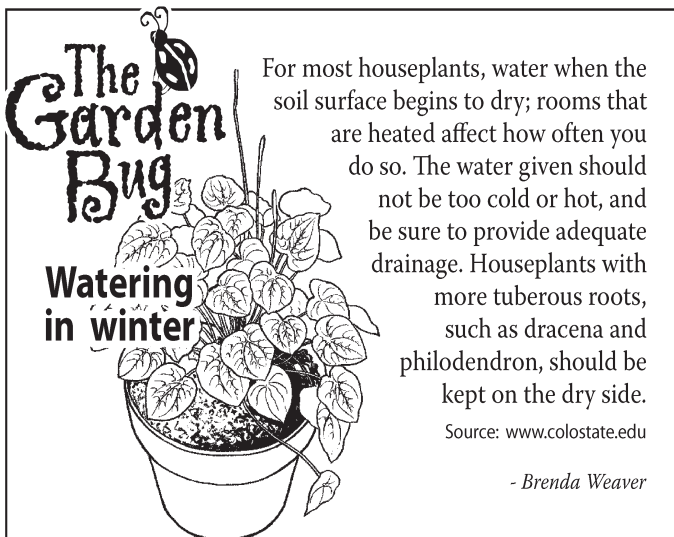
Now, let's talk about caring for cut Christmas trees. When purchasing a cut Christmas tree, remember the following points: 1) a fresh tree is green, although some growers may spray dyes on their trees to tint them and reduce water loss, 2) fresh needles are hard to pull from branches, 3) when bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break, 4) the trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and 5) when the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry. The fresher the tree, the longer it will

retain its needles. The freshest trees are locally grown. In order to keep your cut Christmas tree looking good longer and decrease needle drop, consider the following tips. After you get the tree home, remove another 1 or 2 inches of the cut end of the stem to allow the sap to flow. Place the tree in a bucket of warm water (the heat will help get the sap flowing and open the water conducting channels in the wood) until you're ready to move it into the house. Select a spot in the home away from any heat sources - stoves, registers, fireplaces, etc. Limit the hours that electric lights are lit on the tree because each light is a hot spot on the needles.

Keep the cut tree watered. Use the following solution: 1 cup of corn syrup and 3 tablespoons of liquid bleach added to 1 gallon of water (The bleach tends to thin out the sticky pitch from the tree's water conducting channels and allows water to get into the tree. The corn syrup provides the tree with a source of simple carbohydrates for food.) Continue adding the solution to the reservoir as long as the tree remains in the house.

For more information contact the Estill County Extension Office at 723-4557.

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For most houseplants, water when the soil surface begins to dry; rooms that are heated affect how often you do so. The water given should not be too cold or hot, and be sure to provide adequate drainage. Houseplants with more tuberous roots, such as dracena and philodendron, should be kept on the dry side.

Source: www.colostate.edu

- Brenda Weaver

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Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

1. cedar — arced, raced, cared, cadre
2. excitation — intoxicate
3. licensed — silenced, declines
4. lectures — crudelest
5. misread — admires, sidearm

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 13

Enjoy your stay at . . .
Johnetta's BERGMAN HOUSE
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233 Main St. *Irvine, Ky*
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Theme Rooms WIFI
Reasonable Rates
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Wishing Well®

3	7	8	6	3	5	4	7	4	8	3	5	6
S	P	C	N	E	B	C	L	R	O	C	E	O
7	4	2	7	5	6	4	3	7	4	5	8	6
A	E	A	N	O	T	A	U	T	T	P	N	E
8	7	4	7	8	6	8	4	7	8	7	3	5
F	O	I	R	I	M	D	V	A	E	I	R	E
7	6	5	8	3	7	3	7	4	2	5	7	6
S	P	N	N	E	E	L	P	E	I	T	R	T
3	4	3	4	7	4	8	6	4	6	8	2	6
O	P	V	E	E	R	C	A	I	T	E	M	I
2	4	2	8	4	3	8	6	5	7	6	7	8
H	O	I	I	D	E	N	O	O	S	N	T	S
5	8	6	8	7	8	7	5	2	7	5	2	5
L	E	S	L	I	F	G	I	G	E	F	H	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

CT MJTY SG JDV "CRDS'J
NGGOQHP?" CRTH CT NDAT
RGAT ZXGA CGXO. HGC QS'J
"CRDS'J SRDCQHP?"
— JGMXNT MHOHGCH

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: B equals H

BZUF OQT FUFJ BFZIJ JBF
KPZOVTP IHUFI WZWWZP NZP
BHG EHIPVIHFMY BHG
GHEMHVHNZMJ QJJFI?

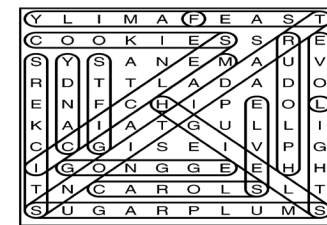
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Puzzle Answers

December 4, 2013

Puzzles4Kids

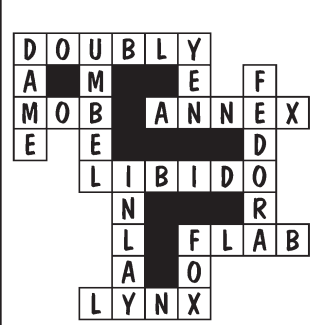
Answer



Riddle Answer:
Santa Pause.

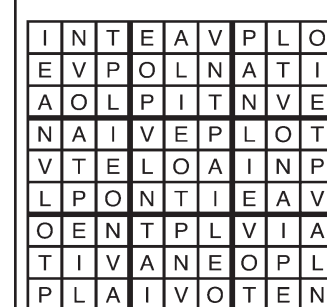
FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

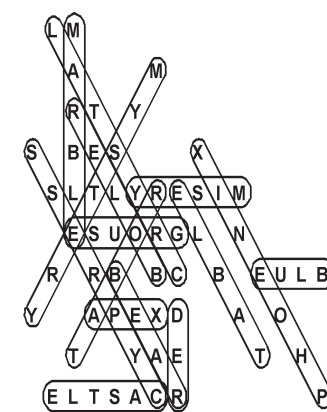


Letter Box

Solution



MOUNTAIN : CANADIAN SKI AREAS



CryptoQuote

answer
We used to say "what's cooking?" when we came home from work. Now it's "what's thawing?"
— Source Unknown

CryptoQuip

answer
Have you ever heard the playful river mammal call his girlfriend his significant otter?

Even Exchange

- answers
1. Paddle, Puddle
 2. Stone, Alone
 3. Dingo, Diego
 4. Order, Odder
 5. Donkey, Monkey
 6. Waver, Water
 7. Short, Shore
 8. Rocket, Rocker
 9. Crash, Crush
 10. Trench, French

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	5	8	3	4	7	9	1	6
3	7	1	9	8	6	2	4	5
6	9	4	5	2	1	7	3	8
8	3	7	6	1	4	5	9	2
4	6	2	8	5	9	1	7	3
5	1	9	7	3	2	8	6	4
1	4	6	2	9	8	3	5	7
7	2	5	1	6	3	4	8	9
9	8	3	4	7	5	6	2	1

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	L	L	U	Z	R	E	C	A	P
A	L	A	O	N	E	A	M	U	S	E
V	I	M	S	I	L	K	P	U	R	S
E	B	B	S	T	I	N	T			
D	I	S	C	E	G	O	H	A	T	E
			H	A	D	W	E	A	P	O
T	R	O	O	P	S	C	R	E	E	D
A	U	D	I	T	S	H	O	E		
B	E	E	R	H	M	O	M	A	G	I
			K	O	A	L	A	T	O	N
S	A	T	I	N	D	O	L	L	B	U
O	R	A	T	E	R	O	T	A	G	E
D	E	N	S	E	T	W	O	Y	E	T

Bible Trivia Answers
Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

ANSWERS: (1 Old; 2) Righteous; (3) Stoned; (4) Redemption; (5) Ill John; (6) Faces

Estill Arts Council
presents

A Christmas Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, December 7, 2013
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Central Office Gymnasium
253 Main Street - Irvine, KY

Everyone Welcome

Arts & Crafts for sale **Music of the Season**
Visit from Santa **50/50 pot**
Concession Booth (Chili & Hot Dogs)
Silent Auction (Arts & Crafts items)
Free Children's arts activities

Admission: \$1.00 or one can of food for the food bank
(Children 12 & under free admission)

Handicap accessible

Booth registration forms available at: Citizens Guaranty Bank (River Drive),
Ravenna Greenhouse, or Estill County Library

Contact phone numbers: 723-5694 or 723-4678