

Eric Baker
Estill County Extension
Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources

Winter Care for Strawberry Plants

protect them from harsh winter conditions.

A fully dormant strawberry plant's flower buds can be damaged at temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition to flower bud damage, the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil that commonly occurs in winter and early spring can cause plant roots to break and the plants to be heaved right out of the ground.

Mulching strawberry plants will insulate them from extreme low temperatures, minimize soil heaving and decrease excessive drying (desiccation) of the plant crowns. But be sure to wait until plants are dormant before you pile on the

mulch. Applying mulch too early can cause the crown of the plant to rot. Plants should be mulched before the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, usually by late November or early December.

Several materials can be used for winter mulch, including clean (weed-free) straw, chopped cornstalks, hay, corncobs or bark chips. Tree leaves and grass clippings are not recommended, since they tend to mat down and smother the plants. About 2-3 inches of mulch, after settling, should provide adequate protection. This is a great use for those fall decorator straw bales.

Put a note on your gar-

den calendar to uncover the plants in spring as new growth begins. Rake off most of the mulch as soon as the first new leaves develop. The new growth will probably look a little yellow at first but will green up with exposure to light. Rake the mulch between the rows to provide weed control and a source of emergency cover in case frost threatens. Mulching around the plants will also help keep the berries clean.

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Spring-Flowering Bulbs

from Eric Baker

Now through Thanksgiving you can plant bulb-type flowers we associate with springtime: daffodils, crocus, and other easy-to-grow flowering bulbs. If you aren't growing any spring-flowering bulbs in your landscape, you are missing out on some easy-to-grow plants that provide early color to your garden.

These bulbs are planted in fall because it corresponds to the end of their natural dormancy. Most of these plants begin root growth in fall, followed by a cool stratification period necessary for proper flower development and then shoot growth in late winter and early spring.

No matter which bulbs you select, remember that the largest bulbs will produce the greatest show next spring. However, smaller bulbs will still produce some flowers, and these may be the best choice for mass planting or natu-

ralizing. Avoid any bulbs that feel lightweight as these may have severely dried during storage.

It's important to plant flowering bulbs at the proper depth, so inquire about plant depth at the nursery or follow the label directions. A light application of bone meal fertilizer at planting is often recommended, though probably not always necessary. Most bulbs do not need fertilization until growth emerges in the spring. When you see plants

emerging, apply 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet of a complete fertilizer (for example, a 10-10-10 blend).

Once flowering occurs, remove the faded blooms, but don't remove the foliage. The leaves produce sugars and other compounds necessary for the bulb to overwinter and bloom again the next spring. Most bulbs will enter dormancy in late spring or early summer and will renew growth, starting with the root system in the fall.



The Red and Green Kangaroo Paw plant (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) is a newer addition to the selection of plants marketed during the holiday season. Native to western sections of Australia, it displays striking red and green coloring, and may be found by the name "kanga plant" or "reindeer paws" in the United States. Water the Kangaroo Paw freely in spring and summer, but keep almost dry in winter.

Sources: www.gardeningknowhow.com, wikiwand.com, www.theflowerexpert.com

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Americanisms



"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough."
—Oprah Winfrey

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Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS
by Terry Stickels

How many people are represented by the following?

"Two pairs of twins twice, then squared, then cubed?"

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

Jimmie L. Johnson, DMD, PSC
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87 Wildwood Place (off Court St.)
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E-mail: birdlingbits@cflrr.com
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Wishing Well®

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

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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: G equals Y

TAFM GNY'QF OZSFQVMR KYUS
SAF CVQUS TNQW NC O UFMSFMBF,
GNY BNYZW DF BAOMRVMR SAF
UYDKFBS.

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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.

NYKPTUTS GMI FKG AT EIST
MZ, AT EIST MZ PYLE, PYKP
GMI KST HSTKHZIRRG RLCT
MPYTS QTMQRT.
— WKFTE SIEETRR RMNTRR

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Puzzle Answers

November 15, 2017

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

How are Halloween and Thanksgiving alike?

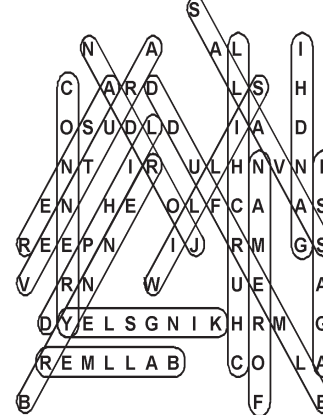
One has goblins and the other has gobblers

Letter Box

Solution

H	O	P	I	T	D	Y	R	S
T	R	Y	P	S	O	D	H	I
S	D	I	H	R	Y	P	T	O
Y	P	T	O	H	R	I	S	D
D	I	R	T	Y	S	H	O	P
O	H	S	D	I	P	T	Y	R
I	Y	O	R	D	T	S	P	H
P	T	D	S	O	H	R	I	Y
R	S	H	Y	P	I	O	D	T

BALD IS BEAUTIFUL



CryptoQuip answer

When you're altering just the first word of a sentence, you could be changing the subject.

CryptoQuote answer

Whatever you may be sure of, be sure of this, that you are dreadfully like other people.
— James Russell Lowell

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer

A	B	H	O	R			
S		O					
S	M	E	T	H	O	D	
A	L	E	A	O			
I		H	O	L	I	S	
L	I	R	A		O	O	
			G	S	L	A	G
							U

Even Exchange

answers

1. Taught, Caught
2. Garnet, Garner
3. Beetle, Beadle
4. Mouse, Moose
5. Stall, Small
6. Errand, Errant
7. Orate, Irate
8. Foster, Faster
9. Rouge, Rough
10. Sawyer, Lawyer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Bible Trivia Answers

Now available by Wilson Casey! 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers.

ANSWERS: 1 Psalms; 2) At your own will; 3) Bread; 4) Wine; 5) Fish's belly;