

**Eric Baker**  
Estill County Extension  
Agent for Agriculture  
& Natural Resources

# Poinsettias are a holiday staple

Center and the American Medical Association. A study at Ohio State University found that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. However, the leaves have an awful taste, so you probably don't want to make them part of your salad. It's still a good idea to keep pets away from the plants, because consuming them can cause digestive upset.



More than 34 million poinsettias are sold each year, accounting for about a quarter of the sales of all flowering potted plants. Even though that may seem like a big money-maker for growers, production is a high-risk venture that has significant start-up costs and requires demanding labor and management. Growers must have a heated greenhouse structure. You can use tobacco greenhouses, but poinsettia production in late summer can compete with labor for tobacco harvest, housing and stripping.

The profit margin for most poinsettia growers is very low because of the highly competitive marketing environment of wholesale and retail markets like local garden centers, florists and grocers, roadside stands, farmer's markets, fundraisers, and direct sales from the farm. Another consideration is the short sale window of about six weeks beginning in early November. Still, growers see a value in producing a crop of poinsettias, because it allows for spreading capital investments over the whole year versus having the greenhouse sit idle during later summer and fall. Growers who cultivate multiple varieties can distinguish themselves a bit from the competition and have a market advantage.

Do not put the plant on top of a television set or near radiators; 4) water the plant when the soil becomes dry... drooping leaves may indicate it needs watering. Be sure to discard excess water in the drip saucer; and 5) if you want to keep a poinsettia after the holiday season, fertilize it with ordinary houseplant fertilizer a few weeks after buying it.

For more information, contact the Estill County Extension office at 723-4557. The Estill County Extension office will be closed December 23rd through January 1st for the holidays. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and joyous holiday season!

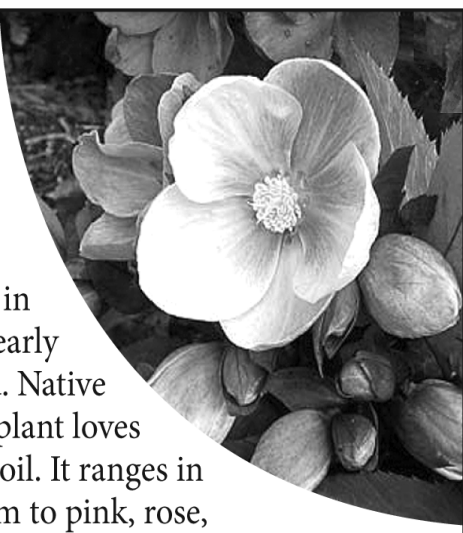
Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

With their bright red, pink or white leaves, poinsettias herald the approach of the holiday season. They are beautiful as stand-alone plants or as components of bigger holiday displays. In the United States, we grow poinsettias as indoor potted plants, most in heated greenhouses, but you might be surprised to know that in its native climate, this subtropical species can grow to more than 10 feet tall.

The person responsible for bringing poinsettias to the United States was Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist, physician, and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. December 12th is officially Poinsettia Day and marks the 1851 death of Poinsett.

Growers cultivate more than 100 varieties of poinsettias, but the red leaf variety is the most popular. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous. The plant was cleared of this charge by the National Poison

## The Garden Bug Christmas rose



This plant blooms in early winter in mild climates, and late winter or early spring where the soil freezes hard. Native to Europe and western Asia, this plant loves shade or dappled sun and moist soil. It ranges in many colors from white and cream to pink, rose, burgundy and light green. Amend the soil with plenty of organic matter, such as aged leaf mold and compost.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.hgtv.com, www.whiteflowerfarm.com

© 2019 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

## Birding BITS BY Cindy Brook

**Winter Mix**  
Mix together equal portions of black oil sunflower, hulled sunflower heart chips, safflower seed and peanuts. Then fill a tube feeder or put out on a tray. Soon you will have tufted titmice, chickadees, buntings, finches, sparrows, cardinals, woodpeckers and nuthatches getting their fill. Everyone will be happy!

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com  
© 2013 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Wishing Well®

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

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.

©2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## 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: P equals S

OM GDJUBPWA XWDAOMY D  
VIUPP-NIZPPOMY PUDX UXZID  
DVFUI, NBPFOU CUGGJDM CDN  
D FUUFPOZ IUWZ.

©2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

## 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.

OZTM RSN VETCCAMQ AV  
ETNITYH, AH'V AMUAVAXCT.  
XSH OZTM AH'V ICKOTF,  
AH ENRPEHV VHNRMQ  
MTQKHAUT KVVRYAKHARMV.  
- PKNACDM URV VKUKMH

©2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Puzzle Answers

December 4, 2019

## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What Christmas carol do farmers like to sing?

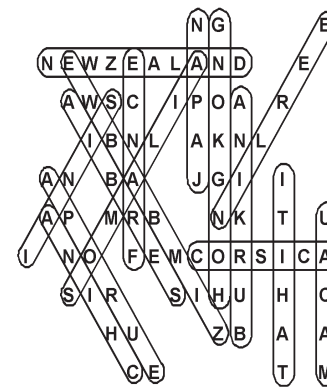
I'm Dreaming of a Wheat Christmas.

## Letter Box

Solution

R	P	B	D	O	Y	M	U	A
D	A	U	M	R	P	B	O	Y
M	O	Y	A	B	U	R	D	P
U	M	R	O	P	D	A	Y	B
A	Y	D	R	U	B	P	M	O
O	B	P	Y	A	M	D	R	U
Y	D	A	B	M	O	U	P	R
B	U	M	P	Y	R	O	A	D
P	R	O	U	D	A	Y	B	M

AIR - : AIRLINES  
AROUND THE WORLD



## CryptoQuip

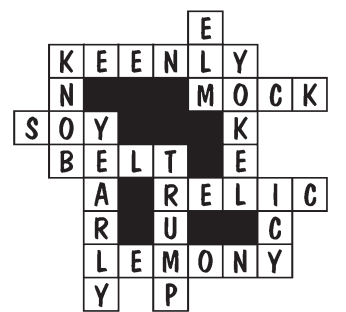
In famously playing a cross-dressing soap opera actor, Dustin Hoffman had a Tootsie role.

## CryptoQuote

When our spelling is perfect, it's invisible. But when it's flawed, it prompts strong negative associations. - Marilyn vos Savant

## FEAR & KNOT

answer



## Even Exchange

answers

- Picket, Packet
- Grime, Gripe
- Better, Bitter
- Refuse, Refute
- Thyme, Theme
- Forget, Forged
- Shock, Smock
- Gauze, Gauge
- Copper, Cooper
- After, Alter

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

# Farming News

Thursday, December 12th at 6:00pm  
Cattle Producer Meeting

Estill County Cooperative Extension and the Estill County Cattlemen's Association will host a cattle producer meeting on Thursday, December 12th, 6:00 p.m. at the Estill County Extension office, 76 Golden Court (off Stacy Lane) in Irvine. An educational session entitled Farm Infrastructure Innovations will be presented by UK College of Agriculture's Dr. Steve Higgins. A chili supper will be provided. Please pre-register by calling 723-4557 no later than December 9th. The Estill County Cattlemen's Association will have their business meeting afterward.

# Stickeler's Puzzle



If neither X nor Y is an integer, which of the following, if any, could be an integer?

- X + Y
- X/Y
- X - Y
- √X + Y
- X<sup>-Y</sup>
- (X + Y)/(X - Y)

©2019 King Features Syndicate

Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

# Farming News

Monday & Tuesday, January 6th & 7th

## Ky. Fruit & Vegetable Conference

Fruit and vegetable producers will find lots of information at the 2020 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Monday and Tuesday, January 6-7, 2020, at Lexington's Embassy Suites Hotel off Newtown Pike.

"This yearly conference provides growers with up-to-date information that will help production, management, business and marketing aspects of their operations," said Rachel Rudolph, UK Extension vegetable specialist. "We've changed things up a bit this year. For example, for vegetable production, there are separate tracks for experienced growers and new growers. We think this will allow us to better target the right audience with the appropriate information."

Preconference sessions on Sunday, Jan. 5 will begin with a workshop about farm food safety plan writing and a farmers market short course at 3 p.m., a vegetable roundtable discussion at 6:30 p.m., and a tree and small fruit roundtable at 7:30 p.m.

Conference preregistration is \$40 per person, while registration after Dec. 13 or at the door is \$60. Registration includes a one-year membership in the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association, Kentucky State Horticulture Society or the Organic Association of Kentucky and entrance to the Grape and Wine Short Course.

The conference program and registration information are available online at <https://www.uky.edu/hort/node/2110>. If you have questions, call 859-257-3374. Register by Friday, December 13th.

## Bible Trivia Answers

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

ANSWERS (1) Neither; (2) Simeon; (3) Abishai; (4) Bethlehem; (5) Simeon; (6) Bethlehem