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Amaryllis Can Live Up Winter Days

According to UK Horticulture Extension professor Richard Durham, few plants can live up a winter day like the amaryllis. The large pink, white, red, orange and variegated flowers are truly spectacular. You may have received an amaryllis bulb as a holiday gift.

A member of the lily family, the amaryllis rises from a large bulb. The growth habit makes it well suited for blooming during the colder months of the year. Knowing about its natural habitat in Central and South America will help you successfully grow and flower an amaryllis at home. The plants are adapted to ecosystems with a long, moist grow-

ing season, followed by a shorter dry season. At the beginning of the rainy season, the bulb sends forth foliage and flowers. Although the flowers last only for two to three weeks, the foliage grows throughout the moist season during which time new flower buds form within the bulb. It goes dormant during the dry season, but resumes growth and flowers when the rainy season begins.

When you buy an amaryllis, it likely will be a dormant bulb. If so, pot the bulb about 6 to 12 weeks before you want the plant to bloom. Use a container with a diameter just slightly larger than the bulb and a potting mix that promotes good drainage. One-third to one-half the pointed end of the bulb should remain above the soil. Thoroughly water and put the pot in a bright, warm window. Water when the soil becomes dry to the touch, but do not give it too much water because this will cause the bulb to rot. Never allow water to accumulate in the saucer beneath the pot.

In a few weeks, a flow-

er stalk should emerge, usually before the foliage develops. Rotate the container every few days to keep the flower and foliage from leaning too much toward the light. You may need to stake the flower stalk to keep it upright in a low-light situation. When the bloom is spent, remove the wilted flowers and cut the flower stalk back to the top of the bulb. Do not remove any foliage because the leaves continue to provide energy for the next season's flowers. Fertilize it every couple of weeks to promote healthy foliage.

If you want to keep the amaryllis and get it to bloom again next year, give the plant as much light as possible after it flowers. It will help to move the plant outdoors when the danger of frost is over, generally around mid-May. Gradually acclimate the plant to brighter light by first putting it under a tree or awning; then moving it to brighter light every few days until the plant is in full sun.

When summer is over, keep the plant in a sunny location, but withhold water.



As the foliage begins to die, move the pot to a cool, dry location such as a basement or closet. In the winter, repot the bulb to a new container, again only a few inches larger than the bulb's diameter. As an amaryllis bulb becomes larger, it may produce two or even three flower spikes during the blooming period.

For more information, contact the Estill County Cooperative Extension Service at 723-4557.

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Wishing Well®

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

KPG'H JPPF ZH APNL EDDH
HP TDD XE APN ZLD KPXGY
XH LXU. RNTH KZGID.
— ZGGD JZQPHH

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Puzzle Answers

December 25, 2019

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

Why should you put a January calendar in a refrigerator?

To start the year off in a cool way.

Letter Box

Solution

```
A S M O U P E C R
C R E A M S O U P
P U O R E C M A S
E O R P A M C S U
S A P U C O R E M
M C U E S R P O A
U E C M R A S P O
R P A S O E U M C
O M S C P U A R E
```

REMOVER

```
V A R N I S H
P D U S T
R P S
I L O P
E E U E T D
N N R L R K R O
J I P A A I O P
A A W M M V B L
H T P L V E
S S A P Y A
M S E N
```

CryptoQuip

answer

That rock band's new album "Ebb and Flow" includes a tune of the same name. It's the tidal track.

CryptoQuote

answer

Don't look at your feet to see if you are doing it right. Just dance. — Anne Lamott

FEAR

answer

```
      G
      D O N
      A O
      N M O W
      G L E N
S W O R E R
U W R O G U E
E E H S
R A D I U M H
```

Even Exchange

answers

- Revise, Revive
- Flood, Floor
- Kitten, Mitten
- Smell, Small
- Tamper, Camper
- Mercy, Merry
- Bacon, Baton
- Deceit, Decent
- White, Whine
- Award, Aware

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

```
5 2 7 1 9 8 4 6 3
6 4 9 3 5 2 1 8 7
3 8 1 7 6 4 5 2 9
9 7 6 8 2 1 3 5 4
4 5 8 9 3 7 6 1 2
1 3 2 5 4 6 9 7 8
7 6 4 2 1 9 8 3 5
2 9 5 6 8 3 7 4 1
8 1 3 4 7 5 2 9 6
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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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B I B B A H A M O S
A L O E M E N T T U B E
R I L E O R T H O D O X
B A T T E R S U N S E T
L O E B G A L
O R I E N T A L L I S P
D I N S T R I P D O E
D O V E O R N A M E N T
E N D E I R E
L A I C A L M E N I A L
O R G A N I Z E A C M A
A I L S M O N C O M E
F L E E B O T E N O S
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Bible Trivia Answers

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

The Garden Bug

Herbs can relieve stuffy noses

Thyme is antibacterial, and the menthol in mint is a natural decongestant that eases breathing. To ease congestion, place 3 teaspoons of dried thyme and 3 teaspoons dried peppermint in a small heatproof bowl and add boiling water. Lean over the bowl, covering your head and the bowl with a thick towel, and inhale for 10 minutes, keeping your face and nose a few inches above the water. Repeat as needed to relieve a stuffy nose.

— B. Weaver

Source: www.readersdigest.ca prairieherbfarms.com

Birding BITS

BY Cindy Brook

Birding by Season

Winter was filled with migrating sparrows, catbirds, goldfinches and robins. Spring was filled with cowbirds, wrens, titmice and woodpeckers. Babies, babies everywhere in the summer. Fall has red-winged blackbirds, crows and blue jays. My yard is always filled, and so is my heart. Happy New Year, everyone!

E-mail: birdingbits@cflr.com

Farming News

January, 2020

Fruit Tree Rootstock Orders

The Estill Extension Service will be taking orders for apple and pear rootstocks in January 2020. If you want to propagate a favorite apple or pear, grafting is one of the easiest ways to preserve that cultivar. To graft, you will need scion wood (terminal branch segments from last year's growth collected at the end of February) and a rootstock. If you do not know how to graft, come by our office for information or assistance.

Although rootstock inventory has been tight, we will try to order Malling 7 (55% of standard size), MM.111 (80% of standard) semi-dwarf apple rootstock, and a pear rootstock. Please place your order and prepay by January 24. The rootstocks usually arrive by the last of February or first of March.

Stickeler's Puzzle

STICKELERS [sic] by Terry Stickels

Here's an alphabetic with a hopeful question for the new year.

Remember, no word can begin with a zero. There is no number 2 in this puzzle.

DO
YOU
+ FEEL
LUCKY

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Stickeler's Answer on Page 11

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

WHATSA TROUBLE, PUNKINHEAD?

I'M OUT OF MONEY TO BUY PRESENTS FOR MY FAMILY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY THINGS. ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN MAKE?

THEY'D REALLY APPRECIATE SOMETHING YOU MADE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS

YOU REALLY THINK SO, HUGO?

YUP

WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGES?

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOU AND MOM AND DAD AND GRANDMA AND GRANDPA

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