

Winter 2015



Unique Garden Centre



From the Ground Up ↑

Christmas tree tip:

Use generous amounts of anti-transpirant spray such as Wilt-pruf, available at Unique Florists, on your Christmas tree. The waxy coating helps preserve tissue moisture, keeping your tree fresh through the holiday season.



Bird watching in your Backyard

Part of the enjoyment of your landscape in the winter can be found in bird watching. Many of our feathered friends spend the winter here with us, braving the cold and snow. Just like seeing them makes our life more enjoyable, we can help make their life a bit more pleasant.

For successful bird-watching, be sure that your birds have plenty of clean fresh water, winter and summer.

About 70% of a bird's non-fat body tissue is water that needs to be maintained to avoid dehydration. In the winter, birds find some water in natural food sources – insects, berries and even the snow – but when these supplies dwindle, the water you supply becomes even more vital.

Open water in freezing weather will attract as many or more birds as will a well-stocked feeder. Open water allows birds to clean their feathers and do proper grooming with natural oils—actions that help our feathered friends insulate their bodies from the cold.

You can keep water thawed with a submersible heater placed directly in your water feature. It is economical and safe as long as you use a good quality, outdoor extension cord to plug the heater into the electrical source.

In the summer fresh clean water is also very important. Birds will shy away from stagnant water or water that has become infested with mosquito larvae. That's why it is important to clean your birdbath regularly. Also a small submersible pump will keep the water gently moving in the birdbath, preventing mosquitoes from using it as a breeding ground. The small movement of the water also serves as an attractant to birds.

Birds you might see: Downy Woodpeckers, Common Redpolls, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch and House Finch among others.



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2015

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Landscape Design Tip:



Use plants with interesting textures, such as paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) or ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*). Tactile elements give the garden an added dimension, especially in the winter.

Flowerspeak

Giving flowers on different occasions has been a very long tradition. Through the ages, people have given flowers symbolic meanings.

From these meanings, a language of flowers has evolved. Of course the meanings are not set in stone and can vary depending on what reference material you utilize.

Here is a fun look at the meanings of some of the more popular flowers that are readily available from Unique Florists. (Be careful with some of these.) There are many internet resources to help you with more, including this one:

<http://www.gouniqueandbeyondgiftgiving-ideas.com/flower-meanings-chart.html>

- Red Roses:** Love, passion
White Roses: You're heavenly, Purity, I am worthy of you
Pink Roses: Grace and sweetness, Beauty, Perfect Happiness, Secret love
Pink & White Roses: I love you still and I always will
Yellow Roses: Friendship, Jealousy, Highest Mark of Distinction, Forgive and forget
- Snapdragon:** No means NO! You are dazzling but dangerous, Deceptive, Gracious, Capricious, Whimsical, Presumptuous
- Pink Tulip:** Imagination
Red Tulip: Believe me, Declaration of love
Yellow Tulip: Hopeless love, There's sunshine in your smile
White Tulip: Forgiveness, Lost love
- Lily (General):** Honor, Majesty, Purity of heart, Sympathy, Pure soul resurrection, Symbolism- reminds us that our good deeds do not need to be seen by a lot of people and we do not need to tell everyone about them
- Alstromeria:** Fortune, Wealth
- Orchid:** Beauty, Love, Refinement, Chinese symbol for many children
- Iris:** Faith, Hope, Promised love, Polished rhetoric, Your friendship means so much to me, Conquest, Protection from evil, Wisdom and valor
- Gladiolas:** Generosity, Give me a break, Sincerity, Strength of Character, Admiration, Symbolic of receptivity to divine will,
- Delphinium:** Agility, Big-hearted, Fun
- Gerbera Daisy:** Friendship, Sadness, Needing protection
- Chrysanthemum (General):** Abundance, Cheerfulness, Optimism, Rest, Wealth, You are a wonderful friend to me
- Carnation (General):** Fascination, Friendship, Vanity, Worker's flower
- Bird of Paradise:** Freedom, Good perspective, Festivity, Celebration, Magnificence



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Closed for the season.
Open for Spring
April 15, 2016

Season's Greetings from the Management and Staff of

