

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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Plant Nandinas for great winter

By Eva Soued

color and berries

Gulfstream is a very vigorous variety of dwarf compact Nandina. Foliage is slightly flatter and larger than many other compact versions, and winter color is a very good red color. The winter colors intensity will vary from an intense red color, to a mixture of red & green. Summer foliage is a dark metallic blue green color, and extremely dense.

One very nice feature of Gulfstream Nandina is that it does not tend to spread through sucker shoots like many other Nandina cultivars, which makes it much

easier to shape, control, and maintain. Forms a very compact, colorful mound with maturity - has proven to have excellent hardiness as well.



Plant Facts & Specifications

Mature Height: 3 - 3 1/2 ft

Mature Width: 3 ft

Growth rate: Moderate (6"-10" avg per yr)

Hardiness Zones: 6-9 (if unsure of your zone, please use zone finder below)

Sun Exposure: Full sun to partial shade

Soil Preference: Average to moist & fertile is preferred.....but is extremely adaptable to virtually any type of conditions & soil.

Foliage Color & Texture: Very delicate texture with long, slender leaves that come to a very nice, distinct point. Fall & winter color is a very intense red color, with varying amounts of green mixed in throughout.

Flower, Cone, Or Berry Facts: White inflorescence begin to appear in early May in many areas, and are approx 4" long. Followed by red berry like fruit much like that of typical Holly shape & color.

Diseases / Insects: No serious diseases or pests have been reported with this variety - a very trouble free plant

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Japanese coral bark maple keeps winter colorful

The coral bark Japanese maple is less known than the other Japanese maples.

In Japanese, it's known as "coral tower" or "coral pillar," referring to the upward reaching branches as from a coral reef. The coral bark maple differs from the other Japanese maples in several ways. Most important is the rich coral color of the branches and twigs that are 2 years old or younger. They show their brilliant color after their leaf drop and for the autumn and winter. The color is so pronounced that it is almost fluorescent.

As the branches and twigs mature and increase in size, they lose the rich coral color and fade to brown, but the continued new growth is green in summer and coral in winter.

The leaves have five to seven lobes with serrate margins and average 2 inches long to 2 1/2 inches wide. The new foliage is yellow-green with plum to red edging and almost ferny in texture. The foliage matures to a light green for the summer, but in autumn the coral bark maple puts on another surprising difference from the other Japanese maples.

Its autumn foliage is golden-yellow with a pinkish blush at the edges.



Then in April or May, the tree has small red flowers that become winged samaras (small plant helicopter blades), which reach full size in summer and then wing their way to the ground in late winter. The coral bark Japanese maple grows upward in a vase form to about 15 to 20 feet tall and as wide at maturity with many twiggy branchlets and stems.

Plant the coral bark maple in a well-drained soil and sheltered from drying winds. An exposure with morning sun is best and with shade from the hot afternoon sun. Stake the tree after planting to stabilize it until the roots provide good anchoring. And be sure to wrap the trunk from the ground up to the first branches with a tree wrap for the first two seasons to prevent winter sun scald injury. Add a good 2-to-4-inch mulch around the tree, and water at least weekly during the first year after planting.

In the landscape, the coral bark Japanese maple is an excellent small specimen tree, a tree for a foundation planting for a large building, for a large container plant, or for a Bonsai plant.

The coral colored stems contrast beautifully against snow, the sky, grass or an evergreen background. The coral bark Japanese maple is one tree that is certain to brighten any landscape for the fall and winter.



Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry

Bursting with white flowers in the spring time, this small tree will fit into any sized landscape. It is grown either in a single stem tree or a multiple stemmed large shrub which is suitable for accent planting or privacy screening. The oval shaped leaves emerge coppery-red, becoming rich green throughout the growing season. Produces sweet purplish-black fruit which is promptly taken by the birds. The fall color is dramatic and outstanding! The bark is smooth and light gray. Hardy to --40°F



Serviceberry tree

Apple serviceberry



(*Amelanchier X grandiflora*) is a hybrid with a graceful rounded form. It grows 20 to 25 feet tall and wide and bears profuse white blooms that are sometimes tinged pink. The pinkish-purple fruits resemble miniature apples. It is quite drought tolerant. Zones 3-8.

Autumn Brilliance serviceberry



(*Amelanchier 'Autumn Brilliance'*) is a hybrid with exceptional fall color ranging from orange to red with gold overtones. It grows 15 to 25 feet tall and wide. Zones 4-9.

Common serviceberry



(*Amelanchier arborea*) is also known as downy serviceberry, a reference to the fine hairs on its leaves and twigs. In cultivation it grows 15 to 25 feet tall and wide, but in native woodlands may reach 40 feet tall. Its fall color is a delightful mix of orange, red, and gold. Zones 4-9.

Cumulus Allegheny serviceberry



(*Amelanchier laevis 'Cumulus'*) is a narrow upright small tree that grows 25 feet tall and 12 feet wide. In spring it is covered with clouds of white blossoms. The purple fruits and red-orange fall color extend its seasons of beauty. Zones 4-8

Regent serviceberry



(*Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'*) is a compact shrub that grows 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide. Native plant to the American Great Plains, it is quite drought tolerant. Its deep purple fruits make delicious jams, jellies, or pies. Zones 2-7

From the garden of Eva

Thanksgiving Turkey Cookies

Ingredients

1 roll (16.5 oz) Pillsbury® refrigerated sugar cookies

1 container (16 oz) chocolate creamy frosting

Candy corn

Orange decorating icing

Black decorating gel

Miniature candy-coated chocolate baking bits

Directions

- 1) Heat oven to 350°F. Bake cookies as directed on roll. Cool completely, about 20 minutes.
- 2) Spoon chocolate frosting into resealable food-storage plastic bag; seal bag. Cut small hole in bottom corner of bag. On each cookie, pipe frosting on outer edge of half of cookie. Arrange candy corn over frosting for feathers.
- 3) Pipe orange icing onto each cookie to resemble turkey face and feet. Use orange icing to attach baking bits to turkey face for eyes. Pipe black gel on baking bits for centers of eyes.



Pilgrim Hat Cookies for Thanksgiving



Need a easy, no-bake Thanksgiving treat to bring to the class party? How about a fun project to entertain the kids' table on the big day? Look no further than these cute Pilgrim Hat Cookies. You need: fudge-striped cookies, mini peanut butter cups, vanilla frosting tinted with yellow food coloring (to bind the cups to the cookies), and orange mini Chiclets gum for the "buckle." Sure, the kids will love helping to assemble, but I bet they'll love eating these even more!

Ingredients

- 1 cup vanilla frosting
- 7 drops yellow food coloring
- 32 miniature peanut butter cups
- 1 package (11-1/2 ounces) fudge-striped cookies
- 32 pieces orange mini Chiclets gum

Directions

- In a small shallow bowl, combine frosting and food coloring. Remove paper liners from peanut butter cups.
- Holding the bottom of a peanut butter cup, dip top of cup in yellow frosting. Position over center hole on the bottom of cookie, forming the hatband and crown. Add a buckle of Chiclets gum. Repeat with remaining cups and cookies. Yield: 32 cookies.



The Best Turkey Stuffing Recipe in the World!

- One 3/4 to 1 lb round Italian loaf of bread - Cut into 1-inch cubes.
- 2 tbsp Olive Oil
- 2 lbs sweet Italian sausage - You just need the inside of the sausage with the casings removed.
- 1 stick unsalted butter - cut into pieces.
- 3 medium onions - chopped.
- 4 large celery ribs - chopped.
- 5 garlic cloves - minced.
- 4 large eggs - lightly beaten.
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup turkey giblet stock or chicken stock or broth -
- 1 cup grated Parmesan
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped flat-leaf parsley

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and generously butter a baking dish.

2. Put the cut bread cubes in a shallow baking pan and bake at 350 until just dried out, about 10 minutes.

3. Heat 1 tbsp of olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat and cook the sausage, stirring and breaking it up into small pieces until golden brown, about 6 to 10 minutes.

Set this aside.

4. Set aside the sausage and wipe the pan clean of excess oil, but do not clean it if it has bits of crusted sausage in the bottom. Heat butter in the pan on medium until the foam subsides and add the onions, celery, garlic and 1/2 tsp each of pepper and salt, stirring occasionally until the vegetables are golden, about 12 to 15 minutes

5. In a large pot, combine the veggies, bread and the sausage.

6. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, 1/2 cup cream, turkey stock, cheese and parsley and then stir this into the stuffing. Let cool completely, about 30 minutes or more.

7. At this point you can adjust salt and pepper as needed.

8. Use some to stuff the turkey (if you wish, but you don't have to), and put the rest in a large baking dish (such as a ceramic or glass casserole). Drizzle the top of the stuffing with 1/4 cup cream, cover tightly and chill until ready to cook.

9. Bring back to room temperature when ready to bake and preheat an oven to 425 degrees. Cook the stuffing covered in foil until hot throughout, about 20 minutes. Then remove the foil and continue cooking until golden and crisp, about 15 minutes more.

Your delicious, hearty turkey stuffing is now ready to serve. Simply let guests scoop themselves heaping platefuls with a big serving spoon and watch the happy faces appear! Happy Holidays! I hope you enjoy this turkey stuffing recipe as much as I do!



Jobs to do in the garden in November

Make the most of the daylight and prepare the garden for next year: prune, sweep, mulch and plant tulips, the last of the spring bulbs

Very soon now, for the leaves are falling from the trees, we will be entering the planting season proper. It is a good five months that extends through the dormant period to the end of March. It is the time when I like to do my woody planting, and by that I mean trees and shrubs, and in particular those that are deciduous. Getting the majority in before Christmas is the ideal, as the roots will have time to settle in before spring. With increasingly wet winters and erratic rain in summer, this is now my favoured route to save energy and ensure success, come the next growing season.

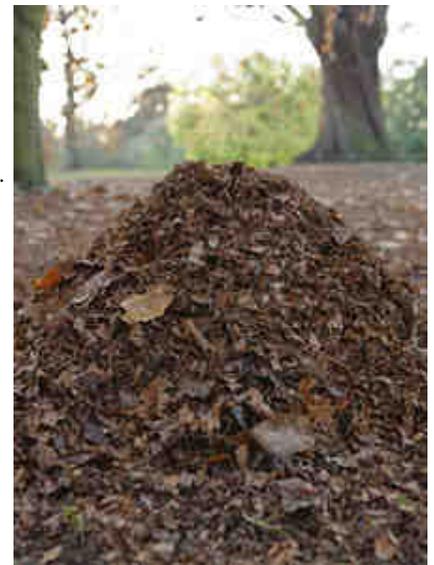


WINTER PROTECTION Lift cannas and dahlias if your garden is prone to freezing, pot them into just-damp compost and store somewhere cool. Mulch heavily if you want to take the risk and leave them in the ground. If you are pushing the boundaries and have subtropicals, such as banana and melianthus, they may need protection if you live outside the microclimate of city centres. Mound up straw around the base, bubble wrap and fleece bananas, but leave it as long as you can to make the most of the wind-down.

PLANTING BULBS Tulips are quite happy to be planted through to the end of the month, but other bulbs should be in the ground before it loses the heat of the summer months.

Winter wet in combination with cold is the biggest killer on heavy soils.

LET THE LEAVES DO THE WORK Leaf mould is a valuable commodity and a great addition to compost or mulch for cool woodland plants, so separate it from the compost. A leaf heap need be no more complicated than a post and wire enclosure, but leaves can just as easily be bagged into bin liners to rot in a quiet corner for a year. Puncture the bags, as the bacteria that break down the leaves need air to do their job.



MUCH MORE MULCH If you do need to clear beds in the garden, mulch once the soil is moist again and certainly before frost gets into the ground. Bare soil is not a natural state, and mulching will provide a protective eiderdown over the winter and prevent leaching and erosion. Composted bark mushroom compost, leaf mould and well-rotted manure are also great soil improvers – there are a plethora of bagged-up products available in garden centres.



It's a bug eat bug world.

Luna Moth

The series of photos above show the Luna caterpillar from 1st instar to cocoon. It takes about 10 days for the egg to hatch into a tiny caterpillar and about 5-6 weeks to grow into the full its size of about 2.5 inches long and 3/4 inch in diameter. The caterpillars are green in all instars except the first and resemble polyphemus. The 5th instar caterpillars are not as voracious as polyphemus.

Luna Moths are members of the Saturniidae family, also known as the "Giant Silkworm Moths."

Luna Moths are huge moths, with a wingspan of four and a half inches. They have a

white body, pinkish legs, and huge pale green wings. The hindwings have eyespots and long tails. They fly, only at night, in Spring and early Summer.

The female Luna Moth lays eggs on the bottom of Black Walnut leaves. She lays about 200 eggs in small groups.

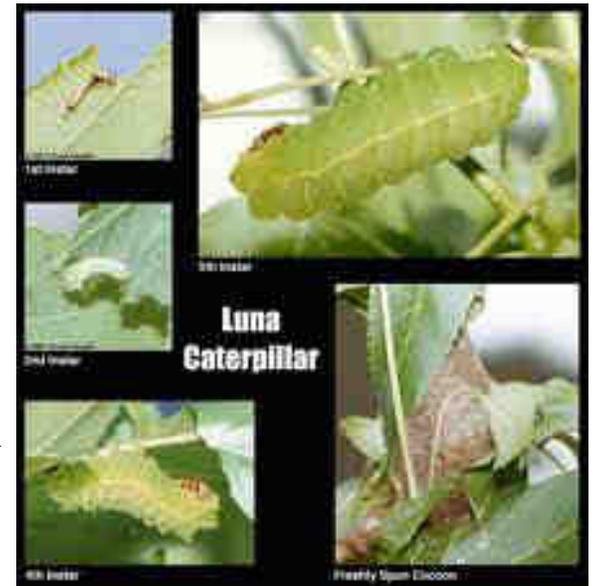
You can tell a male from a female, because males have larger, bushier antennae.



female



male



Caterpillars begin eating as soon as they leave the egg. They eat leaves from many different trees and shrubs, including: Sweetgum, American Beech, Red Maple, hickories, White Oak, Black Cherry, willows, American Chestnut, and Smooth Sumac.

The caterpillars will continue to eat and grow, molting their skins as they grow. They will do this five times over a period of three to four weeks.

When the caterpillar is fully grown, it will be 2 1/2 inches long and ready to become a pupa. It will spin silk from near its mouth and wrap itself in a leaf. The caterpillar will usually stay in this cocoon for two to three weeks. If it is near winter, the caterpillar will wait until Spring to hatch.

When the adult Luna Moth leaves its cocoon, it is not ready to fly. Its wings are short and stumpy and the insect needs to rest. It usually hatches in mid-morning and climbs a tree trunk to hang its wings, so they can fill with blood. Once the wings are inflated, the adult moth will wait until nightfall to fly off to find a mate.

Adult Luna Moths don't eat; in fact, they don't even have a mouth. They only live for about a week, and their only purpose is to mate.

Female Luna Moths release a chemical at night which attracts males. Adults die shortly after mating or laying eggs. Usually, two generations are born each year (that means that moths that spent the winter in a cocoon will hatch, mate, and lay eggs; then their children will hatch, mate, and lay eggs which will hatch and make cocoons for the Winter).

Luna Moths were once very common, but are now considered an endangered species in some areas.



What's that weed?

The stinging nettle grows to a height of 2 to 4 feet. The slender stems are four-sided. It has a creeping, stretching root from which new shoots emerge. The dull, dark green leaves grow opposite each other on the stem. They are thin and sort of egg-shaped with a toothed and tapered end and covered with stinging hairs. They are 2 to 6 inches long and 1 to 2 inches wide. The hairs on the leaves are particularly painful. They lose their stinging qualities when they are dried.

When the plant flowers in the summer, it has tiny greenish or greenish-white flowers that hang down in clusters just above where the leaves attach to the stem. It flowers from June to September. It reproduces through seeds and a creeping rootstock. Believe it or not, stinging nettle can be very useful too. It has been used as a medicine in Europe for over 2,000 years. It can be turned into a tea made from the leaves and stems. This tea has been used to stop bleeding. Stinging nettle seems to have a lot of medical uses, but the nettle root is known to be a diuretic and to give relief from prostate problems.

Stinging nettle can be found growing in Europe and the United States. It can grow up to 3 feet tall in moist, shady spots, in flood plains, woodlands and along streams and river banks. And in my flower bed behind my Otto luyken Laurels.



Nettle leaf is among the most valuable herbal remedies. Because of its many nutrients, stinging nettle is traditionally used as a spring tonic. It is a slow-acting nutritive herb that gently cleanses the body of metabolic wastes. It is one of the safest alteratives, especially in the treatment of chronic disorders that require long-term treatment. It has a gentle, stimulating effect on the lymphatic system, enhancing the excretion of wastes through the kidneys.

Nettle's iron content makes it a wonderful blood builder, and the presence of vitamin C aids in the iron absorption. As a hemetic (an herb rich in iron), this is an excellent herb for anemia and fatigue, especially in women. It "promotes the process of protein transamination in the liver, effectively utilizing digested proteins, while simultaneously preventing them from being discharged through the body as waste products."

As a diuretic, stinging nettle increases the secretion and flow of urine. This makes it invaluable in cases of fluid retention and bladder infections.

It is also anti-lithic and nephridic, breaking down stones in the kidneys and gravel in the bladder.



Living with Nature

little brown bat

(*Myotis lucifugus lucifugus*)



- Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- They are insect-eating machines, eating thousands of mosquitoes and other flying insects in a single night.
- Bats use echolocation (rapid pulses of sound that bounce off an object) to detect and catch insects. They scoop the insects up in their tail or wing membranes and then place them in their mouth; this is what gives them such an irregular flight pattern.
- As temperatures decrease in the fall and the number of insects diminish, bats migrate to their hibernacula in caves or mines for the winter. During hibernation a bat will reduce its body temperature, slow its heart rate to only one beat every four or five seconds, and rely on their stored fat reserves to survive until springtime.

What to watch for:

Size:

Little brown bats have a wingspan of 8-9" and a body length of 3-4½ inches with a 1 ½ inch forearm.

Appearance:

Covered in a coat of silky cinnamon and dark brown hair, and pale grey underneath, with black hand-like wings.

What to listen for:

Bats make sounds by echolocation, which are generally too high pitched for the human ear to hear. You may be able to hear a click or squeak as they fly by directly overhead.

When to watch:

In the spring or summer, during early dawn or dusk, look up above a body of water (lake, pond, stream, etc.) and or among trees, and you may see them flying back and forth and dipping and diving for insects. Looking in areas where flying insects are most abundant usually in areas near water provides a good chance to spot bats.

Where to watch:

Bats can be found in caves and mines during the winter, but do not look for bats in these areas. Entering into caves or mines is dangerous without the proper knowledge or guidance. White Nose syndrome is a serious disease in bat populations that can be spread from cave to cave by humans.

In addition, it is important not to disturb and awaken hibernating bats in the winter, because they will lose necessary fat reserves that they rely on



Bat house





Be sure to visit our Christmas Shop

Monday - Saturday

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday

12:00 to 5:00