

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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## Sedum

### 'Pool Party'



Make a splash with Pool Party!

Refreshing light pink showy flowers on compact plants will entice you to visually dive into the garden. Aqua bluegreen foliage contrasts nicely with the evolving pink flowers.

A taller, upright Sedum variety. Great for a hot, sunny site. Beautiful low care summer and fall color.



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### Features to Note:

Winter Interest    Attracts Butterflies    Hot Dry Site Tolerant

Good for Cut Flowers    OK in Containers    Rabbit Resistant

Blooms for 4 Weeks or More    For a Sunny Spot

# Japanese Silver

## Grass

Japanese silver grass is an ornamental clumping grass in the genus *Miscanthus*. There are many cultivars of the attractive plant with most suitable for United States Department of Agriculture zones



5 to 9. The Japanese silver grass plant usually produces a feathery whitish gray inflorescence that is the source of the name. There are also pink and reddish flowering varieties.

## Ornamental Japanese Silver Grass Uses

Japanese silver grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) is useful as a living hedge or border when planted 3 to 4 feet apart. It also makes an interesting specimen plant alone as the center of a bed or in a large pot as an accent. The ornamental Japanese silver grass group contains numerous cultivars.

Autumn Light and November Sunset are two varieties that may be grown in USDA zone 4.

The plant can get 3 to 6 feet in height and has thick, rather coarse foliage. The blades are long and arcing and stay close in a tight clump. In fall it produces reddish color and the inflorescence persists, creating an attractive seasonal display. Growing Japanese silver grass requires no special soil type but it does need a fertile, moist planting area.

This ornamental grass performs best when positioned in full sun. While it needs moist soil, it will tolerate drought periods after it is fully established.

The grass should be cut back in spring before new shoots appear. Japanese silver grass plant is a perennial but the leaves will become brown and dry in winter as it assumes a dormant habit.

Japanese silver grass care is easy, as the plant has no special requirements and few pests or disease issues.





## Pennsylvania Sedge

Pennsylvania sedge is a low, clumped, grass-like perennial, 6-12 in. high, with a cluster of brown seed capsules clinging high on the stem. Foliage is pale-green in spring and summer, turning sandy-tan in fall.

Rhizomatous turf-forming with pale-green arching leaves.

Forms ground cover in forest or savannah (oak/pine or sugar maple) Prefers light-textured soils. Resistant to deer grazing.

## Pampas Grass

Impressive size, graceful aspect, durable toughness, and spectacular flowers all combine to make pampas grass one of the most recognized plants in the landscape. The leaves are narrow, 1/2 to 3/4 in (1.3-1.9 cm) wide, and up to 10 ft (3 m) long. They are arranged in dense fountainlike clumps that are up to 12 ft (3.7 m) high and 6 ft (1.8 m) wide. The real show starts in midsummer when the flowers, spectacular 1 ft (0.3 m) tall white plumes, suddenly erupt above the foliage. The show continues well into winter as the feathery plumes persist and the foliage turns golden brown when touched by frost and cold weather. When using the species you'll probably want to select female plants as they have prettier flowers - the males' are thinner, more elongated and not as full. This garden beauty commands attention.



Many varieties of pampas grass are available. There are dwarf varieties that are perfect for small spaces. Others have pastel colored flowers, while others provide an assortment of leaf variegations



# From the garden of Eva

## Almond Flour Pumpkin Donut Muffins

### Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups blanched almond flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1 teaspoon ground allspice  
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves  
2 large eggs  
1/3 cup pure maple syrup  
1/2 cup pumpkin puree  
1/4 cup organic canola oil  
1 teaspoon vanilla
- makes about 30 mini  
muffins
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
3/4 cup granulated cane sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Lightly grease mini muffin tins.
2. In a large bowl, combine the almond flour, baking soda, salt and spices. Stir until thoroughly combined. In a medium bowl, combine the eggs, maple syrup, pumpkin puree, canola oil and vanilla. Stir until smooth. Pour the egg mixture into the almond flour mixture and stir until combined.
3. Fill each muffin cup with about a tablespoon of batter (I used my small cookie scoop). Bake for 15 minutes or until muffins test done with a toothpick.
4. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Remove from heat. Combine the sugar and 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon in a small bowl.
5. As soon as the muffins are cool enough to handle, dip each one into the butter, then roll in the cinnamon sugar mixture.
6. Store only lightly covered so the sugar stays granulated. (If they are stored in an air-tight container, the moisture will make the sugar dissolve.)

# Red Onion Soup With Cheese Toasts

Olive oil

3 pounds red onions, peeled, sliced 1/8-inch thick

Salt and pepper

1 cup dry red wine

2 bay leaves

1 small bunch thyme, tied with string

8 garlic cloves, roughly chopped

2 tablespoons brandy (optional)

6 slices day-old bread, lightly toasted

6 ounces grated Gruyère

1 teaspoon chopped thyme

1 tablespoon chopped sage



1 .Set 2 large, wide skillet over medium-high heat. When pans are hot, add 1 tablespoon oil and a large handful of sliced onions to each pan. Season onions with salt and pepper, then sauté, stirring occasionally, until they are a ruddy dark brown, about 10 minutes

2 .Transfer onions to soup pot and return pans to stove. Pour 1/2 cup water into each pan to deglaze it, scraping with a wooden spoon to dissolve any brown bits. Pour deglazing liquid into soup pot. Wipe pans clean with paper towel and begin again with more oil and sliced onions. Continue until all onions are used. Don't crowd pans or onions won't brown sufficiently.

3 .Place soup pot over high heat. Add wine, bay leaves, thyme bunch and garlic. Simmer rapidly for 5 minutes, then add 8 cups water and return to boil. Turn heat down to maintain a gentle simmer. Add 2 teaspoons salt. Cook for 45 minutes. Skim off any surface fat, taste and adjust seasoning. (May be prepared to this point up to 2 days in advance.)

4. To serve, add brandy to soup, if using, and simmer 5 minutes. Remove the thyme. Make the cheese toasts: Heat broiler. Place toasted bread on baking sheet. Mix grated cheese with chopped thyme and sage, along with a generous amount of pepper. Heap about 1 ounce of cheese mixture on each toast. Broil until cheese bubbles and browns slightly.

Ladle soup into wide bowls and top with toast.

# Chrysanthemums

A pot of blooming chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* spp.)

adds indoor or outdoor color, depending on your location and the season. Most chrysanthemums, or mums, bloom naturally in spring, although florists sometimes sell varieties forced to grow at other times of the year. Proper care keeps



mums blooming longer and can allow them to survive in their pot for many years. Most mums are hardy outdoors in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5 through 9, although some tender varieties can't survive outdoors in regions that experience frost.

- 1) Set potted mums indoors near a window that receives bright, indirect sunlight all day, or place them outdoors where they can receive five hours of morning sunlight and afternoon shade. Maintain their daytime temperatures near 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and avoid exposing them to high heat and frost.
- 2) Check the mums' soil moisture daily, and water the mums when the top 1 inch of soil begins to dry. Water the soil surface using a watering can until moisture begins to drain from the bottom of the pot. Empty the water collected in the pot's drip tray after each irrigation.
- 3) Cut off the mums' flowers after they wilt. Doing so encourages further blooming and keeps the plants clean. Cut back the foliage after it dies naturally in fall.
- 4) Leave the potted mums outdoors in winter if the temperature rarely drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or overwinter the potted plants indoors by a window that receives indirect sunlight. Water the mums' soil only enough so it doesn't dry entirely.
- 5) Fertilize the mums in spring when their new growth appears. Water the plants with a soluble, balanced fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10 blend, once each month. Dilute the fertilizer in the water at the fertilizer label's recommended rate. Continue to fertilize the plants monthly until midsummer when their flower buds begin to show their color.
- 6) Remove the tips of new stems when those stems are 5 inches long. Continue to pinch them back to a 5-inch height as necessary from spring through midsummer to late summer. Pinching them back encourages bushy growth and more flower bud formation. It also helps to delay flowering until fall.

## Dusty Miller

Dusty miller is known botanically as *Senecio cineraria* and is from Italy. Though usually considered an annual, many of us grow it as a short-lived perennial, cutting it back to rejuvenate growth.

The striking gray foliage of the dusty miller stands out in a world dominated by dark green foliage. The leaves are white to gray and appear coated with velvet. This Mediterranean plant is low-maintenance and can endure summer's heat and droughty conditions.



In addition to combining with sweet alyssum, pansy or dianthus in the fall, try dusty miller with other drought-tolerant spring selections like gomphrena, salvia, purple heart, pink lantana and yarrow.



## Decorative Cabbage and Kale

Decorative cabbages are delightfully chubby and cheerful plants, while the kales are all spiky and radical looking. However, both of these plants will take you well into fall with style and beautiful sagey greens with pinks and purples. As a bonus flowering cabbage and kales' colors only intensify as the weather gets colder especially after a frost.



# *Thyme in the Garden*



## In the Garden

- Fall is for planting. Now's the very best time to plant just about everything. Warm soil, cooler air and (hopefully) rain make for well-established plants that really burst forth next spring.
- Refresh your garden. After our hot, hot summers, it's time to refresh with seasonal color. Cool-season flowers to plant now are mums, snapdragon, pansy, viola, stock, poppy, primrose, sweet pea, cyclamen and more!
- Plant your cool-season vegetable garden. Yes, we have a second edible season! Once the weather cools down (coastal: usually the second week of September; inland: by the end of the month), plant peas, lettuces of all types, chard, broccoli, cauliflower, turnips, carrots, beets and radishes.
- Plant bulbs. Yes, they're delayed satisfaction, but flowering bulbs are such nice spring surprises. You'll be glad you did. Bulbs are easy: dig, drop, done! There are lots of choices, but bearded irises take our heat, take no care, and are water-wise. And have spectacular flowers.
- Divide and transplant all types of perennials.
- Perennials for fall color. Nothing says fall like goldenrod, perennial aster, Japanese anemone, mums, and coneflower.
- Ornamental grasses add movement and interesting texture to gardens. The choices are amazing—from delicate, fine-textured gems to bold, colorful statements. They're low care, dramatic and give a great fall look.

# It's a bug eat bug world

## Mantis



**Chinese Praying Mantis**



**European Praying Mantis**

Mantis we see most often are exotic species.

For better or worse, the mantids we commonly encounter in many parts of the U.S. are introduced species, not native ones. The Chinese mantis (*Tenodera aridifolia*) was introduced near Philadelphia, PA about 80 years ago. This large mantid can measure up to 100 mm in length, and is abundant in some northern areas of the U.S. The European mantid, *Mantis religiosa* is pale green, and about half the size of the Chinese mantid at maturity. This species is well established in most of the eastern U.S., since its introduction near Rochester, NY nearly a century ago.

Mantids are unique among insects in their ability to turn their heads a full 180 degrees.

Try to sneak up on a praying mantis, and you may be startled when it looks over its shoulder at you. No other insect can do so. Praying mantids have a flexible joint between the head and prothorax that enables them to swivel their heads. This ability, along with their rather humanoid faces and long, grasping forelegs, endears them to even the most entomophobic people among us.

Mantids are closely related to cockroaches and termites.

These three seemingly different insects – mantids, termites, and cockroaches – are believed to descend from a common ancestor. In fact, some entomologists group these insects in a superorder (Dictyoptera), due to their close evolutionary relationships.

**Praying Mantis  
hatching**



## Birth Month Flower of September - The Aster



If your birthday is in September, let the Aster bring you good luck. With the vast array of colors and sizes that Asters, also known as starworts, come in (over 600 species), this beautiful flower is often used as a filler flower in bouquets and arrangements, much like the carnation. Not only are they lovely, these flowers will not fade as quickly as other flowers in arrangements. The Monte Casino is a popular Aster. This flower is often used to symbolize afterthought or true love. A love of variety is associated with this flower as well. In China, the aster signifies fidelity. The name "aster" has Latin origins meaning "star". Many stories tell the origins of the Aster, but the most popular ancient myth explains how asters were created from stardust as Virgo, also known as Astaea, the goddess of innocence cries over sin on earth. Her tears fell as stardust, covering the earth with asters. This myth gives light to the Aster's star-like beauty and shape.

## Living with Nature

### Chipmunks

Chipmunks are cute little creatures, but when they are ruining landscapes by digging holes around your lawn and garden, these rodents can become quite a nuisance. What's more, they may also enter your home in search of shelter.



Chipmunk is the common name for any small, ground-dwelling squirrel-like rodent species. They are found in eastern portions of Canada and the United States.

Though chipmunks are commonly depicted with their paws up to the mouth, eating peanuts, or more famously, with cheeks bulging, they eat a more diverse range of foods than just nuts.

Chipmunks make their nests underground, in stone walls, or near fallen logs.

Several chipmunk families will share one burrow. The burrows typically have a long entrance with several chambers for food and sleeping.

There are two breeding seasons; spring and summer. Female chipmunks will typically have 4-5 babies per season. At such a rate of reproduction, a few chipmunks can quickly turn into many, causing an even bigger problem unless you apply the proper control methods.

Chipmunks typically feast on nuts, berries, seeds, and grains. They cause problems when they eat tender plant shoots and leaves.

In autumn, many chipmunks begin to stockpile these goods in their burrows, hoarding for the winter months.

Chipmunks typically dig, looking for roots and tubers. They also eat young shoots and leaves.

You will often find chipmunks gathering seeds from underneath birdfeeders.

Chipmunk control is the key to preventing chipmunk damage.



# Fall Leaf Candle

All you need to make one:  
dried, pressed fall leaves, regular  
Mod Podge, a jar and a brush.



1) Dry beautiful, colorful fall leaves. Drying should take only about two weeks.



2.) Smear Mod Podge all over the sides of the jar. Do not apply Mod Podge to the bottom or the grooved lid area. (For large areas like



this, I prefer using a regular brush, but a foam brush will work also).

3.) Place your dry leaf right onto the Mod Podge and press into place. Brush over the leaf with more Mod Podge

4.) Continue adding leaves and Mod Podge until your jar is covered with leaves. I like to overlap a few, but keep in mind that overlap areas do reduce the light that can pass through. I find that lighter colored leaves work best. Use the darker leaves as accents.

5.) Once you have finished placing your leaves around the jar surface, use the flat end of your brush to create a stippled pattern in the Mod Podge areas NOT covered by leaves. This step will create a more pleasing pattern than will brush strokes when light shines through these "open" areas on the jar

6.) Let the candle dry thoroughly and then apply a second coat of Mod Podge, again "stippling" the open areas.

7.) Let the jar dry several hours or overnight. Overspray with acrylic spray. When dry, pop a tea light in the bottom and you are done!

