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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

Amaryllis Can Live Up Winter Days

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 growing 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



Freshly picked amaryllis

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 flower 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.

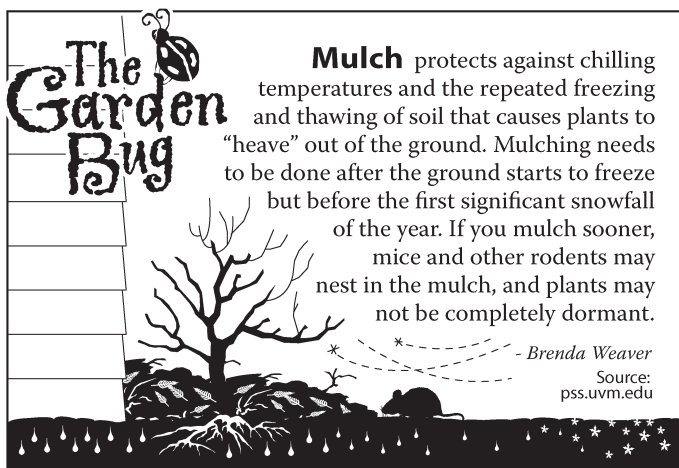
If you want to keep the amaryllis and get it to bloom again next year, give the plant as much light as possible after it flowers. It will help

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. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes in the upcoming New Year!

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Mulch protects against chilling temperatures and the repeated freezing and thawing of soil that causes plants to "heave" out of the ground. Mulching needs to be done after the ground starts to freeze but before the first significant snowfall of the year. If you mulch sooner, mice and other rodents may nest in the mulch, and plants may not be completely dormant.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: pss.uvm.edu

Agriculture Events

Applications due by Friday, January 17, 2014

2014 Farm Bill Program Applicants

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kentucky is encouraging landowners, farmers and producers to visit their local NRCS office now to receive information and apply for conservation technical assistance and possible financial funding opportunities.

The application process for NRCS's conservation programs is continuous, but funding selections for specific programs are made throughout the year. For the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) the first application cutoff period date for consideration for 2014 funds is January 17, 2014. Applications received after January 17, 2014, will be held until the next application cut off period, which will be April 18, 2014.

NRCS Acting State Conservationist Jack Kuhn announced this month that technical and financial assistance is available to eligible applicants for the EQIP. EQIP is a conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for this program. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm or ranch lands.

EQIP offers several National and State Initiatives which include the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative, Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, On-Farm Energy Initiative, Wildlife Initiative, and Forestry Initiative. Interested land users should visit their local NRCS Office to find out what opportunities are available through each of these EQIP Initiatives.

A second conservation program, WHIP, offers opportunities through the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW), which focuses on the recovery of certain at-risk, threatened or endangered wildlife species while helping other vulnerable and game species that depend on similar habitat. In Kentucky, the Golden-winged Warbler is the species of concern for parts of 12 Kentucky counties including Bell, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, McCreary, Perry, Pike and Whitley.

"We're urging producers to get their applications in as soon as possible to be considered for this year's funding," said Kuhn.

All recipients of assistance are required to develop a conservation plan. Conservation planning is an integral part of the conservation process. Landowners should work with a conservation planner to develop the plan based on the landowner's operational goals to improve the productivity, sustainability and profitability of their operation. The conservation plan will serve as a roadmap to a variety of technical assistance and financial assistance through EQIP and WHIP, as well as other options available to the landowner. "We're getting back to our roots with conservation planning," says Kuhn. "Conservation planning is the vital first step in understanding natural resources on your land, and also understanding how technical and financial conservation assistance can be incorporated into your operation to help you help the land." He added, "Now is the time to contact your local NRCS Field Office to develop a conservation plan."

For more information visit NRCS on the web at www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS center at http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.

Stickeler's Answer

Stickelers Answer

This means that Molly's father married the sister of Molly's husband.

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 13

WANTED TO BUY
Your antiques and collectibles, furniture, glassware, crocks, jugs, quilts, post cards, military items, Civil War swords, Japanese swords, pocket knives, coins, jewelry, gold & silver scrap, pocket and wrist watches (working or not), cast iron toys & banks, cast iron skillets, hunting and fishing items, lawn mowers, marbles, etc.
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(Hot, Medium or Mild)
Cured Ham \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
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Ham Steak \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
Ham Cutlets \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
(Similar to cube steak, only ham)
Bacon \$4⁰⁰/Lb.
Jowl Bacon \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
Pork Tenderloin \$4⁰⁰/Lb.
Pork Chops \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
Spare Ribs \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
Country Style Ribs \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
Baby Back Pork Ribs \$3⁰⁰/Lb.
Pork Burgers \$3⁵⁰/Lb.
(Ground, pattied pork with no seasoning)
Bratwursts \$3⁵⁰/Lb.

Bundle Packages
1/4 Processed Hog \$115⁰⁰
1/2 Processed Hog \$210⁰⁰
Whole Processed Hog \$400⁰⁰

Wishing Well®

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

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.

FWR XRNYUT ZUXXC HKGGY
JUXR ERUEGR FWNT ZUXH
KY FWNF JUXR ERUEGR
ZUXXC FWNT ZUXH.
— XUMRFX IXUYF

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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: W equals I

CMG TLLGMB ICLGVICYJ TCDKY
LUAG UVADB KCUM IQUFAI WI
BQUB BQJGJ UFG WMBGFGIBGY
WM WMBGFGIB.

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Puzzle Answers

December 25, 2013

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What does a caterpillar do on New Year's Day?

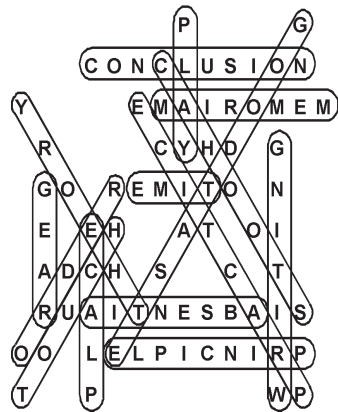
It turns over a new leaf.

Letter Box

Solution

L	H	A	N	E	O	I	C	G
N	C	I	L	G	H	A	E	O
E	O	G	A	C	I	L	H	N
A	G	H	O	N	E	C	L	I
C	N	E	I	L	G	H	O	A
O	I	L	C	H	A	N	G	E
I	L	C	E	O	N	G	A	H
G	E	N	H	A	L	O	I	C
H	A	O	G	I	C	E	N	L

IN —



CryptoQuote

answer

The reason worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.
— Robert Frost

CryptoQuip

answer

One comment somebody could make about loan sharks is that they are interested in interest.

FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



Even Exchange

answers

- Clasp, Clash
- Kennel, Kernel
- Think, Thank
- Hearth, Health
- Thyme, Theme
- Shirt, Skirt
- Insert, Invert
- Peppy, Puppy
- Export, Expert
- Black, Blank

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Bible Trivia Answers

Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

John: (5) Ekron; (6) Moab; Nebuchadnezzar's: (4) 1 Moving forward; (3) ANSERS: (1) Neither;