

Amelia

ISLANDER

NOVEMBER 2005

2005 Holiday

Gift Guide



RESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL
PERMIT NO. 104

plus: REMEMBERING FERNANDINA • SAVING PAR • A TRIP TO REDBONES

IN THE Garden with Betty Morrell

) TIP OF THE MONTH (

Now is the time to plant your winter annuals, snapdragons, dianthus, (really a perennial) winter petunias, pansys, dusty miller, flowering cabbage and kale. This is also a good time to plant new trees.



November brings us to another beginning of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and fall is definitely in the air.

Do not fertilize your lawn this late in the year. Overseeding with Rye grass will give you green grass throughout the winter. Use only 5 - 10 lbs of seed per 1,000 sq ft to give your permanent grass less competition in the spring. Mulch your gardens well to protect your plants from hard freezes, which, of course, I hope we won't have this winter. A generous covering of mulch will also help control the weed population.

And now, let's get right to what everyone waits for in my November column. Yes, I went to the growers show again this year and, once again, I had a wonderful time. Last year, they introduced a new beach grass called "Breeze" (*Lomandra longifolia*). Breeze is described as an improved fine-leaved, environmentally friendly, tough, shiny, dark green, compact form of grass, with attractive sterile yellow flower heads in spring. Now, finally, Breeze is available. This grass is really a wonderful product. I managed to obtain some last year in its trial period and planted it on a job at the beach. They wintered well, not a brown spot on them, which means they stay-green all year long, and they grow to two feet in height. Everyone is very happy with this new addition to the beach garden. The grass can be used in any garden, is salt tolerant, very hardy in cold temperatures, adapts

to any soil, and can be grown in either full sun or part shade.

There are a few other grasses that have been introduced this year, many of which are hardy enough for our area. "Becca" (*Dianella coerulea*), a medium-textured, strappy leaved, tough, shiny dark green plant with erect foliage. It has exquisite sprays of soft blue flowers with yellow throats, followed by blue berries in the spring. "Little Becca" is a compact version of "Becca." "Big Rev" is a distinctive dark green, tough plant with arching strap-like leaves that have slightly rolled back margins. "Big Rev" looks rigid, but it is soft to the touch. In spring and summer, it bears clusters of star-shaped pale blue and white flowers, followed by glossy dark blue berries. "Nafra" (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*) is a fine-textured showy, compact, clumping perennial grass with narrow arching leaves and spectacular feathery flowering plumes from late summer to early winter. It also has a desirable four-foot height, with excellent form and structure.

One of my favorite plants from the show was the Sweet Almond Bush. I walked around and around one particular garden trying to locate this wonderful scent. I asked, and was escorted to a bush with clusters of tiny white fragrant flowers. Oh my, I must have one of those, I thought.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. If you have any questions my e-mail is bamorrell@aol.com. And, Happy Gardening!



Amelia Garden Center
3028 South 8th Street
Fernandina Beach, FL
32034
904.321.4117

Featuring MONROVIA
PLANTS
Pine Straw
Custom Potting Soil
Blends
Holiday Poinsettias,
Natural Wreaths and
Garlands Available
November 21st

BRIDGEVIEW NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER *The Gardener's Choice*

Plants • Trees • Concrete
Bulk Cypress & Rubber Mulch
Pine straw • Pottery • Indoor Plants
Flagging & River Rock

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

474431 East State Road 200 (A1A)
261.3410

BOB'S

IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE, INC.

SALES - SERVICE - REPAIR

Irrigation • Landscaping • Drainage
Lawn Maintenance • Outdoor Lighting
Tractor-Loader Work • Sodding
Waterfalls & Ponds

DESIGN - INSTALLATION - RENOVATIONS

Quality Work Since 1987

474431 East State Road 200 (A1A)
261.5040