



FACEBOOK LIVE SEMINAR

The Guru's Guide to Holiday Plants

Enjoying plants and gardening doesn't stop just because the weather has gotten chilly. From poinsettias and cyclamen to furs and hellebores, there are so many gorgeous plants to decorate your own home or even gift to someone you love. The Garden Guru, Mike Westphal, is here with Green Team member, Carly Dilday, to show you all the plants you need to make your home and garden feel merry and bright this holiday season.

OUR HOLIDAY PLANT FAVES

- Pick #5 -

Mike's Pick: Ivy

Ivy is a great groundcover in the landscape and makes a great spiller or filler in a container. Ivy is so easy to grow, you can even grow indoors! Indoor ivy likes bright to medium light and to be lightly dry between watering. Outdoors, you will want to keep ivy in the shade and water more frequently depending on season. Keep your ivy at bay in your landscape by keeping it off trees and structures.

Carly's Pick: Holiday Cactus

How can we have the holidays without holiday cactus! Not only does this plant bloom profusely during the holiday season, but it also looks great all year round with succulent foliage like no other. Holiday cacti are made up of leaf segments called phylloclades and these segments will keep growing from the ends of older ones. These cacti also can live for many years and are great sharing plants, so they really exemplify the holiday season. Grab them in colors of red, pink, white and even shades of orange and yellow.

- Pick #4 -

Mike's Pick: Lemon Cypress

This amazing small tree has such a vibrant chartreuse green color. You can grow them both indoors or out. Inside, lemon cypress need very bright light and outside, full sun to part shade. This smaller evergreen grows about 4 feet tall, but can reach up to 6 feet over time. These also make great container plants that will stand out year after year.

Carly's Pick: Azaleas and Lavender Topiaries

These outdoor beauties can become houseplants during the most wonderful time of the year! Both of these plants love bright, direct light indoors and need water when the very top layer of soil is dry. Pot these up in a bonsai pot or decorative container for a unique and gorgeous gift that can move indoors and out.

- Pick #3 -

Mike's Pick: Rosemary Cones and Patio Trees

Enjoy the fresh aroma of rosemary year round with these pruned and maintained rosemary cones or patio trees. They make a great gift and you can bring them indoors during the holidays. Decorate with lights or small ornaments, and then plant outside to enjoy all year round. Use them for cooking and cocktail drinks or for ornamental plantings, or both! Patio trees also make excellent thrillers in a mixed container with pansies planted underneath.

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Carly's Pick: Moth Orchids

Phalaenopsis, or moth orchids, are one of the most elegant plants to give for the holidays. Their blooms are absolutely stunning and orchids, in general, are a great gift for budding, or experienced houseplant enthusiasts. Care for moth orchids is fairly simple, as they do not need extremely bright light and like to go a little dryer between waterings. For more information on moth orchid care, check out Mike, the Garden Guru's webinar [here](#).

- Pick #2 -

Mike's Pick: Camellias

We just love the diversity of these evergreen bloomers. The Shishi Gashira variety can be maintained at about a 3-4 feet height and 5-6 feet wide and can get even larger with age and no pruning. This variety has a bright pink bloom that blooms through fall as well, and is a great shrub for borders, foundations or mass plantings. They all can take shade to sun and once established are easy to maintain. The Yuletide and Autumn Rocket grow tall but not wide, making them a great columnar shape in containers or a small hedge. They both get about 6-10 feet tall. The Yuletide gets about 4-5 feet wide and the Autumn rocket can stay a little narrower at about 3-5 feet wide. The Yuletide variety has a single red bloom with bright yellow center and blooming lasts for what seems like months in the late fall into winter and through Christmas, hence the name. The Autumn rocket has a pure white double bloom and a very dark green leathery leaf which makes an outstanding show in late fall.

Carly's Pick: Amaryllis

This bulb shines oh-so-bright with holiday decor. Amaryllis bulbs can bloom amazingly large flowers spanning 5-10 inches across with vibrant colors of red, white, pink, and even mixtures of all 3! For more information on Amaryllis care and even a bloom calendar for you to follow, check out our blog on Holly Jolly Holiday Bulbs [here](#).

- Pick #1 -

Mike's Pick: Hellebores

These little evergreen plants grow anywhere from 1-3 feet high and wide depending on variety. Hellebores have a diversity in colors, sizes, leaf and bloom times. Single blooms, double blooms, and all sorts in between, hellebores have become one of the most collectable perennials. They make a great landscape plant that are deer and rabbit resistant and once established, seem to be indestructible. They prefer some shade, so half a day of sun to full shade is best. Plant them in masses for a show stopper or use in mixed containers.

Carly's Pick: Poinsettias

These plants are famous for their flower-like leaves called bracts, that shine with color when they are blooming. These bracts will turn more of a regular green leaf color when they age or are out of season. At McDonald Garden Center, we carry poinsettias in a variety of colors and styles including variegated, rounded, or rose-like petals. Some of the most famous colors, however, are red, traditional white, and pink.

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