



Hydrangea Bleu

Floral & Gift Ideas as Fresh as our Flowers!

HYDRANGEABLEU.COM

NOVEMBER, 2009

Welcome:

My sister has a black lab named Callie. She's a very social dog and loves being around people. She also loves to eat - anything & everything. She follows us into the kitchen and lays at our feet, ready to clean the floor of any morsel dropped. She stands next to us at the table while we eat, sniffing & licking her lips hoping for her portion. I am always astounded that she is never deterred. Her perseverance is unwavering. For many of us, the past year has been a lesson in perseverance and an assessment of what's important. As we enter the holiday season, I would like to take this moment to offer a heartfelt thank you for your loyalty & support. May you all relish the blessings of the season.

Happy Thanksgiving Anne



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Flower of the Month: Chrysanthemums



One cold, snowy Christmas Eve in Germany's Black Forest, a peasant family was sitting down to a meager supper when they heard a wailing. At first they thought it was the wind. But upon hearing the sound repeatedly, they opened the door and found a beggar. They ushered in the poor man who was blue with cold, wrapped him in blankets, and shared their food. Instantly, the blankets were shed, revealing a man in shining white clothing with a halo around his head. Proclaiming himself

the Christ Child he fled. The next morning, outside the door where he had stood, were two white chrysanthemums. Today, many Germans bring white chrysanthemums into their homes on Christmas Eve, believing that by doing so they are sheltering the Christ Child.(1)

The chrysanthemum, which means "golden flower" in Greek, has a rich history and a number of legends originating in both the Asian and European cultures. In many European countries the flower is viewed as a death flower. In Belgium and Australia chrysanthemums are used almost exclusively on graves as memorials. In America we view the flower as a symbol of fall. These long lasting blooms are, however, available year round and are available in a multi-stemmed spray variety and as large single headed flowers. Chrysanthemums are available in hues of red, pink, purple, lavender, orange, bronze, yellow, green, white and bicolor.

Know someone who is getting married? Have them check out our Wedding Gallery:

www.hydrangeableu.com/wedding

(1)Legends of the Chrysanthemum by Leonard Perry

How To: Questions from our Readers!

Q: How do I personalize my holiday table?

With the holidays quickly approaching, we can all use an extra pair of hands. Although cooking isn't my forte, setting a beautiful table is. A couple of general ideas: If your table is rectangular in shape and you're hosting 6 or less people, try moving your tabletop decor to one end of the table. Pulling it away from the center of the table allows you more freedom in the width & height of your decor and will give your guests more space directly in front of them. Also, use the abundance of uniquely shaped gourds and small pumpkins to accent your placesettings. These can be

placed directly on top of your plates or napkins and are easily removed once dinner is served.



The tops of small pumpkins or apples can be hollowed out to make room for votive candles. Carve the pumpkins no sooner than the night before and hollow an apple the day of. Lemon juice will help keep the apple from browning. If you'd like some specific ideas for your particular table, send me a picture of your plates and dining room and I'll send you some suggestions for your tabletop decor.

Email me:

anne@hydrangeableu.com



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"Whispers from the Flower Fields"



"In the hope of
reaching the moon
men fail to see the
flowers that blossom
at their feet."

Albert Schweitzer

Thanks a bunch for picking Hydrangea Bleu!!

10% OFF
Floral Arrangements

Expires 11/30/09

TIPS & TRICKS FOR CHRYSANTHEMUMS!



1. Vase life 7 to 14 days.
2. Certain microorganisms normally associated with carnations can reduce the vase life of chrysanthemums when both flowers share the same vase.

If you know someone who would enjoy our newsletter,
please forward this e-mail to them. Thanks!

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Eco: "Plants with added benefits: they can save your lungs!"

*As the impact of air quality on health, particularly such conditions as childhood asthma, increases, we find plants can work as efficient air and water filters. .

The modern home/office is prone to all manner of insidious toxins, such as formaldehyde (from carpets, plywood, flatpack furniture and insulation materials); benzene (from particleboard and some paints); and propanol (cleaning products), whose effects can range from mild eye, nose and throat irritations to more serious conditions.

It might seem unlikely that mere indoor plants could provide a defence, but studies have found some to be particularly effective.

One of the most efficient pollutant removers is the dragon tree (Dracaena), which may explain why its spiky variegated leaves on a tall central stem are so often seen in offices. It's easy to care for, reaching 8ft in ideal conditions (rich soil, warmth, light shade and sparse watering, preferably not from old coffee cups).

The goosetongue plant (Syngonium podophyllum), with its gloriously mottled and marbled leaves, is also extremely effective against all forms of air pollution - it needs a temperature of 60F (15C) and does best in bright, indirect light and a moist, loam-based soil.

But you don't have to seek out unusual plants to keep your home healthy. Another of the most efficient plants is the common spider plant, which is particularly effective against formaldehyde and the emissions from computer terminals.

Give them the conditions they really love (good light, moist compost from spring to autumn and fortnightly feeds

during the growing period), and they will reward you with cascades of miniature plants, and look a million times better than the specimens so often found malingering in dark student bedsits.

Ivy (Hedera helix) is another commonly found, but extremely effective plant, especially in the face of mould. A recent study found it able to remove almost 80 per cent of airborne mould and fungus spores, making it especially valuable in damp conditions, such as rooms that are drying out after flooding.

And only slightly further down the scale come palms, ferns and "indestructible" office staples such as rubber plants, philodendrons, the umbrella plant (Schefflera) and the peace lily or aspidistra - good news for those without green thumbs.

For those with an aversion to glossy dark green leaves, plenty of flowering plants also combat air pollution. Chrysanthemums (just coming into their late-summer and autumn season), gerberas, African violets, cyclamen and kalanchoes are pretty as well as effective, as are all types of orchid. Orchids have the added advantage of being one of the few plants that produce oxygen at night, and the moth orchid, Phalaenopsis, is particularly recommended for bedrooms. All this heroic hard work has no ill-effects on the plants themselves. All they require in return is to have their watering requirements met, and their leaves occasionally sprayed with water and carefully wiped with a cloth to remove dust. It's worth taking time to care for them properly.

*Reference from: Elspeth Thompson

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Hydrangea Bleu Fine Flowers