

Indoor Blooms: The Art of Forcing Bulbs

Certain bulbs can be "forced" in pots, or tricked into thinking that they have gone through a winter season, and that it is spring and time to blossom. These include: amaryllis, crocus, daffodils, dwarf iris, freesia, grape hyacinth, hyacinth, paperwhite narcissus, scilla and tulip. Amaryllis, freesia, and paperwhites are the simplest bulbs to force because they do not require a lengthy "cold and dark" (refrigeration) treatment prior to planting. Plant in a shallow container or bulb pan (a pot which is more wide than tall), with the roots faced down.



Look for bulbs that are:

- Healthy and plump, not shriveled and dry
- Free of soft spots or mold that has produced rotting
- Without unpleasant odors

Amaryllis are planted in pots with drainage holes, in regular potting soil, and remember, amaryllis grow very tall and will need a pot at least 6" wide. Paperwhites, crocus, daffodils, freesia, hyacinths, tulips and most other smaller bulbs go in pots without drainage holes, with either decorative stones or gravel or potting soil.

Place two inches of your planting medium in your pot, then your bulbs (crowding is good, clump them together), then cover them almost to their tips with planting medium. Soak the pot inside a bowl of water afterwards, until the soil is moist, or simply pour in enough water until just the bottoms of the bulbs are covered with water.

Keep your amaryllis, freesia and paperwhites in a sunny spot from now on. The Amaryllis will bloom in 6-8 weeks. Paperwhites will bloom within a few weeks, and can be forced all winter long, until the end of March.

Once the blooms fade, you may wonder what to do with the plants. The forcing process is an exhausting one and depletes nutrients from the bulb. While most gardeners discard the finished bulbs, you can plant them in your garden, but be aware that they may not bloom outside for a couple of years.

HOA Board

email: hoa@pineyz.com

Mildred Kelly
President 877-5191

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Vice-President 671-4339

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S.K. Nayak 942-2298

Community Standards

Larry Pushor 878-7473
Ashok Jain 513-1872

Appeals

Vince Del Marco 656-6155

Crime Watch

Drew and Joanne Maholanyi
877-6633

HOA Board Meetings

Upcoming HOA Board meeting:
Tuesday, December 14, at
6:30pm in the Lodge.
Everyone is welcome!

Bridge

If you are a bridge player and interested in joining a bridge group, please call Rosemary White at 385-3187.



Holiday Season Safety

The National Safety Council offers these suggestions to help make your holiday season merry and safe.

Decorations

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." It can irritate your eyes and skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton. Both angel hair and cotton snow are flame retardant when used alone. However, if artificial snow is sprayed onto them, the dried combination will burn rapidly. When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.

Fireplaces

You should not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room. Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials which can be toxic if burned.

Candles

Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Toys and Gifts

Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you are giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Older adults

Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle. For persons with arthritis, make sure the gift does not require assembly and can be easily opened and closed. Choose books with large type for anyone with vision impairment.

Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Alcohol, Parties and Driving

Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands. When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items. Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace.

Holiday Parties

It is a courtesy to inform your neighbors if the guests at your holiday party will be parking on the street. You may even wish to invite them too!

Please direct noise complaints to law enforcement.
TPD 891-4200

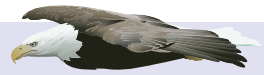
December Holidays and Events

- December 4—Tallahassee Winter Festival
- December 7—Hanukkah begins at sundown
- December 25—Christmas
- December 26-January 1 — Kwanzaa

Piney-Z Residents are eligible to join FLAG Credit Union on the corner of Conner Blvd. and Capital Circle.

Crime Watch Committee Seeks Block Captains

The Piney-Z Crime Watch Committee would like to have block captains for every street in the neighborhood. This is a very small time commitment of two meetings per year. The committee would notify each block captain in the event of any crime or suspicious activity in the area. This will raise awareness of our surroundings and alert residents if a situation should arise. Please contact committee chairs Drew and Joanne Maholanyi at 877-6633 to find out who the captain is for your street or to volunteer to be a block captain.



Celebrate Neighborhood Fellowship

From the Tallahassee Department of Neighborhood & Community Services

To live harmoniously in a community, you must respect the rights of your neighbors. If you have a dog or cat, you need to ensure that these pets don't create a nuisance in your neighborhood. Plus, you can be cited for having a nuisance animal. Some common examples of nuisance animals are:

- Dogs that continually bark or howl,
- Dogs and cats that create noise and fight other animals during mating season,
- Dogs or cats that get into neighbors' garbage cans and create a mess,
- Dogs or cats that use their neighbors' sidewalks, lawns or gardens as bathrooms,
- Cats that walk across neighbors' cars leaving paw prints or that scratch the paint or car tires,
- Cats that prey on small mammals or birds feeding at neighbors' bird feeders, and
- Dogs and cats that run loose and endanger other animals and people.



Tallahassee city ordinances require that you keep your dog under your control at all times. That means you must walk it on a leash when it is outside your house or yard. This protects your dog, other pets and people. Dogs that run loose are in danger of being run over by cars, getting in fights with other animals or getting into other harmful situations. Keeping your dog under your control also helps ensure that it does not create a nuisance in your neighborhood. If you keep a dog on a leash to confine the dog to the property, it must be long enough to allow the dog sufficient freedom to gain access to food and water and to gain protection from the weather. All dogs and cats must display current rabies tag.

In addition to being against the Piney-Z Covenants and Restrictions, free-roaming cats endanger themselves, birds and other small wildlife. It is a life-extending practice to keep your cat indoors and it is a gesture of goodwill toward your neighbors. Here are a few reasons to make your cat an indoor-only pet:

- Cats have deep-seated hunting instincts. Keeping them indoors gives birds and small wildlife a chance to thrive.
- Indoor cats are protected from direct contact with unvaccinated animals.
- The soil in gardens or yards can harbor diseases spread by unvaccinated animals and may contain harmful gardening chemicals.
- Outdoor cats can be run over by cars or hurt by dogs or other animals that chase them.

Questions, complaints, or concerns about animals may be reported to the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center at 891-2950. The HOA has received several complaints about nuisance animals. We can solve this problem ourselves by being courteous neighbors and good pet owners.

Piney-Z CDD

Property Manager

Lance Rogers 656-4007
lance-piney-z@comcast.net

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10am-6pm
Fridays 10am - mid-afternoon
or by appointment

Board Members

Ed Livingston, Chair
(850) 914-3242

Jim Ward, District Manager
(954) 753-5841

Jan Bridges
Grace Dansby
Kim Murphy
Sam Diconcillio

CDD Corporate Offices

10300 NW 11 Manor
Coral Springs, FL 33071
(954) 753-0380

Upcoming CDD Board Meeting:

Monday, January 10, 2005 at
1:00pm in the Lodge.

Closest Post Office

Inside the BP station on the corner of Apalachee Parkway and Southwood Plantation Road.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-6pm, Saturday 8am-3pm

Collection: Monday-Friday at 4pm, Saturday at 10am

Payment: Cash and Check only, ATM available

Services:

- Expressmail
- Domestic/International Mail
- Insured Mail
- Certified/Registered Mail
- Return Receipt
- COD
- Money Orders
- Stamps and packing supplies



The History of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a non-religious African American holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. It is celebrated for seven days: December 26 - January 1.

Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966. After the Watts riots in Los Angeles, Dr. Karenga searched for ways to bring African-Americans together as a community. He founded US, a cultural organization, and started to research African "first fruit" (harvest) celebrations. Karenga combined aspects of several different harvest celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. The principles, called the Nguzo Saba (seven principles in Swahili) are values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols which represent values and concepts reflective of African culture. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.

The candle-lighting ceremony each evening provides the opportunity to gather and discuss the meaning of Kwanzaa. The first night, the black candle in the center is lit (and the principle of umoja/unity is discussed). One candle is lit each evening and the appropriate principle is discussed.

KWANZAA



The History of Hanukkah

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights, starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November-December on the Gregorian calendar). In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication." The holiday commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C.E. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C.E. the Jews' holy Temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, activities forbidden to Jews. The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead. Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword and killed the man, then killed the officer. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers. Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

About a year after the rebellion started, Mattathias died. Before his death, he put his brave son Judah Maccabee in charge of the growing army. After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Greek army, despite having fewer men and weapons.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy Temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

HANUKKAH

