

Master Gardeners of Bergen County December 2020 – mid-month update

Renew your membership for 2021, please

If you haven't already done so, please send your 2021 dues of \$20 to Terri Pegg. The MG of BC relies on your membership dues to keep the organization running. Click here for the [form](#), which is available on the home page of our [website](#).

Print and complete the form, and send with your check for \$20, made payable to the MG of BC. Mail to Terri Pegg, 54 W. Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607. Donations are always welcome if you'd like to include an additional amount above the \$20 dues. Thank you in advance.

Suggestions for the holiday season . . .



Dress your window boxes for the winter

When planting my containers, I think “thriller, filler, and spiller.” This box contains items harvested from my garden — assorted evergreens, hydrangea, and callicarpa (because of the beautiful purple berries). Add a few white or red painted twigs from a garden center as a thriller. This height will still allow a view from the inside. I've added a string of miniature lights for the holidays. This arrangement will last until spring when I'll replace the contents with pansies for some early color. Around Mother's Day I plant for the summer season.

- Janet Schulz, Class of 1988

Peperomia – foliage for the holidays

Bruce Crawford, program leader in home and public horticulture at Rutgers, has chosen peperomia as his December plant of the month.

By Bruce Crawford

December is undoubtedly best known for the holidays, family gatherings, and festivities that invariably include decorating the homestead with colorful plants. The plant most frequently used of course is the poinsettia. I like poinsettias, but for the past few years I have been discussing plants that provide holiday cheer while continuing to improve in size and appearance as the year to come, or better yet the years to come, pass. One group of plants that I have greatly enjoyed as colorful houseplants are species of the genus *Peperomia*, commonly called Radiator Plants...

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.



Rutgers University photo
Peperomia clusiifolia 'Tricolor'

Webinars

Dec. 16, noon-1 pm: Penn State Extension sponsors Pennsylvania Beer Culture. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Dec. 17, 5-6 pm: Duke Farms sponsors Don't Wait Until 2040. Discover how you can witness this once-every-20-year-event where Jupiter and Saturn will be visible. \$10. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Dec. 17, 7 pm: Fine Gardening sponsors Truly Tough Shade Plants. Free. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Jan. 21, 7 pm: Fine Gardening sponsors New Plants That Are Showing Promise. Registration information to come.

Feb. 18, 7 pm: Frelinghuysen Arboretum sponsors virtual plant sale preview. Free. Click [here](#) to register.

Coming in 2021

University of Illinois Extension: Four Seasons Gardening [webinar series](#); schedule to come.

Philadelphia Flower Show: June 5-13. FDR Park, outdoors for the first time in its history. Click [here](#) for information and tickets. The theme for the 2021 show is Habitat: Nature's Masterpiece.

This and that

News from Donna Karpel, Class of 2013

The daughter of Donna Karpel, former chair of volunteer records, recently had a heart attack and is recovering in Baltimore, MD. Donna recently sold her home in Ramsey and relocated to Florida's west coast. She'd love to hear from you. Contact Donna at donna9189@gmail.com.



Free to a good home

If you're interested in this free garden cart, contact [Miriam Taub](#), Class of 2011. You will have to pick it up in Teaneck.

Next MG of BC meeting: Jan. 26

Event suspensions and site closures for 2020

All in-person events, classes, programs, club meetings, and other group activities organized by or under the auspices of Rutgers Cooperative Extension have been suspended through 2020. This includes all MG meetings and events. MGs are not required to submit volunteer hours for 2020.