

Newton County Ag Scene

January/February 2020

Deb Arseneau, Interim CED,
Extension Educator, HHS



Upcoming Calendar Dates

For questions and registration contact
the Extension Office at 219-285-8620 ext. 2800

Illiana Vegetable Grower's Symposium

January 7, 8:00 am, Teibel's Family Restaurant,
Schererville

For more information visit: puext.in/IVGS

Must register by January 3 Cost - \$35.00

Women's Enrichment Series Meeting 3

January 9, 6:00 pm, Old Colonial Inn, Kentland
(pre-registration was required)

Sustaining County Fairs, Drake Babcock,
Newton County Fair Association

Farming Together: Enhancing Your Worth as a Farm Business Partner

Succession Planning 2-Night Program

January 30 - 5:00 pm & **February 27** - 6:00 pm

Jasper County Library, Rensselaer

\$50.00 for first 4 family members

Register online at www.cvent.com/d/ghqwjy

Indiana Hort Conference and Expo

February 11-13

Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel, Indianapolis

Visit www.IndianaHortConference.org for more details and
registration information

2020 City Farmer Programs

Downtown Lounge - Kentland, IN - 6:30 pm - \$50.00

January 15 - Bryan Overstreet, Purdue Extension
Farm Stress Management

February 19 - Dr. Darcy Telenko, Purdue University
Tar Spot and Fungicide Use

March 18 - The Nature Conservancy
Update on the Buffalo Farm

Top Farmer Conference

January 9-10, Beck Ag Center, West Lafayette

Visit [https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/program/
top-farmer-conference-2020/](https://ag.purdue.edu/commercialag/home/program/top-farmer-conference-2020/) for more
information and to register

Upcoming PARP Meetings

January 14 - EZ Ag, LLC Grower meeting, Farmhouse
Restaurant at Fair Oaks Farms, 8:00 am, RSVP to Bryan
Overstreet, Jasper County CES, 219-866-5741

February 27—Harry O's Restaurant, Cedar Lake, 7:45 am,
RSVP to Lake County CES, 219-755-3240

Midwest Women In Agriculture Conference

February 19-20

Horizon Convention Center, Muncie

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
NEWTON COUNTY

Garden Gifts for Valentine's Day

Yard and Garden News: Winter Gardening Stories by Rosie Lerner

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and many will be searching for a special gift for that special someone. Why not say it with flowers?

Nothing conveys your warm valentine feelings like cut flowers, particularly roses. But their elegant beauty fades fast. So if you're looking for something that will last a little longer, there are several potted plants that will fit the bill.

Cyclamen is made for the occasion with its heart-shaped leaves adorned by delicate flowers of white, or shades of pink, red or lavender. The flowers have a striking form, likened to butterflies, birds in flight and even falling stars, depending on who is doing the looking. And if the plants weren't already attractive enough, the leaves are finely detailed with silvery or light green markings.

Cyclamen are most often stocked in large, showy sizes but miniature cyclamen are also available. Look under the leaves and choose plants with the largest numbers of flower buds. To enjoy their beauty well into spring, provide cyclamen with bright light and cool temperatures – about 65 degrees F during the day and even cooler at night, if possible. Water thoroughly when the top layer of soil begins to feel dry to the touch.

An azalea in bloom is sure to drive away the winter blahs. Plants are available in a wide range of colors, including white, pink, salmon, crimson, magenta, orange and even bi-colored forms. Potted florist's azaleas usually bear large blossoms, up to 3 inches across. Although florist's azaleas are not hardy outdoors in Indiana, they can be placed outdoors in summer. Water thoroughly when the top of the soil is just beginning to dry. Placement in a sunny east or west window is ideal for indoors, and like cyclamen, cool temperatures are a must.

Calceolaria, also known as pocketbook plant, bears unusual, pouch-like flowers that inspire its common name. Flower color ranges from red to maroon and from bronze to yellow, and the texture appears soft and rich, like velvet.

Cineraria produces a striking mass of small, daisy-like flowers, in rich shades of pink, red, blue and violet, all with bold white centers. Calceolaria and Cineraria are cared for much the same. Again, keep them cool to prolong flowering and place in bright, indirect light. Water as the top soil begins to dry, and avoid splashing water on leaves, especially flowers of calceolaria as they will spot easily.

Plants don't have to be flowering to be a good valentine messenger. String of hearts, or Ceropegia, is a trailing vine plant that, as you might guess from its name, has heart-shaped leaves borne on long, thread-like stems. The thick succulent leaves are dark green with whitish veins for contrast. Although the plants do bear interesting pink or purplish tube-shaped flowers, they are quite small and don't provide much of a show. A sunny window is best for Ceropegia, but it will tolerate lower light intensity. Allow the top soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Whatever your choice of gift, be sure to have the sales clerk wrap your plant for protection from cold winter weather. Plants can be injured by even a brief period of freezing, so keep the car warm, and make the florist your last stop before going home.

