



Home, Health & Garden Line®

Greetings!

Here's hoping that 2016 finds you happy, healthy, and warm while Old Man Winter is having a blast outside! It's the perfect time to bring a few houseplants home from the store to green up your indoor space—just be sure your conditions are right for them. Then, turn your attention to safety precautions for your family. Winter weather can be wild and woolly, and there's no need for you to be caught off guard. Once you're equipped, you can cuddle up with a warm cup of cocoa and dream about the sunny days to come.

Jerry Baker

In the News...

Talk about the shape of things to come! A design studio in London called Studio Ayaskan has developed a plant container that expands right along with the plant that's growing inside it. The pot unfolds like origami to allow for the plant's growing roots. The designers are still working on a way to get the concept to a store near you. <http://bit.ly/1CFaN96>

“There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues.”

—Hal Borland

This Season's Hot Topic:

'Tis the season for happy houseplants!

Your green indoor pals need lots of humidity for good growth. So mist-spray your leafy plants at least every other day. Use weak tea water, which you can make by soaking a used tea bag and 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid in a gallon of warm water until the mix is light brown.

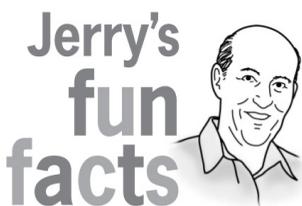
Need to raise the humidity around a single, special houseplant? Set it on a shallow saucer or pie tin filled with small pebbles, then add enough water to almost reach the top of the pebbles. Add more water every few days to replace the water that evaporates.

Houseplants are exposed to all sorts of indoor pollutants that can block leaf pores and make it hard for the plants to grow. So treat 'em to a terrific tonic that'll turn all of your indoor plants into clean, green, growing machines! →

INDOOR CLEAN-UP TONIC

- 1 tbsp. of dishwashing liquid
- 1 tbsp. of antiseptic mouthwash
- 1 tsp. of ammonia
- 1 tsp. of instant tea granules
- 1 qt. of warm water

Mix these ingredients in a bucket, and pour into a handheld sprayer. Liberally mist-spray your houseplants, and wipe off any excess with a clean, dry cloth. Your plants will enjoy this refreshing shower!



When it came to watering houseplants, my Grandma Putt always said that there's good water and bad water. The best water, she said, is rain or melted snow. And the worst water? You guessed it—the stuff straight out of the tap. The good news is that you can turn ordinary tap water into plant-friendly water by adding a layer of agricultural charcoal to the top of the soil in your plants' pots. It'll filter out additives like chlorine and fluoride, making the water perfect for your plants. →



Check out our gallery of DIY videos at www.jerrybaker.com/how-to-videos to get the most out of your hose-end sprayers, aerating lawn sandals, and more!

Mellow the Yellow

To neutralize odors and remove yellow or brownish pet urine stains on your carpet, mattress, or upholstery, give this potion a try. Just be sure to test it first in an inconspicuous spot (like under a seat cushion) to make sure the peroxide doesn't bleach the color out of the fabric.

1. Soak up the urine, then wet the stained area thoroughly with a mixture of 1 cup of white vinegar and 1 cup of water.
2. Blot with paper towels until it's damp, not wet, and then sprinkle about 1 cup of baking soda liberally over the stained area.
3. Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of hydrogen peroxide with 1 teaspoon of dishwashing liquid and pour it over the baking soda. Work it in with a scrub brush until the baking soda is dissolved and the mixture penetrates the fabric or carpet fibers. Allow it to dry, and then vacuum up the residue.

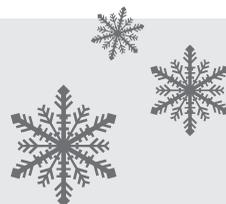
If you still see a stain after the fabric is dry, repeat the treatment.

JAW-DROPPING DISCOVERY

Each winter, thousands of people die from carbon monoxide poisoning and from fires caused by fireplaces and home-heating systems. So in early fall, have your furnace inspected by an HVAC pro, and get your fireplace professionally cleaned and your chimney linings checked. Make sure your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are in good working order, and put fire extinguishers in the kitchen and every room that has a fireplace or woodstove. Burn only thoroughly dried hardwoods, and never toss cardboard, paper, or trash of any kind into either a woodstove or an open fireplace.

The Secret to a Safe and Sane Winter Is...

Do yourself and your family a favor: If you live in an area that gets even occasional snow and ice storms, gear up long before the season's first flakes begin to fall. Here's what you need:



- Basic cleaning and first-aid supplies
- Battery-powered radio and/or television
- Candles and matches
- Emergency heating source
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Heating fuel, such as oil for your furnace and extra wood for your fireplace or woodstove
- Food, water, and medications—both Rx and OTC—for all people and pets in your household (FEMA recommends that you have a two-week supply)
- Home-entertainment options that don't require electric power, such as books, board games, playing cards, sketchpads, and jigsaw puzzles

That's not all, folks!

Check out www.jerrybaker.com for fantastic features like:

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with what's new in gardening, health care, and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and thugs in your home and garden.
- ▶ How-to videos to guide you through the growing season.
- ▶ Jerry's favorite tips and tonics—you're just a click away from a super solution!