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Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Good
growing**



With the holidays on the horizon, amaryllis have arrived in stores and gardens centers. Whether you buy one for yourself or receive one as a gift, check out this week's blog to learn about how to care for amaryllis and how you can get them to rebloom next year. On this week's podcast, we chat with Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator Bronwyn Aly about growing plants in high tunnels.

How to take care of amaryllis and get them to rebloom

Along with evergreens and poinsettias, another sign that the holidays are approaching is the appearance of amaryllis in stores. Whether you're buying them as gifts or for yourself, these relatively carefree plants are a great way to add a splash of color indoors.

Many of the amaryllis plants available this time of year come pre-potted and are ready to go. However, if you buy an unpotted amaryllis bulb, there are a few things you need to do to get it growing and off to a good start... [Read More](#)

**How to take care
of amaryllis**
and get them to rebloom!

**Good
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Podcast: High Tunnel Production with Bronwyn Aly

On this week's podcast, we chat with University of Illinois Extension Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator Bronwyn Aly as she discusses growing in high tunnels at the Dixon Springs Research center. We talk about what types of crops she's growing, how growing in a high tunnel differs from growing crops traditionally, as well as some of her other work in Southern Illinois... [Listen here](#)

You can see our smiling faces and one of the high tunnels over on YouTube! [Watch here](#)

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What's More Sustainable: Real or fake Christmas trees? - There has been much debate over which Christmas tradition is more sustainable- cut Christmas trees or fake Christmas trees. Many in support of cut trees balk at the use of synthetics (oil) to create a replica of something natural. While on the other side, fake Christmas tree groups nearly faint at the sight of a perfectly good evergreen being chopped down. So what does the research say?

Christmas Tree Selection - If you go the cut tree route when choosing a tree, ideally you want something that has a good shape, color, and branch distribution. It is also important that the tree has good needle retention to last the entire Christmas season.

Join Us for the Good Growing Winter Webinar Series!

Going Nuts over Tree Nuts! | December 8 from 3-4 pm CST

It's just nuts! Yes, it can get a bit hectic through the holiday season, but sit back and relax with the Good Growing team to learn about the wonders of growing nuts in your own backyard. The nuts that will be covered fall into the traditional holiday fare of chestnuts, walnuts, pecans, and hazelnuts. Crack your calendar and check out the dates of our other available webinars below. [Register here](#)

Wonderful Winter Interest | December 15 from 3-4 pm CST

The winter season can be a dreary time for your landscape. Join University of Illinois Extension's Good Growing team to learn what plants to use to add color, texture, and plant architecture to your winter landscape. Some plants we will be discussing include red and yellow twig Dogwood, winterberry, witch hazel, serviceberry, false cypress, and more! [Register here](#)

Dealing with Winter Wildlife Damage | January 12 from 3-4 pm CST

Wildlife can be fun to watch, but wild animals can also be very destructive to the home landscape. Join University of Illinois Extension's Good Growing team to learn about six mammals that may be causing damage to your yard or garden this winter and some tips to help protect your landscape. In this session, we will discuss deer, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, voles, and mice. [Register here](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

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