

Glenda's Kitchen Kapers

BY GLENDA BENTON



As I mentioned in my last column, I am using pumpkin recipes this month. And thanks to Joanne Subject from Limehouse I can use her pumpkin pie recipe. For those who try to avoid pastry this is an excellent choice.

Pumpkin Pie

- ¾ cup white sugar
- ½ cup baking mix (Bisquick)
- 2 tbsp butter or margarine
- 1 can evaporated milk (350 ml)
- 2 eggs
- 1 large can pumpkin (16 oz) (I used two cups of my own cooked pumpkin)
- 2 tsp vanilla
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Blend all the ingredients together. Pour into pie plates (2 nine inch pans). Bake 350°F for 50-55 minutes. Joanne has

also made it in the microwave (Medium heat for 20-25 minutes).

I had included a recipe in September 2002 for a pumpkin pie that made its own crust. It had coconut in it but I prefer this one.

Pumpkin Cheese Coffee Cake

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1¼ cups canned pumpkin (or your own pumpkin puree)
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

- ½ tsp vanilla
- 2 ¼ cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt

In a large mixing bowl, beat sugar, eggs, pumpkin, oil and vanilla. Combine the flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt; add to egg and pumpkin mixture and mix well. Pour into a greased 9" x 13" baking dish.

- Filling**
- 1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tbsp sugar

Beat the filling until smooth and drop by tablespoons over batter; cut through batter with a knife and swirl.

Topping

- ¾ cup flaked coconut
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ ground cinnamon

Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over top. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

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The really happy man is the one who can enjoy the scenery when he has to make a detour.

Giving You the Dirt

BY SEAN JAMES, N.P.D.

Bedtime for Begonias



Those of you who are true gardeners are, no doubt, in denial. Therefore, I feel I must point out to you that winter...is just around the corner. There are certain things that should be done before the snow flies and others that should wait until spring.

Things which should be done now include removing perennial weeds such as grasses & dandelions since they will only grow larger over the winter. Put a good four-inch edge on the flowerbeds to stop the turf from invading the garden. Remember that grasses grow all winter.

If it is a dry October, evergreens such as Rhododendrons and Yew should be given a good deep watering to help make it through the winter. Winds dry out the leaves and the plants cannot take up more water. Rumour has it that many of the plants that died last winter died because of a lack of water the previous fall.

Debate rages on regarding whether or not to cut down the perennials in the fall or in the spring.



Cutting everything back may help remove shelter for pests that overwinter in the crowns of the plants. It definitely helps with sanitation, controlling diseases such as powdery mildew. For many folks, just having the garden all neat for the winter is a big deal.

Personally, I think those who denude the garden pre-winter are missing out on great visual opportunities. Granted, herbaceous (those which die back to the ground) peonies and tall bearded iris should be cut down to help control disease as perhaps should summer phlox. Tall-bearded Iris leaves should be cut to a six inch fan and remove dead leaves. However, so many perennials have great winter interest from seed heads and how they hold the snow. The variety to be had from purple coneflowers, black-eyed susans, ornamental grasses, stonecrops, Siberian iris, Astilbes and so many more seems to good to just throw into the composter.

There is also a very solid argument for leaving shelter for predatory insects such as the ground beetle, ladybugs and praying mantis. These are your friends in the garden which work all season to keep pests such as slugs and aphids under control and all they need from you is a home.

Do you want to ADD to the homeless bug problem? DO YOU? I thought not!

But seriously folks...another great reason to leave perennials

standing through the winter is that they protect themselves from winter winds both by being their own windbreak and by holding snow as insulation over their crowns. Chrysanthemums will be much more likely to overwinter if left standing until spring.

Seedheads are also an excellent source of food for birds throughout the long winter.

Come spring, which, I assure you, will be here before we know it, simply take a pair of hedge shears and cut the perennials to the ground or to any new leaves that are emerging. Rake the detritus out onto a waiting tarp and haul it to the compost pile. (You do have some sort of composter, don't you?) Forget about fiddly secateurs and a bucket. Leap in! Hack! Destroy! It's the only chance we get all season and it's fast and efficient and comes with a great sense of accomplishment. Try to do this before the bulbs start to emerge. Most gardens can look great in one morning.

For now, brace yourself. Winter's almost here.

Sean James is the president of Fern Ridge Landscaping and can be reached at: 905-876-4852

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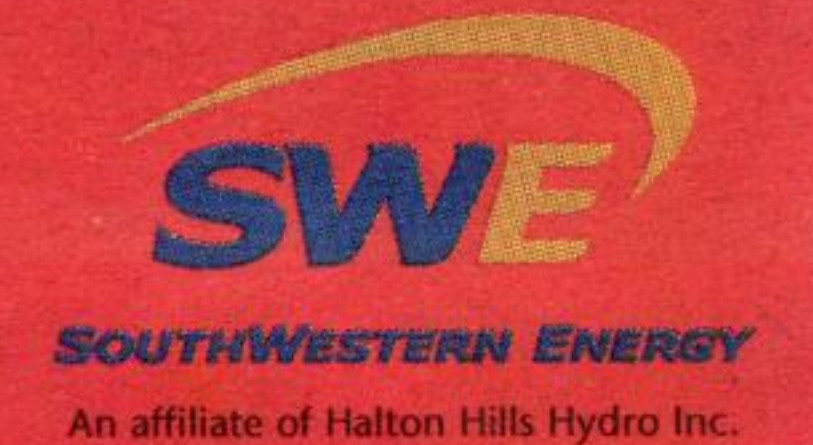
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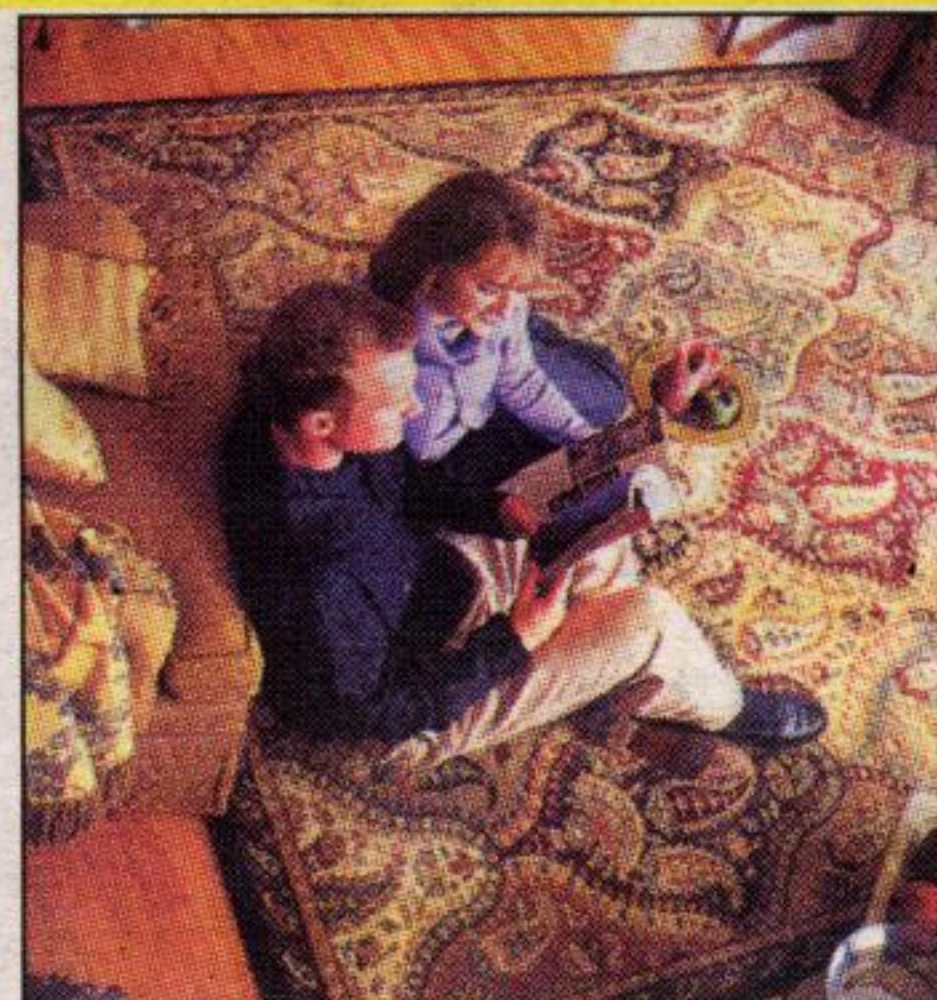
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