

January 2011 Newsletter Info

Tip of the Month:

Don't Forget to Feed the Birds...

Winter months can be long and cold for our birds (and ourselves!). Keep your feeders full to help the birds make it through the colder season. To provide good energy and bulk, choose Black Oil Sunflower seeds and nuts. It's a great time to enjoy the birds that come to visit!

What's New at the Garden Centre:

Heated bird baths are the latest winter garden craze! We set one up at the garden centre, added a water wiggler to it, and it only took the birds a few days to discover it. A warm spot to bath is a welcome surprise for our feathered friends this time of year. They come in free standing styles as well as ones that attach to your deck railing.

Monthly To Do List:

- Use Eco-Traction for icy spots on your sidewalks and driveway. This is a natural product that won't harm your plants and grass, yet quite effective in creating grip
- Ensure that all the snow from sidewalks and driveways is placed around your trees and shrubs (especially evergreens) to give them added insulation
- Head down to Spruce It Up and check out the 2011 seed selection
- Herbs are easy to grow and can be seeded year round. It's nice to have fresh herbs growing in a sunny kitchen window!
- Read all of the gardening magazine and make plans for Spring. Now is the time to book a designer and/or a contractor to complete your landscaping projects. Email landscaping@siugc.ca for more information

Plant of the Month:

Peace Lily - *Spathiphyllum clevelandii*

Needing only a low light environment, the Peace Lily is the perfect plant for winter time. It is quite a dense plant with plenty of glossy green foliage and dramatic white blossoms. The Peace Lily grows well under fluorescent light, making it a good choice for an office plant. Do not let the soil dry (watering once a week is a good rule of thumb), fertilize it once a month during the growing season with Schultz Complete and clean their leaves periodically with a damp cloth. A very rewarding plant, requiring very little care.

Product of the Month:

Schultz Fungus Gnat Spray

Are those little black flies in your houseplants driving you crazy? These little critters are called Fungus Gnats and thrive in moist soil. I have had great success in eradicating them with Schultz's Fungus Gnat ready to use spray. Spray the leaves of the plant to the point of run-off (do this in a well ventilated area). You can also spray the soil surface. To prevent fungus gnats in the future, try watering your plant from the bottom, keeping

the soil surface dry. Schultz Fungus Gnat spray also works for Aphids, Mites, mealy bugs and white flies.