



BRR ALLIANCE INC.
Building Bridges to a Brilliant Future



Garden Patch



Alpine Wonders by Matthew Bucholz

There are many perennials that can be used to add a touch of beauty to a late fall garden. The annuals die off and many other plants struggle in harsh weather. One of my favorite varieties of hardy plants are Alpine perennials: grasses and shrubs. Alpine plants are used to harsh conditions—on high mountain peaks these plants endure limited water supply, at or below freezing temperatures for a good portion of the year, and frozen or near-frozen soil for a majority of the year. Some nice alpine plants to have in your garden are: Glory-of-the-snows (*Chionodoxa*) which blooms beautifully as the snow begins to melt in spring. Wood Anemones (*anemone quinquefolia*) add a cute touch with a bright white flower in early spring.

Fast Fact: Most seeds need a cool latency period for best results; if you have unused seed store it in a cool place before seed starting in the spring.

Volume 1 –2012 Jan 2012



Glory-of-the-snow peeking through the snow!
 Photo by Ruhrfach

Events of Interest

1/21 10AM-Memo Nursery
 Saving Your Landscape (res. Required) class on protecting your garden from winter pests. pestifications if you are interested in a community garden please

How to Save Geraniums Over Winter by Sharon Adler



Geraniums add a beautiful accent to your garden.

For more information
 please contact us at
info@BRRAlliance.org.

Geraniums are hardy and so, they can survive a winter indoors as houseplants. If you already have your geraniums in pots from outdoors, you can transfer them easily.

Before the first fall frost, use garden shears and trim off the top half of growth. Examine the bottom side of the geranium, trimming any bacterial or insect damage which will appear as brown spots. If only a few leaves show damage, remove them. If the majority of the leaves have been impacted, it's better to find another geranium with healthier bottom growth for bringing indoors.

Transplant the geranium you've selected into a clean pot with a drainage hole and a saucer base. Place 2" of perlite or gravel at the base to ensure adequate drainage and fill the pot halfway with fresh potting soil. Gently place roots of geranium in soil and add more soil to cover and stabilize the roots. Water until you see a trickle of water coming through the saucer. Empty the saucer after watering; geraniums won't bloom if their roots sit in water for long periods of time. Don't overwater, if the soil feels cool and damp, don't water. Water about 2x per week.

Keep your plant in a cool spot indoors, 60-75 degrees. Place the geranium where it has access to 6-8 hours of light per day. Once new growth appears, fertilize the soil with 1 tsp of water soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer dissolved in a gallon of water once a month.

You can use fluorescent tube lighting if the days are too short. Position the tube one foot from the geranium for four evening hours. Enjoy the lovely foliage and beautiful blooms.

Replant your geraniums outside when danger of spring frost has passed, generally by Memorial Day weekend in our Buffalo area.