

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Everyone has a neighbor, babysitter, friend, work associate, postal carrier, fellow club member, or someone they want to remember at the holidays, but do not want to “break the bank” to do so. Treasures from the garden are often exchanged without fanfare—seeds bulbs tucked into ho-hum bags or envelopes. But with the holidays coming, now is the perfect time to dress them up a bit and delight everyone on your list with a gift that keeps on giving and giving.

Plant some **paperwhite or narcissus bulbs, amaryllis, or tulips** in a shallow bowl or pot of gravel with the tops peeking out and they can be forced to bloom in time for the holiday giving and table centerpieces. After tops of bulbs begin to grow and get 6 to 8 inches tall, tie a red ribbon around the whole groups of shoots about 3 to 4 inches above soil level. This gives foliage and blooms enough support to keep them upright until blooms are spent for the season as well as adds a decorative touch to the plant.

A trendy way to give bulbs and seed and other small gardening items is to choose a small **terra cotta pot** and top it with an inverted **clay saucer** to make a cap or lid. Tuck the items you want to give away inside the pot with the “lid”. Green garden twine or raffia tied around entire container is the perfect finishing touch—no need to gift wrap! When giving unplanted seeds or bulbs, remember to include planting and care instructions in the pot for maximum enjoyment of your gift.

Stop by any Mike’s Garden Centers and pick up a **container of mixed plantings in holiday décor, cyclamen, Christmas cactus, or poinsettia** in red, pink or white for those party holiday get-togethers that you need to take a little hostess gift to. We can make your offering look festive and bright you and your hosts will remember you long after the holidays for the gift that kept on giving!





Decorate doorsteps and containers this season with beautiful fall colors of ornamental cabbage, kale, pansies and mums and other fall perennials from our greenhouses this season.



We are never going to give up on looking for Sammy. If anyone has any information or has seen him, please call Mike's Garden Center 817-293-8800. He was last seen in the Edgecliff area near the Fort Worth store. **There is a reward for Sammy.** It is time for his yearly check-up and he is missed dearly.