

# In the garden with Shobha Vanchiswar



October 31, 2008

## **This, that and the other**

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After planting the spring bulbs, the wait for them to bloom seemed far too long. So off I went to the nursery to obtain bulbs for indoor forcing. I bought muscari, hyacinths and paperwhites. The last do not require pre-cooling and can be started right away. I have thus begun my winter bulb season.

I also intended to buy a couple of amaryllis bulbs to add to my existing amaryllis collection. Each year I pot up new ones. But boy was I shocked at the prices! If I thought the prices were high last year, then this year they have scaled Everest. I simply could not bring myself to buy any. Instead, I'll make do with what I have and if at some point later in the season prices come down, then I'll get some amaryllis. I'd be interested to see if folks buy all the stock at such a high price.

For now, my paperwhites are coming along nicely and, the hyacinth and muscari bulbs are filling up half a shelf in the refrigerator. Come January, they will be taken out a few at a time and forced in succession. I can't wait. And I'm trusting my "old" amaryllis to put on their annual show.

## **Shhh, the garden is sleeping**

The garden has been put to bed. Whew! That to-do list that I prepared had

several readers, including my husband, rather overwhelmed by its length. They were right. It was long, but everything on it needs doing! I've been working through it too, which means I haven't done much reading or bon-bon eating either. That's why we have the winter months to rest and dream.

The pots have been cleaned and put away. The largest pots are wrapped in plastic and burlap and remain in place. Tender plants are in protected areas, like the basement and the greenhouse. Perennials have been cut back; new perennials and bulbs planted; debris of annuals tossed on the compost heap; grass reseeded; mulch spread; etc. Some perennials that I'd ordered have not yet arrived, so I've secured upturned pots to mark the spots where they will go. I'm hoping the plants will be delivered very soon. It is already later than I'd like.

Finally, happy Halloween! It's time to address any leaves left for effect. Let the raking begin.

### **Late fall activities for gardeners: exhibits and lectures**

"Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum," is currently on display at the New York Botanical Gardens through November 16. For information and tickets, check their web site at <http://nybg.org/kiku08/>.

Mark Wednesday, November 12, on your calendar. Bob Hyland will lecture at the Chappaqua Library at 7:30 p.m. on how to color your winter garden. This talk is presented by The Friends of Rocky Hills and is part of the Rocky Hills Lecture series. In the past, these lectures have been well attended and much appreciated. I know I'll be there.









