

## NOVEMBER TEA BUDS

### Plant; The Thanksgiving Cactus

If you also have a Christmas Cactus, it is good to display both, side by side. Participants can then see the difference between the plants.

### Item; The turkey

Displaying ceramic, wood, or other decorative turkeys around the plants makes a very attractive table setting.

Table; Look for appropriate cloth table cover at the second-hand store. I found one with pumpkins and fall leaves and I use it for all the fall months.

Menu; Apple Cinnamon Tea, Orange Spice, or Chai are all good choices for the beverage. A good sweet treat would be cranberry scones or a savory treat of turkey salad tea sandwiches.

## THANKSGIVING CACTUS

There are three holiday cacti; the Christmas Cactus, the Thanksgiving Cactus, and the Easter Cactus. They are differentiated by the shape of their leaves.

The Christmas Cactus has rounded edges on its leaves while the Thanksgiving Cactus has sharply toothed edges. The Easter Cactus has a prominent ridge down the center of its leaves.

The Thanksgiving Cactus prefers indirect light. When it is “resting” (not in bloom) it is best to let the soil dry out before watering.

In September provide 12 to 14 hours of darkness and place it in a cool room. If necessary you can put the plant in a closet or cover it with a paper bag to provide darkness. This will help the buds to form.

Once there are buds, provide fertilizer and a spot with lots of indirect light.

Temperatures that are too high or light that is too low will cause the buds to fall off.

A Thanksgiving Cactus will grow for many years so you may need to replot it more than once. Being root bound, however, will urge the plant to produce more flowers.

Flowers of the Thanksgiving Cactus can be pink, rose, white, red, or yellow. They will open in mid-November and bloom until after Christmas.

These cactus do not grow on a desert. They are found in the treetops in Brazil, along with orchids.

In Europe where Thanksgiving is not a common celebration, this cactus is known as the Crab Cactus.

## FACTS ABOUT TURKEYS

Turkeys are getting bigger. In 1980 the average turkey weighed less than 19 lbs. The average turkey slaughtered in 2014 weighed 29.8 lbs.

Minnesota and North Carolina are the nation's leading turkey producing states. Minnesota leads with over 46 million turkeys raised last year.

Turkeys (the frozen kind) are cheaper around the holidays because so many of them go on the market. From 200 to 2012, the price of turkey fell almost 10%.

Turkeys are known to exhibit over 20 distinct vocalizations and each turkey has a different unique voice. This is how turkeys recognize each other.

Turkeys establish social bonds with each other and are very affectionate.

Turkeys have outstanding geography skills. They can learn the precise details of an area over 1,000 acres in size.

Male turkeys puff up their feathers and spread their elaborate feathers to attract a mate. Baby turkeys are called poults and they will flock with their mother for a full year.

Wild turkeys are able to fly up to 55 mph for short distances. Domestic turkeys cannot fly because they have been bred to be a much heavier bird.

Turkeys have between 5,000 and 6000 feathers. They have areas of red, purple, green, copper, bronze, and gold colors.

The area of bare skin on a turkey's throat and head vary in color depending on stress or excitement. When excited a male turkey's head turns blue and when he is ready to fight it turns red.

Turkeys and chickens evolved more than 45 million years apart, turkeys being the oldest of the two.

The wild turkey was nearly hunted to extinction by the early 1900s when it was believed there were less than 30,000 birds left in America. Today the numbers are back up to over 7 million.

Wild turkeys roost in the tops of tall trees at night.

Male turkeys are called gobblers after the sound they make when announcing themselves to females.

An adult wild gobbler weighs 16 to 22 lbs. He has a beard of modified feathers on his chest and spurs for fighting. The dangling appendage on the face is called a snood. Female turkeys prefer gobblers with a long snood. The wattle is the red dangly bit under the chin.

Wild turkeys can run up to 25 mph.

A group of male turkeys will band together to court females but only one male will get to mate.

Ben franklin never proposed the turkey as a symbol for America but he did praise the turkey as being a much respectable bird than the eagle.

The excessively large breasts on domestic turkeys makes it impossible for them to mate. Most domestic turkeys are artificially inseminated.

A turkey's eyes are on the sides of its head giving it a visual field of 270 degrees compared to our 180 degrees. Plus they have sharp vision making it hard to catch unawares.

The largest turkey on record was bred in London and weighed in at 86 pounds.

The turkey is believed to have been sacred in ancient Mexican cultures. The Mayans and Aztecs referred to the turkey as the "great jeweled bird".

From the Butterball hotline.....

A man cut his frozen turkey in half with a chain saw and wanted to know if the oil from the chain would affect the flavor of the bird.

A first time cook called to ask about the breast meat saying her turkey had none. She was told to turn the turkey over.

Another first time cook rinsed her turkey with water and dish soap and called to ask how to get rid of the suds.

How to get a too-big turkey into a too-small oven? One man's solution; wrap the turkey in towels, put it on the floor, and stomp on it to break the bones.

To get more stupid questions, go to "the dumbest questions presented to the Butterball Hotline".

"Thanksgiving Day" by Lydia Child

Over the river and through the wood  
To grandfather's house we go  
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
Through the white and drifted snow

Over the river and through the wood  
Oh, how the wind does blow  
It stings the toes and bites the nose  
As over the ground we go

Over the river and through the wood  
To have a first rate play  
Hear the bells ring, ting-a-ling-ding  
Hurrah! For Thanksgiving day!

Over the river and through the wood  
Trot fast my dapple gray  
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound  
For this is Thanksgiving day.

Over the river and through the wood  
And straight through the barnyard gate  
We seem to go extremely slow  
It is so hard to wait

Over the river and through the wood  
Now grandmother's cap I spy  
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done? Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

SUMMER IS GONE  
AUTUMN IS HERE  
THIS IS THE HARVEST  
FOR ALL THE YEAR

CORN IN THE CRIB  
OATS IN THE BIN  
WHEAT IS ALL THRESHED  
BARLEY DRAWN IN

APPLES ARE BARRLED  
NUTS LAID TO DRY  
FROST IN THE GARDEN  
WINTER IS NIGH

FATHER IN HEAVEN  
THANK THEE FOR ALL  
WINTER AND SPRINGTIME  
SUMMER AND FALL

Lydia Avery Coonley

## NOVEMBER TEA BUDS; recipes

### Turkey Cranberry Sliders

Small slider buns (8)

Mayonnaise

8 tsp. cranberry spread (see below)

8 full slices of turkey breast cut into quarters

Baby spinach

Slice buns and spread with mayo and one teaspoon cranberry spread.

Top with greens and turkey

#### Cranberry Spread

1 cup good mayonnaise or yogurt

¼ cup of canned cranberry sauce

### Turkey Finger Sandwiches

Layer wheat bread with deli turkey, mayo, cheddar cheese, tomato slice, and greens. Top with another slice of bread, then cut into 4 strips.