

# AGGRAND® NEWS

## Go Natural With AGGRAND



This year make a New Year's resolution to replace your present fertilizers with AGGRAND Natural Liquid Fertilizers. Some of you may be using Scott's™, Miracle Grow™, Peter's™ or other products for your lawns, plants and gardens. AGGRAND has a full line of natural fertilizers to fulfill all your fertilizer needs.

AGGRAND has been tested against all leading fertilizers and AGGRAND out-produces and is less expensive per application/square foot than the leading chemical fertilizer brands. Most importantly, AGGRAND is all natural, not chemical.

In a world of growing environmental awareness, AGGRAND is the natural choice of home gardeners.



## Get the Best Out of Your Christmas Tree

If you get a Christmas tree for the holiday season, you can keep it looking healthy longer by first cutting an inch or two off the bottom to expose fresh wood. This will help the tree take up water more efficiently. Add 1/2 cup sugar and 2 ounces of AGGRAND 0-0-8 Kelp and Sulfate of Potash per gallon of water in the tree well. Check it every couple of days and replenish the solution as needed. Your tree will hold its color and needles well into the new year.



## Poinsettia Revival

If you've coddled along last year's poinsettias and would like to see them color up for another holiday season, make sure that they receive 12-14 hours of darkness per day. Cover them or put them in a closet in the early evening and bring them back to the light in the morning. Feed them with a solution of 2 oz./gal. AGGRAND 4-3-3 and 1/2 oz./gal. AGGRAND Liquid Kelp and Sulfate of Potash. Begin this routine around the end of September, and they should color up pretty well by the holidays.



Soil testing is part of any fertility program, so don't forget to offer potential customers our soil-testing service. Order the G-1374 AGGRAND soil test kit. For as little as \$12.70, a basic soil analysis helps customers get vegetables and crops off to a great start with AGGRAND Natural Fertilizer products.

Send AGGRAND testimonials and suggestions to:

**AMSOIL INC.**

**Attn: AGGRAND Department**

**AMSOIL Building**

**Superior, WI 54880**

or fax us at (715) 392-5225 or (715) 392-5267



Kissing under the mistletoe has long been a part of Christmas tradition. But just what is mistletoe and how did its association with Christmas evolve?

## Mistletoe

There are two types of mistletoe. The mistletoe that is commonly used as a Christmas decoration (*Phoradendron flavescens*) is native to North America and grows as a parasite on trees from New Jersey to Florida. The other type of mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is of European origin. The Greeks and earlier peoples thought that it had mystical powers and down through the centuries it became associated with many folklore customs.

The European mistletoe is a green shrub with small, yellow flowers and white, sticky berries which are considered poisonous. It's commonly seen on apple trees but only rarely on oak. The rarer oak mistletoe was greatly venerated by the ancient Celts and Germans and used as a ceremonial plant by early Europeans.

The traditions that began with the European mistletoe were transferred to the similar American plant with the process of immigration and settlement.

From the earliest times, mistletoe has been one of the most magical, mysterious and sacred plants of European folklore. It was considered a bestower of life and fertility, a protectant against poison and an aphrodisiac.

The mistletoe of the oak was especially sacred to the ancient Celtic Druids. On the sixth night of the moon, white-robed druid priests would cut the oak mistletoe with a golden sickle. Two white bulls would be sacrificed amid prayers that the recipients of the mistletoe would prosper.

Later, the ritual of cutting the mistletoe from the oak came to symbolize the emasculation of the old king by his successor. Mistletoe was long regarded as both a sexual symbol and the "soul" of the oak. It was gathered

at both mid-summer and winter solstices, and the custom of using mistletoe to decorate houses at Christmas is a survival of the druid and other pre-Christian traditions. Mistletoe is still ceremonially plucked on mid-summer eve in some Celtic and Scandinavian countries.

During the Middle Ages and later, branches of mistletoe were hung from ceilings to ward off evil spirits. In Europe, they were placed over house and stable doors to prevent the entrance of witches.

It was also believed that the oak mistletoe could extinguish fire. This was associated with an earlier belief that the mistletoe itself could come to the tree during a flash of lightning.

In parts of England and Wales, farmers would give the Christmas bunch of mistletoe to the first cow that calved in the New Year. This was thought to bring good luck to the entire herd.

Kissing under the mistletoe is first found associated with the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites. Mistletoe was believed to have the power of bestowing fertility, and the dung from which the mistletoe was thought to arise was also said to have "life-giving" power.

In Scandinavia, mistletoe was considered a plant of peace, under which enemies could declare a truce or warring spouses kiss and make-up.

In some parts of England, the Christmas mistletoe is burned on the twelfth night, lest all the boys and girls who have kissed under it never marry.

And for those who wish to observe the correct etiquette, a man should pluck a berry when he kisses a woman under the mistletoe. When the last berry is gone, there should be no more kissing.

## Stoke Up the Compost Heap This Fall

If you're like many of us, your garden and other growing things have created a bonanza of excess organic matter that needs to be dealt with in some way. Folks who don't have space for a compost heap can bag up the leaves and set them on the curb for the organically destitute, who tend to be on the lookout for such things.

If you do have a compost heap, now is the time to incorporate all the compostable garden residues and get your heap cooking for next year's garden.

It is best to alternate hot and wet things like grass, leaves and garbage with drier, springier materials (stems, sticks, straw) in order to improve aeration and prevent compaction.

In order to keep your pile active longer, it is a good idea to sprinkle on a solution of AGGRAND 4-3-3 and Natural Liquid Lime diluted at 4 oz. per gallon of water. The lime will counteract the acidity of the leafy material and will help feed the microbes stimulated by the 4-3-3.

This, in combination with an occasional shovel full of old garden soil, should be enough to keep your compost active while the rest of the garden beds down for winter.

