November 2015

Holiday Gifts For Gardeners
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November in the Trial Garden

We had a very abundant harvest of Thai Chiles this season, with hundreds of colorful, tasty fruits per plant, and we have sun-dried many baskets of these red beauties. After drying, they will keep for months. These multi use chiles can be ground into a spicy powder, added whole to soups and stews, used in stir-fries for bright spicy heat, or crumbled up coarsely and sprinkled on pizza.

We are filling pretty red organdy bags with these tasty Thai Chiles to give away as gifts for the holidays.

Temperatures have really dropped here in the last few weeks, but our cool season herb garden is still growing vigorously, with Slo-Bolt Cilantro, Italian arugula, Parsley “Gigante Italian,” and a big bed of French Chervil.

Chervil has a delicious and delicate flavor reminiscent of parsley with a touch of sweet anise. It is really special in salads, with grilled fish, to finish many sauces or simply sprinkled over egg dishes. The lacy leaves are best harvested fresh from the garden when plants have at 8-10 leaves.

Renee’s good friend and talented potter Sue Hersberg just made this fabulous snail for us. Maybe his mighty statue will ward off any other hungry garden snails that are headed for the chervil bed!

Recipe Of The Month

Roasted Pumpkin Soup

Perfect for the holidays! Roasting the vegetables first gives this satisfying soup added depth of rich flavor.

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Best Wishes, Renee Shepherd