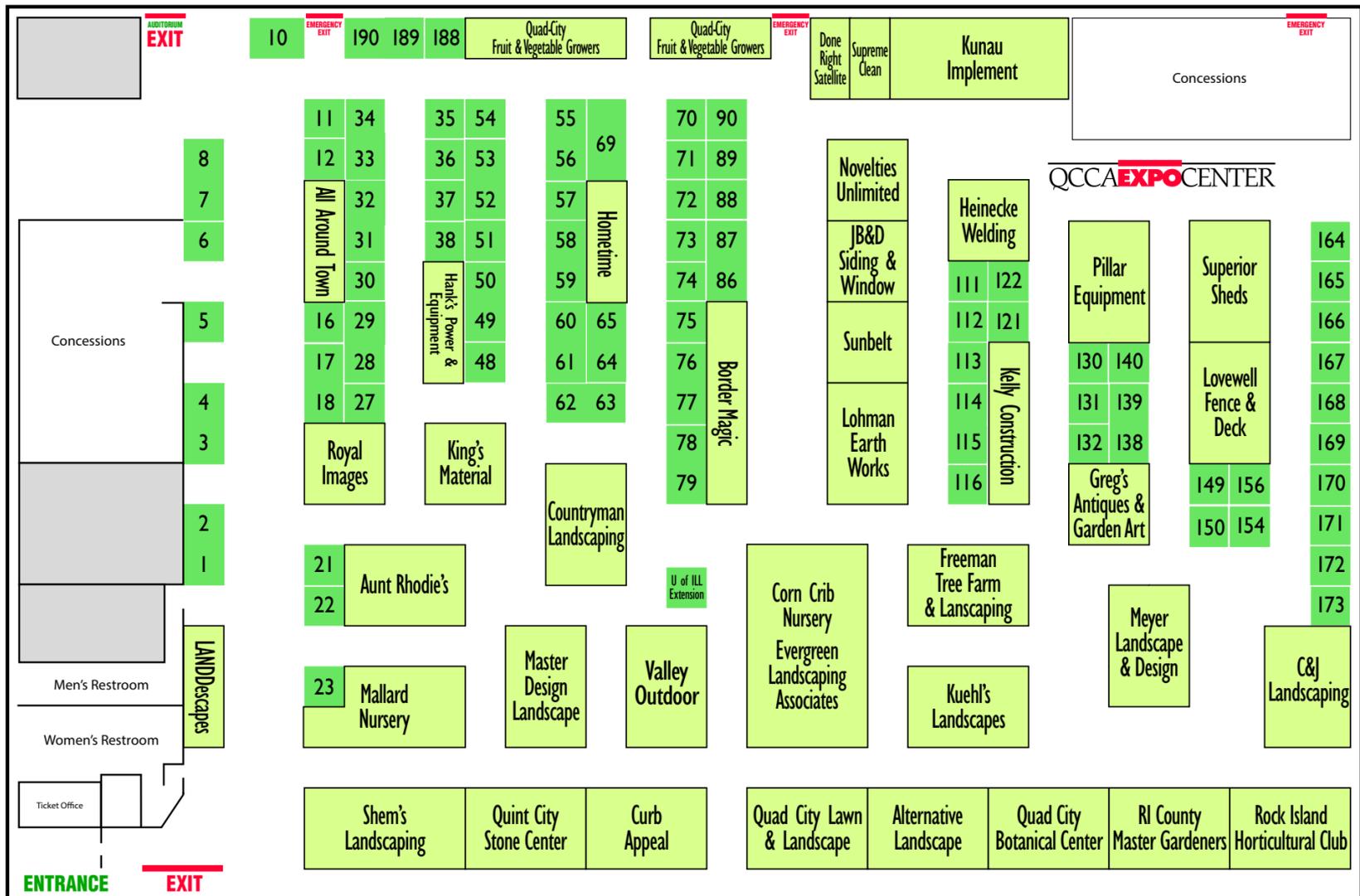




**FEATURING THE QCCA FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW: March 23-25 2018**



**Enjoy the show!**

Abundant Health Chiropractic.....58	DDD 3D Power Clean.....48	IL/IA Center for Independent Living.....140	MAR-QUI.....17-18	Renewal by Anderson.....122
Acri Company.....72-73	D&M Wooden Flowers & Vases.....116	Illowa Orchid Society.....37	Mediacom.....28-29	RIA Federal Credit Union.....75
Advantage Tree Service.....51	Davenport Horticulture Society.....131	Invisible Fence of the Quad Cities...114-115	MidAmerican Basement Systems.....64	R.I. Co. Soil & Water
All Around Town Outdoor Services.....13-15	Davey Tree.....27	Isabel Bloom.....70	Mid America Sales.....3, 4	Conservation Dist.....113
Aloe-Esta.....150	Distinctive Gardens, Inc.....16	J&D Stones.....62-63	Midwest Sales.....78-79	Royal Images.....19-20:25-26
Almond Hut.....10	Done Right Satellite.....176	JB&D Siding & Window Co. 93-94:104-105	Mississippi Valley	RZ's Dips N D'Lites.....76-77
Backyard Vinyl.....55-56	Electric Doctor.....1, 2	Jean Michaels.....154	Growers Association.....60-61	Scentsy.....188
Bath Filter.....156	Fanthe Curry.....8	Jefferson City, MO CVB.....173	Modern Woodmen of America.....67	Stained Glass Stepping Stone.....166
Beaucat Custom Embroidery.....167	Floriant Tools.....6	Kelly Construction of Dav. Inc.....117-120	Mosquito Joe Of The Quad Cities.....36	Supreme Clean.....177
Bizzy Bee Pussywillow.....164	Friends of Riverside Gardens.....74	Kings Material Inc.....43-45	My Pillows.....21	Sunbelt Rentals.....95-96:102-103
CC's Specialty Foods.....35	GC of I Gripstic	Klouda's Country Garden.....7, 8	Native Arts.....90	Superior Sheds, Inc.....144-145:160-162
Charlene Christines Creations.....33-34	(Gourdacious Creations).....168	KSCanuck LLC.....23	Nector of the Vine.....89	TSR Concrete Coatings.....49, 50
Cherrytree Kitchens.....138-139	Garden Art By Carol.....170	Kunau Implement.....178-181	Novelties Unlimited.....91-92:106-107	The Terra Pot Latch.....149
Citizens to Preserve Blackhawk Park	Greg's Antiques & Gardens.....133-136	LANDDesCAPes LLC.....22	Perfectly Posh.....59	That's Amazing.....30
Foundation.....130	Guardians Of The Prairie & Forest.....171	LeafFilter North of Illinois, Inc.....38	Phil's Phorks.....132	Thirty-One Gifts.....189-190
Classic Little Homes Unlimited	Hames Enterprises, Inc./Border Magic 81-85	LuLaRoe.....86-87	Piller Equipment.....127-129	Uncommon USA, Inc.....54
And More.....111-112	Hank's Power & Equipment.....39, 40, 41	Quad City Fruit &	QC Power Equipment, Inc.....86-87	Usborne Books & More (2).....57
CS Finish Grade & Seed.....141-143	Hardy Lawn Furniture.....31-32	Vegetable Growers.....181-187	Real Time Pain Relief.....71	Wheeler Fence Company.....17-18
Cutco Cutlery.....5	Heinecke Welding.....108-109:123-124			Whispery Vines.....11
	Hometime.....65-67			Wood Creations.....52-53

# Houseplants for the horticulturally impaired

**LEE REICH**  
Associated Press

Hints of impending spring weather might stir a desire to grow plants even in people not usually drawn in that direction. If you are one of them, yet your thumbs lack the slightest hint of green, take heart: There are houseplants even you can grow.

You'll have to forgo color if you require a truly tough houseplant. Flowering takes too much of a plant's energy, which comes from good (or at least reasonably good) growing conditions, including abundant light.

Don't look for color in leaves either, because plants with colorful leaves have them only when there's plenty of light so that they can do more with less green.

**WAYS PLANTS ARE ABUSED**

Poor light is not the only abuse you might suffer upon a houseplant. Many people forget to water them, or water them too much. Also, as plants grow, they need to be divided and repotted, or shifted to larger pots. A houseplant for the horticulturally impaired should not grow so fast that frequent repotting is necessary.

**SOME PLANTS TOLERATE ABUSE**

Yes, there are plants that can survive, and even look perky, with little light, neglectful or excessive watering, and little other care. And they're not all cacti.

Take dumbcane and spider plant, for instance. Both are hard to kill, yet keep up appearances



Succulents are good plants for non-gardeners.

**SUCCULENTS**

Succulent plants — which include but are not limited to cacti — are obvious houseplant candidates for non-gardeners. If you've killed them in the past, it was probably because of too much water, a situation easily avoided if, when you first get the plant, you repot it with an equal volume of perlite or sand mixed into the potting soil.

The perlite or sand lets water run right through the mix, making it impossible to overwater. Alternatively, repot the plant in potting mix formulated especially for succulents.

Succulents present an amazing array of shapes and textures of greenery. In that well-drained potting mix, it would be almost impossible to kill an aloe plant. Its leaves remain soft, fleshy and smooth, just as if you've been lavishing it with care.

Kalanchoe hardly looks like a desert plant, yet it survives neglect in proper style.

The same could be said for burro's tail, ideal for hanging baskets with its rosy stems swathed in fat leaves.

Jade plants respond to good conditions by growing rapidly and flowering, but they look almost the same when grown in utter neglect. Grow this succulent as a bush or a small tree. When the plant grows too large for the pot, it'll get along fine for a long time with its stems just trimmed back to whatever size you want, rather than needing to be repotted.

with little attention. Spider plant can fill its pot rapidly and send out new "babies" all over the place, but that's only with good growing conditions.

For best results, grow an all-green variety of spider plant, rather than one with white stripes in its leaves. All green spider plants, with more chlorophyll, tolerate low light better.

Geraniums also tolerate an amazing amount of abuse. They won't flower under these conditions, so in that case why not grow scented geraniums? Many have frilly foliage and, depending on the variety, their leaves carry aromas such as chocolate, rose or lemon. If in doubt about whether a geranium is thirsty, don't water. Cyperus is a houseplant whose especially graceful appearance belies its tough-as-nails constitution.

This is a water plant, closely related to papyrus, so it cannot tolerate drying out. But watering cyperus is a no-brainer; just set the pot in a deep saucer that you always keep filled with water.

## Planters: Do some research

From Page C1

are going to work best for your area, and getting to see it grow in," says Jamie Gulley of Gulley Greenhouse in Fort Collins, Colorado. So how DO you get the look of those perfect, professionally designed planters that you've envied at the garden center or on someone else's front steps?

Some tips from the experts:

**STICK YOUR FINGERTIP IN THE SOIL — YES, REALLY**

Gulley relies on this tried-and-true method of testing the dampness of potting mixture about an inch below the surface.

At the height of summer, expect to water containers daily, or even twice a day if it's dry and sunny. Water less frequently when the weather's cooler. Consider buying a self-watering product or a basic drip-irrigation system, used commonly in hot climates where plants might not survive a missed watering. Or try succulents — jade, hens and chicks, agave — that require less water.

**FERTILIZE RIGHT**

Fertilizer encourages blooms and prevents leggy shoots. But too much of it can burn up plants. And applying liquid versions or organic options like chicken manure or compost every week or two can be difficult to maintain. Too many people skip fertilizer or don't use enough, says Gulley Greenhouse owner and head grower Jan Gulley, Jamie's mother.

"It would be just like being in a prison and somebody just giving you water and no food," she says.

Slow-dissolving pellets that feed plants for several months are a favorite, but poke holes in the soil to reach the roots, she says.

Fertilizer that comes in potting-mix bags runs out after a few months — or more quickly in high heat, when frequent watering leaches soil nutrients.

Start applying additional fertilizer midsummer for spring-potted plants that use these mixtures.

**DO A LITTLE RESEARCH**

Impulse buys of gorgeous plants are inevitable, but your arrangements will be stronger if you first find some images that inspire you, says horticulturist Noelle Johnson, who runs AZ Plant Lady landscape consulting in Chandler, Arizona.

"When it comes to pots, most people like to do that themselves," she says. "That's very personal."

A nursery worker can look at the image (probably on your phone) and find those plants or ones with the same look or colors.

Some nurseries, including Gulley, offer guides on winning plant combinations by hue or growing condition. Simply pick up the suggested plants and pot them according to the diagrams. Jan Gulley suggests limiting colors and plant varieties to two or three. If the planter's too busy, the eye doesn't know where to focus: "We call them circus pots," she says.

**PICK A PLANTING STRATEGY**

One strategy is to pack the pot for a full look right away, removing plants later to avoid overcrowding, or pruning hard around July Fourth. For example, an inexpensive six-pack of pansies could supplement featured plants early in the season and be removed later.

"We want a planter to be beautiful immediately," says Richard Hentschel, a horticulture educator with the University of Illinois Extension in St. Charles. If you space plants with room to fill in,