

The Easter Bunny- By Stan Southwick



Every Easter Season I wonder how an egg laying rabbit became associated with the Christian celebration of Easter.

The exact origins of the Easter bunny are clouded in mystery. One theory is that the symbol of the rabbit stems from pagan tradition, specifically the festival of Eostre—a goddess of fertility whose animal symbol was a bunny. Rabbits, known for their energetic breeding, have traditionally symbolized fertility. Eggs are also representative of new life, and it's believed that decorating eggs for Easter dates back to the

Consultant of the Month

KGA ARCHITECTURE

Craig Forrest, project designer at KGA Architecture, has been selected as consultant of the month. We value Craig's attention to detail and open communication which leads to a smooth running project. We also appreciate Craig's understated wit which keeps us on our toes and brings enjoyment to our day. Welcome to the Consultant of the Month Club Craig! We look forward to working with you in the future... and many more smiles.

13th century. Hundreds of years ago, churches had their congregations abstain from eggs during Lent, allowing them to be consumed again on Easter. According to History.com, in the 19th century Russian high society started exchanging ornately decorated eggs—even jewel encrusted—on Easter.

But how did the Easter Bunny begin delivering eggs on American shores? According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests. Additionally, children often left out carrots for the bunny in case he got hungry from all his hopping.

So now you know... sort of.

"It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow."
— Robert H. Schuller

Favorite Flora:

Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'- Zebra Grass- By Matt Durham



Zebra Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus') is a unique plant that can add a lot of interest to a landscape throughout the year. It is a clumping grass with an arching form that grows up to 5 feet tall with its flowers extending another 2 feet above its foliage. The foliage is a rich green with horizontal yellowish-white stripes. These stripes are unique and give the plant a golden glow when reflecting the light in the early mornings and late afternoons. Zebra Grass blooms in late summer to early fall with plumes of purple and red that fade to a cream color during the winter months. Unlike many of the plants that can be grown in Las Vegas, Zebra Grass provides 4 seasons of interest. Early spring shoots are brightly colored which give way to the classic green striped foliage in the summer. Blooms show up in

early fall adding color and movement in the wind. Like most grasses the leaves will fade to a tan color in winter but if left unpruned, the plant will hold its shape and add texture and movement until the new shoots are ready in the spring.

Photo of the Month



Desert Overlook
Fortification Hill, Arizona
Stanton Southwick

Zebra Grass is best planted in full sun to partial shade, reflected heat should be avoided. Too much shade can decrease its flower production and upright shape. This native to Japan and China prefers regular watering but can tolerate short periods of drought and soggy roots from turf overspray. Zebra grass is best pruned in the early spring just before the new shoots start to grow. Leaving the old foliage till spring not only provides visual interest but also acts as additional mulch protecting the root ball from frosty temperatures.