

HGTV's TOMMY SMYTHE

WINTER SOUPS

BC HOME & GARDEN

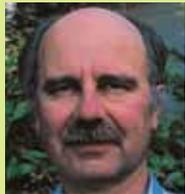
Style 35+

FESTIVE
easy ideas
DECORATING,
ENTERTAINING
AND WRAPPING
IT ALL UP!

Evergreens to ornamentals
13 PLANTS for winter splendour



Q Can you suggest a nice native-B.C. plant to fill in a few gaps in my rock garden? I would prefer an edible.



RICHARD HEBDA answers: We demand more than good looks of our plants these days. Nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*) delivers beauty and delicious food. Grown

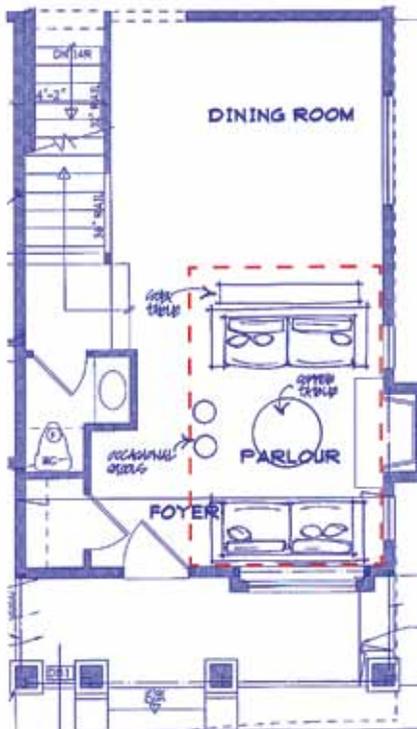
from a dense cluster of narrow bulbs, this perennial produces tasty green onion shoots and a 50-cm (20-in.) flower stalk. Clusters of delightful pink to purple blooms dangle from the stem in late spring to early summer. This onion is wonderful for rock gardens, dry border edges and even rough spots in the garden in the south half of Western Canada. Eaten widely by First Nations people, all parts of the plant are tasty as a main dish or garnish. You can even use the crushed bulb as a disinfectant.

PHOTO courtesy iBulb



Q I have a small front room with a fireplace; what's the best way to arrange seating?

TAMARA WOUTERS and EMMA COMESOTTI answer: We love the challenge of a small space! Every well-designed room requires a focal point and in your case, the obvious one is the fireplace. By creating a symmetrical furniture grouping, you will accentuate this feature and provide ample seating. Place identical sofas on either side of the fireplace, and on the dining room side, position a sofa table behind the sofa. This gives you space to display accessories, while also creating a natural division between the areas. A round coffee table will both soften the grouping and leave you with a little space for some occasional stools, which are handy when you require extra seating.



Q I am hosting Christmas dinner at my house this year and would like some ideas on how to decorate a side buffet or mantle for the holidays. What would you suggest?



HEATHER CAMERON answers: I'm a big fan of nature, white and simple shots of colour for the holidays. I find large, interesting branches that arch over

and make a big statement. I spray paint them white, put them in a tall vase filled with faux snow and then hang a few pretty coloured glass balls on a ribbon off the branches. I also like to fill big vases full of pine cones and sprinkle in faux snow. It makes them look like they have had a light dusting of snow. You can group vases of all sizes together to make a really big display on a mantle or side table. This is how I get my White Christmas.

PHOTO of Heather: Janis Nicolay



Q What are some interesting ways of introducing colour to my mostly neutral rooms?

INES HANL answers: