

# *"Just Add Water"*

Articles and Photos by Soni Forsman

## **Lotus Pods Decorate Winter Containers**

**Don't throw the dried lotus seedpods; re-purpose! In the summer, the pods hold viable lotus seeds. By fall, the mature seeds have fallen out, leaving behind empty pods.**

**The dried pods are commonly used in indoor fall and winter floral arrangements. Now, the seedpods are readily available at garden centers to use as accents in outdoor winter containers. Left natural, painted gold, silver or white, they bring interest to a container of evergreens. I have used my dried pods outdoors for many years. The first year I was not sure they would hold up to a long Minnesota winter. They did and now they feature prominently in my winter containers of mixed evergreens.**

**In addition to the dried pods, the only materials needed are a package of three-foot bamboo plant stakes, preferably tan in color, and hot glue. The stakes should have a small diameter, one-quarter inch.**

### **Directions:**

- \*\*Cut the petiole off at the base of the pod.**
- \*\*Drill a hole in the base slightly larger than the diameter of the stake.**
- \*\*Work the stake into the predrilled hole and hot glue. I prefer clear glue to white.**

**When the glue is thoroughly dry, the pods are ready to go outside. The plant stakes can be cut to lengths. When I disassemble the container in the spring, I remove the pods, keeping the stakes for another year. Happy decorating!**



**Lotus pods topped with fresh-fallen snow.**





**Lotus pods prepped for new stems.**



**Bamboo plant stake hot glued into the base of the lotus seedpod.**