



Coleus sp. (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*)
Boston Fern (*Nephrolepis exalta* 'Bostoniensis')



Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*)

The Monster

When Trudi's van became too small, she bought a step-van, the size of a bread truck.

She was driving it when the steak snafu occurred. Several weeks before Christmas, a Rotary Club ordered thirty boxes of steaks. With the meat in her step-van, Trudi called for delivery instructions. The woman sounded perplexed. "That's nice, except you have the wrong week. Our order was for next week."

"No problem. I'll bring them next week." Trudi answered pleasantly, while thinking, Oh, brother.

Her frustration didn't dampen her determination that those steaks wouldn't go to waste. Late that afternoon, Trudi asked Bill and the girls to help her ferry them from the truck to their freezer in the basement. After a few trips, Trudi still had a huge stack of boxes to unload when a school called. They needed her right away. She hopped into the truck and took off. Careening around the first turn onto Ogden Avenue, she suddenly remembered the open roll-up door. She swung into a parking lot, jumped out of the cab and ran around to look into the truck. Not one box was left.

Frantic, Trudi peeled back out onto Ogden Avenue. Her headlights hit the steak boxes, strewn across four lanes of rush hour traffic. Quickly swinging the truck across traffic and blocking all four lanes, she started gathering up steaks, even those already smashed by people driving over them.

A tow truck driver pulled up to her, red lights flashing. That driver, then others got out of their cars to help her pick up the steaks and toss them into her truck. Embarrassed, Trudi thanked everyone and drove home.

At home, Trudi told Bill the tale and said, "We're going to eat an awful lot of steak."

He raised his eyebrows, "We can't possibly eat them all!"

After many phone calls and laughter, their friends came over and bought all the steaks that weren't tire-tenderized. Trudi refused to waste even those. She washed them off, froze them and eventually served them to her family, tire tracks and all.