



## Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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### **T**ips for July & August

**1. Tend to roses.** They need dead-heading (removal of dead flowers), deep watering, and regular feeding to produce quality blooms. Check for insects and diseases, and bring some damaged leaves to us in a plastic bag so we can diagnose the problem and show you what to use to control it.

**2. Pick up fallen** fruits and vegetables so they won't attract wasps, animals, and other pests.

**3. Cut off** strawberry runners for bigger and better fruit.

**4. Begin enjoying** your harvest of fruits and vegetables. Plant more vegetables now wherever you have space that opens up.



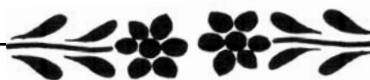
### Water, Putter, Pinch & Plant

You can greatly prolong the blooming time of most annuals with just a little additional care. The key is to keep them actively growing by feeding regularly with *Gro-Power*, which increases the size and number of flowers, and watering regularly. Also, "deadhead" regularly—remove all old flowers from the plant. If old flowers are allowed to stay on the plant, most plants put more energy into seed production and either halt or slow down flower production.

Pinching or cutting out old flowers stimulates the plant to keep producing flowers in an effort to reproduce.



Replenish or spread mulch around plants to conserve moisture and reduce weeding time. You usually want it about three inches thick. Leave a gap between mulch and the crown of the plants. Some plants (like ivy) don't care, but most plants do better when air can circulate around the base of their trunk. We're the mulching experts! Ask us to recommend the best mulch for your particular situation.



### Enhance Your Entrance

Make your home more attractive and inviting by using some of these ideas with container plants.

☑ Select some of our beautiful **hanging baskets** to hang from eaves. Use flat-backed pots filled with color attached to walls at eye level. You can plant up hanging baskets using our smaller plants. For a sunny area choose ivy geranium, petunias, bacopa, million bells, trailing

lantana, scaevola, and verbena. Plants that prefer part shade include impatiens, lamium, and fuchsias.

☑ **Scented plants** are especially welcoming, and delightful. Our large selection includes shrubs like sweet olive, butterfly bush, angel's trumpet, gardenia, citrus and roses, plus vines such as honeysuckle and jasmine. Scented flowers include varieties of some cosmos, alyssum, dianthus, bearded iris, lavender, and nicotiana.

☑ For a formal style, use **evergreen topiaries** or **trained conifers** in large pots (cypress and juniper), or try less formal ones (Oregon grape, nandina, pieris, and boxwoods).

### Blossom-End Rot on Tomatoes

Our unusually wet spring means that many of our customers are experiencing more problems than most years.

Blossom-end rot first appears as a tan-colored spot on the blossom end of the tomato. The spot darkens to dark brown or black, and becomes leathery. Eventually the entire bottom of the fruit is dark, leathery and sunken. This is caused by a calcium deficiency, which is brought on by too much soil moisture, uneven soil moisture, and/or a high soil salt content. Maintain even soil moisture by mulching around the plants (use *Kellogg's Xerimulch*) and not over or under watering. Feed the plants lightly and more frequently, rather than heavier and less often. Use our *Dr. Earth Organic 5 Tomato, Vegetable & Herb Fertilizer*, which contains extra calcium.



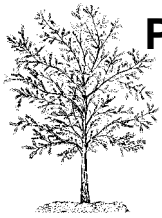
### MIX & MATCH SALE!

Large 5 gal size plants  
**3 for \$25!**



Value up to \$16.99 each! Choose Agapanthus, Canna Lilies, Society Garlic, Shrub Roses, and Yellow Daylilies!

While supplies last—Don't miss out!

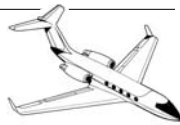


## Plant A Tree!

Don't let "arboricide" happen in your neighborhood—plant a tree! In cities everywhere, greenery is disappearing under asphalt, concrete, bricks and pavers as we make room for parking lots. Many cities, as they become more aware of the value of green space, are enacting legislation limiting these so-called "pave-overs". Small gardens with grass, trees, and other plants help clean the air, conserve wildlife habitats, reduce heating and cooling costs, and increase property values.

In New York heavy fines are being levied against anyone who destroys plants on public property. In a Massachusetts court, a homeowner was awarded \$74,000.00 because trees had been cut down by a neighbor. (The neighbor said the trees shaded his pool.) The amount of the award was based on an arborist's formula that allotted a dollar value to each inch of trunk caliper of each tree.

## Going On Vacation?



Here's an easy way to keep an indoor plant moist and healthy for about a week.

Water the plant thoroughly, then place it in a plastic bag. Keep the bag from touching the leaves by propping it up on wooden dowels or small plant stakes. Be sure the plant receives bright, but not direct, sunlight.

If you will be away for a longer period of time and someone will be watering for you, prepare a map or list that shows how often certain plants need to be watered. Or, use bright ribbons to mark plants that need the most water.

And have a great time!



## Hard-to-Get Weeds

Deep-rooted weeds growing through cracks in walkways and driveways can be easily pulled out with a pair of pliers. Simply grasp the weed as low as you can, wind it around the pliers, and pull straight up. Watering deeply the day before you plan on weeding will ease the pulling even more.

We have many tools and other products to help you reduce or eliminate weeds from your garden—ask us!



## Successful Fido-scaping

You can have a beautiful garden and a pet pooch, too. You just have to find the middle ground. Here are some "pointers" when installing or improving a landscape.

☞ Dogs like to guard their territory by walking around the perimeter, but they don't like solid fences or hedges. A picket fence they can see through allows them to fulfill their innate lookout and guard duty functions. You can also help confine a pet with plantings. Vary the height of the barrier, depending on the size of the animal.

☞ If your dog is a digger, provide an area of very sandy soil in an out-of-the-way corner of your garden where he/she can dig all day.

☞ A shady area is essential, especially for dogs that spend all day outdoors.

☞ Walkways should be paved or made of brick, flagstone, etc. They also help keep your dog cooler and cleaner.

☞ If you want to keep your dog out of a certain area, cover it with sharp crushed stones.

☞ Avoid plants that are barbed or have thorns that could be dangerous to your dog's eyes.

Just like any family relationship, compromise is the name of the game.

## Frozen Fruit Delight

3/4 cup fresh strawberries, sliced

3/4 cup fresh blueberries, sliced

2 bananas, sliced

1 can (11 oz) mandarin oranges, undrained

1 can (8oz) crushed pineapple, undrained

3/4 cup 7-Up or Sprite

1/2 cup water

1/4 cup frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed

1/4 cup sugar



Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Fill 10 dessert dishes or plastic cups (8 oz size) about 3/4 full. Cover with plastic wrap or foil and freeze until solid (about 4 hours). Remove from the freezer 30 minutes before serving.



## Summer Sleuthing: How Old is That Tree?

As children, most of us took nature hikes through parks and forests, learning about the flora and the fauna. Do you remember counting the rings on fallen or cut tree stumps in order to determine the age of large trees?

It's easy to get an accurate idea of the age of pines, spruces, true firs and Douglas fir just by looking at the tree. These species usually add one whorl of branches every year. A whorl is the cluster of branches that grows from around a single point on the trunk. If you count the whorls and add a couple of years for the seedling stage, you'll be very close to the age of the tree.

It's a little more difficult to determine the age of hardwood trees. Experienced arborists can provide a pretty good guess by comparing a tree with others of its species which are of a known age. For trees planted in local streets and parks, city landscaping crews often know when trees were originally planted, or can check official records.

The only sure way to tell the age of a tree without cutting it down is to take an increment boring. This drilling technique produces a small core of the trunk and you can count the annual rings just as on a stump.

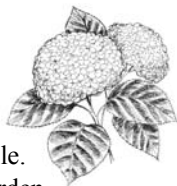


## Hydrangea Mania

Jump on the bandwagon—start your hydrangea collection now! There are many types of hydrangeas, the most well known being the mophead, or hydrangea macrophylla.

These spectacular shrubs are easy to grow and very versatile. Their large (8" long) leaves quickly fill empty spaces in the garden, displaying giant 5-8" round flowers. They make excellent cut or dried flowers, blending with any décor, from country to contemporary.

The flower color of the plant varies according to the soil pH. In acid soil the blooms will be blue; alkaline soil produces pink flowers, and neutral soil gives white flowers. Adding aluminum sulfate to the soil produces blue flowers, and adding lime or superphosphate to the soil produces pink flowers. This should be done in late winter or early spring for best results, but you can get started now; it will take a while before the flower color begins to change.



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Our unusually wet spring ...

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. Cracking around the stem end and along the sides of ripening tomatoes is often caused when wet weather follows a dry spell. Too much nitrogen in the soil also contributes to this rapid-growth problem.

. Blights and leaf spots are fungal diseases that begin by causing brown spots on the lower leaves. The leaves turn brown, the stems black, and the plants die. Destroy all affected plants, and avoid planting tomatoes in the same spot next year.

. Fusarium and verticillium wilts are caused by soil-borne fungi. The lower leaves turn yellow, wilt, and the plants die. Wilt disease build-up in the soil if you plant tomatoes every year in the same location, so next year plant varieties labeled VF resistant, and choose a different area.

## **Coming in August**

. Prime time for perennials! If planted in August and September, perennials will flower profusely next year and for many years thereafter. Spring and summer flowering perennials to plant now include canterbury bells, foxglove, columbine, penstemon, delphinium, and many others.

. Plant bearded iris and enjoy a rainbow of color in your spring garden. Divide iris, oriental poppies and bleeding hearts, and replant, fertilize and add mulch.

. Watch for our spring-flowering bulbs.

## **Things to do in August**

. Harvest vegetables. keep them picked for maximum production, watered and fed.

. Continue planting herbs—they improve every dish, especially when barbecuing.

. Prune hydrangeas after they bloom. Leave two buds on each branch—new wood will grow from these. Green stems that haven't bloomed will produce next year's flowers.

. Cut off strawberry runners for bigger and better fruit next year.

. Feed azaleas, camellias and citrus with \*\*\*.

. Watch plants for signs of pests, especially spider mites and aphids.

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