

Gardening Tips

- 1. Time to shop for flowering and edible plants!** Make your yard more beautiful and productive and enrich your life.
- 2. Find some plants to mulch.** You'll save water, have fewer weeds, gradually improve the soil, and it looks more attractive! Ask us to recommend an ideal mulch for your particular situation.
- 3. Continue fertilizing** citrus, vegetables, and flowers on a regular basis for best results.
- 4. After watering, dig down an inch or two to see if you are watering enough.** The objective is to **water deeper but less often.** This saves water and encourages deeper root systems.
- 5. Pick up any fallen fruit** so it doesn't attract pests.
- 6. Don't forget to feed roses regularly** to promote blooming—these amazing flowers are borne on new growth only.
- 7. Plant more fruits and vegetables** to have a healthier diet. Studies show that 70% of Americans are not eating enough fruits and vegetables as recommended by the USDA for best health.

Small Colorful Trees

A small accent tree (4-10 feet) may be just the finishing touch your garden or patio needs. The right variety can provide fragrance, flowers, shade, and/or interesting foliage, yet will either stay small or can be pruned and kept small.



Crape myrtle. They love our hot summer weather, and produce masses of vibrant flowers in the summer.

Flowering maple (Abutilon). Not a real maple. Profuse bloomer for part shade. Bell-shaped flowers in yellow, red, white, or pink.

Photinia. The outstanding feature of this small shrub/tree is the bright red new growth.

Other excellent patio trees include *duranta*, *Texas privet* (ligustrum), *eugenia*, *solanum* (blue potato bush), *oleander*, *euryops*, and *dwarf citrus*.

Flowers for Mid-Summer Thru Fall

There are flowers you can plant now that will continue performing through late summer and fall. Don't let the show slow down in your garden—the flowers you plant now may be the best you've ever grown!



Some of the best include **perennials** such as *gaura*, *gold coin*, *statice*, *kangaroo paws*, *salvias*, *pentas*, *angelonia*, *coreopsis*, *rudbeckia*, *yarrow*, *million bells*, *gaillardia*, *lantana*, *lavender*, *perennial verbena*, *echinacea* (coneflower), and *geraniums*. **Annuals** to plant for flowers mid summer and fall include *petunias*, *impatiens*, *zinnias*, *marigolds*, *portulaca*, *salvias*, *cosmos*, *vinca rosea* and *many others* in stock.

Time & Water Saving Tips

Use our time-saving tips and have a gorgeous garden with maintenance needs that easily fit your schedule.

Modify your garden design. Add low-growing varieties of evergreen shrubs to reduce time spent pruning. Then add color with lots of perennials that magically reappear each year without much effort on your part, and annuals that reseed. Plant natives and grasses that add interest without demanding extra care. (Although many natives look better with pruning.) Group plants with similar watering needs.

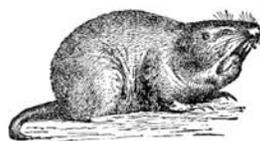


Apply mulch. Mulching lessens the need to water so frequently by reducing evaporation and keeping the soil more evenly moist. The time you spend weeding will be greatly reduced, too, because mulch prevents weed growth. Also, mulched areas look much more attractive than bare soil.

Water wisely. Install an automatic sprinkler system or drip system to save watering time. Water early in the day to reduce water loss from evaporation. Water slowly, deeply and thoroughly to avoid runoff and promote deep roots that need water less often.

Gopher Trouble?

This has become a big year for gophers. Several control methods exist. Where gophers have been working awhile, trapping or using our poison bait are the surest controls. For these you must locate the tunnel.



If you use **BAIT** use a piece of rebar or gopher probe to find the tunnel. As you push the probe in, when you hit a tunnel it will suddenly drop about 2 inches. Place some bait directly through the hole into the tunnel according to label directions.

If you use **TRAPS**, dig to locate the main tunnel, set two traps facing opposite directions in the tunnel, tie them with a wire to a stake, and plug the entrance again. Check the traps the next day, and if the gophers have sprung them or pushed dirt against them, be persistent and try again. **You'll get 'em!**

Create Something New: A Miniature Fairy Garden!

Legend has it that fairies, and the good luck they bring with them, can be enticed to come and frolic wherever they discover gardens *created just for them*. Fairy Gardens, complete with miniature plants, houses, and other outdoor structures, is a creative project for both adults and children alike. Some families design a new Fairy Garden every year. Other families are just beginning to discover the joy of building a diminutive garden together, fostering life skills of imagination and creativity. If you have children who aren't really into fairies—build a *gnome, dragon, rubber ducky, or dinosaur garden!*



Getting started: Ask your kids what they think their fairies would like. A sunny or shady spot? Indoors (fairies are very quiet house guests) or out? Their fairies might feel more at home in a cottage garden, by the beach, in a quiet woodland setting, or on a farm.

For outdoor fairies, walk around your garden or yard together and look for a secluded place near a tree, shrub, or old stump. Fairies also like gardens in special containers—like an old wheelbarrow, abandoned toy chest, or large flower pots. With proper drainage, the possibilities are endless—have fun with different themes!

Ask your kids what they think a fairy garden needs. Basics like paths, flowers, a pond, and special places to hide (fairies are elusive creatures!) such as hollow logs, piles of rocks, or caves. One group of kids decided that fairies needed a greenhouse, composter, a mudbath, and a stable for beetles so the fairies could ride on them. A personal favorite was a tiny mailbox made out of a snail shell to receive (what else?) snail mail!



Plants & Landscaping: Draw out a simple plan before choosing plants that are scaled to a fairy's size (to provide an enticing environment). Pick plants with little flowers, hardy herbs with small leaves, and bonsai starter plants. Just make sure that all of the plants prefer the same amount of sun and water. For year-round blooming, you can sink tiny flowering plants with their plastic pots directly into the soil and replace as needed.

Imaginative playtime: Some children are naturally creative and will play in their miniature gardens for hours, inventing stories about their fairy friends while caring for their garden. Others may need physical activities like making furniture and other accoutrements out of found objects such as buttons, twigs, rocks, or beach glass; watering the whole garden with a tiny bucket; or planting and harvesting miniature fruits and vegetables (painted clay) and selling them at the fairy market.

One mother told her children that if they built a fairy garden and blew "magic" bubbles on it, the fairies would come (they did!). Plus the better they took care of their garden, the more fairies "magically" arrived.



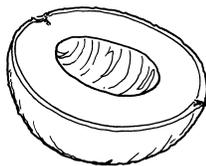
Expensive Melon\$

Yubari King melons lead a pampered life while they mature in the Japanese greenhouses of Yubari, Hokkaido. They have to, in order for the season's first pair to auction off for \$5,200 to \$20,000! A standard Yubari King melon costs between \$50 and \$100, and are often sold in matched pairs.

Yubari Kings may look like our common cantaloupe, but there is much more to these golden gems to gratify the taste buds and eye of the beholder. In 1961, farmers crossbred a football shaped "Spicy Cantaloupe" with the round smooth skinned "Earl's Favorite" to achieve a luxury fruit with beautiful proportions, sweetness, texture, and a pleasing skin netting pattern. But good breeding isn't everything. These melons need a unique environment!

Each February, seeds are planted in furrows under protective greenhouse vinyl tenting. Warm water, traveling through plastic pipes buried below the soil's surface, ensure an optimum soil temperature. But it is actually the irreplaceable local soil which is rich in volcanic ash that other growers cannot duplicate and therefore cannot replicate the Yubari King melon. Yubari's dark volcanic soil actually remains dry as the water is absorbed by the seedlings and plant roots.

After being carefully hand-harvested, each melon is washed, weighed, and graded by sugar content. Melons too sweet or not sweet enough are rejected. Only the finest leave the trading house for pre-ordering customers. Because prime consumption is within 2-3 days of harvest, the melons frequently travel to their final destination by air. Perfectly matched pairs are often given to a host or employer who will most likely enjoy their special treat at the end of a meal.



Yogurt Melon Refresher

A healthy way to dress up your melons as a dessert or for a refreshing breakfast treat.

2 small ripe melons

TOPPING

1 c. plain yogurt

3 TBS. honey

3 TBS. crystallized ginger

1 TBS fresh mint leaves

julienne

Optional Marinade:

1/2 c. orange juice

2 TBS. brown sugar

Combine yogurt, honey, finely chopped ginger, and mint leaves in a small bowl and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Peel melons and cut into chunks or balls into a large serving bowl or divide into six individual bowls. Top with prepared yogurt mixture. Garnish with fresh mint leaves.

To add additional sweetness to your melons (or other fruit of your choice) marinate them first. Place melon chunks in a large shallow dish. Combine orange juice with brown sugar and pour over the fruit and marinate the fruit mixture in the refrigerator for 2 hours. Drain before serving.

Optional fruit choices: 3 c. fresh strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, or grapes can replace one melon.