



## Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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Visit our website: [www.powaynursery.com](http://www.powaynursery.com)

### **M**ay/June Success Tips

1. Come in to our nursery and enjoy **just spending a while exploring** this time of year! You'll find many wonderful surprises, including *flowers, edibles, and landscape plants*—and some that do all three!

2. **Choose some of our tasty herbs** to add home-grown flavor to your favorite dishes. Plant some of our *medicinal herbs* too.



3. **Mulch around your plants** to conserve water, reduce weeds, improve the soil, and make the area more attractive. We have several mulches perfect for different situations—ask us.

4. **Fertilize growing vegetables** with *Gro Power Plus* and flowers with *Gro Power Flower & Bloom* for a more prolific garden.

### **Cacti & Succulents**

If you've never looked closely at our cacti and succulents, try it—but not too near! You won't forget their prickly spines. Succulents, of course, are spineless. Both cacti and succulents have eye-catching, bright flowers.

Cacti and succulents grow well outdoors in containers on patios, and most also thrive indoors. They especially love south, east, or west facing window sills. Smaller ones make perfect exotic dish gardens that need very little water and care.



Cacti and succulents prefer far less water than the majority of houseplants—too much water can kill them. Newly planted cacti are especially susceptible to root rot until their root stems heal and begin active growth.

Take a few of our cacti and succulents home, water them rarely, and they will become long-lived treasures, almost like family pets!

### **Veggies, Fruits, & Flowers Galore!**

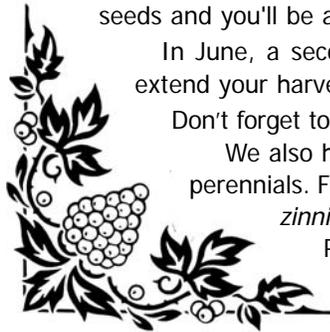
Plant warm season vegetables like *tomatoes, peppers, squash, eggplant, beans, corn, cucumbers, parsley, and melons*. For those that we have seedlings of, choose these rather than seeds—they are more reliable than the seeds and you'll be able to start harvesting vegetables much sooner.

In June, a second planting of *beans, corn, and squash* can go in to extend your harvest.

Don't forget to plant delicious *berries, grapes, and fruit trees*!

We also have an extravaganza of summer blooming annuals and perennials. Flowers such as *cosmos, portulaca, verbena, vinca rosea, zinnias*, and others are just some that thrive in hot weather.

Plant now and enjoy a yard of flowers!



### **Trees are Wonderful**

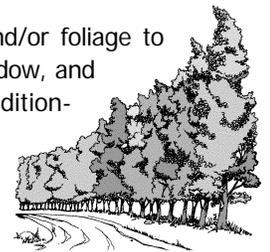
Decide what kind of tree you need, then come in and we'll help you find the perfect one!

**Shade Trees:** Shade trees should be planted at the southwest corner and along the west side of your home. Place them no closer than half their mature width from the house. These trees should be broad enough to provide summer shade.

**Background Trees:** A background tree is planted in the backyard and should extend above the roofline when seen from the front yard. Select a tree with spreading or pyramid growth habits.

**Accent Trees:** Use accent trees with colorful blossoms and/or foliage to draw a viewer's eye toward an attractive front entryway or window, and away from unsightly gas meters, water pipes, and/or air conditioning units.

**Fruit Trees:** Can be used for shade, background or as an accent, plus they have the added benefit of providing fresh and healthy food for your family!



### **Plant a Cutting Garden!**

Imagine beautiful cut flowers in your home with freshly-picked blooms from your own garden! Think of it as a DIY project—grow your favorite flowers that bloom in your most desired colors.



The flowers that are easiest to use in floral designs are those with long and relatively strong stems, and a long vase life. Choose varieties in different shapes and colors. Some of the best include *sunflowers, lilies, asters, zinnias, gaillardias, Shasta daisies, phlox, coreopsis, cosmos, penstemon, scabiosa, alstromeria*, and of course *roses*. We have plants and/or seeds of these and many other excellent cut flowers.

**Tips:** Group the plants with similar requirements for sun and water. Plant tall types together, away from where they might shade lower growing ones.

"TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS TO GET DOWN HERE!" ~ MARY

## Royal Garden in Judah

Archaeologists recently excavated the 2,500 year-old royal Ramat Rachel garden above Jerusalem and have begun reconstructing it to its former blooming glory.

This once luxurious garden was watered by a clever irrigation system which collected rain water and distributed it through underground tunnels, open channels, and stone-carved gutters. Elaborate pools and waterfalls served as a practical resource and added to the opulent ambience in this high desert region which is distant from bodies of water.

Pollen samples trapped and preserved within plaster of the irrigation systems revealed evidence of native fruit trees, including *olives* and *figs*, plus *grapevines* and ornamental plants like *water lilies*. The advanced irrigation system provided water for willow and poplar trees, as well as imported *citron*, *Persian walnut*, *birch*, and the coveted *cedar of Lebanon* trees.

Researchers conclude the exotic trees and ornamentals were imported by ancient rulers as a way to show off their power and prestige. Plus when the garden was built, being able to control water—especially in the desert—showed ingenuity and political strength.



## Lady Bug Trivia

Many of us fondly remember chanting the Nursery Rhyme "Ladybug, Ladybug fly away home, your house is on fire and your children are gone. . ." when we found a ladybug. Have you ever wondered why?



The rhyme originated in Britain, where the beloved beetle is called "Ladybird." Children may have learned the rhyme from farmers who would recite it to warn the helpful insect to fly away before field burning after a harvest. Historians speculate that this Nursery Rhyme originated from the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

### More Fun Ladybug Facts

- \* Out of the 5,000 types of ladybugs, 450 species live in North America.
- \* The life stages of the ladybug are: egg ⇒ larva ⇒ pupa ⇒ adult.
- \* Ladybug larvae can eat about 25 aphids a day; while adults can eat over 50.
- \* Ladybugs chew side to side instead of up and down like humans.
- \* Ladybugs can supplement their *aphid* diet with *whitefly*, *mealybugs*, *mites*, and *scale insects*; but they are completely harmless to humans.

## Intimate Backyard Entertaining

Large patios or multilevel decks are being replaced by smaller areas designed to provide a more intimate and relaxing environment for entertaining.



Can you envision a small outdoor escape consisting of a few garden chairs or comfortable patio furniture around a crackling fire pit, small waterfall, or table?

You can surround your special area with fragrant flowers (for personal enjoyment and/or aromatherapy), an enclosed rose or herb garden, or you can pick a theme that expresses your inner child, like a fairy garden.

Once you have created the ambience you desire, share the joys of quiet conversation with loved ones and good friends!

## Spring Fruit Squares

- |                                                              |                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 pkg (about 16 oz) pre-made refrigerated sugar cookie dough | Individual or assorted fruits such as <i>berries</i> , <i>kiwi</i> , <i>tangerine</i> or <i>mandarin segments</i> , etc. |
| 1 pkg (8oz) soft cream cheese                                |                                                                                                                          |
| 1/3 cup sugar                                                | 1/4 cup apricot preserves                                                                                                |
| 1/4 tsp vanilla                                              | 2 Tbsp water                                                                                                             |

Follow label directions for removing the dough from the wrapper. Preheat oven to 350°. Press dough evenly into a 13x9 baking pan and bake for 12-18 minutes, or until a light golden brown. Cool completely.

Meanwhile in a medium bowl, blend together cream cheese and vanilla, gradually blending in the sugar. Spread onto cooled cookie crust, and arrange fruit on top. (Slice any larger fruits. It is best that your fruit is dry—be sure to pre-drain any extra juice if needed.) In a small bowl, combine preserves and water, then brush over fruit. Refrigerate until chilled, cut into squares, serve, and watch them disappear!



## Veggies for a Family of Four

Home-grown vegetables taste so good, you'll want to grow plenty—but not so many that you have to ship them off to market to sell! It can be difficult to know the exact number of vegetable plants you'll need to feed your family, so here are some suggestions for a family of four.

**Plant 4 of the following:** *sweet bell peppers* (more if you love roasted red peppers!), *eggplants*, *summer squash*, *cucumbers*, *Swiss chard*, and *tomatoes* (choose several varieties). Plant at least 12 *corn* plants (in a square to promote pollination). When planting seeds for vegetables like *lettuce*, *carrots*, *beets*, *radishes* and *snow peas*, measure by the length of a row, following packet directions.

It's always a good idea to plant a few extras because not every plant survives, and it's fun to trade home-grown produce with your neighbors, or donate it to a local food bank. And remember to make successive plantings to have fresh vegetables over a longer period.

If you purchase one of our vegetable 6-packs and only have space for four plants, put the two extras in the front yard among ornamental plants.

