



## Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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### Gardening Tips

**1. Watering** becomes key at this time. Plants dry out quickly on warm long days, and you will need to adjust your watering and automatic timers for lawns and other areas.

**2. Pinch back leggy petunias** and other flowers when they've stretched out too far, to stimulate more blooming.

**3. Continue feeding citrus** with *Gro-Power for Citrus* for improved fruit production. Citrus are heavy, picky feeders

**4. Enhance your entryway** with one of our gorgeous hanging baskets.

### Growing Gardenias

Just like Goldilocks, gardenias want perfect J conditions—not too hot, not too cold, but *just right!* Once you find the right spot for them, they will be one of the most desirable plants in your garden. Gardenia fragrance is unsurpassed and easily recognized. The attractive white flowers on gardenia plants are nicely contrasted by the dark green foliage.



Gardenias are rainforest natives that prefer a protected area that gets good morning sun and afternoon shade. Or they can grow well in dappled sunlight all day. If there's too much sun their leaves will quickly turn yellow and flowers will brown out. If they don't have enough sun, growth will be leggy and plants won't flower.

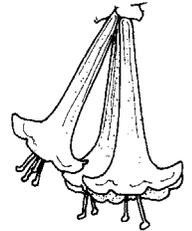
Water gardenias deeply on a regular basis. Good drainage is essential. Gardenias are heavy feeders. Use our *Dr Earth Organic 4 Rhododendron, Azalea & Camellia Fertilizer*.

#### GOT GARDENING PROBLEMS?

Come in and visit our  
**PROBLEM-SOLVING KISOK!**  
The new information booth will  
be here in the nursery  
August 1 thru September 15!

### Three Great Patio Trees!

Give your deck or patio a fresh summer look by replanting and repositioning containers—this time with patio trees that add height and drama. Trees and shrubs in large pots have many benefits, including creating shade and/or a focal point, screening a view and acting as a windbreak.



**Angel's trumpet** (*Brugmansia*), most commonly seen with creamy white flowers has made a comeback in recent years with the availability of varieties that produce profuse fragrant peach, pink, and yellow flowers. The extremely fragrant, tubular flowers (up to 15") dangle in horizontal rows around the tree, which grows to about 10-12' high, or can be kept as a shrub.

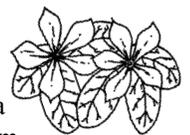
**Strawberry tree** (*Arbutus unedo*) grows slowly to about 10 feet, while demanding little care. Clusters of small white flowers are accompanied by 3/4" round, strawberry-like fruit. The dark foliage is intensified by the red-brown color of the branches, which become gnarled as the tree ages.

Although **Redbud** (*Cercis*) is deciduous, it is an attention-getter all year. Deep purplish-pink 5" long flower clusters appear in spring on bare stems. Bean-like pods follow, along with smooth 3" blue-green leaves that have a rounded heart shape. In fall, the foliage turns yellow or red, and some varieties continue to have pods while the branches are bare.

Other excellent patio trees include crape myrtle, blue potato vine, Japanese maples, fruitless olive, flowering fruit trees, and *Duranta* (sky flower).

### Hit the Refresh Button!

It's time to revitalize your garden! Bloom time is coming to a close for many spring and early summer flowers. Replace them now with bright and vigorously growing flowers we have in bud and bloom—most will continue blooming until cold weather arrives in late fall.



For a partly shaded area these include impatiens, alyssum, coleus, begonias, nicotiana, mimulus, torenia, and lobelia. Among the best flowering plants for a sunny spot are million bells, marigolds, petunias, bacopa, verbena, cosmos, salvias, portulaca, and vinca rosea.



### FLOWERING SHRUB

Mix & Match—Large 5 gallon-size

**3 for \$25!**

Agapanthus, Canna Lilies, Shrub Roses, Society Garlic,  
plus Lantanas in lavender, gold, or white!

In stock only, while supplies last—Don't miss out!



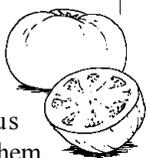
## Perfectly Picked Vegetables

You've prepared, planted and pampered your vegetable plants, now it's time to eat the "fruit" of your labors! Use these harvesting tips and you'll enjoy the vegetables at the peak of their flavor!

Pick **green beans** when they are young and the outside feels a little fuzzy. They should feel full, but not yet bumpy. **Beets** can be harvested at any size, but taste best when they are golf ball-size. **Cucumbers** keep producing as you continue to harvest them—pick anytime after they are about four inches long.

Harvest **eggplant** when they develop a high sheen, before the color becomes dull. Overripe eggplants don't spring back when you press them with your finger. Pick your peck of **peppers** once they are firm and green. However, the bigger green peppers grow, the thicker the skin becomes, and if allowed to stay on the vine they will develop into sweet red peppers. **Summer squashes** taste best as small and medium sized fruit. Be sure to pick them often—they continue to produce if picked.

Resist picking those delicious **tomatoes** as long as you can! Leave them on the vine until they are a uniform red color, but pick before they start turning soft.



## Greening Your Garden

“Green is the future—the only future.” Believe it or not, this profound statement is a quote from *Vanity Fair* magazine. (You know, the magazine that gossips about celebrities and the latest fashions.) And the quote refers to a lifestyle, not a clothing color!

We're lucky to be in the "green business" and happy to contribute to the protection and restoration of our natural resources and environment by offering you a wide variety of plants to embrace all of nature's creatures and reduce the number of endangered species.

Also, many of the plants we offer not only beautify your property, but are tolerant of drier conditions to help you save water. We also make available more natural pesticides, and provide important information about how to use them properly. Finally, we encourage you to compost—it's the ultimate recycling tool.

We keep you up to date on the latest research intended to help you help the earth!



## Xeriscaping Tips for Containers

You can enjoy attractive planters and conserve water (as well as your time) by using these tips. Of course, these ideas can be applied to planting in beds and open areas too.



✓ **Plant selection.** Choosing plants suited to our locale and your microclimate may sound overly fundamental, but some stores in our area carry plants that will never grow successfully here.

Also, select plants that are the right size for your space to avoid the need for pruning, because pruning encourages more growth.

✓ **Container placement.** Put drought tolerant plants in the most exposed, sunniest part of the area. The sun can increase the temperature by 20°F. Add a trellis, arbor, or even a tree to provide pockets of shade.

✓ **Watering.** Group plants with similar watering requirements in the same container. Apply the water directly to the soil to prevent runoff. To minimize evaporation, avoid watering at midday.

✓ **Soil.** Use our potting soil, and fertilizer containing mycorrhizae, which improves the ability of the plant to take up water and nutrients more easily.

✓ **Mulch.** Soil one inch below a layer of mulch can be up to 20°F cooler than an unmulched soil surface, and therefore helps the soil retain moisture. Mulching also reduces weeds, which compete with desirable plants for water. It also keeps a crust from forming on the soil surface, allowing water to penetrate to the root zone easier. The texture of mulch helps limit the sun's reflection on the plants. (Sand and clay soils can be reflective and bounce heat and light up onto plants.)

## Red, White & Delicious!



- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 cup crispy chow mein noodles      | 1 tsp vanilla extract       |
| 1 cup white chocolate chips, melted | 1 cup blueberries           |
| 1 cup heavy whipping cream          | 3 cups strawberries, sliced |
| 1 Tbsp sugar                        |                             |

Line 12 muffin cups with paper baking cups. Put a layer of noodles into each cup. Cover noodles with a thin layer of the melted white chocolate chips. Refrigerate 1 hour. In medium bowl, whip cream; add sugar and vanilla. Fold in blueberries. Spoon whipped cream mixture into each cup. Top with sliced strawberries. Yummy... and beautiful!

## Notes & News

☺ "Smashing Pumpkins" is the name of an alternative rock band. It's also an event sponsored by a Canadian composting education center. The annual affair turns smashing pumpkins destined for landfills into an opportunity to teach about the benefits of composting while providing entertainment—kids love it! Last year's event attracted over 1,500 people.

☺ USDA researchers, while testing the repellent properties of a chemical compound they had separated from catnip oil, found that instead of **repelling** insects as they expected, the compound **attracted** beneficial lacewings, which prey on several crop and garden pests. The substance was found to be very potent—just 25 milligrams can attract enough lacewings to treat an acre of land.

☺ An East Coast Arboretum is using old flower photographs to help study the earth's climate changes. Researchers compared photos of trees and plants in flower taken from 1900-1921, to photos of the same plants taken last year. They found the plants last year bloomed from 11 days to seven weeks sooner than they had nearly a century earlier.

