



Home Gardener's NEWSLETTER

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May Success Tips

1. May is the month to visit our BLOOMIN' Nursery! Color abounds, and there is more available to plant this month than at any other time. Browse for awhile and enjoy the splendor!

2. Feed roses (and other flowers) regularly with *Bayer Advanced 2-in-1 Rose & Flower Food*.

3. It's prime tomato-planting time! Also plant eggplants, peppers, beans, melons, squash, corn, cucumbers, and pumpkins.

4. Regularly check soil around new plantings for moisture. Even plants known to be drought tolerant need watering until established.

5. Mulch beds and around plants to discourage weeds, make the area look better, and hold in moisture. Use our *Kellogg's Xerimulch*.

Gifts for Mothers

Give your Mother a beautiful flowering plant this Mother's Day, May 13th, and she will enjoy fresh flowers for years! You can choose from a large selection of gorgeous plants, many with buds and blossoms. Also, many of our rose bushes are flush with flowers—pick out her favorite colors!

Keep us in mind when you need a special gift for up coming occasions, such as Memorial Day, graduations, and Father's Day. While flowering plants make the perfect remembrance gift, we also have gadgets and tools that make great gifts.

Free Flower for Mother!

Bring your Mother into the nursery on Saturday or Sunday, May 12 & 13, and we'll give her a gorgeous, fragrant carnation blossom!

Beautiful Foliage for Shade!

If you have a shade garden filled with hostas and ferns, it's time to diversify! Many plants are grown for their leaf color, pattern and shape.

We are featuring many plants with distinctive leaf colors, including chartreuse, lime, merlot, burgundy, purple, and silver. Interesting patterned leaves paint a picture in arrangements that are marbled, streaked, and stippled. Many of these foliage plants produce large leaves with unique shapes.

Here are some of these plants you'll want to plant in part shade: heucheras, coleus, vinca minor (periwinkle), lamium, aucubas, bloodleaf (*Iresine*), loosestrife (*Lysimachia*), lorapetalum, monkshood (*Aconitum*), brunnera, and bergenia.

TIP: Space plants to allow for good air circulation to prevent powdery mildew and other leaf diseases in shady areas.



Plant an Herb Garden!

Plant a wide variety of herbs to add a distinctive flair to all your recipes, especially to accompany the delicious home-grown vegetables you'll soon be harvesting. Herbs are also excellent for use as tea (get rid of those sugar-filled soft drinks!).

The many leaf shapes, sizes, colors and textures of herbs contribute greatly to the beauty of your garden. Add them to your flower beds or plant them in containers—some are also excellent for hanging baskets!

Herbs like plenty of sun, and lots of compost incorporated into the soil. When harvesting, cut the stems (rather than simply picking off leaves) to promote new growth and more branching. Cut and use herbs often to keep the plants from becoming too woody and to improve air circulation. Young leaves of many plants are not so potent as mature ones, so you'll need more when using young plants.

Fruit Tree Care

It's natural for your fruit trees to drop a lot of tiny fruit in late spring. This process eases the strain on tree limbs, reducing the risk of breakage. Additional thinning after the natural spring fruit drop will give you larger, more perfect fruit at harvest time.

Also, thinning fruit trees increases the chance of getting a full crop of fruit the following year on varieties that alternate between heavy and light crops every other year. These include apricots, golden delicious apples, and others.

Watch for shoots that come from below or near ground level. On grafted fruit trees (and many roses) these are probably originating from the root stock portion of the plant. The sucker, if allowed to grow, will not bear useful fruit, and will sap the strength from the good part of the plant. Trace the sucker to its point of origin and wrench it off by hand, being careful not to tear off extra bark from the main plant. If you simply cut the sucker at ground level, it will react as if it's been pruned and resprout.



Flowers Control Timing



Flowers give off scents that attract pollinators when they're good and ready!

According to Purdue

University scientists, newly opened flowers don't produce as much fragrance as mature ones, and flowers already fertilized (pollinated) produce less fragrance and lower quality perfume than unfertilized flowers.

Also, different flowers reveal their fragrance at different times. For instance, snapdragons release four times more scent during the day when bee pollinators are buzzing around, than during the night. Nicotianas and evening primroses are most fragrant after sundown when their moth pollinators are around.

Similarly, pollinators are very particular about flower fragrances. For instance, bees like the sweet scents of sweet peas, snapdragons and heliotrope. Beetles prefer magnolias and California poppies, which emit spicy scents. Moths, being nocturnal, are attracted to flowers like jasmines, which perfume the night air.

It all makes scents to them!

Smoke-water and Plant Growth



In an effort to prevent children from trying cigarettes, mothers sometimes tell them that smoking would stunt their growth. Now tests have found that "smoke-water" actually **improved** growth of corn, beans, lettuce, tomatoes and okra.

Australian researchers discovered that a compound called *butenolide* is the active germination-inducing ingredient in smoke. In subsequent tests at a South African university, smoke from smoldering grass was bubbled through water and applied as a foliar spray on tomato and okra seedlings. Smoke-watered sprays increased average okra shoot dry weight by 27% and average tomato shoot dry weight by 61%.

"Advice for the Home Gardener"

There's only one sure way to tell the weeds from the vegetables. If you see anything growing, pull it up. If it grows again, it was a weed.

—Corey Ford, author & humorist

Garden Lessons from Last Year

Unless you've kept a gardening journal, it may be difficult to recall past gardening experiences and future desires from year-to-year. Here are some thoughts to help jog your memory.



☑ Grow some new and unusual varieties of vegetables you've tasted in restaurants or seen growing in a neighbor's garden. Our frequent deliveries from growers bring us exciting budded and blooming flowers—many with long, exotic unfamiliar names—experiment!

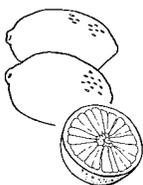
☑ Plan ahead by replacing spring crops with quick-sprouting summer ones. For instance, when peas finish producing, pull out the vines and replace them with sunflowers.

☑ Set aside an area to use as a specialty garden. For instance, you can have a space for growing specialty plants, such as flowers for indoor arrangements and herbs for cooking, or create a prayer or meditation corner for quiet time.

☑ Assist nature by learning about and growing plants that attract bees, butterflies, and birds.

☑ Set up a more efficient way to water your plants, such as timers, soaker hoses, etc.

Fresh Lemon Cake



1 cup sugar	1 tsp <u>each</u> baking powder & salt
1/3 cup butter, melted	1/2 cup buttermilk
1/4 cup Meyer lemon juice	1-1/2 Tbsp lemon zest
2 eggs	1/2 cup powdered sugar dissolved in
1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour	1/4 cup Meyer lemon juice

In a mixing bowl, combine sugar, butter and juice. Beat in eggs. Combine dry ingredients (except powdered sugar). Add to mixture, alternating with buttermilk. Stir in zest. Pour into greased 8" loaf pan and bake 1 hour at 350°. While cake is still warm, pierce top with a fork 5-6 times. Mix together powdered sugar and lemon juice, then pour over cake. For best taste, wrap in foil and let stand overnight (if you can resist sneaking a slice or two!).

Did You Know?

⇒ Wine grape growers have some unusual "co-workers" that help bring that perfect wine to your table. *Golden retrievers* sniff out the pheromones of destructive female vine mealybugs, *falcons* drive off starlings, and *chickens* in mobile coops control cutworms and weeds.

⇒ The grass on the indoor playing field at the Arizona Cardinals' football stadium is actually rolled out into the sun so it can stay healthy! The natural turf grows in a 3½' deep steel tray on wheels, and the total weight is **19 million pounds!** When it is rolled out, the inside can then be used for conventions and shows, and when it is indoors, the area outside becomes a parking lot!

⇒ Researchers in England showed that many shrubs can continue to be attractive even though irrigation rates were greatly reduced. Also, the plants showed a reduction in growth rate, which might be a plus for anyone with limited space. Some of the plants tested included smoke tree, forsythia, English lavender, and Mexican orange.

⇒ University researchers have found the most effective bait for cockroach sticky traps. Their first tests found that three different commercial attractants, or peanut butter worked better than no attractant. Later tests showed a small piece of bread plus some beer captured five times more cockroaches than these baits, or 30 times more than no attractant!

