



Welcome

Out back, in the garden...

Book of the Month! **NEW!**

Featured Article

Garden Monthly!

To Ponder/What's THAT?

Growing Community **NEW!**

Closing Comments

Garden Notes Archives

WELCOME !!

Garden Notes Subscribers!!!

Jodi here, still enjoying the beauty of Oregon! What a lush forest and fertile valleys they have here! An undeniable horticulture delight! I have enjoyed the ocean, immensely, although not as much as our dogs have! Came here to finish my Botony degree at OSU, but personal reasons are taking me back to Oklahoma as soon as school is out in June. I'll be going back to an empty vegetable garden since I've not been there to start it. Anyone out there in Northeast Oklahoma? --ha ha!

Speaking of vegetable gardening, is anyone going to grow **Three Sisters** this year? If you do, PLEASE **send pictures!** and a report on how you what varieties you used and your results! Thanks!

I found this really neat website about pecans. There are tips on buying and storing them, nutrition, news, and recipes. If you like pecans, are interested in growing them or how they are good for you, this is a good site to visit!

>> **I Love Pecans.org**

May is one of the most beautiful months of the year any where you are!! Snow and ice (if you get them!) have melted and summer's heat has not yet begun. The first garden crops are beginning to sprout in May. The grass and trees are green and the wild plants are all emerging. Many birds have built their nests and are sitting on eggs that will hatch soon! It is a very hopeful time of year. Enjoy!

May is:

Memorial Day or Decoration Day is observed, in most states of the United States, the last Monday in May. It is observed in memory of those who died while serving the United States in war. The graves of the war heroes are decorated with flowers. It was first observed in 1866.

Mother's Day was first observed in 1908. It was designated by Presidential proclamation, and was recognized officially by Congress and the President in 1914. It is celebrated in honor of Mothers on the second Sunday of May.

The Kentucky Derby takes place on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky. It is the most famous horse race in the United States.

1828 - Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park London, opened

- 1 **May Day**
- 5 **Cinco de Mayo**
- 8 **Mother's Day**
- 10 Mother's Day (Mexico)
- 30 **Memorial Day**

There is also.....

- Egg Month
- Strawberry Month
- National Mental Health Month
- Herb Week
- Vegetarian Week (UK)
- and Strawberry Festivals around the world!

Thank you for all your comments and suggestions this month! Wow! Gardeners are such great people! Here's a new email we received!

*Hello , I really like this website. I would like to know if you would do more articles on local buying and why it's important. Even make a list of local food coops, like the one you have on state extension offices. Thanks, keep up the good work!
Keith Marlow*

Thanks for your comments Keith. We value them and strive to meet your requests and this month in Garden Notes, we've got the information you requested in the new **Growing Community** section.

Please take a minute and **check out the nursery** even if you are not in the buying mood today; couldn't we tempt you??

As we mentioned back in **February**, we've decided to start posting all our new articles in the newsletter for the review of all interested... it's a pain going there and looking to see what has changed every so often (like you'd know if you saw it right? 😊) So we thought this would make it easier for all our members to see things as they are added.

Happy Reading!

- **Gardening Successes Spotlight** New Feature!!

- **Don't Dally with Dill!**
- **Basils for the Home Garden**
- **Sustainable Gardening News**
We add new articles here EVERY week.

- **Community Gardening**
New articles added here at least once a month!

- **A 'Greener' Lawn**
And last but certainly not least!
We've started a whole new section for your **shopping convenience**.

Container Water Garden Kit



Complete Water Garden Including Plants, Just \$99!

This is the quickest, easiest way ever to create an enchanting water garden. Designed by one of America's leading aquatic nurseries, our Container Water Garden Kit includes a handsome kettle and an assortment of easy-to-grow plants, each on its own "floating island".

- Plants include: Creeping Jenny, Golden Creeping Jenny with bright yellow leaves, Corkscrew Rush for its unique texture, and pure white Calla Lily
- Includes handy drain plug to make emptying easy

Out back, in the garden...

Your yard, regardless of what size it is, can be a harmonic medley of color this summer and simultaneously grow vegetables for your table.

Pole beans or runner beans are an efficient use of vertical space in small or even larger gardens. While feeding your soul with beauty, climbing beans can sustain you and your family with an extended season and even attract wildlife. Hummingbirds especially love the bright blossoms of the Scarlet Runner beans.

* Growing tips: You can find many interesting varieties locally. Sow seeds directly in the ground when both air and soil are well warmed and settled - usually around mid-May. Plant seeds 1 inch deep every 3 inches, then thin half the plants once established.

* Companion planting: These combinations of plants can mutually enhance growth and productivity. Pole beans benefit from being planted with marigolds, radishes,

summer savory (great to season beans with too), corn and potatoes. Keep away from onion crops.

Pole beans can be combined with other flowering vines like Clematis, Morning Glories, Cardinal Climber just to name a few. Experiment with your own combinations and create some happy plant marriages!

Are you having trouble with slugs yet? **Sluggo Slug Bait** Is an organic pellet that eliminates slugs before they can devour your prize hostas, ripe strawberries, and lettuce. **Sluggo** is clean and easy to use; just scatter one teaspoon per square yard in the evening. Slugs that ingest the pellets stop feeding immediately, and die in 3-6 days.

Compost Alert

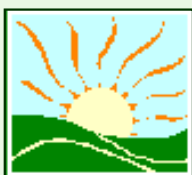
There are several ways in which compost heaps can be made and various theories exist as to the way in which they should be treated. There are two important points which are essential for successful compost making and these are adequate drainage and aeration and sufficient moisture.

Just make sure that you get one started if you haven't already. It's the lifeblood of your garden! Not sure where to start? **Try HERE.**

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GARDEN MONTHLY

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Check out what goes on in the sustainable garden in the month of **May!**



HELP ANOTHER GARDENER OUT !

If you have any interesting gardening tips that you would like to share, Share them **HERE!**

We continue creating a place to post all our subscribers' tips and tricks to help out other gardeners. Full credit will be given for every tip published, including your name and website if you have one.

Thank you for your help and suggestions!

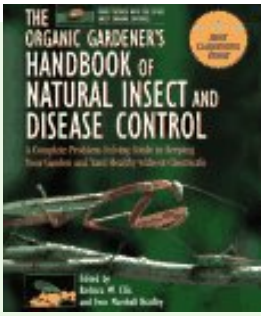
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BOOK OF THE MONTH

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The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and





Disease Control :

A Complete Problem-Solving Guide to Keeping Your Garden and Yard Healthy Without Chemicals

End your worries about garden problems with safe, effective solutions from The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control!

- Easy-to-use problem-solving encyclopedia covers more than 200 vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers, trees, and shrubs
- Complete directions on how, when, and where to use preventive methods, insect traps and barriers, biocontrols, homemade remedies, botanical insecticides, and more
- More than 350 color photos for quick identification of insect pests, beneficial insects, and plant diseases

Newly revised with the latest, safest organic controls.

"This book is our most helpful resource on pest control. It's the first book we turn to for solutions."

--Terry Gips, President, International Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

And we here at Garden Simply concur..... A resource NOT to be without!

Read More...

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FEATURED ARTICLE

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You may have heard that you can change the color of a hydrangea's flowers by adjusting soil pH. But there's a little more to it than that.... Find out **HERE!**



Enjoy!

TO PONDER

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Question 1:

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had eight kids already, (three of whom were deaf, two of whom were blind, and one who was mentally retarded), and she had syphilis; would you recommend that she have an abortion?

Question 2:

It is time to elect a new world leader, and your vote counts. Here are the facts about the three leading candidates:

Candidate A:

Associates with crooked politicians, and consults with astrologists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks eight to ten martinis a day.

Candidate B:

He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college, and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C:

He is a decorated war hero. He's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any extramarital affairs.

Which of these candidates would be your choice?

Candidate A is Franklin D. Roosevelt
Candidate B is Winston Churchill
Candidate C is Adolph Hitler.

And by the way: In answer to the abortion question

If you said yes,
you just killed Beethoven.

Pretty interesting isn't it?

Makes a person think, before judging someone with too little information.

Another interesting random thought:


Amateurs built the ark
Professionals built the Titanic

What's THAT?

Want to win ten packs of garden seeds?



Tell us what THIS is....

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G R O W I N G C O M M U N I T Y
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This month we spotlight the new Oklahoma Food Cooperative. According to Robert

Waldrop, president, Oklahoma Food Cooperative Organizing Committee, "Less than a year ago, this was just a crazy idea floating around in cyberspace. Now we are approaching our first order delivery cycle and are kicking things off with a Celebration of Oklahoma Food."

There is a significant difference between a food cooperative and a community garden. In a community garden the members grow their own food. In a coop, the members harness the buying power of many and keep their local growers in business. It's a way to keep our farmers in business and eat healthy at the same time.

Why buy local?

1. **It keeps money in the local community.**

A large proportion of the money spent on food each year leaves the locality almost immediately. When you buy from local producers and processors, that money stays in the local community and benefits everyone.

2. **You get better tasting, higher quality, and fresher food.**

For example, it's not an accident that supermarket tomatoes taste like watery mush. Agribusiness tomatoes are grown from varieties selected, not for taste and nutrition, but rather for their abilities to be picked green and shipped long distances. Your local grower chooses varieties that taste good. What a concept.

3. **You know where the food is coming from and how it was produced.**

4. **If we don't support family farmers, there won't be another generation of family farmers.**

The best support we as "urban eaters" can give them is to buy food directly from family farmers. Consolidation in the food production and distribution system is rampant. A supermarket looks competitive, with many different brands, but in fact most of them come from only 5 giant corporations, and those 5 corporations are in the process of coalescing as two. A similar consolidation is going on in the retail grocery market, as chains like Albertsons and Wal Mart drive out independent grocers. As long as we pay for this process, it will continue. It is critical that people increase their direct purchases of food products from local farmers and processors so that we can preserve economic diversity and family livelihoods in rural America. We will not like it if the production, processing, and retail distribution of food becomes a locked in monopoly of giant transnational corporations.

5. **Family farmers need our help.**

The last twenty years have been hard on family farmers. The average age of an Oklahoma farmer is 61. Government policies that are supposed to help family farmers turn out to have the perverse consequence of encouraging consolidation and larger operations. Billions of government dollars are funding the displacement of the family farmer. Hidden behind these statistics are the brutal costs economists ignore because they are "off the balance sheet". Ghost towns are dotting the Oklahoma rural landscape. The fact is, you get what you pay for. And this is what our agribusiness dollars have wrought on the rural landscape.

6. **Eating is a moral act.**

Much of our food is imported from foreign countries. In many of those countries, poor farmers have been thrown off their land, with little or no compensation, so that big US companies could come in and open factory farms to supply the North American market. Water is diverted from peasant agriculture to these farms, and the people who have farmed the lands for centuries become urban squatters in the big slums on the outskirts of third world cities. And so it comes to pass that the fresh salad greens you buy in the snows of the North American winter may indeed have been snatched from

the hands and mouths of hungry children in poor countries. Agribusiness foods grown in this country are harvested and processed by exploited migrant labor. The workers receive below minimum wage, no benefits, and are exposed to high levels of pesticides and other dangerous chemicals. The exploitation of these people is a scandal, and it is funded by the agribusiness industry and your supermarket grocery dollar..

7. **Actions have consequences.**

Food choices we make have practical consequences. By targeting as much of our grocery dollar as possible towards locally grown, sustainably produced food, we are "voting" for more prosperity, security, and a higher quality of life. Our grandparents knew the importance of supporting the local business community, and that includes the farmers. Food is such a critical aspect of life that we would be foolish to turn the food producing and distribution system entirely over to agribusiness. The right to choose means little if all the choices are dictated by faceless corporations with offices on five continents. **The wave of the future** is direct local relationships between rural producers and urban consumers. That's what the Oklahoma Food Cooperative is all about.

Excerpt <http://oklahomafood.coop>

For the next few months, we'll be putting information in this section of Garden Notes for all who have requested information on community gardening and buying locally. Do you know of any events you'd like to share?? **We'd like your feedback!**

Want to find one in your state? **See the list!**

You don't HAVE a community garden where you live? **Then START ONE!**

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C L O S I N G C O M M E N T S

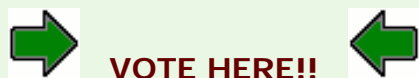
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Thank you for your patience and understanding at not having a newsletter in April. We spent most of the spring in Oregon due to some personal family issues. Missed an enTIRE semester in school... Anyone else out there a single mother with teenage boys? 😊 The views were breathtaking, the countryside rife with horticultural delight. The United States is so utterly diverse! It made us stop and ponder if we could really accomplish the goal we have set for Garden Simply! Each area of the world has its own unique challenges to gardening. We promise you, our readers, to continue to add to our **reading room** as much information as we can to aide you in your pursuits toward a sustainable lifestyle.

Your future is very much in your own hands and we hope to help all to see that the task at hand is very 'do' able! "Every journey starts with a single step...." Walk the road to sustainability... nothing gives more peace of mind than to be able to supply your own needs.

I know this edition if FULL of stuff, but one more thing! (I promise!!) We have been debating among ourselves if the "This month is _____ month...." is just TMI (toooo much Information.) One of us says yes, one of us says no. We want YOUR

opinion. Please vote and we'll act accordingly! Thanks, you guys are the best!



We are pleased to offer products from one of the largest, most dependable, and easiest places to navigate on the web, **Gardener's Supply Company**. They offer simply everything you'll need to get done what you want to get done.

We incur expenses every month making Garden Simply a truly valuable internet resource and with you visiting our sponsors, it will help keep us single moms at home with our children and help us all get through school!

And **NOTE!** They are offering *FREE SHIPPING!* on all orders over \$55!!!

Thank you for your support!

One last note before the quote! We have joined an a new email directory called **Cumuli.com** If you like Garden Notes, would you take a minute and please vote for us! **Thanks so much!**



Don't forget the "Tell Your Friends About Us!" button that we put on the front page this last month. We'll send them a link to the current edition of Garden Notes and a personal note that you write to them! You can find it **here....**

Until next month, remember the words of T.S. Eliot

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."



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HELP OUT YOUR FRIENDS - - - - -

People you care about can take charge of their garden by effectively using the information and resources available at Garden Simply.com Help them learn how - **forward them a copy** of this months Garden Monthly.

Let **GardenSimply** help you with a plan of action for YOUR garden every month!



Get the eBook "Easy Plant Propagation" as a **FREE** gift for subscribing!



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2004

From Our Readers:

"Your newsletter has really helpful information. I look forward to receiving each issue."
Jerry Andrews
~ Prescott, AZ

"I just LOVE the monthly lists! "Now I won't ever forget anything!"
Kim Robbins
~ Adair, OK

"This is just the kind of information I was looking for. Thank you for being there for gardeners who love what they are doing but don't know all the best techniques."
Jami Hill
~ Coeur d'Alene, ID

"Great site, thank you. I subscribed and I think this will be my favorite place to check frequently!"
~Cathy

Welcome to the Archive...

Great Gardening Tips and More!

Subscribe to our free newsletter, and each month you will receive helpful gardening tips and information, *plus* monthly gardening tips for what to do each and every month of the year!



2005 Newsletters

January 2005

About "Boogie Jack"
Dig Out the Cold Frames
Eight Laws of Health: Rest

January Reminders

March 2005

Garden Planning
Seed Starting Made Easy
Start a Community Garden!

March Reminders

February 2005

MAJOR Developments

Growing Under Lights
Ponder: Sustainable Farmers vs. Industrial Agriculture

February Reminders

April 2005

We went on vacation!
On the Oregon Coast
Went to visit MOM!

April Reminders

2004 Newsletters

April 2004

The BEST Strawberry Patch!
Benefit and Value of Insects

April Reminders

October 2004

Fall Gardening Clean Up
Fall Fertilizing is Different!

October Reminders

November 2004

Fall Tilling

Growing Green Manure

Stewardship Gardening

November Reminders

December 2004

Your Garden's Winter Nap

Eight Laws of Health: Water

Low-tech Winter Salad Garden.

December Reminders

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GARDEN SIMPLY

Teaching sustainable gardening practices
and techniques and good ways
to feed ourselves healthfully.