



Issue #153  
June 2005

**Out back, in the  
garden...  
Book of the Month!  
Garden Monthly!  
To Ponder  
Growing Community **NEW!**  
Closing Comments  
Garden Notes Archives**

## **WELCOME !!**

New Garden Notes Subscribers!!! {{And so MANY of you this month!}}

It's **JUNE** already!! Where does the time GO??  
I hope June finds you all with gardens in full swing and hefty, fresh-from-the-garden salads gracing your tables. It's been a bit of a struggle for us in Oklahoma, but after the wettest, coolest spring in recent memory, it seems like summer might actually arrive. Planting has been delayed for many gardeners this year and it's strange to see so much bare ground in folks' gardens this late in the season. Of the crops that did make it into the garden, many have struggled with their wet feet and the cold nights. It feels like we're on our third "mud season": every time it starts to dry up the rains come again. Someone told me it was because the oceans are evaporating at an accelerated pace due to global warming. I hope not.

As always, hope springs eternal in the garden. A sunny day or two, the plants perk up and all is forgotten. Crops go in behind schedule and you hope that the killing frost will come late in the fall, or vow to cover things if the frosts come early. If crops rot in the cold, wet earth you simply rework the soil and plant again. The timing is always right to sow something, whether it's a spring radish or a fall cover crop. And there are always the perennials, which seem to hold to their innate schedule, rain or shine. The lemon balm and licorice mint offer up a fine tea this time of year, while the valerian and dame's rocket beckon butterflies and buzzing things.

**Whatever your weather, sow some seeds and dream. Summer is here!**

Note a couple of changes (read TIME SAVERS for Jodi!)  
Since **February**, we've been posting all our newly added pages in the newsletter for the review of all interested. This has been so successful at keeping our subscribers up to date, that we've decided to do away with the "Featured Article" section. We'll just keep pertinent information in the "**Out Back in the Garden**" section.

Happy Reading!

- **Humus and Humility**  
An article from Now Magazine (VERY interesting)
- **Current food production system due for collapse.**  
The Independent Science Panel, Promotion of Science for the Public Good

- **Ten Easy Soil Tests**

Here's a simple way to assess your soil using supplies commonly found around the house.

- **Gardening Quotes**

Added MANY !!

- **"Reality Check" Glossary of Terms**

This is sooo funny!

- **LIFE IS A STAGE, AND WE'RE THE STUNTMEN!**

... a message from the Natural Handyman

- **Identifying Your Soil Type**

- **May's Monthly Reminders**

- And last but certainly not least!

We've started a whole new section for your **shopping convenience**.

Did you know that One hundred years ago there were over 6,000 named varieties of apples grown in North America? Less than 1,000 of these remain.

How many varieties have you seen in the grocery store?

Source: Seeds of Diversity Canada - [www.seeds.ca](http://www.seeds.ca)

Found this on the BBC..... thought you'd all get a kick out of it. And **caution!** it's NOT easy!! Take this quiz to test your knowledge of organic gardening!

Take the self-quiz.  
[Click here](#)



Please take a minute and **check out the nursery**. There is still PLENTY of time to plant perennials, plan for your fall garden... and speaking of fall (it *is* inevitable) you'll want those bulbs for spring!! And I found this and HAD to have it, it is THE most convenient thing I've found in a very long time. Just connect it to the hose and your SET!

### **Gardener's Wash Station Keeps Dirt Out of the House**



Wash freshly picked vegetables, clean your garden tools and scrub your hands before you go indoors. This clever Wall Mounted Outdoor Wash Station has a work surface/lid that you remove to reveal a 10-gallon utility sink. There's also a saddle to hold 25 feet of hose, and two sets of mounting brackets so you can hang it in a shed during winter. Larger than similar-looking sinks on the market, it also has sturdier hardware and is molded of a weatherproof copolymer that resists acids, oils and corrosive agents.

- 10 gallon sink capacity
- 2 sets of mounting brackets



- allows for 2 remote locations
- stainless steel faucet
- Simple assembly required.
- Uses one supply hose and one discharge hose (not included) to drain water away from the house
- **Freestanding Wash Station** also available

## Out back, in the garden...

Okay, it's June. It's starting to get hot. It's starting to get DRY. Don't forget to use your **monthly reminders**, and **mulch, mulch, MULCH!** But there is another page that's got all sorts of good stuff on it too, (checking the logs, I see it is often overlooked) and it has good info that's not included in the monthly reminders.... it's a page all its own.

**Find it!**

## Compost Alert

### Why compost?

Composting is an easy, environmentally beneficial way to turn yard and kitchen wastes into a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling soil amendment that will build your soil, increase garden production and do wonders for your landscaping.

### Composting will...

- **Save you money** by lowering garbage bills and replacing the need for commercial soil amendments.
- **Increase production** by improving the fertility and health of your soil.
- **Save water** by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff.
- **Benefit the environment** by recycling valuable organic resources and extending the lives of our landfills.

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? **Learn to Compost.**

Need an *entire* compost primer?

Check out our **Master Series Gardening Courses!**

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## BOOK OF THE MONTH

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### The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food

Before it was a book, The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food was organic gardener Tanya L. K. Denckla's highly prized personal database, the distillation of years of careful research and hands-on,



real-life, dirt-under-the-fingernails experience in growing her own vegetables, herbs, fruits, and nuts. Now available to all, this easy-to-read sourcebook offers much to gardeners of all skill levels, answering questions quickly and authoritatively so more time can be spent enjoying the garden.

Six comprehensive chapters cover vegetables, fruits and nuts, herbs, organic remedies, and allies and companions. Within each chapter plants are arranged alphabetically, making needed information eminently accessible. Individual plant entries provide specific information on planting; temperature; soil and water needs; measurements; seed-starting dates; pests, diseases, allies, companions, and incompatibles, as applicable; when to harvest; how to store produce; and overviews of selected varieties.

Fully half of the book is dedicated to organic remedies that can prevent or combat plant diseases and garden pests. Hundreds of common diseases and pests are discussed, as well as which plants are likely to be affected, how to recognize the problem, and tried-and-true natural remedies. The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Organic Food demystifies how to work collaboratively with the complex natural systems of the environment, making gardening a little easier and definitely more fun.

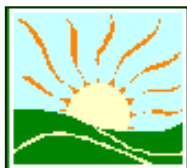
Serious Information for Serious Fun, no doubt! ..... A resource NOT to be without!

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## GARDEN MONTHLY

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

Great Prices on Trees & Shrubs [Click Here to Visit Our Online Nursery](#)

## TO PONDER

I read this week about the world's oldest known tree. This 4767 year-old bristlecone pine from the White Mountains in California is giving scientists clues as to how we could all live extremely long lives.

The scientists say that the secret strategy to extreme longevity is - eat little, live slowly and avoid all kinds of danger.

How boring is that? And how many research grants did they use up to reach that startling conclusion?

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## GROWING COMMUNITY

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This month we spotlight the largest community gardening program in the United States, GreenThumb. GreenThumb supports community gardens in New York City. They have over 600 member gardens serving 20,000 city residents.

"Since 1978 we've been committed to providing support to help strengthen gardens, strengthen gardener skills, and strengthen communities. GreenThumb's services take the form of materials, grants, and technical assistance, including educational workshops."

Download their latest newsletter, [HERE](#).



Established in 1978, GreenThumb remains the nation's largest urban gardening program, assisting over 600 gardens and nearly 20,000 garden members throughout New York City. Our aim is to foster civic participation and encourage neighborhood revitalization while preserving open space. Community gardens provide green space and easily accessible recreational opportunities in the areas that need them most. GreenThumb was initiated in response to the city's financial crisis of the 1970's, which resulted in the abandonment of a tremendous amount of public and private land. Residents of these devastated communities transformed these unattractive and unsafe spaces into green havens.

**Can anyone say "WOW"??** Sorry to those of you in NYC, but let's face it, when I think of gardening, I simply don't think NYC. But urban gardening is becoming increasingly important. I was amazed when I found this website, and thought it would be a good resource. Their newsletters are full of ideas to play with. (See the link above) Okay, they've got grants, full-time staff, and etc, but you know what? All it takes is someone putting a couple of heads together, finding a little plot of land and donating a few hours a week to make it work!! on a smaller scale. Hey, Rome wasn't built in a day!

### Conference Alert!

And for all of you die-hard, can't wait to get involved and make a difference angels, (especially if you live in the Twin Cities area!!) check it out...

### **American Community Garden Association (ACGA)**

2005 Annual Conference will be in the  
Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota  
August 11, 12, 13 and 14


**Download the 2005 Conference Brochure**

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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## CLOSING COMMENTS

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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. 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 a variety of accurate and informative help we can to aide you in your pursuits toward a sustainable lifestyle.

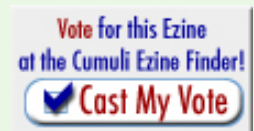
Your future is very much in your own hands and we hope to help all to see that the task at hand is very 'do' able! "Every journey starts with a single step..." Walk the road to sustainability... nothing gives more peace of mind than to be able to supply your own needs.

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!

### Thank you for your support!

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



Until next month, remember the words of Winifred Gallagher ....

"Like a big mountain, a small garden stimulates, restores, and delights us, just as it poses challenges, promotes mastery, provides exercise and relieves monotony."

*From: The Power of Place*





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