



Issue #151
March 2005

**Out back, in
the garden...
Book of the Month
Featured Article
Garden Monthly!
To Ponder
Growing Community
Closing Comments
Subscription Management**

WELCOME !!

Garden Notes Subscribers!!!

Spring is just around the corner!!

March is:

- Daffodil Month
- Chocolate Month
- Horse Month

- 5-11 Procrastination Week
- 6 Dentists' Day
- 8 Intl. Women's Day
- 9 No Smoking Day (UK)
- 9 Panic Day
- 9 Employee Appreciation
- 12 Girl Scout Day
- 15 Ides Of March
- 17 National Quilting Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- **20 Spring Begins**
- 21 Mother's Day UK (Happy Mother's Day to You 'mums' in the UK!)
- 27 Easter
- 30 Doctor's Day

Okay, you asked for it, you GOT it! We took all your ideas seriously and put Jodi to work in her spare time (yeah, RIGHT!) making you a shopping page. We have been doing research for a long time making sure we found you the best place on the web to shop for what you want.

Beside all that, **Gardener's Supply** and **Nature Hills** is where we do most of our online shopping, so we feel confident you will have excellent experience there.

A Special Thanks to all who took our **eMail Survey** this month!

We had an overwhelming response !! So, okay, OKAY, we won't quit!

And it is not too late to take it. If you didn't get the email or have time to take the ONE question survey yet, you may do so **HERE**

Here's one email that we got!

*Hello , I got the email and also sent it to some friends!! They really liked it as much as I !!!!
Thanx, Sandra*

Did you notice 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**.

Firefox is on Fire

Open Source browsers almost hit the 20% mark of all visitors to our site last month (Firefox + Mozilla + Netscape = 19.8%). Like it or not, Explorer usage is falling like a rock. If you want to get rid of that old bloat and see what all the fuss is about, might we suggest you download the Firefox browser....

Free download Firefox web browser. ==> **<http://www.mozilla.org>**

Once you start using it, you'll never go back to Ex plo der... er, I mean Explorer ever again.

As we mentioned 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!

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

We added a new section on the articles page...

- **Articles** Look for 'Seasonal'.
There's not a lot on it yet, but we'll let you know as we add to it!
- **History of Vegetarianism**
- **Long-day and Short-day Onions**
- **Growing Lettuce**
- **Growing Tomatoes**
This is a series of articles.
- **Bulb Tips**
This is just a baby page that we started and will add to as we come across things to put on it! Got your own tips to share? **SEND them ON!**
- **Garden Map**

- **Make Your Own Rain Barrel**
- **Community Gardening**
- And last but certainly not least!
We've started a whole new section for your **shopping convenience**.



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Spring Favorites

Beautiful summer gardens are born in the coldest winter months. We have everything you need to start planning and planting today, including quality-crafted greenhouses, sturdy tools, planters for indoors or out and much more.

Out back, in the garden...

Don't throw out that ash if you're burning wood in the fireplace this winter! Save it until next spring then spread it in your gardens. Scatter it around your carrots, radishes and onions to keep root maggots away. It will also improve the flavor of your potatoes. Wood ash is high in potassium and will raise the pH of soil.

Complex Plot

Planning your vegetable garden? You might want to consider rearranging last year's setup, no matter how successful it was. The logic here is that many diseases and insects afflict particular plants, so by moving the vegetables around you won't give these plant assassins a head start on their destruction. Also, if you have a mulching mower that collects grass clippings, just lay a few inches of the mulch over your vegetable garden's soil in the late spring and let it go to work as a fertilizer.

To Water or Not to Water

In winter, when indoor heating and the generally dry air help create shriveled potted plants aplenty, home gardeners need to watch the moisture of the soil carefully to keep plants healthy.

Overwatering, as well as underwatering, could kill your plants. Going on a fixed "every Thursday" schedule isn't a good solution because watering when a plant doesn't need it could drown the plant.

To monitor the situation of your indoor plants, get a **Light & Moisture**

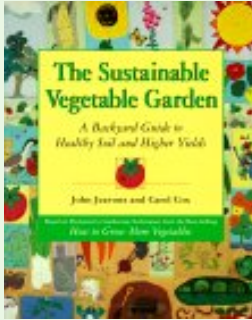
Meter , stick the meter deep into the soil where the plant's roots are, and let the readout tell you if your plant is thirsty or not.

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BOOK OF THE MONTH

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The Sustainable Vegetable Garden



More than 25 years ago, Jeavons wrote the best-selling *How to Grow More Vegetables*, which sold more than 350,000 copies in seven languages. It was a how-to book on high-yield, biologically intensive food-raising techniques. His new book, coauthored by Carol Cox, is a somewhat simpler book written for gardeners trying biointensive gardening for the first time. The focus is on the soil; and a good way to ensure sustainable soil fertility, the authors say, is the biointensive method of growing...

Greening the Garden was a very interesting book because it discussed the non main stream vegetables such as quinoa, amaranth, sunchokes, comfrey, dried beans, soybeans, fava beans, and others. It was a nice introduction to what I consider the lesser used, if not lesser known, vegetables.

This isn't another uninformative how to grow a tomato book. It does discuss growing certain vegetables as I stated above, but what I really enjoyed, and was surprised to find in the book, were the writings concerning our environment, our current food productions impact on earth and the impact on people's health who consume these foods (both meat and vegetable).

This book was a wonderful read on environmental problems such as considering how much food we get from one cow per acre compared to if we grew vegetables on that one acre. Per pound the vegetables would far out beat the cow and would supply food for that many more people. There are discussions on chemical use and how Indonesia is one of the first to ban chemical use and has reclaimed its rice crops by doing so. The author gives us hope that our seed diversity which has been declining over the years may not be gone forever. Apparently the author found some genetic diversity in some bean seeds he's been saving. This, as he says, is just a reminder that genes from the past may still be present in today's seeds. One more reason to save and protect our open pollinated seeds.

[Read More...](#)

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FEATURED ARTICLE

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Last month we talked about gardening **under lights**

If you are going to be starting your own seedlings for planting in your garden this year, here is some must have up to date information.

It's not too long, but a step by step process of what to do to start your own seedlings for your spring garden. **Seed Starting Made Easy**

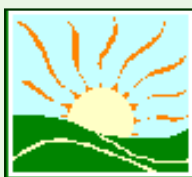
Enjoy!

And we would be remiss not to mention **TOMATOES!!**

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GARDEN MONTHLY

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




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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TO PONDER

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"Human beings are not natural carnivores. When we kill animals to eat them, they end up killing us because their flesh, which contains cholesterol and saturated fat, was never intended for human beings, who are natural herbivores." - William C. Roberts, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Cardiology

Requoted from **VegSource.org**

Read the whole article **HERE**

NOTE: We are not Vegan Vegetarians. But we have been leaning that

direction... it sure does make sense.

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GROWING COMMUNITY

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Imagine a city in which every neighborhood is filled with healthy street trees, attractive parks, and productive gardens; where the air and water are clean; where neighborhood youth take an active role in improving their environment; and where diverse residents come together to build their city stronger through community stewardship.

America's urban environments have become our most important ecosystems. In addition to the fact that more than 75% of us live in cities, the condition of the urban environment affects our economy, our culture, our society and our natural resources on local, regional and national scales. Garden Simply is taking action to improve public education and bring to attention this urban environment to help revitalize our urban communities.

Community gardens empower individuals, knit together a stronger community, beautify local areas, produce fresh and nutritious food, and provide valuable recreational, spiritual and therapeutic opportunities. We believe that by growing food together, we can restore ourselves to our ancestral, historical and spiritual roots in agriculture, shared by people throughout the globe.

For the next few months, we'll be putting information in this section of Garden Notes for all who have requested information on this. **We'd like your feedback!**

This month, let's talk about how you can help a community garden.

- Donate or locate garden resources, such as: irrigation systems, garden tools, construction tools, building supplies, rare fruit and perennial seedlings, rubber boots, gloves, hats
- Offer technical advice, troubleshooting and design assistance
- And MOST importantly, **Volunteer your time in the gardens**

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

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CLOSING COMMENTS

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We still have two Welsh Corgi puppies to find homes for! If you would like to see our adorable little bundles of love, check them out, **HERE**.

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!**



Until next month, remember the words of Mark Twain

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it's time to pause and reflect."



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SUBSCRIPTION MANAGMENT
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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!



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