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WELCOME Garden Notes Subscribers!!

The Doctor is **IN!**

We have a new consultant on our GardenSimply team! Dr. Jack DeAngelis from **Living With Bugs.com** a website devoted to urban entomology, the study of insects that impact people and their property, was an Extension Entomologist (PhD) at Oregon State University for 16 years until his retirement in 2004. Jack's approach to pests is "the least-toxic solution". (I like that!)

Jack has a **'bug' forum** getting started over at his site, so don't fail to check it out. There is a lot of seasonally specific advice there. Ask **questions** and get **answers**. Jack monitors it very well and provides prompt answers to your questions. Jack and his wife live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Geeee... where have you guys heard that before?? (yes, that's me sighing) I miss it. Oregon had to be the most beautiful state I have ever lived in. (sigh)

Speaking of the Pacific Northwest, **Seattle Homes and Lifestyles Magazine** mentioned us in their online magazine last month... neat.

Also, for our senior gardeners, and we are all moving in that direction, we have a great article on, **"Gardening Gain With a Lot Less Pain."** Even if you are not a senior gardener you may want to share this information with a friend or relative.

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What's New?

We have an *entirely* new section in our **Reading Room!**

Thanks so much! and Happy Reading!

- **New "Sustainable" Label Aims to Compete with Organic**
Tired of paying a premium for organic fruits and veggies? A coalition of farmers, environmentalists, and public officials is promoting an alternative that they say will be less costly: a "sustainable" certification system and label.
- **Humus Fungi**
A tutorial on how to grow fungi (mushrooms!) in humus (compost!)

- **Malabar Gourd**

The fruits are brightly coloured and mottled, and are quite huge. They can be eaten very small like courgettes, but their real purpose is for them to be left to ripen their hard skins.

- **Yacon**

Yacon is a tender perennial, meaning that it lives for many years but needs to be protected from frost. Other tender perennials are potatoes (which, along with Yacon, originates from the high Andes) and Dahlias.

- **The Age Old Method of Air Layering**

Believed to have been developed by the Chinese centuries ago.... this method has been used successfully as a mean of propagating some more difficult-to-root plants.

- **Grow Your Own Nitrogen**

Nitrogen makes up about three-fourths of the air we breathe. Since this colorless, odorless gas is the basic building block for protein, its availability is extremely important to the plants (and animals) that feed us.

- **Yard Waste Recycling**

Reducing the amount of solid waste entering landfills is an important reason to recycle yard wastes at home. Your efforts benefit the entire community, and they ultimately benefit your landscape.

- **Benefit and Value of Insects**

Excerpt pertaining to the season...

Grow winter annual cover crops to provide additional organic matter without the effort of hauling, fix free nitrogen from the air, reduce loss of soluble plant growth nutrients through leaching, and provide a bright patch of greenery during the winter months.



Jodi's Cool Find Alert !!



Who *wouldn't* want one?

Affordable Composting Helper

Click photo for more information!

I want one of these things so bad I could scream...! When I think of how much composting material goes to the dump every year, I cry. **Read my blog...** If I had one of these I could compost sooo SO much more over the winter. Leaves are bad to matt up and not mix with other nitrogenous material in the compost, and I always have more leaf than compost left... any of you have that



problem? NOT if you could SHRED them first!



Quiet, powerful 8-amp electric motor.
PERFECT Gift for me, I mean, the home gardener in *your* life!

Of course if any of you would like to make a charitable donation to GardenSimply's test garden, that would be nice!

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Out Back, in the Garden.....

PRIORITY LIST

- **Tidy Up Around Fruit Trees...**

No one likes worms and other pests in their fruit trees. A simple clean up now can dramatically reduce the number of pests that return next year. Just pick up and destroy any fallen fruit, branches, and leaves. Worms and other pests feed on this fruit and debris, overwinter in the soil, and emerge in the spring to lay eggs and start the cycle all over again.

- **Monthly Reminders...**

Evergreen Pruning... Light pruning of both needle and broadleaf evergreens is recommended in late fall to encourage a strong framework to help the plant overcome any snow damage. Simply remove any weak or crowded branches with a pair of clean sharp pruners.

- **Tools and Equipment Monthly Reminders...**

Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and some oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting.

- **Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcovers Monthly Reminders...**

Your trees and shrubs will begin to harden for the upcoming cold weather. To encourage this, remove mulch from around the stems of shrubs and trees.



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

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

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Compost Alert !!

Making compost in winter. Heat, more than any other single factor, is what drives a compost pile and enables it to turn raw materials like leaves and grass clippings into compost. Most of the heat is actually generated within the compost pile by the microorganisms that decompose the material, but the process speeds up during the heat of summer and slows during the winter.

Your compost pile will stay active longer in cold weather if you insulate it by mounding straw and leaves around and on top of the pile. You can also use rigid insulation. Too much insulation can cut down on air movement in the pile, so it's important to keep stirring -- an insulated pile probably won't freeze, and you can continue stirring throughout the winter.

For you hard core composters, you can always make a 'winter compost' from old storm windows. Slant the windows toward the south to pick up the long, low rays of the winter sun. Stack straw bales around the sides to serve as insulation. Use the glass door as a lid for a 'greenhouse effect'. It will keep the animals and snow out, and let the warming sun through. You'll find up to a 50° difference between inside and outside temperatures on January morning. Said one happy Pennsylvania gardener, "I could just feel the billions of happy bacteria, hard at work in the warm interior making black gold to spur the seeds in spring." (<http://www.compostguide.com/>)

One way to deal with leaves that won't fit into the compost pile is to put them in plastic garbage bags into which you've poked a few holes. Drop a handful of high-nitrogen lawn fertilizer (for example, 21-7-7) and a shovelful of soil in with them, then just leave them in an out-of-the-way spot in the garden. By spring the leaves will have rotted to about half their volume, and you've got the makings of fabulous leaf mould for use on the spring garden.

Compost Tip: If you are in an apartment or condominium consider **worm composting**. If done properly it doesn't smell and is the perfect after dinner conversation piece.

Technical support for the above information came from **The All Seasons Gardener**, published by Penguin Books.

- **Soil Building for November**

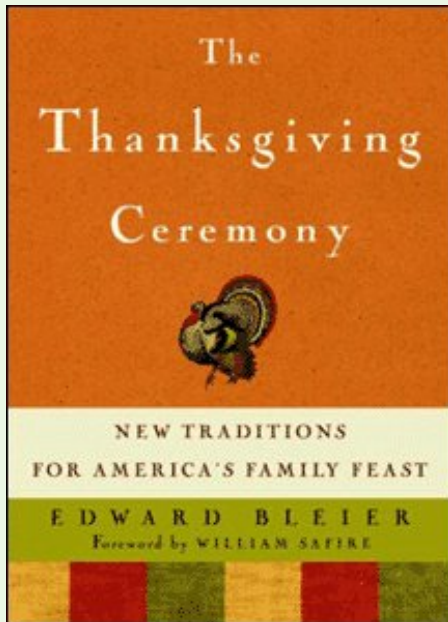
Not sure where to start? **Learn to Compost.**

Need an *entire* compost primer?
Check out our **Master Series Gardening Courses!**

What are you reading
when you're *not* reading Garden Notes?
Wonderful Gardening Magazines, are **RIGHT HERE!**



Book of the Month



The Thanksgiving Ceremony

A book that celebrates Thanksgiving and offers readers the chance to participate in a ceremony designed to be read aloud around the table. It recounts the story of the early settlers and the challenges they, and all subsequent immigrant generations, faced. The ceremony provides roles for guests of all ages and takes about twenty minutes.

Families can create and customize their own ceremony, including pieces by Maya Angelou, Irving Berlin, Woodie Guthrie, and Emily Dickinson.

I bought this book last year and our family time together was greatly blessed. I highly recommend it!

>> [Buy It!](#)



To Ponder...



In the last three years, 287 bills related to kicking junk food out of schools have been proposed in some 45 states. The junk food industry has lobbied hard against these laws and has successfully defeated over 85% of them. As the exception, New Jersey and Maine recently passed "junk food laws" that will remove soda, candy and other junk foods from schools (pre-kindergarten through high school) by the end of 2007. The OCA's "Appetite for a Change" campaign is closely monitoring similar proposed legislation in your state. [Learn more...](#)



Growing Community

This month we spotlight **The Edible School Yard**, a place to find locally grown produce, anywhere in the country! The freshest, healthiest, most flavorful **organic food** is what's grown **closest to you**. Use their website to find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area, where you can buy produce, grass-fed meats, and many other goodies. Just click on the map below to zoom in, or use our search form for quick results. If you are a farmer, market manager, or run a business related to locally-grown food, you can add your listing to their directory - free.

As their web site explains, "Most produce in the US is picked 4 to 7 days before being placed on supermarket shelves, and is shipped for an average of 1500 miles before being sold. And this is when taking into account only US grown products! Those distances are substantially longer when we take into consideration produce imported from Mexico, Asia, Canada, South America, and other places."

"We can only afford to do this now because of the artificially low energy prices that we currently enjoy, and by externalizing the environmental costs of such a wasteful food system. We do this

also to the detriment of small farmers by subsidizing large scale, agribusiness-oriented agriculture with government handouts and artificially cheap energy."

More links on food production and energy use:

Interested in more?

- **STARTING A SCHOOL GARDEN AND KITCHEN - HOW WE CAN HELP**

- **Developing Ecoliteracy**

A garden, whether at home or at school, is an example of a managed ecosystem. In a garden, the principles of ecology and systems thinking come alive. Through hands-on experiences students can gain understanding of cycles, from the life cycle of a plant to the nitrogen cycle.

Community Food Security: Definitions and Explanations

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

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



Web Finds

REALLY COOL TIP!

I really like this idea, and can't wait to build one of my own!

If you have a large garden or just get weary of running to and fro from where your tools and supplies are stored, consider placing mailboxes around the garden at strategic locations and filling them with those items you use most or wish you had at hand. You can place the traditional long, round-topped box on a short 4x4 set into the ground, or attach the flat, porch-type box to a fence or wall. Keeping a trowel, notebook and pen, or other paraphernalia handy can be a real time and energy saver, plus you'll be more likely to keep the garden in tip-top shape.

Tip from **Garden.org**

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Closing Comments

LAST MONTH!!

To download this **FREE Gift!!**

Just for our {{ subscribers!! }}... it's timely and it's *cute!*

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... and then some. They have some of the coolest home and garden accessories on the internet, so please take a peek!

We incur expenses every month making Garden Simply a truly valuable internet resource and with you **visiting our sponsors**, it will help us keep it free Garden Note FREE!

Thank you for your support!

As you all know, we joined an **eZine Directory** back in March. And it has turned into a contest! If you enjoy Garden Notes would you please take a minute and please vote for us! They will ask for your email address, but that is just to prevent unauthorized use. They won't send you anything, I promise.



Until next month, remember the words of Minnie Aumonier...

"When the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy, there is always the garden."

From GS's gardening quotes.

Never underestimate the value of what you are doing. Life is short,



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for YOUR garden every month!



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