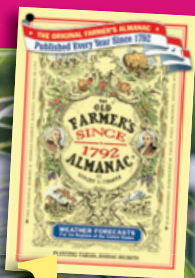


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ALL-SEASONS

Garden Guide



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The Promise is featured with many other recent works in my book, *Journeys of the Human Heart*. It, too, is available from the address above at \$12.95 per copy postpaid. Please visit my Web site at

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ALL-SEASONS

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COVER: *Delphinium, Phlox, Lavatera, Coreopsis, Tagetes, Rosa, Origanum 'Aureum', Heuchera, and Spartina* in a mixed border. Photo: Friedrich Strauss/GAP Photos.

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Garden Guide

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Phone: 603-563-8111 • Fax: 603-563-8252

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Editor's Note

Blest power of sunshine!—genial Day

What balm, what life is in thy ray!

—Thomas Moore,
Irish poet (1779–1852)

As I wrote this, the outdoor temperature was in the teens and the Sun was setting on the shortest, darkest day of the year. It was December 21, the winter solstice . . . and that, friends, was the good news. That date signaled the first day of winter, yes, but also a return of the light, making for longer days and—hooray!—announcing the dawn of a new gardening season.

Since then, each day has gained 2 to 3 minutes of light (a pace that will continue until June 21), and the Sun has been climbing ever higher in the sky. Across the country, seed racks have been sprouting in supply stores. In homes, seedlings are poking up in peat pots, eggshells, and even shoeboxes on windowsills and under grow lights. Outside, bare spots, muddy patches, and tired lawns are calling out for inspiration, preparation, and transformation.

Now, as winter turns to spring, is a great time to create your best garden—and we're here to help you use your time and space to best advantage. For example, on these pages you'll find . . .

- timesaving plots: “The Almost-Instant Garden” (page 24)
- time-honored traditions: mailbox beds (page 26)
- time-tested techniques for growing great-tasting tomatoes (page 78), a cook's vegetable garden (page 92), and mouthwatering figs in a barrel (page 110)
- timely advice on how to attract butterflies and hummingbirds (pages 64 and 70)
- harvesttime storage tips (page 109)

If it's about time for you to get growing, use this little book as well as the hundreds of pages on our Web site, Almanac.com, to plan, cultivate, and celebrate the “blest power of sunshine.” Have fun, experiment, and enjoy the bounty of your efforts!



JANICE STILLMAN, EDITOR

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A Gardener's Calendar

Advice, reflections, facts, and folklore for the year.

JANUARY

- 1** **NEW YEAR'S DAY**
In France, kissing under the mistletoe was reserved for today.

- 5** **TWELFTH NIGHT**
At Twelfth Night, the days are lengthened one cock's stride.

- 15** **NEW MOON**
Remove aphids from houseplants with equal parts rubbing alcohol and water, plus a drop of detergent.

- 17** **BIRTHDAY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**
Diligence is the mother of good luck.
—Benjamin Franklin, American statesman (1706–90)

- 30** **FULL WOLF MOON**
This Moon is also known as the Old Moon and the Ice Moon.



FEBRUARY

- 2** **CANDLEMAS; GROUNDHOG DAY**

- 13** **NEW MOON**
Cut poles for peas, beans, and other climbers and set them in a dry area.

- 14** **VALENTINE'S DAY**
Wear a yellow crocus to ward off evil in love.

- 16** **SHROVE TUESDAY**
Whatever one doth plant or sow today will always remain green.

- 28** **FULL SNOW MOON**
Grow snowball bush (*Viburnum opulus* 'Roseum') and use the flowers in spring bouquets.



MAY

- 1** **MAY DAY**
Hang a sprig of hawthorn in the house today to prevent evil influences.

- 9** **MOTHER'S DAY**
Garlic is as good as ten mothers.
—ancient Indian proverb

- 13** **NEW MOON**
Stake tomato plants when young to avoid blossom end rot.

- 27** **FULL FLOWER MOON**
Prune forsythias, azaleas, and lilacs after they have flowered.

- 31** **MEMORIAL DAY**
(observed)
If you are new to gardening, try planting lettuce, peas, beans, and tomatoes.



JUNE

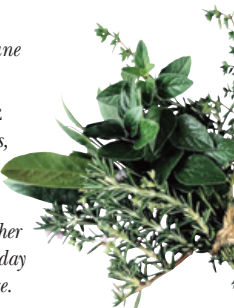
- 5** **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**
The earth is given as a common stock for man to labor and live on.
—Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, 1785

- 12** **NEW MOON**
Calm weather in June sets corn in tune.

- 21** **SUMMER SOLSTICE**
The louder the frogs, the more the rain.

- 24** **MIDSUMMER DAY**
It is unlucky to gather herbs on St. John's day (today) after sunrise.

- 26** **FULL STRAWBERRY MOON**
A healthy strawberry plant can yield about 1 pint of berries.



Calculations are based on Eastern Standard Time (EST), except for between 2:00 A.M., March 14, and 2:00 A.M., November 7, when Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) is used.

MARCH

- 1** **ST. DAVID**
Upon St. David's Day,
put oats and barley in the clay.
- 15** **NEW MOON**
Repair trellises and latticework.
- 17** **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
Put white carnations in warm water with a few drops of green food coloring. Watch!
- 20** **VERNAL EQUINOX**
Plant beets, lettuce, and peas when soil crumbles through your fingers.
- 29** **FULL WORM MOON**
Prune bulbs' faded flowers. Leave the foliage to turn brown.



APRIL

- 1** **ALL FOOLS' DAY**
When the birds nest low,
All the year, the winds will blow.
- 2** **GOOD FRIDAY**
Plant cabbage today after sunset, and it will never have bugs.
- 14** **NEW MOON**
Divide overgrown perennials now.
- 22** **EARTH DAY**
Put tall plants in the north end of the garden and short plants in the south.
- 28** **FULL PINK MOON**
Dianthus, or pinks, bloom now.



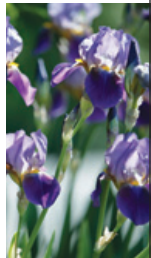
JULY

- 3** **DOG DAYS BEGIN.**
Toads are said to never open their mouths during dog days.
- 4** **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Make a bouquet of red roses, white daisies, and blue delphiniums.
- 11** **NEW MOON**
As high as the weeds grow,
So will the bank
of snow.
- 15** **ST. SWITHIN**
Rain today blesses
the apples.
- 25** **FULL BUCK MOON**
When the Moon is at
the full,
Mushrooms you may
freely pull.



AUGUST

- 1** **LAMMAS DAY**
Today marks the ripening of first fruits and grains. Bake!
- 9** **NEW MOON**
Divide and replant irises where they will have "wet feet, but dry knees."
- 10** **ST. LAWRENCE**
The annual Perseid meteor shower (August 11–13) is also known as "the tears of St. Lawrence."
- 17** **CAT NIGHTS COMMENCE.**
To keep cats out of your garden, plant petunias.
- 24** **FULL STURGEON MOON**
Place a board under melons to deter wireworms and prevent decay.



continued

A Gardener's Calendar *(continued)*

SEPTEMBER

6 LABOR DAY
A late summer garden has a tranquility found no other time of the year.
—William F. Longgood, American author (b. 1917)

8 NEW MOON
Sow perennial seeds outdoors up to 6 weeks before the first fall frost.

12 GRANDPARENTS DAY
Prune summer-bearing raspberries.

22 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX
The autumn night is changeable.

23 FULL HARVEST MOON
Corn's roots reach down as far as 7 feet.



NOVEMBER

2 ELECTION DAY; ALL SOULS' DAY

6 NEW MOON
Water houseplants less often as temperatures drop.

11 ST. MARTIN OF TOURS; VETERANS DAY
"St. Martin comes riding on a white horse" refers to coming snows.

21 FULL BEAVER MOON
Put mulch on perennial beds after the ground has frozen 1 to 2 inches.

25 THANKSGIVING DAY
A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue but also the parent of all the other virtues. —Cicero, Roman philosopher (106–43 B.C.)



OCTOBER

7 NEW MOON
Squirrels gathering nuts in a flurry, Will cause snow to gather in a hurry.

9 ST. DENIS
Lift and store dahlias and gladiolus.

11 COLUMBUS DAY; THANKSGIVING DAY (CANADA)
October always has 19 fine days.

22 FULL HUNTER'S MOON
When you harvest pumpkins, leave 3 to 6 inches of vine attached.

31 ALL HALLOWS' EVE
Mound dirt around roses to protect them from winter damage.



DECEMBER

5 NEW MOON
One kind word can warm three winter months.

6 ST. NICHOLAS
Prune dead limbs from trees.

21 WINTER SOLSTICE; FULL COLD MOON
Burn brush and celebrate the return of light.

25 CHRISTMAS DAY
If there's thunder during Christmas week, The winter will be anything but meek.

31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
Begin the new year square with every man.
—Robert B. Thomas (1766–1846), founder, *The Old Farmer's Almanac*



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25 Tips That Could Save Your Season



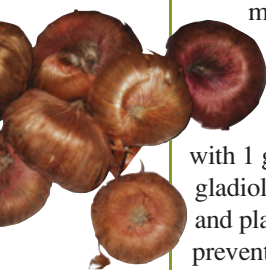
MULCH WITH STONES. Spread dark stones around the bases of plants. Stones absorb heat from the Sun and transmit it to the ground.

SALT TOMATO ROOTS. For maximum yield, water with 1 tablespoon Epsom salts to 1 gallon water once per week after tomato flowers appear.

BLOT OUT BLACK SPOTS. To prevent black spot disease, mix 3 tablespoons baking soda with 1 gallon water and spray on roses. Remove and discard black-spotted leaves.

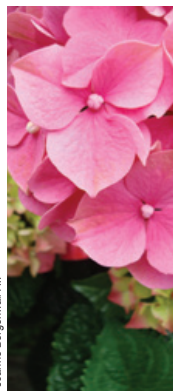
BUTTER UP SPIDER MITES. Mix ½ cup buttermilk, 4 cups wheat flour, and 5 gallons water. Strain through cheesecloth. Discard the solids. Spray the liquid on mite-affected plants.

TRICK THRIPS. Mix 1 tablespoon Lysol household cleaner with 1 gallon water. Soak gladiolus corms in the liquid and plant while still wet to prevent thrips.



FEED ROSES. Bury one old, brown, mushy banana at the base of each rosebush or apply the peels only, laying them flat under the soil at the base of the plant. Repeat every few weeks.

PINK OR BLUE? Some *Hydrangea macrophylla* and *H. serrata* cultivars can change color. To have blue hydrangea flowers, increase the acidity of the soil by adding a solution of ¼ ounce aluminum sulfate per gallon of water three times per growing season. To have pink hydrangea flowers, increase the soil's alkalinity by spreading ground limestone, 4 pounds per 100 square feet, in spring or fall.



—Joanne Bergemall, Av

COLLAR CUTWORMS. Ring tomato, cabbage, kale, and other seedlings with collars cut from milk or juice cartons, toilet or wrapping paper rolls, coffee or tuna cans (with both ends removed)—even small lamp shades—to prevent cutworms from slicing the stems.

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25 Tips That Could Save Your Season *(continued)*

PRESPROUT POTATOES. Lay cut-up pieces of seed potatoes in a single layer on a tray near a sunny window. Three to 10 days later, when the sprouts are 1 inch long, plant them outdoors.

GROUND WHITEFLIES. Coat yellow index cards liberally with petroleum jelly and place near affected plants. To whiteflies, aphids, and other insects, the yellow looks like new foliage. The bugs are lured to it, get stuck, and die.

SPREAD ASHES. Save ashes from wood-burning stoves. Sprinkle the ashes around fruit trees and bulbs in spring. Also, tomatoes benefit from ashes mixed into the soil.

BLEACH OKRA. To hasten germination, soak okra seeds in 1 cup chlorine bleach for exactly 5 minutes, then rinse with water and plant.

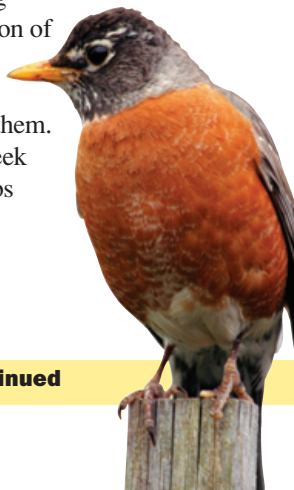
SAVE SEEDS. Store unused seeds for 2 to 3 years in a cool, dry place in tightly sealed jars. For safety, add one part powdered milk to one part seeds to absorb any moisture.

EGG DEER. Mix 12 rotten eggs in 5 gallons water. Spray around the perimeter of the garden to repel deer.

MEASURE MANURE. A bushel of aged cow or horse manure is plenty for 50 square feet. One bushel of more potent poultry, sheep, pig, or goat manure is plenty for 100 square feet.

SMOTHER APPLES AND PEARS. These and other fruits “breathe.” Wrap them in paper or store in sand or sawdust to prevent moisture loss and retard the release of ethylene gas.

ATTRACT (AND FEED) BIRDS. In late spring and fall, the time of the grub stage of the Japanese beetle, spray every 1,000 square feet of lawn with a solution of 2 tablespoons liquid dishwashing detergent in 1 gallon of water. The grubs will surface and birds will devour them. Spray once per week until no more grubs surface.



continued

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DIVERSITECH

25 Tips That Could Save Your Season *(continued)*

SWEETEN LETTUCE. Mix 1 cup rabbit food into every 10 square feet of lettuce bed before planting. If lettuce is bitter after picking, store the leaves in the refrigerator for a few days or soak the leaves in milk for 1 to 2 hours. Discard the milk and rinse with water.

CLIP CARROT TOPS.

To discourage beets, carrots, parsnips, and turnips from drying out and developing leafy growth in storage, clip their green tops.

STICK IT TO BUGS. Attach a no-pest strip or fly paper to an old hat and wear it when you garden. Mosquitoes, no-see-ems, gnats, and other flying pests will get stuck on your hat and not on you.

PICKLE SLUGS. Mix a solution of half water and half vinegar (any kind) and spray it on slugs.

CUT FLOWERS CAREFULLY. Avoid scissors, which pinch the channels of flower stalks. Instead, always use a sharp knife, cutting at an angle if you're inserting the stem into floral foam.

SEAR MILKY STEMS. Hold the cut stems of poppies, lobelia, and other flowers with milky stems in a candle flame for about 15 seconds after cutting. This seals the latex sap in the stem but keeps water-conducting vessels open and extends the life of the arrangement.

WASH OUT CRABGRASS.

To eliminate this plague, put 1 pint hydrogen peroxide (3 percent) into a hose sprayer and soak the weed-infested area. Then water lightly.

PLUG A HOSE HOLE. If you get a pinhole leak in your garden hose, insert a pointed round toothpick into the hole, just penetrating the hose wall. Snip off the extra toothpick. Wrap the area with duct tape. Water flowing through the hose will cause the toothpick to swell and fill the hole.

□□



—Louise Joly





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Garden chores—raking, hoeing, digging, mowing, weeding—produce not only a bountiful harvest but also a healthy and happy gardener. When working in your garden, consider these tips for a safe and fun garden workout.

■ **Plan three or more separate activities or motions (such as removing pests, planting, pruning, weeding, and digging) for each gardening session, each one ranging from 5 minutes to an hour.**

■ Switch your position and stance every 5 to 15 minutes. Crouch, then



sit. Kneel on one knee, then on two knees; then stand and reach.

■ **Exaggerate your motions. Rake or hoe with wide, sweeping strokes, keeping movement smooth and steady. Just as you think of repetitions with weight lifting, use good form, and work with a hoe or a shovel as if each exertion were a resistance-training repetition.**

■ Breathe in and out regularly.

■ **When lifting a potted plant, concrete block, or anything else in the garden, keep your back straight, bend from your knees, and use your legs instead of your back.**

■ Bend your knees as you dig, letting your legs, not your back or arms, do most of the work. Alternate between a right-handed and a left-handed stance.

■ **When hand weeding, spread your legs and bend at the knees, never at the waist. Or set one knee down behind you and put your other leg in front of you, knee bent, foot on the ground; weed for about 20 seconds, stand up, and alternate legs.** □□

These tips are taken from the archives of *The Old Farmer's Almanac Gardener's Companion* and from *Fitness the Dynamic Gardening Way*, by Jeffrey Restuccio (Balance of Nature Publishing, 1992).

Amish Gardening Secrets

(Special) Research studies have proven that gardeners cope better with stress and tension - a key factor in achieving and maintaining good health.

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This BIG collection contains over 800 gardening hints, suggestions, time savers and tonics that have been passed down over the years in Amish communities and elsewhere.

The largest Amish settlement in the world is located in Northeastern Ohio in Holmes County. One in every six Amish live in Holmes County or the surrounding area totaling approximately 30,000 residents.

The second largest community is also the oldest and most famous. It is in Lancaster county in South-eastern Pennsylvania. The other two large settlements are in the northern Indiana counties of Elkhart and LaGrange and east of Cleveland, Ohio in Geauga county.

The silhouette of a horse and buggy is the image usually seen on billboards, signs and tourist ads in Amish country. It is an important outer symbol reflecting the distinctive lifestyle and religious values of the Amish.

The Amish are intriguing to the modern world not only because of the horse and buggies, but also because of the quaint clothes they wear, the remarkable handmade quilts and hearty food that they're known for and the simple way they live their lives.

These people consciously seek to live in a way that honors God. They choose to live close to the land without conveniences.

One in three Amish men make their living from agriculture. Gardening is the responsibility of women and small children while men and boys do the field work. During planting and harvesting, the whole family works together.

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- ▶ Spaghetti to liven up your plants
- ▶ Bananas to make your roses blossom
- ▶ Oranges to get rid of ants
- ▶ Pantyhose to help your cantaloupe grow

As well as how to:

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- ▶ Control weeds - with no effort
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- ▶ Top eighteen Amish gardening methods
- ▶ Grow the biggest & tastiest tomatoes
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The Almost-Instant

Make the bed, sow seeds, and eliminate weeds—all in one weekend.

Starting a vegetable garden has never been easier:

1 Find the sunniest area of lawn in your yard. This must be a space that receives a minimum of 6 hours of sun every day throughout the summer.

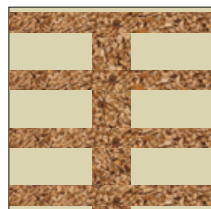
2 Using sticks and string, mark out the garden perimeter: A 16x16-foot plot is a reasonable size for a family of four.

3 Cover the area with four overlapping layers of newspaper and use a hose to soak the layers of paper thoroughly. The newspaper will kill the grass, smother any weeds, and eventually decompose.

4 Use sticks and string to mark 18-inch-wide paths and 36-inch-wide planting beds on the area covered by wet newspaper. Consider a slightly wider center

path, with uniform beds on each side and paths between them.

5 Cover the paths with a 2-inch layer of wood chips (untreated, if possible).



beds and wood-chip paths

6 Cover the planting beds with 2 to 3 inches of weed-free compost on top of the newspaper.

7 Make a furrow in the compost and plant your vegetable seeds (or follow the directions on the seed packets). Push aside some compost and set your transplants. (The roots of all of the plants will push through the newspaper.)

8 Water, watch, reap. Although few weeds are likely to appear, pull out any that do, getting the major roots along with the tops.



Garden

by Lee Reich



9 At season's end, clean up the garden by pulling out all plants and removing their tops as well as their major roots. With most plants, do this by grabbing what stem remains and giving a quick twist. Coax out plants with large root systems by cutting into the soil around the stem and then pushing a garden knife or trowel straight into the ground, levering up with the tool as you pull on the stem.

This vegetable garden will sustain plants that produce bountiful harvests for years, if you prepare it properly every spring. Before planting time, re-dress the beds with fresh compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer and restore the pathways with a new layer of chips.

WATCH THE VIDEO

See this gardening technique at Almanac.com/WeedlessGardenVideo.

A DRIP TIP

Hand watering works and, in fact, is recommended for seeds and young transplants. However, to save time and improve the likelihood of a hefty harvest, consider installing a drip irrigation system before laying the wood chip and compost layers. The drip flow can be controlled with a timer. It delivers water directly to the plants and, in so doing, starves out weeds. □ □

Lee Reich is the author of numerous gardening books, including *Weedless Gardening* (Workman Publishing Company, 2001), in which this method appears. He practices minimum soil disturbance in his vegetable beds in New Paltz, New York.



POSTAGE-STAMP PLOTS FOR MAILBOX BEDS

You probably visit your (snail) mailbox six times a week—maybe more often if you’re waiting for a love letter, check, or other special delivery. Why not transform that space into a first-class parcel?

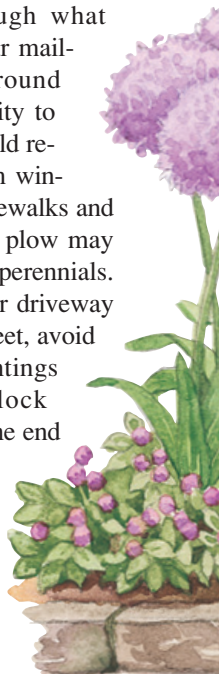
by Andrea Curry

—plot illustrations, Renée Quintal Daily

ADDRESS YOUR SITUATION

Author and landscape designer Keith Davitt from Cambridge, New York, says that less isn’t more when it comes to mailbox gardens. “Don’t make them so small that they are easily ignored or overlooked,” he says. “Rather, make the planting around the mailbox showy, with some height, but not in the way of the box.” You don’t want your mail carrier to have to hack his way into the box with a machete, so keep all plants in good trim.

Think through what happens at your mailbox all year-round and its proximity to the street. In cold regions, salt from winter roads or sidewalks and snow from the plow may threaten some perennials. If you exit your driveway onto a busy street, avoid tall, thick plantings that could block your view by the end of the summer.



June Hutson, supervisor of the Kemper Home Demonstration Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden, warns against the most common mistake in mailbox plantings: grouping plants that need opposite cultures (plants that love water with plants that thrive in dry conditions, for example). She recommends choosing plants from the same region or grouping those that thrive in similar habitats.

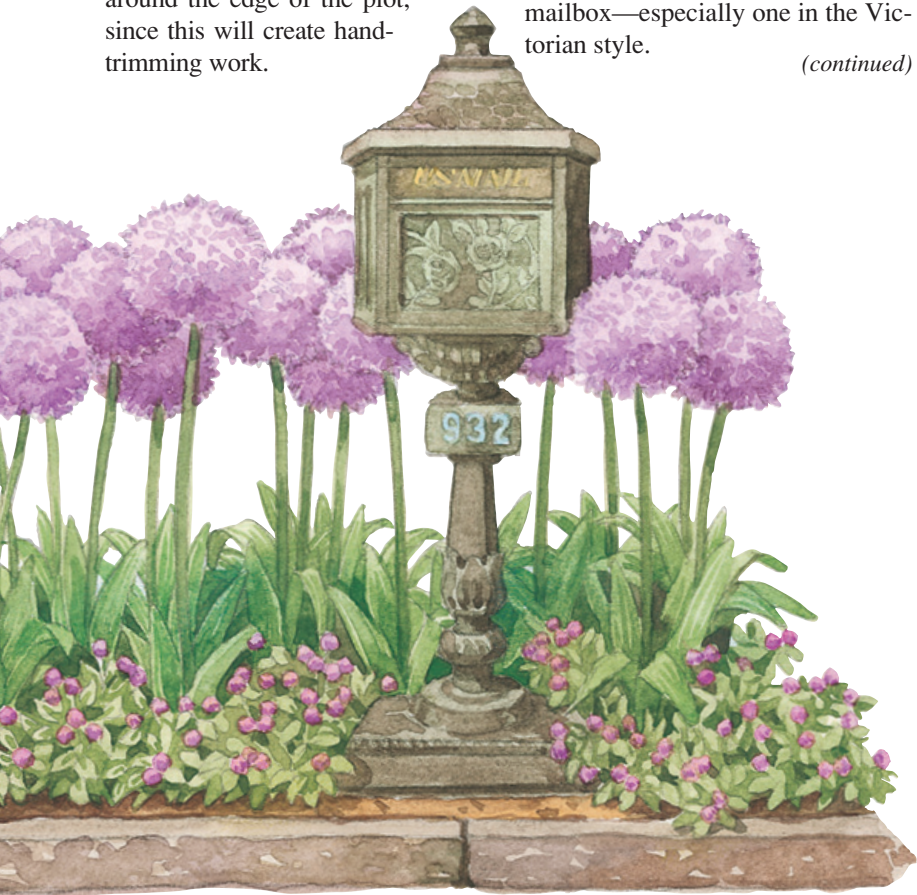
Allow space now for the plants to mature and don't lay down stones around the edge of the plot, since this will create hand-trimming work.

These plans for cheerful bulbs, fragrant herbs, eye-catching tropicals, and abundant ornamentals can transform a patch of lawn into a postage-stamp plot that both you and your mail carrier will enjoy.

MAIL-ORDER A MIX

Here, three sets of bulbs work in shifts to deliver shades of purple and white from spring through September. Each flower's "lollipop" shape echoes the shape of the standard mailbox—especially one in the Victorian style.

(continued)



landscape design

First come tulips in light and dark purple in late March or April. Throughout May and June, ‘Globemaster’ ornamental allium has eponymous floweret clusters as large as 10 inches across, followed by stunning seed heads. (This is an expensive bulb, but it tends to multiply, so you stand a good chance of doubling your investment and your pleasure.)



—W. Altea Burpee & Co.

*‘Globemaster’
allium*

From July through September, dahlias keep the show going. Choose a tall white or purple variety (‘Angel’s Dust’ is a nice white dahlia) or white tinged with purple (‘Lisa’).

Globe amaranth, an annual blooming from June to frost, provides long-lived color. Surrounding foliage helps to disguise the aging bulb foliage, which must stay on the plant until it yellows if you want to use the bulbs again in the following year. This design works for a plot of any size. Start small in the first year and expand over time.

HOW - T O

■ Provide organically rich, well-drained soil in full sun, and moderate moisture. Follow package instructions for planting.

Purchase tulips and ornamental

PLANT LIST

For a 4x4-foot plot

Dahlias (*Dahlia* ‘Angel’s Dust’ or ‘Lisa’): 9 bulbs

Globe amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*): 24 cell-pack plants or sow from seed (plant plenty of seeds; germination is low)

Ornamental onion (*Allium* ‘Globemaster’): 16 bulbs

Triumph tulips (*Tulipa* ‘Purple and Cream’ and *T.* ‘Purple Flag’): 20 bulbs each

alliums in early autumn: one allium per square foot and up to five tulips per square foot. For striking contrast in April, buy half Triumph ‘Purple and Cream’ and half Triumph ‘Purple Flag’. Triumph tulips like to spend 6 weeks in the fridge before being planted.

In midautumn (follow nursery instructions for your zone), clear the plot around your mailbox and set out the allium bulbs, evenly spaced 1 foot apart. Plant the tulip bulbs.

In spring, 1 to 2 weeks before the last frost date, plant the dahlia bulbs. Allow about one bulb for every 2 square feet in the plot. After the threat of frost has passed, plant globe amaranth around the edges of the plot and in the middle.

Remove tulip stems after bloom to prevent seeding. Deadhead spent dahlia blossoms promptly to encourage rebloom. Remove all foliage as it yellows. Once the foliage is gone, lift, divide, and store the dahlia bulbs for planting again next year.

(continued)

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landscape design

A FRAGRANT ENVELOPE

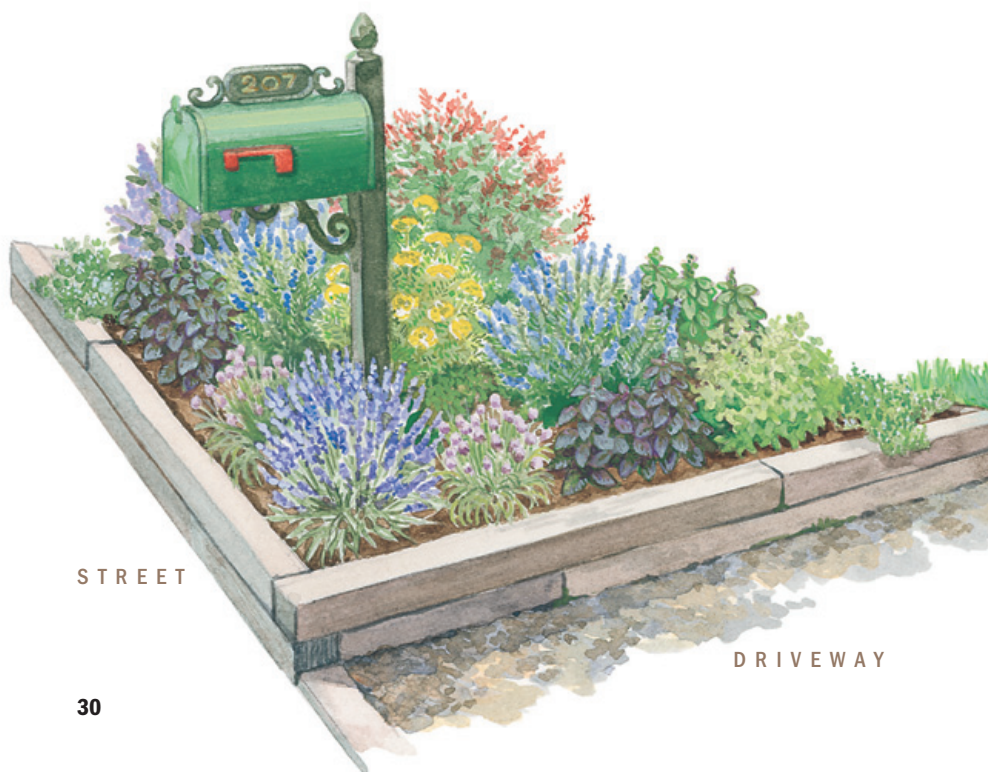
Many culinary herbs thrive in the sun-baked conditions where the drive- or walkway meets the street. This garden design follows the tradition of formal, geometric patterns for herbs. Select familiar favorites—sage, basil, thyme, oregano—but also experiment. Pineapple sage gives the plot height and has small, bright-red flowers. Its leaves complement vegetable and fruit salads and iced teas. The deep-purple leaves of ‘Dark Opal’ basil add color. (Be sure to wash the herbs thoroughly before using in a recipe.)

Whether you treat the herbs as annuals or perennials may depend

on your zone. Oregano and sage are hardy to Zone 4, but they can get ragged and are best (and inexpensively) treated as annuals. The others are also location-specific: Pineapple sage is hardy to Zone 8; rosemary, to Zones 6 to 8 (with sufficient drainage, it survives cold winters); thyme, lemon thyme, and lavender, to Zone 5; and chives, to Zone 4. Basil does not return and thus must be planted annually. Dill self-seeds and returns each year.

HOW-TO

■ Provide good drainage and full sun. Create a raised bed or dig up the lawn’s slow-draining soil and amend with horticultural grit or even sand or



STREET

DRIVEWAY

landscape design

gravel. (Herbs require much less water than grass does.) Sow seeds or set out plants after the last frost.

All herbs can be purchased garden-ready at your local nursery. Basil, chives, thyme, and dill are easy to grow from seed. Start seeds indoors 6 to 8 weeks

before the last frost and transplant—except for the dill, which doesn't like to be disturbed: Sow that in the plot, where it will self-seed in the future.

At season's end, move some of the tender perennials indoors and keep them on the kitchen windowsill.

PLANT LIST

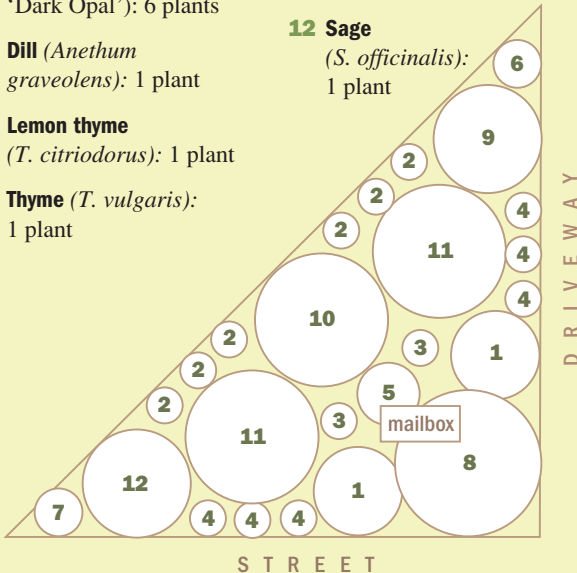
For an 8x11-foot triangular bed

Grow from seed or plant sets:

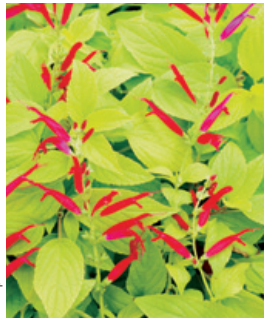
- 1 Chives** (*Allium schoenoprasum*): 2 plants
- 2 Common basil** (*Ocimum basilicum*): 6 plants
- 3 Creeping thyme** (*Thymus serpyllum*): 2 plants
- 4 'Dark Opal' basil** (*O. basilicum* 'Dark Opal'): 6 plants
- 5 Dill** (*Anethum graveolens*): 1 plant
- 6 Lemon thyme** (*T. citriodorus*): 1 plant
- 7 Thyme** (*T. vulgaris*): 1 plant

BUY AS NURSERY PLANTS:

- 8 English lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*): 1 plant
- 9 Oregano** (*Origanum vulgare*): 1 plant
- 10 Pineapple sage** (*Salvia elegans*): 1 plant
- 11 Rosemary** (*Rosmarinus officinalis*): 2 plants
- 12 Sage** (*S. officinalis*): 1 plant



—Johnny's Selected Seeds



—www.provenwinners.com

Top to bottom:
'Dark Opal' basil,
English lavender,
Pineapple sage

(continued)



EXPRESS, FROM THE TROPICS

Create an almost overnight sensation, with exotic hues and textures! It's fine to plant tropical plants where they are not winter-hardy—in fact, it's better, because they can't escape the plot and take over your yard.

The suggested plan marshals a row of 'Striata' canna (hardy to Zone 7), with striped green leaves and orange flowers for bold height and structure, and fills in with wildly blooming 'David Verity' cuphea (Zone 8), with reddish-orange blooms tipped with yellow, and lemon-color, reblooming 'Happy Returns' daylilies. Mandevilla is one of the most elegant and prolifically blooming vines for mailboxes, and the yellow variety fills

the bill. For ground cover, introduce 'Margarita' sweet potato vine (Zone 9). The chartreuse will complement the lighter green in the cannas' striated leaves.

HOW - TO

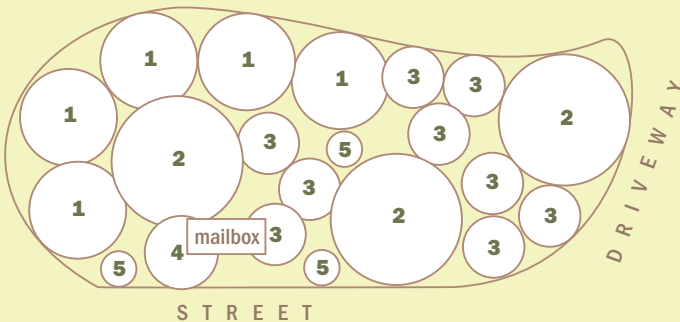
■ Provide lots of water and moist, organically rich, well-drained soil in full sun. Plant everything here in spring after the threat of frost has passed.

After flowering, remove spent daylily blooms and the entire stem of spent canna flowers to encourage rebloom. In Zones 7 to 10, overwinter the canna rhizomes in the ground; above Zone 7, after the first frost, cut the plants down, lift the rhizome clumps, and store them in a cool, dry place until the following year.

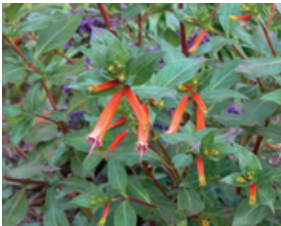
PLANT LIST

For an irregularly shaped bed of about 30 square feet

- 1 **Canna** (*Canna* ‘Striata’): 5 plants
- 2 **Cuphea** (*Cuphea* ‘David Verity’): 3 plants
- 3 **Daylily** (*Hemerocallis* ‘Happy Returns’): 9 plants
- 4 **Mandevillas** (*Mandevilla* ‘Yellow’ or ‘Tropical Dreams’): 1 plant
- 5 **Sweet potato vine** (*Ipomoea batatas* ‘Margarita’): 3 plants



—www.mariesgardenflowers.com



—www.whiteflowerfarm.com



Top: ‘David Verity’ cuphea
Above: ‘Striata’ canna

ADD ZIP TO SHADE

If mature trees cast shadows on your mailbox, liven that space with shade-loving plants. ‘Nelly Moser’ clematis (Zones 4 to 8) is one of the most shade-tolerant clematises and could grow over a brick mailbox with help: Use screw eyes designed for cement to attach two wires up the side of the box, leaving 1 inch between the wire and the brick surface. (Clematis is too vigorous for a standard, wood-post mailbox.) Or, install a small wooden trellis next to the mailbox.

A Knock Out[®] rosebush (Zones 5 to 9) gives substance and a cottage garden feel, as well as ease. Knock Out[®] roses are exceptionally disease-resistant and do well with as little as 3 hours of daily sun. ‘White Christmas’ hostas (Zones 3 to 8) and white or very pale pink impatiens (an annual) round out the plot. *(continued)*

landscape design



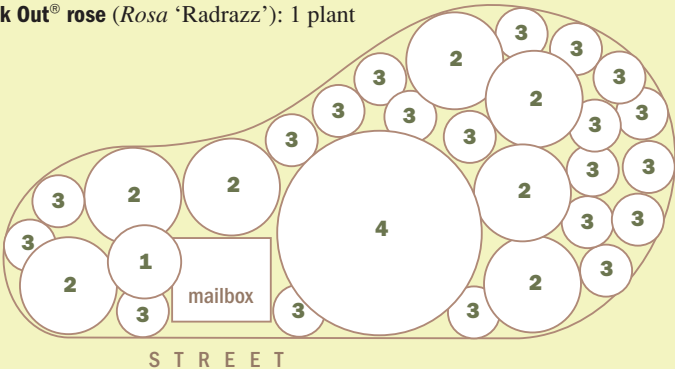
Far right: Knock Out® rose
 Right: 'Nellie Moser' clematis

www.mariegardenflowers.com

P L A N T L I S T

For an irregularly shaped bed of about 35 square feet

- 1 Clematis** (*Clematis* 'Nelly Moser'): 1 plant
- 2 Hosta** (*Hosta* 'White Christmas'): 7 plants
- 3 Impatiens** (*Impatiens walleriana*): 20 plants
- 4 Knock Out® rose** (*Rosa* 'Radrazz'): 1 plant





—The Conrad-Pyle Co./Star® Roses

HOW - T O

■ Provide medium-wet to moist, organically rich, well-drained soil. The rosebush prefers slightly acidic soil. Purchase all of the plants in spring and plant after the threat of frost has passed. Mulch well, especially around the rosebush and clematis. Water consistently, especially as plants are getting established. An early morning watering is best for the roses.

POST SCRIPTS

■ Add fragrance to your mailbox: Plant English lavender with stock and heliotrope.

■ Mass just one type of plant around the mailbox—something such as smooth hydrangea, which is large enough to demand attention and long-blooming enough to provide interest and color all summer.

■ Salvage an old mailbox, install it in the backyard, and landscape around it. Store your gloves and a few tools in its watertight interior, right where you'll use them. □□

Andrea Curry writes about gardening, travel, and history from her home in North Carolina.

Take a Video Tour of Tasha Tudor's Vermont Gardens



Sarah Kerruish visited Tasha Tudor at her Vermont home in 1996 and created this enchanting record of the time. Tudor reminisces about her life and career, and she leads us through her famous gardens.



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Gardens of Eatin'

3 ways to grow fruit at home

by Lee Reich

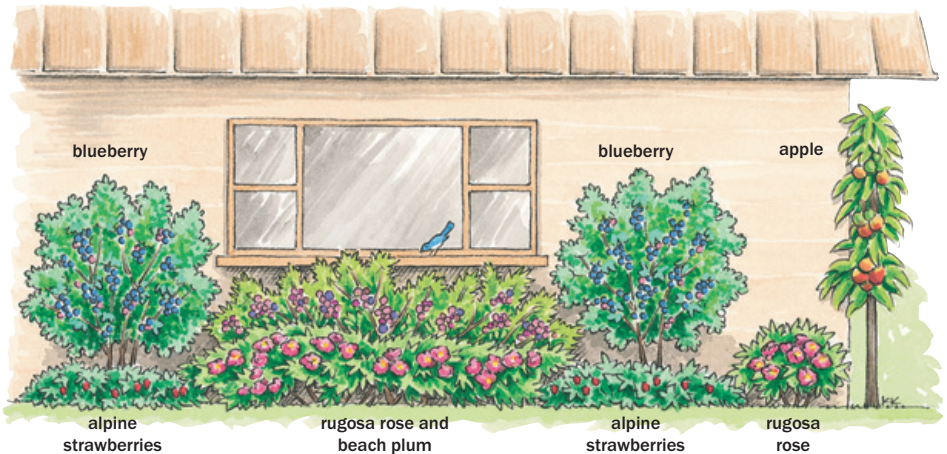
Trying to choose between plants that are beautiful and plants that are edible? Grow fruit and enjoy the best of both worlds. Each of the following plans provides beauty and a progression of luscious fruit throughout the season.

GROUND RULES

■ **Choose fruit plants carefully.** Not every one is sufficiently beautiful to be displayed prominently on your property, and some fruit plants require a lot of maintenance. Select easy-care, pest-resistant varieties and provide good growing conditions—6 or more hours of direct sunlight each day, along with moderately fertile, well-draining soil. Don't forget to lay down a few inches of organic mulch (straw, compost, or leaves) to keep the soil moist, add nutrients, and stifle weed growth.

FOR THE FOUNDATION

Foundation plantings are intended to decorate and visually soften the transition from the vertical house wall to the horizontal ground. (Years ago, such plantings were meant to hide ugly foundation walls, but there is little need of that today.) This plot plan accomplishes that and more: The plant heights and leaf textures and hues provide interest, while repeating elements—rugosa roses and beach plums—knit together the design. The fruit buffet begins with alpine strawberries in spring and ends with apples in autumn.



■ **Apple trees** (*Malus x domestica*, Zones 3 to 9), especially columnar varieties with an upright form, suit a corner. ‘Golden Sentinel’, ‘Northpole’, and ‘Scarlet Sentinel’ all grow upright and narrow (about 8 feet tall and 2 feet wide) with little pruning and yield fragrant blossoms and standard-size fruit. Many apple trees can not self-fertilize. Plant at least two varieties to ensure production of fruit. These trees will cross-pollinate at up to 50 feet apart. They cast very little shade—not enough to stifle the growth of the other fruit.



■ **Highbush blueberry** (*Vaccinium corymbosum*, Zones 4 to 7), with its clusters of white, bell-shape flowers in spring, handsome blue-green foliage through summer, fiery red leaves in fall, and reddish stems in

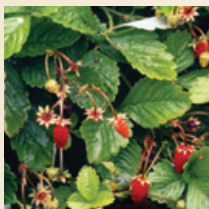
landscape design



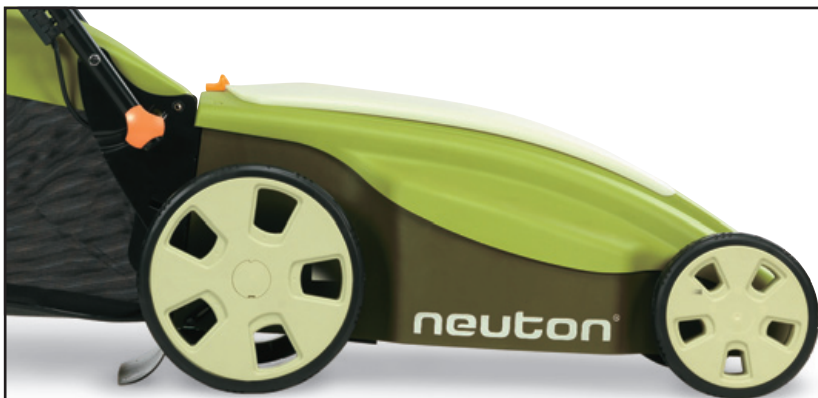
winter, would probably be more grown as an ornamental if it did not bear such luscious fruit! These blueberries require very acidic soil conditions (pH 4.0 to 5.5). Mix a bucketful of peat moss into each planting hole and, if your soil is insufficiently acidic (a home soil test can make this determination), sprinkle the ground with pelletized sulfur. Blueberry roots do not go deep or far, so acidifying the soil right beneath the bushes should not adversely affect nearby plants. Plant two different varieties, such as ‘Earlblue’ and ‘Bluecrop’, both to spread out the harvest season and to provide cross-pollination for both more and larger fruit. Prune minimally until the plant reaches maturity, about 6 years, by removing only damaged stems. Cut away stems that are more than 6 years old every year thereafter.



■ **Rugosa rose** (*Rosa rugosa*, Zones 5 to 10) and beach plum (*Prunus maritima*, Zones 3 to 6) are suckering shrubs with beautiful displays of flowers. Regardless of whether you interplant them, they will eventually spread into each other for a variety of leaf and flower colors and textures. The fragrant and colorful rose blossoms (white, pink, or red) appear all season long and are followed by “hips” the size of small plums. Rugosa rose suffers little from the pests that plague more commonly grown hybrid tea roses. Beach plum blooms only in spring but at that time is luxuriously doused in white flowers. It requires cross-pollination to produce small plums that ripen in late summer, but fruit is rarely produced in consecutive seasons. Beach plums are tasty right off the bushes, and both fruit make wonderfully flavored jams and sauces. Both plants tolerate a wide range of soil and spread into ever-widening thickets, so use pruning shears to contain them.



■ **Alpine strawberry** (*Fragaria vesca*, Zones 3 to 10) produces mounds of green foliage, white flowers, and small berries all season long. Use them to dress up the feet of the apples and blueberries. Unlike common garden strawberries, these do not make runners but stay neatly in place. The berries are small but intensely flavored. The plants self-seed casually (let a young one replace an old one when the latter passes its prime) and tolerate a rather broad range of soil conditions, as well as full sun to partial shade. (continued)



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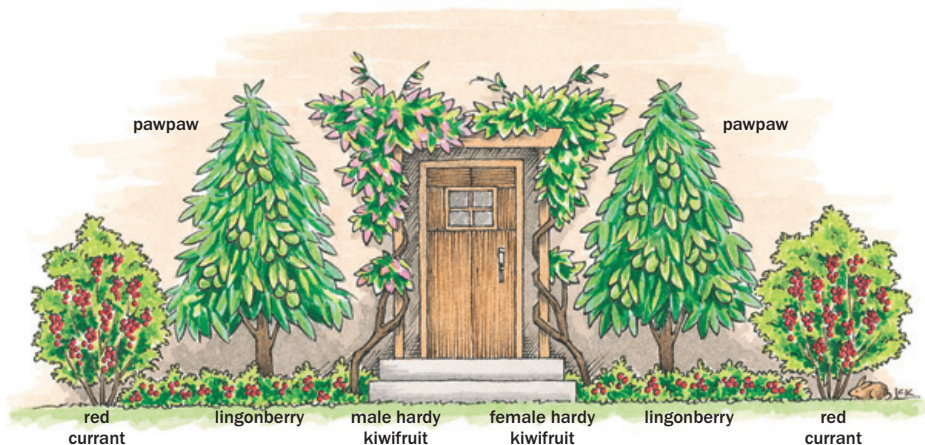


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AT THE DOOR

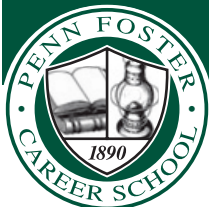
An attractive front- or backdoor plot complements a passageway and draws you to it. This plot is symmetrically balanced, lending a formal air. For an informal planting, where symmetry is out of place, achieve balance with equal “weights” of trees and shrubs on either side of the doorway: For example, plant a single tall tree with low shrubs on one side of the doorway and a medium-size shrub on the other side, using the trees and shrubs of this design. For color, intersperse ornamental nonfruiting plants, such as dwarf mountain laurel, heather, heath, and corydalis.



■ **Pawpaw** (*Asimina triloba*, Zones 4 to 8) trees flank the doorway, and their large, lush leaves lend a tropical flair. Large purple blooms will develop in late spring. Hidden beneath the leaves in fall are mango-size fruit with white flesh that tastes like banana, mango, avocado, and vanilla custard combined. This pest-resistant, carefree North American native sheds its tropical aspirations in fall when the leaves turn a clear yellow just prior to dropping; it thrives even where temperatures plummet well below 0°F. For the best-tasting fruit in the shortest possible time, plant grafted trees of named varieties of pawpaw, such as ‘Sunflower’, ‘Mango’, or ‘Pennsylvania Golden’. Plant two different varieties for cross-pollination; both will bear fruit. The plant thrives in any reasonably fertile, well-drained soil. Prune only to retain the pyramidal shape.



(continued)



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■ **Red, pink, or white currants** (*Ribes* spp., Zones 3 to 7) will light up an arbor with translucent, jewel-like fruit. Choose a red- (such as ‘Red Lake’), white- (‘Primus’), or pink-fruited (‘Pink Champagne’) variety and make sure that it gets some shade. The pea-size berries hang from the stems for weeks. Harvest after they reach full color, beginning in midsummer; the longer they hang, the sweeter they become. Tart berries are good straight from the bush or can be used to make jelly, sauce, pie—even wine. Once the bushes reach 3 years old, prune some of the oldest stems to make way for vigorous new ones; repeat each winter. Some states have restrictions on growing certain currant varieties because of the risk of spreading white pine blister rust. Check with your local cooperative extension before planting.



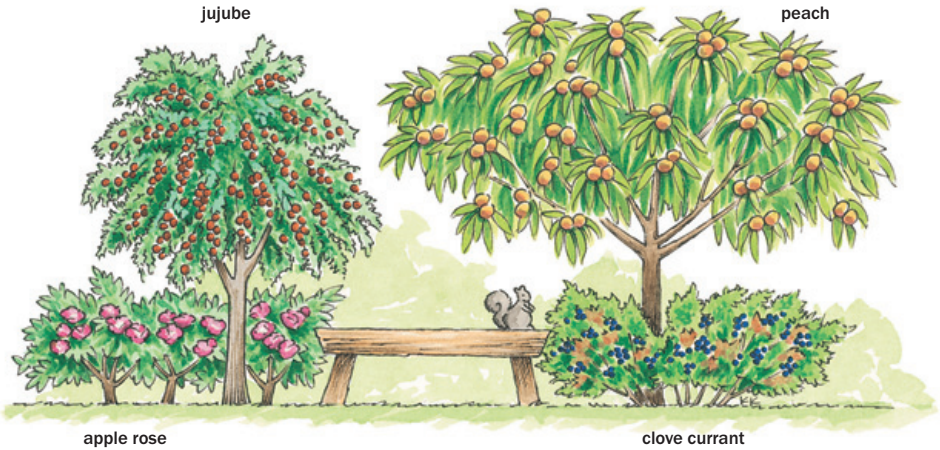
■ **Lingonberry** (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, Zones 4 to 7). This small-leaf, fruit-bearing ground cover spreads by underground runners and provides a verdant garden floor. White or pink flowers develop in clusters on stems and appear twice each season; each time, fruit follows. These small, red berries hang on the plants for weeks and are good eaten raw or used for sauces and jams. For both more and larger berries, plant two varieties. Lingonberries require a very acidic soil, so add plenty of peat moss and, if the soil is initially neutral or of higher pH, also sulfur.



■ **Hardy kiwifruit** (*Actinidia kolomikta*, Zones 3 to 7), a climbing vine, enlivens a scene when clambering over an arbor framing the door. In spring, a profusion of white flowers dangles from the stem, while winter reveals the trunk twisting and weaving around the arbor. Kiwifruit requires cross-pollination, so put a male plant on one side of the arbor and a female on the other. Male plants develop silvery white and pink variegated leaves. Female plants produce grape-size fruit with a flavor and appearance similar to that of fuzzy supermarket kiwis except for a smooth, edible skin. Start harvesting in late summer, as soon as the fruit start to soften. Train one or two strong stems up to the top of the arbor, pinching back or cutting away other stems. Prune each winter to keep growth under control and to let some sunlight penetrate: Shorten or completely cut away crowding or overly vigorous stems.

A L O N G T H E B O R D E R

A bench and leafy canopy, when viewed across your yard, welcomes contemplation or reading.



■ **Peach trees** (*Prunus persica*, Zones 5 to 9) provide attractive, glossy foliage ideal for a canopy. A peach tree's overhanging branches and naturally drooping leaves serve as a living roof in summer and lend interest in winter. Late each winter, prune the roof fairly drastically: Open the canopy enough so that a bird can fly through without touching the branches. Come spring, these spreading branches will come alive with bright pink blossoms. In summer, reach up to pluck ripe fruit. Peaches enjoy well-drained, moderately fertile soil, with a near-neutral pH.



■ **Clove currant** (*Ribes odoratum*, Zones 4 to 8), in spring, yields blossoms that look like yellow trumpets dangling from the branches and waft a sweet and spicy aroma. This Midwest native is tough, being both pest-resistant and able to withstand extremes of winter cold and summer heat. The female plant's large, black, sweet-tart currants ripen through July and August and can be eaten fresh or cooked into jams and sauces. Check with your local cooperative extension for any growing restrictions before planting.



(continued)

landscape design



■ **Jujube** (*Ziziphus jujuba*, Zones 6 to 9), also known as the Chinese date, is familiar to most North Americans as the name of a gummy candy. It can trace its popularity to dried and candied jujube fruit originally enjoyed in China. This carefree tree's shiny leaves seem to shimmer in sunlight. The small, plum-size fruit have double personalities: In the early stage, they are mottled mahogany in color and taste something like a sweet apple. With more time (depending on local weather), the mahogany deepens and the fruit shrivels and sweetens until it resembles a dried date both in appearance and taste. Jujube will grow in virtually any soil.



■ **Apple rose** (*Rosa villosa* or *Rosa pomifera*, Zones 5 to 10), with the jujube tree, visually balances the peach tree. In late spring or early summer, soft pink, 2-inch-wide blossoms drape the stems and release a heavy, sweet fragrance. Want more? Brush against or crush the bluish foliage. This shrub's real attraction is its large, pear-shape, vitamin-rich, bright orange-red hips. Taste them or harvest a basket to cook into a nutritious jam, jelly, sauce, or (favored in Scandinavia) soup. For appearance's sake, each winter, prune this arching shrub's oldest stems to ground level and shorten its lankiest stems. No special soil conditions are needed.

Canadian Connection

Many of the varieties mentioned in this article grow well in northern climates, if attention is paid to zones and frost dates. However, specific varieties have been developed for the cold, including these:

- Instead of columnar apple varieties, try 'Haralson', 'Norland', and 'Yellow Transparent'—all semidwarf apple trees hardy to Zone 3.
- Alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*) is an ornamental shrub hardy to Zone 2. Black currant (*Ribes nigrum*) can also survive in Zone 2 and will produce fruit after 1 year.
- Sour cherry trees! Horticulturist Dr. Ieuan Evans developed the Evans cherry tree (*Prunus* 'Evans'), which is hardy to Zone 3. Self-pollinating and low-maintenance, it offers fragrant blossoms followed by plump, bright fruit.



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This peaceful oriental garden features a Japanese teahouse and a zigzag granite-slab bridge.

THE ART OF A ZEN GARDEN

Peace in place.

THE ORIGIN

Zen gardens originated in the monasteries and gardens of India's Ganges valleys more than 2,000 years ago. Yet it was on the islands of Japan that specific garden types—strolling, courtyard, teahouse, and dry—eventually emerged, shaped by geography and the spiritual traditions of the East, including Shintoism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism. In a Zen garden, rock, plants, and water are the key elements.

Starkly elegant and imposing, a Japanese-style Zen garden is more complicated—and more symbolic—than it appears.

The artful simplicity of a Zen garden rests on the balance of the Eastern beliefs of yin and yang, the complementary principles that influence everything in the universe, according to Zen philosophy. (“Zen” is associated with meditation in modern Japan.)

(continued)

by Cynthia Van Hazinga

landscape design

HARMONY

Yin is the feminine, dark, negative, passive, cold aspect of nature. Water is yin.

Yang is the masculine, light, positive, active, hot aspect. Land is yang.

However, a Zen garden is built not on opposition but rather on balance. Just as winter balances summer and spring balances fall, a Zen garden contrasts rock and water, light and dark, horizontal and vertical. Contributing to the scene are living plants; lifeless elements (rock); and natural motion (rustling grasses or flowing water); as well as static elements of nature and art. These are used in combination with architecture and artifacts (stone lanterns, water basins) that define space, frame views, and set visual limits. Symbols, such as a gourd and a sake cup formed of low-growing plants (thyme, moss, or bonsai), suggest spiritual and temporal pleasure.

Trees and shrubs are used to depict annual cycles as well as the seasons. These are some traditional emblems of change in Chinese and Japanese meditation gardens:

- **Chinese redbud** (*Cercis chinensis*)
- **flowering cherries** (*Prunus* spp.), such as ‘Weeping Higan’
- **flowering dogwood** (*Cornus florida*)
- **Japanese maple** (*Acer palmatum*)
- **Japanese flowering quince** (*Chaenomeles japonica*)
- **pear trees** (*Pyrus* spp.)

(continued)



—J. S. Straub/GAP Photos



—Jeremy Lilly/GAP Photos



—Derek St. Romatne; design, Professor Masao Fukuhara



Stepping-stones lead visitors into gardens, while a dry stone garden and large rocks (above) represent islands in the sea. Carefully placed plants balance the scale and enhance the simple elegance of these Japanese-style retreats.



Azaleas and a stone temple ornament add color and serenity to this oriental garden.

a painting or stage set, to be viewed from a particular vantage point.

BORROWED LANDSCAPE. Work with the vista beyond the garden wall. Echo distant shapes or plant trees so that they appear to blend with those in the distance. Meld distance and intimacy.

HIDE AND REVEAL. If space allows a visitor to walk

Even the smallest space can accommodate a Zen garden. Include all or some of these design elements:

TRIANGULARITY. Arrange rocks, plants, or trees in groups of three. (Rocks are usually set with the largest in the center and the smaller ones to the left and right.) Avoid making your arrangement appear artificial.

ASYMMETRY. This underlies all aspects of Japanese garden design. Avoid artificiality and mimic nature. Choose plants carefully and manipulate scale with bridges and other structures.

ENCLOSURE. A Japanese garden should appear to be cut off from the surrounding world. Enclose your garden with a stone, wood, or bamboo fence or a hedge.

FRAMING. Many Japanese gardens are composed like



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—Jenny Harpur/GAP Photos



Even in the heart of New York City, peace and tranquility can be found on a rooftop.

through your scene, place plants so that visitors enter it gradually. Control the view; conceal it from one point and reveal it from another.

WIND. Honor the effects of natural forces, e.g., rocks covered with moss or an old tree bent by decades of winds.

NEGATIVE SPACE. Carefully calculate the space between plants and objects. Use moss to suggest islands in a sea of combed sand or to represent round, soft-looking cushions.

INVITE AND SUGGEST MOTION. Vary the shapes and textures of plants. Like running water, flowing stone pathways define space.

Zen gardens change with the seasons, displaying different aspects at different times of the year, yet wildness is unwelcome. A Zen garden is considered a sacred space that looks much the same from year to year: serene and uncluttered. It needs to be weeded and pruned meticulously.

Making and maintaining a Zen garden can be peaceful and fulfilling. If you create such a place of serenity, you will be soothed and comforted. You will open like a flower; you will bloom.

HELP FOR BUILDING A ZEN GARDEN

These books provide more insights and advice on creating a meditative garden:

- ***Create Your Own Japanese Garden: A Practical Guide* by Motomi Oguchi (Kodansha International, 2007)**
- ***Building My Zen Garden* by Kieran Egan (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000)**



Cynthia Van Hazinga, a frequent contributor to Old Farmer's Almanac publications, divides her time between New York City and New Hampshire.

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Uncommon

CONIFERS

Conifers have no pizzazz? Think again.

Conifer choices are no longer limited to dull green hedges or “meatballs” or trees that rapidly outgrow their spaces. Today’s evergreens don’t even have to be green—their needles may be gold, blue, purple, or flecked with yellow or white. Some change color with the seasons. Plus, the variety of shapes and sizes suit many styles: Dwarf trees are suitable for smaller landscapes; some conifers’ pendulous branches create a weeping effect; others—narrow, upright trees—form visual screens or dramatic accents.

Smaller landscapes need smaller trees, and many conifer introductions of recent years have been selected for their dwarf and/or slow-growing habits. They provide the natural





by Deborah L. Martin

EVERGREENS

WHAT IS A CONIFER?

Plants that bear their seeds in cones are termed conifers. Most but not all conifers are evergreens with needle- or scalelike foliage.

beauty of their (often very large) species without needing constant pruning.

When selecting evergreen trees and shrubs for your landscape, knowing a plant's mature

Clockwise from upper left corner: *'Alberta Blue'* dwarf Alberta spruce, *'Glauca Pendula'* weeping blue Atlas cedar, *'Blue Star'* juniper, *'Compressa'* common juniper, *'Aurea Densa'* false cypress, *'Glauca Prostrata'* prostrate Colorado blue spruce, *'Gentsch White'* hemlock, and *'Flushing'* yew

—photos, these two pages, American Conifer Society





A simple evergreen border of conifers and phormiums combines complementary colors, forms, and textures.

size and how rapidly it will reach that size is essential to making a good choice (see “Be Size Wise” below).

Here are just a few examples of conifers that are particularly suited to unique roles in the landscape.

BE SIZE WISE

The American Conifer Society recognizes four size categories for conifers:

CATEGORY	GROWTH PER YEAR	SIZE AFTER 10 YEARS
Miniature	less than 1 inch	less than 1 foot
Dwarf	1 to 6 inches	1 to 6 feet
Intermediate	6 to 12 inches	6 to 15 feet (high and wide)
Large	12 inches or more	15 feet or more (high and wide)

landscape design

it may be trained to “weep” over a wall or slope. Zones 6 to 9.

■ **‘Compressa’ common juniper** (*Juniperus communis* ‘Compressa’) is a slow-growing, narrow, upright column of green foliage that works well in formal plantings. Zones 2 to 6.



—American Conifer Society

—Derek St Romaine



‘Mother Lode’ creeping juniper

ACCENTS AND SPECIMENS

A cultivar with an unusual shape may be used as a focal point or as an accent to call attention to a feature of the landscape. “Weeping” forms with pendulous branches are popular for this use, as are narrowly upright selections and cultivars with contorted branches or trunks.

■ **Weeping blue Atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica* ‘Glauca Pendula’) is a small tree with long, pendulous branches that are covered in bright-blue needles;

GROUND COVERS

On hard-to-mow slopes, spreading, low-growing, evergreens make an easy-care alternative to perennial ground covers.

■ **Prostrate Colorado blue spruce** (*Picea pungens* ‘Glauca Prostrata’ or *P. pungens* ‘Glauca Procumbens’) is an intermediate spreader with stiff, blue needles and a height of 12 to 24 inches. Zones 3 to 8.

‘Mother Lode’ creeping juniper (*J. horizontalis* ‘Mother Lode’) spreads at a moderate rate, wearing golden-yellow foliage that turns bronzy purple in winter. Zones 3 to 9.

(continued)

landscape design

GROUPS AND MIXED PLANTINGS

A cluster of dwarf conifers can create a sheltering cove for a bed of tender perennials and serve as a neutral backdrop for bright flower colors during the summer months. Globe- and mound-shape evergreens give structure to beds and borders and color in the winter.

■ **Dwarf mountain pine** (*Pinus mugo* var. *pumilio*) grows as slow-growing mounds of paired 1- to 2-inch green needles. Zones 3 to 7.



—American Conifer Society

Pinus mugo var. *pumilio*, a dwarf mountain pine

■ **Dwarf Alberta spruce** (*Picea glauca* ‘Alberta Blue’) is a cone-shape plant with fine-texture, blue-green foliage. ‘Rainbow’s End’ is a similar selection that produces a flush of bright-gold growth in midsummer. Zones 3 to 6.

HEDGES AND SCREENS

A traditional use of full-size conifers is to serve as both visual and physical screens and barriers. Choosing dwarf

cultivars can eliminate some of the pruning that might otherwise be necessary. The conifers that make the best hedges are (in order of preference) . . .

- **Yews** (*Taxus* spp. and cultivars)
- **Hemlocks** (*Tsuga* spp. and cultivars)
- **Firs** (*Abies* spp. and cultivars)
- **Spruce** (*Picea* spp. and cultivars)
- **Douglas firs** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* cultivars)

PLAN, DON'T JUST PLANT

Make the most of conifers' colors as well as size and form:

- **Use variegated plants to brighten dark areas, such as foundations or along dark-color fencing.**
- **Use flowers or deciduous foliage to echo white or yellow variegated plants.**
- **Match deciduous plants with colorful bark to colorful conifer foliage. For example, pair a redbud dogwood (*Cornus alba* ‘Sibirica’) with plum-color juniper, or yellow-green kerria (*Kerria japonica*) with chartreuse false cypress.**

Limit dramatic-looking focal-point plants to one or two and place them where they draw attention to themselves and other relevant landscape features. A mixed planting of dwarf conifers should be planned with care to combine colors, forms, and textures that complement rather than clash.

Remember that less is more. If you've ever seen a landscape where someone has gone overboard with

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A mixed planting of conifers, cotton lavender, Jerusalem sage, ornamental grasses, and verbascum brightens up a dark border.

twisting, weeping, upright, creeping evergreens of every color and texture, you will understand that too many novelty plants can be unattractive.

KNOW YOUR NEEDLES

Consider the texture of needle-leaved

trees and shrubs available for year-round landscape and remember: Although evergreens don't drop all of their leaves at once, they shed old needles or leaves and replace them with new ones on a regular basis. New growth usually appears in the spring.

BE SITE SENSITIVE

Learn about a conifer's cultural needs and match them to the conditions on your site before you buy. While evergreens are generally sturdy plants, some are prone to scorching when exposed to strong winter sun and drying winds.

landscape design



—Derek St. Romaine

These Have Needlelike Foliage

■ **Cedar** (*Cedrus*): green to blue (depending on species), sharply pointed, 1-inch-long needles are held in whorls of 20 to 45 needles.

■ **Japanese cedar** (*Cryptomeria japonica*): Light to dark green, forward-pointing, 1/4- to 1/2-inch needles spiral around the branches in groups of five.

■ **Douglas fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*): 1/2- to 1-inch, soft, blue-green needles

■ **Fir** (*Abies*): Soft, flat, 1- to 2 1/2-

inch needles may be dark green or blue, depending on species, with silvery or whitish undersides.

■ **Hemlock** (*Tsuga*): Short (1/4- to 1-inch), soft needles have white bands on the underside of each needle.

■ **Juniper** (*Juniperus*): Short, sharp, awl-shape juvenile needles, 1/4- to 1/2-inch long, precede fans of scratchy, scalelike, 1/16- to 1/4-inch adult foliage; color varies considerably among species and cultivars, ranging from medium green to shades of blue, gold, and gray green.

■ **Pine** (*Pinus*): Bundles of two to five (or six to eight) thin, flexible, light to dark green to shades of yellow-, blue-, or gray-green needles, 2 to 5 inches long



—Mike Davy, Van Dusen Botanical Garden

Pinus densiflora 'Oculus-draconis'

■ **Spruce** (*Picea*): Thin, sharply pointed, four-sided, light to dark green to blue needles, 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches long

■ **Yew** (*Taxus*): Flat, shiny, dark green needles, 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches long

(continued)

landscape design

These Have Scalelike Foliage

■ **Arborvitae** (*Thuja*): Fan-shape sprays of soft, scaly, dark green or green-gold, $\frac{1}{16}$ - to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch needles; foliage is fragrant when crushed.

■ **Cypress** (*Cupressus*): Paired, pointed, overlapping, scalelike leaves, $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch long, may be bright or dark green or blue-gray, depending on species; some species have fragrant foliage.

■ **False cypress** (*Chamaecyparis*): Flattened sprays of overlapping, scalelike, $\frac{1}{16}$ - to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch leaves; foliage form and color vary widely among species and cultivars.

■ **Leyland cypress** (*X Cupressocyparis leylandii*): Flattened sprays of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch, pointed, dark green, scalelike leaves.

THE MANY COLORS OF EVERGREEN

The plants we think of as “evergreen” come in many other hues: yellows and golds, silvery blues and blue greens, reds, rust, and purple—although some colors would be present only at certain times of the year. Variegation adds bright notes of yellow or white. Think of a whole colorful “rainbow” (including white) made up of “evergreen” plants! Here’s a start:

■ **Red:** *Chamaecyparis thyoides* ‘Red Star’ (turns reddish gray in winter); Zones 3 to 8

■ **Orange:** *Pinus mugo* ‘Amber Gold’ (turns orange-yellow in winter); Zones 3 to 7



—Dan Wels

Abies koreana ‘Aurea’ bears purple cones when mature.

■ **Yellow or gold:** *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* ‘Aurea Densa’; Zones 5 to 9

■ **Yellow-variegated:** *Pinus densiflora* ‘Oculus-draconis’; Zones 4 to 7

■ **Green:** *Thuja occidentalis* ‘Emerald Green’ (aka ‘Smaragd’); Zones 2 to 7

■ **Blue:** *Juniperus squamata* ‘Blue Star’; Zones 5 to 8

■ **Indigo (blue-purple):** *Abies koreana* ‘Aurea’ (bears purple cones when mature); Zones 5 and 6

■ **Violet:** *Juniperus conferta* ‘Blue Lagoon’ (plum winter color); Zones 5 to 9

■ **White-variegated:** *Tsuga canadensis* ‘Gentsch White’; Zones 4 to 8

Canadian Connection

See page 122 for Canadian zones. □□

Deborah L. Martin lives and gardens near Allentown, Pennsylvania.

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BRING Butterflies INTO YOUR BACKYARD

BY SALLY ROTH

More than 700 species of butterflies thrive in the United States and southern portions of Canada. Just a little planning can get a few (or a few dozen) to visit your yard.

N U R T U R E W I T H N A T U R A L N E C T A R . . .

Many butterflies love nectar, but they seek their sweets from flowers alone. (Butterflies do not eat from hummingbirds' sugar-water feeders.) A butterfly's body parts—tiny feet; a thin, strawlike proboscis (feeding tube); and delicate wings—hint at the flower shapes that suit it best. The centers of daisy-type flowers (coneflowers, zinnias, sunflowers) give a butterfly a place to perch

ornamentals

while feeding. Spikes of single tiny blossoms (gayfeather, butterfly bush) or small flowers that are closely arranged in flat- (yarrow) or round-top (aster) clusters all allow a butterfly uninterrupted space to flutter its wings during landing or departure, while giving it easy access to nectar. Clusters of flowers provide the added benefit of many sips of nectar.

. . . O R N A S T Y N U T R I E N T S

Some butterflies meet their needs for nutrients with a menu that's not very appealing to our taste: rotten fruit, sap, poop, carrion, fungi, and human sweat.

Soft, juicy, rotted fruit has a consistency and fermented aroma that some butterflies—commas, hackberries, monarchs, red admirals, red-spotted purples—love. Almost any fruit will do, and the riper, the better: Apples, bananas, berries, cantaloupes, cherries, crab apples, figs, grapes, nectarines, pawpaws, pears, persimmons, tomatoes, and watermelons are favorites.



A wood nymph butterfly dines on nectar.

A fruit feeder is simple to make: Screw or nail a plastic dinner plate or saucer to the top of a flat-top post, deck railing, or fence in a shady spot. Expect to see a few other insects snacking on your fruit buffet. Discard remainders in a compost heap and wash the plate with a garden hose.

Sap that seeps from a cut or injury in a tree (such as where frost or insect damage or a lawn mower nick has occurred) is a huge attraction for the same butterflies that like fruit. After a few days of spring sunshine, sugar maple sap ferments into an intoxicating brew. Chinquapin oak, sugar maple, and weeping cherry are a few sap sources.

Animal manure, including that from a barnyard or dog, cat, or bird, says “mealtime” to certain butterfly species. Place a bit of it in a discreet but observable location.

The juices of decomposing raw meat are especially appealing to emperor and question mark butterflies as well as many of the fruit lovers noted. Understandably, few people want carrion in the garden; bits of fish or meat scraps can serve as satisfying alternatives for butterflies. Serve such food on a tray-type bird feeder covered by wire or a plastic grid to protect it from marauding raccoons or cats.

If fungi form in your yard—under a dead log or stump, in wood chip mulch, or

in shade gardens—butterflies may soon follow. Mourning cloak and hackberry butterflies enjoy molds and fungi.

Finally, *you* may be a butterfly feeder: On a hot day, hackberries and red emperors may alight on you to sip from a bead of perspiration.

W E L C O M E W I T H W A T E R

A butterfly bath should be just a foot deep—a butterfly’s foot, that is! A spritzed pavement or patio surface is butterfly bliss but can dry quickly or become too warm for wading on a hot day. Instead, place a few smooth stones and gravel in a saucer. Add enough water to wet, but not submerge, the stones. Butterflies will perch on the stones and sip the water in the bottom of the saucer.

C A P T I V A T E W I T H C O L O R

Butterflies are not as particular about flower color as hummingbirds, but studies suggest that they have preferences, with purple (especially the magenta hue) at

Black-eyed Susans, zinnias, daisies, and marigolds provide a colorful border for a garden and a tempting attraction for butterflies.

—Jerry Pavia





—Karen Bussolin; container design, The Kent Greenhouse, Kent, CT

Invite butterflies to your patio with container plants such as heliotrope, nicotiana, snapdragons, petunias, thyme, lantana, cosmos, rudbeckia, lilies, zinnias, verbena, annual salvia, and calibrachoa. Be sure to include a saucer of wet gravel or stones.

the top of the list and yellow not far behind. Here are a few flowers to try. You can find more at Almanac.com/ButterflyPlants.

- **Aster** (*Aster* spp.)
- **Daisy**, or Composite, family
- **Eupatorium** (*Eupatorium* spp.)
- **Garden phlox** (*Phlox paniculata*) (A)
- **Goldenrod** (*Solidago* spp.)
- **Meadow phlox** (*P. maculata*)
- **Pink coneflower** (*Echinacea pallida*)
- **Purple coneflower** (*E. purpurea*) (D)
- **Sunflower** (*Helianthus annuus*) (C)
- **Tennessee coneflower** (*E. tenesseeensis*)
- **Verbena** (*Verbena* spp.) (B)



—www.whiteflowerfarm.com



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CATERPILLAR CRAVINGS

Because many butterflies are limited in their range, the plants on which they lay their eggs are usually natives that thrive in the areas where the butterflies do. You can increase the butterfly population in your yard by offering, in addition to your nectar garden, the plants and shrubs that serve as hosts for hungry caterpillars (they eat a lot!). Butterflies are particular about their host plants, and a comprehensive list of them is as varied as the butterflies themselves. The following plants are favored by many butterfly species.

Annuals

- **Dill** (*Anethum graveolens*)
- **Nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*)
- **Parsley** (*Petroselinum crispum*)

Perennials

- **Alfalfa** (*Medicago sativa*)
- **Aster** (*Aster* spp.)
- **Hollyhock** (*Alcea rosea*), biennial and perennial
- **Swamp milkweed** (*Asclepias incarnata*) (E)
- **Violets** (*Viola* spp.)

Shrubs

- **Ceanothus** (*Ceanothus* spp.)

Trees

- **Elm** (*Ulmus* spp.)
- **Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*, *C. laevigata*)
- **Oak** (*Quercus* spp.)
- **Willow** (*Salix* spp.)

Vines

- **Dutchman's pipe** (*Aristolochia* spp.)
- **Hops** (*Humulus* spp.)
- **Passionflower** (*Passiflora* spp.)



—Jennifer Anderson/USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Sally Roth has written numerous books on gardening and nature, including *Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Backyard* (Rodale, 2001). She has befriended birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds all across the country.



MAKE Hummingbirds FEEL AT HOME

BY SALLY ROTH

No matter where in North America you live, you have a good chance of hosting hummingbirds in your yard. Some regions are real hot spots—like the Southwest, which boasts more than 20 species—while other areas, such as the Great Plains and locales east of the Mississippi, may see only a single species, the reliable ruby-throated hummingbird. Most of the 339 hummingbird species stick to Central and South America (and the islands off those coasts). Some species, particularly the rufous hummingbird, are rapidly changing their habits and expanding their range; the rufous now winters regularly in the South and may show up at feeders just about anywhere in North America.

—Purstock/Getty Images

(c o n t i n u e d)

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The good news is that hummingbirds stray far and wide (and fast: up to 50 miles per hour in a tailwind), so if you prepare a welcoming garden, you are likely to have a visitor. Here are a few ways to say, “Come on in!”

SERVE UP SWEETS

Flower nectar is Mother Nature’s version of sugar water, and hummingbirds love it right from the flower and served up in feeders. For the jaw-dropping experience of seeing these birds at close range, put up a nectar feeder close to a window. You can even get the kind that sticks to your window with suction cups.

Nectar feeders generally come in two basic models: a vertical tube reservoir with feeding holes at the bottom, and a saucer shape. Pick the one you feel most

comfortable filling, hanging, and cleaning. (Expect to repeat that cycle every 3 days and more frequently if you attract a lot of hummingbirds.) The more red on the feeder, the faster it will attract a hummingbird’s attention. A transparent reservoir will enable you to see more easily when a refill is needed.



—Ann Marie Asberry

HOW TO MAKE NECTAR

- Sugar-water nectar could not be simpler to make: Boil 2 cups of water. Remove from the heat. Add ½ cup granulated white sugar. Stir to dissolve. Cool and serve in your nectar feeder. It’s not necessary to color the water with red dye to catch a hummingbird’s attention, especially if you use a red feeder.

Never give hummingbirds honey; it could give them a tongue fungus—a problem for a creature whose tongue’s length (6 inches) is twice that of its body.

GIVE THE BIRDS A BATH

- At less than ½ ounce in weight, hummingbirds do not need a lot of water to refresh themselves. Devices that spray, spritz, mist, or sprinkle, especially those that send a fine cloud of moisture in one direction and do not oscillate, are ideal for getting hummingbirds to dance in the air and sing as if in a shower. (Yes, sing: Listen, and you may hear them squeaking or twittering with delight!) A common hose nozzle set to the finest spray and propped to aim into the air is very tempting, and the little birds may even zoom in and out of the spray while you water your plants. A commercial mister designed specifically for this purpose is just as inviting.

Traditional birdbaths and many water features are far too deep for hummingbirds (or butterflies), although they may hover and splash their wings at the surface. After a rain you may see these tiny birds rubbing and fluttering against the wet, smooth leaves of your dogwoods, eastern redbuds, maples, spice bushes, tulip trees, and other trees and shrubs.

DO-IT-YOURSELF: QUICK-AND-EASY FEEDERS

- Use a test tube (available from chemistry supply houses) or a clean, tall, skinny, jelly jar or similar container. Wrap wire around the lip of the tube or jar and attach the other end of the wire to a tree branch. Use a funnel or turkey baster to fill the feeder with sugar water. Be sure to change the water often, as ants and other insects will get into the tube or jar.
- Recycle a clean plastic soda bottle. For a few dollars, purchase a screw-on feeder base and a hanger that is specifically made for this from a bird supply house or search the Web for “soda bottle feeder.”

**What do you use to feed hummingbirds?
If you have a homemade idea, share it at
Almanac.com/Forums/BirdingForum.**



—Kathina Miller

(c o n t i n u e d)

ornamentals

PLANT A FEAST OF FLOWERS

Nectar-filled flowers will entice hummingbirds into your yard, but not just any blooms will do. Hummingbirds seek plants with deep, tubular blossoms that point up and are arranged around a stem (think columbine or honeysuckle). Because a hummingbird usually hovers while it eats, its wings whizzing at 80 beats per second, it favors flowers that stand clear of leaves or branches (bee balm, salvias, penstemons, agaves).

Although a hummingbird will feast on flowers of any hue, certain colors capture its attention more than others. Red flowers attract especially well, but those of related shades (red-orange, orange, hot pink) also call to them. Studies have shown that hummingbirds also seek blue flowers, such as salvia and delphinium blossoms, that have the necessary shape and structure. Both native and nonnative plants attract hummingbirds, as long as the blossoms have tubular flowers.

Here are some choices. You can find more at Almanac.com/HummingbirdPlants. □□

Annuals

- Garden balsam** (*Impatiens balsamina*)
- Impatiens** (*I. walleriana*)
- Monkey flower** (*Mimulus* spp.)
- Scarlet sage** (*Salvia splendens*) **(E)**
- Snapdragon** (*Antirrhinum majus*) **(G)**
- Texas sage** (*S. coccinea*)

Perennials

- Anise hyssop** (*Agastache* spp.) **(B)**
- Bee balm** (*Monarda* spp.)
- Columbine** (*Aquilegia* spp.) **(A)**
- Delphinium** (*Delphinium* spp.) **(C)**
- Foxglove** (*Digitalis* spp.) **(F)**
- Penstemon** (*Penstemon* spp.)
- Red-hot poker** (*Kniphofia* spp.) **(D)**
- Salvia** (*Salvia* spp.)
- Speedwell** (*Veronica* spp.)



A female ruby-throated hummingbird feeds her young.



D

—Gareth Davies



E

—Anna Mañá

—www.provenwinners.com



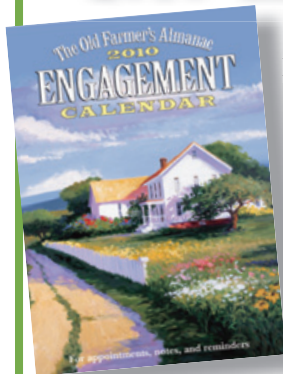
F

—W. Atlee Burpee & Co.



G

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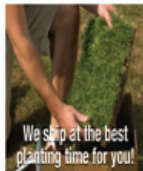
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TOMATOES

Experts weigh in on the best-tasting, plus new trends.

by Doreen G. Howard

It's probably the first edible you grew. If so, then you know that once you've tasted a home-grown tomato, it's hard to swallow grocery store versions. If not, then you're in for a treat.

Tomatoes are easy to propagate, produce big crops even in containers, and are lusciously flavored. But not just any—or every—tomato qualifies. This is why we asked the pros which tomatoes taste the best. Most of them agree that tomatoes with an acid-sweet balance, enhanced with other flavors, are tops.

“I love the earthy, exotic, acid-sweet balance of the black tomato ‘Paul Robeson’,” says Gary Ibsen of Carmel, California, founder of TomatoFest, an heirloom seed company that sponsored a tomato contest of the same name for 17 years.

Another seedsman, George Ball Jr., CEO of 134-year-old W. Atlee Burpee & Co., agrees. His favorite is ‘Big Boy’: “It has the perfect balance of tangy and sweet.”

“Sprightly and sweet,” is the way Amy Goldman of Rhinebeck, New York, author of *The Heirloom Tomato*

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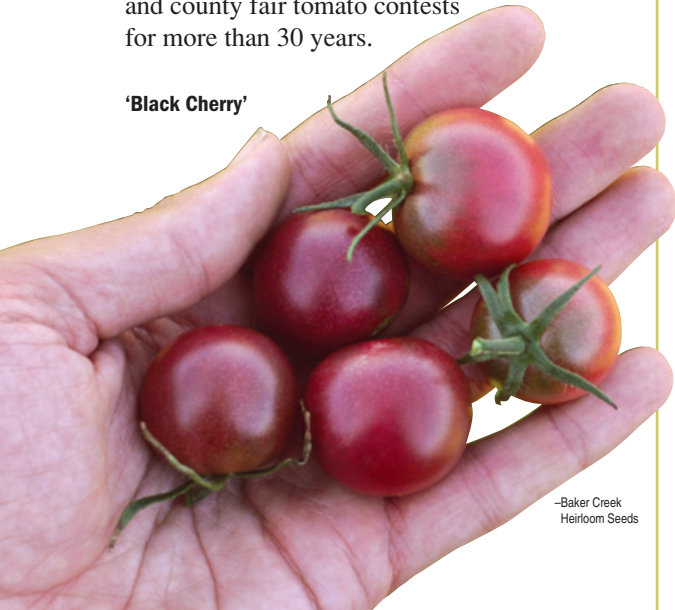
(Bloomsbury, 2008), describes her favorite, ‘Red Brandywine’. “The high sugar and high acid combination is perfection,” she says. Goldman has grown over 500 tomato varieties and plants at least 100 varieties every year in her garden.

Beefsteaks personify acid-sweet tomato taste, which is why they are the favorite of Illinois State Fair tomato champion Terese Cirillo of Burbank, Illinois. “‘Big Beef’ has the ultimate beefsteak taste,” she says. It doesn’t crack, like many big tomatoes do, and it wins contests for Cirillo.

Craig LeHoullier of Raleigh, North Carolina, founder of Tomatopalooza, an heirloom tomato tasting festival, became obsessed with open-pollinated tomatoes when he grew his first one 30 years ago. His favorite is ‘Brandywine’ (the Quisenberry-Sudduth variant). “It has everything—smooth texture, great intensity, and a perfect balance between tart and sweet,” he explains.

Not all of the pros concur with the importance of acid-sweet balance. Contrarian Jim Schmidt of the University of Illinois Extension Service votes for ‘Mama Mia’, a large, meaty, paste tomato. “I love its rich texture,” he declares, “and it holds up well when cooked.” He’s judged state and county fair tomato contests for more than 30 years.

‘Black Cherry’



—Baker Creek
Heirloom Seeds



—W. Atlee Burpee & Co.



—W. Atlee Burpee & Co.

T O M A T O T R E N D S

Interest in tomatoes is booming due to the economy and the quest for healthy, untainted food. Gary Ibsen has seen the demand for heirloom tomatoes grow substantially over the past 3 years. “Heirlooms’ irregular appearance may be off-putting, but when people taste their complexity, they’re sold,” he says.

Cherry tomatoes of different colors are another trend that Ibsen is seeing. His custom-



—Tomato Growers Supply Co.

clockwise
from below:
**‘Big Beef’,
‘Italian Ice’,
‘Brandywine’,
‘Green Grape’**



—All-America Plant
Selections

ers are ordering five or six different colors of cherry types to mix for salads or to eat out of hand. Varieties like ‘Black Cherry’, white ‘Italian Ice’, ‘Gold Nugget’, and ‘Green Grape’ look stunning with red cherry tomatoes on salad plates and offer an array of flavors.

Jim Schmidt is seeing more color in all tomatoes at contests. “There are more black, green, orange, and white ones in every size and shape,” he says.

Shorter plants are another new trend because yards are smaller and container cultivation is easy for busy people. Burpee CEO George Ball Jr. says that ‘Brandy Boy’ was one of Burpee’s top five sellers in 2009 because it produces high yields on a shorter plant. Dwarf varieties are being developed by Tomatopalooza’s Craig LeHoullier

—Omer Kamran



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homegrown tomatoes,*

*What would life be
without homegrown
tomatoes?*

*Only two things that
money can’t buy:*

*That’s true love and
homegrown tomatoes.*

—“Homegrown Tomatoes”
by Guy Clark, country music artist
(b. 1941)

edibles

A CHAMP'S GROWING SECRETS

For 24 years, Terese Cirillo has been an avid competitor at the Illinois State Fair.

She admits that although she does not win in every category, she usually manages to walk away with a ribbon or two. Here is how she grows her winners:

Every fall, she spreads aged cow manure over the garden, tills it in, and lets it rot throughout the winter.

She chooses tomato varieties that are adapted to her short-season climate.

After she sets out transplants, she snakes an irrigation line through them. (You can also use a soaker hose. Turn on the water faucet when the soil is dry 2 inches under the surface.)

Then she mulches the plants with grass clippings, covering the water line or hose. Straw is also excellent mulch.

This is all she does! Manure provides the nutrition, weeds are suppressed by the mulch, moisture is conserved, and watering is easy.



—courtesy Terese Cirillo

and others to expand the range of short tomatoes such as ‘Lime Green Salad’, a 20-inch plant that yields 3- to 5-ounce green fruit throughout the season. He says that 2- to 4-foot plants bearing 20-ounce tomatoes in black, green, gold, orange, pink, and bicolors will be on the market within 2 years.

Paste tomatoes are surging in popularity, too, for salsas and sauce. “I use ‘Russian Big Roma’ and ‘Purple Russian’ for salsa, because of their acidic, big flavors and firmness of fruit,” Ibsen says. LeHoullier goes a step further and color codes his salsas, using whatever tomatoes



‘Russian Big Roma’

are ripe: “Green ones go into mild salsas, yellow in medium, and red tomatoes in hot.”

“Voluptuous, red-ribbed, and very heavy in the hips”—that’s how author Amy Goldman describes her favorite paste tomato, ‘Goldman’s Italian American’. She collected the seeds in Italy, stabilized them

in her New York garden, and called them her own. "I named the tomato in honor of my parents and their Brooklyn grocery store." They have some stiff competition. Schmidt says that 'Roma', a paste standard for decades, wins most paste tomato competitions because of its uniformity, color, and firmness. *(continued)*

—right, W. Atlee Burpee & Co.

clockwise from right: 'Black Krim', 'Garden Peach', 'Green Zebra', 'Cherokee Purple'

—below, Seed Savers Exchange



—right, Territorial Seed Company —above, Johnny's Selected Seeds

edibles

Tops for Taste

Experts recommend these varieties:

—photos, top to bottom: Seed Savers Exchange, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, W. Atlee Burpee & Co. (two images), Johnny's Selected Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Terminal Seed Company, Seed Savers Exchange (two images); background: Paul Taylor/Getty Images.



TOMATO

COLOR AND SHAPE

'Amish Paste'

deep-red oxheart

'Black Cherry'

mahogany brown

'Black Krim'

violet-brown small beefsteak

'Brandywine'

reddish-pink beefsteak

'Cherokee Purple'

dusty pink-purple globe

'Garden Peach'

fuzzy yellow, 2-ounce salad

'Green Zebra'

green and amber stripes

'Kellogg's Breakfast'

large orange beefsteak

'Striped Cavern'

red and orange stripes, ribbed, hollow

An heirloom tomato maven, **Doreen G. Howard** currently edits and writes for numerous magazines.



FLAVOR	QUIRKS AND COMMENTS
full-bodied array	These are large (12-ounce) paste tomatoes and good slicers.
fruity and complex; has layers of flavor like large black tomatoes	These are disease-resistant, productive plants.
salty-sweet with complex undertones	For best quality, harvest when slightly hard.
perfect acid-sweet combination	Many variants available; the standard against which other big tomatoes are judged.
rich sweetness, with smoky notes	Some variants are almost black in color.
sweet and fruity	These look and almost taste like a peach; kids love them.
fruity, with a hint of citrus	Heavy producer; use in salads.
overwhelming richness and tang	Fruit are thin-skinned with few seeds.
firm and slightly acidic	These are great for stuffing and grilling.



Find recipes for your tomatoes at Almanac.com/Cooking.



Tomato Spoilers

Avoid or control these common tomato troubles.

CULTURAL PROBLEMS

IF YOU SEE: Leathery skin on fruit and a dark or water-soaked area on the blossom end (opposite the stem) of the fruit that eventually enlarges, turns brown or black, and becomes sunken and flat . . .

This might be BLOSSOM END ROT, which is often caused by fluctuating soil moisture such as occurs when a dry period is followed by lots of rain. This is evidence of a calcium deficiency in the fruit. Too much nitrogen, high salt levels in the soil, or root damage can also contribute. Note: Fruit does not rot unless secondary organisms invade. Tomatoes grow slowly and may ripen prematurely.

To avoid: Prepare deep, well-drained soil. Apply lime if calcium is low. Plant in warm soil. Water uniformly and regularly; provide mulch. Cultivate shallowly. Avoid overfertilizing; use nitrogen forms that do not contain ammonia, which inhibits calcium uptake. Stake plants when young.

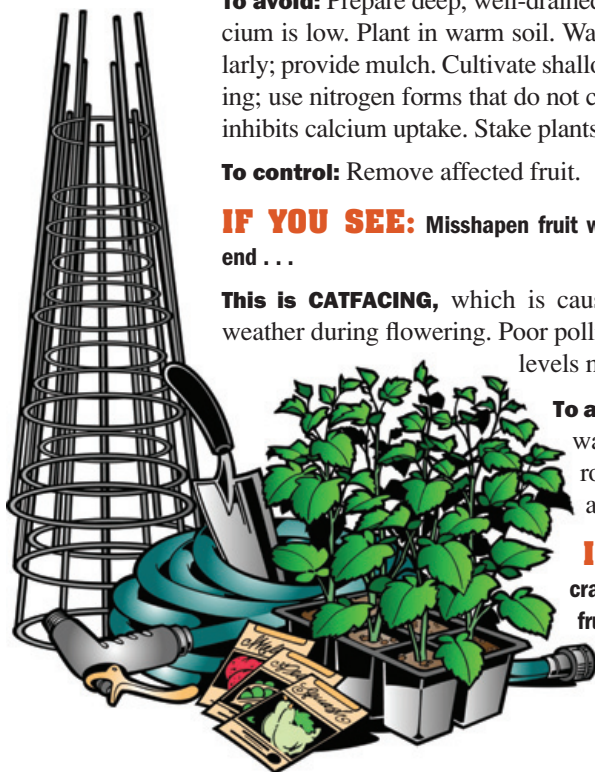
To control: Remove affected fruit.

IF YOU SEE: Misshapen fruit with scars at the blossom end . . .

This is CATFACING, which is caused by prolonged cool weather during flowering. Poor pollination or high nitrogen levels may also be a factor.

To avoid: Transplant during warm weather. Provide row covers when nights are below 55°F.

IF YOU SEE: Radial cracks from the stem end of fruit and concentric cracks around the shoulders of the fruit . . .





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edibles

This is CRACKING, which results from rapid fruit development and fluctuating soil moisture (such as a dry spell followed by warm, rainy weather while fruit develops).

To avoid: Choose resistant varieties. Water regularly and evenly; provide mulch. Do not overfertilize with nitrogen.

IF YOU SEE: Few or no flowers or blossoms dropping without setting fruit . . .

This is POOR FRUIT SET, or **POOR FLOWERING**, which results from too much nitrogen or too much shade. Too little water or temperatures above 90°F during the day or below 55°F at night during flowering may cause blossoms to drop. Pests and diseases or lack of pollination may also contribute.

To avoid: Grow early-maturing varieties. Choose a site that receives at least 6 hours of sun per day. Set plants out when night temperatures are consistently above 55°F or protect with row covers at night. Do not overfertilize with nitrogen. Provide even moisture.

FUNGAL AND VIRAL DISEASES

IF YOU SEE: Sunken spots that darken and develop rings on ripe fruit . . .

This is ANTHRACNOSE, which is prevalent in warm, wet conditions.

To avoid: Provide well-drained soil.

To control: Destroy infected fruit. Spray plants with a copper-based fungicide to prevent spread.

To avoid next time: Destroy infected plants after harvest. Use a 3- to 4-year crop rotation.

IF YOU SEE: Concentric, dark rings on older leaves and stems and dark, concentrically ringed, sunken areas near the stems of green fruit . . .

This is EARLY BLIGHT, or **ALTERNARIA BLIGHT**, which thrives in warm, humid weather. It can be present in seeds.

To avoid: Choose resistant varieties. Allow enough space between plants to provide good air circulation. Do not wet plants unnecessarily. Weed regularly (some weeds serve as hosts to this disease).

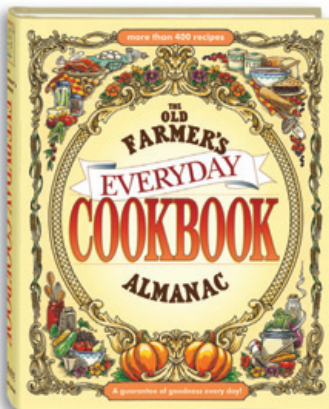
To control: Remove infected leaves. Spray with a copper-based fungicide or sulfur dust to deter spread. Pick fruit promptly.

To avoid next time: Destroy infected plants after harvest; do not compost (fungus can overwinter in diseased plant debris). Practice crop rotation.

IF YOU SEE: Yellowing and wilting lower leaves and/or stunted plant growth . . .

This is FUSARIUM WILT or **VERTICILLIUM WILT**, which enter plants through their roots. Fusarium wilt occurs frequently in 80° to 90°F

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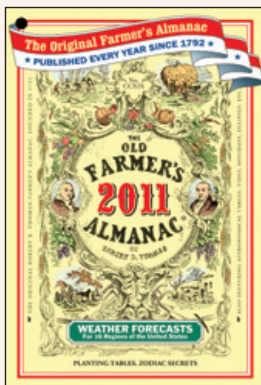
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edibles

temperatures and survives best in sandy, dry soils. It may attack one shoot or side of the plant first; shoots or the whole plant may wilt and not recover after watering. Look for dark streaks in the stem when cut lengthwise. Verticillium wilt prefers 65° to 75°F and is present in many soils. It shows up as V-shape, yellow-to-brown areas on lower leaves; affected foliage wilts and may drop off; the stem may be light brown inside up to about a foot above soil level; top leaves remain green; fruit are small.

To avoid: Choose resistant varieties. Soak seeds in a 10 percent bleach solution before planting.

To control: Place tools in boiling water for 5 minutes and then wash with detergent.

To avoid next time: Destroy infected plants after harvest; do not compost. Practice crop rotation.

IF YOU SEE: Mottled and yellowed leaves and twisted or deformed young growth . . .

This is TOBACCO MOSAIC VIRUS, which spreads through seeds and direct contact.

To avoid: Grow resistant varieties. Soak seeds in a 10 percent bleach solution before planting. Avoid handling tobacco near plants.

To control: Destroy infected plants; do not compost. Disinfect gardening tools.

I N S E C T S

IF YOU SEE: Twisted, puckered, yellow leaves and distorted buds and flowers and/or honeydew (clear, sticky liquid), sometimes accompanied by sooty mold . . .

You have APHIDS, which are pear-shape green, black, pink, gray, or cottony white soft-bodied insects with long antennae; sometimes winged; and less than 1/8-inch long at maturity. The nymph is similar to the adult. Aphids are often present in large numbers. Adults and nymphs suck plant sap.

To control: Knock the insects off with a strong spray of water. Attract beneficials such as lacewings or lady beetles. Repeatedly spray insecticidal soap.

IF YOU SEE: Dropped buds, deformed young fruit, and shallow, yellow-white, corky spots on fruit (called cloudy spot) . . .

You have STINK BUGS, which are shield-shape green or brown insects that are about 1/2-inch long and emit a disagreeable odor when handled. The nymph is wingless. Adults and nymphs suck sap from all parts of the plants.

To control: Eliminate surrounding weeds where adults overwinter. Encourage native parasitic wasps. Spray with insecticidal soap or dust with sabadilla, if a heavy infestation occurs.

IF YOU SEE: Holes in leaves and stalks and distorted young leaves; a hole near the stem of green fruit; and/or rotted, hollow fruit that may collapse . . .

You have TOMATO FRUITWORMS, aka **CORN EARWORMS,** which are 1½ inches long at maturity. The larvae are light yellow with a brown head; the color can darken and change to green, red, or brown as they mature; stripes might appear. A single larva may be inside fruit.

To control: Destroy infested fruit. Spray larvae on leaves with BTK (*Bacillus thuringiensis* ssp. *kurstaki*). Cover plants with row covers to keep adult moths from laying eggs.

IF YOU SEE: Leaves with large holes and severe defoliation in heavy infestations; devoured flowers; and/or scarring on fruit surfaces . . .

You have TOMATO HORNWORMS, which are 3 to 4 inches long at maturity and have a black horn on their hind end. (The tobacco hornworm is similar, with a red horn.) The caterpillar has eight V-shape stripes on its green body.

To control: Handpick, if there is a minor infestation. Encourage natural predators such as the braconid parasitic wasp. Introduce *Trichogramma* parasitic wasps or spray with BTK when caterpillars are small. □□

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From Seed

Cultivate a cook's garden and savor the harvest.

by Robin Sweetser

The secret of top chefs is a secret no more: the freshest ingredients, picked at the peak of perfection. The following vegetables grow well in a small plot or a collection of containers. Grow a garden of good health and eat well to be well!



to Saucepan



CONTINUED

Beans



Snap beans are one of the easiest vegetables to grow in the ground, and they do well in a 10-gallon container alone or with other plants. Sow seeds 1 inch deep and 6 inches apart after danger of frost has passed. Plant compact bush beans every 2 weeks to extend the harvest. Try French filet beans called *haricots verts* for a tender treat.

Pole beans bear in abundance, whether you choose long, stringless pods or wide, meaty, Italian types. Provide the support of a sturdy fence or tepee made from bamboo poles. Freeze, can, or pickle bumper crops.

Beans for drying, to be used in baked beans and soups, are essential ingredients of a cook's garden. Plant them as you would snap beans but all at once. Pick fully mature pods when they turn brown and spread them on screens to dry. Then shell the pods and store the beans for winter. Look for tasty, heirloom beans such as 'Cranberry', 'Jacob's Cattle', or 'Black Turtle'.

Cabbage



Cabbage—red 'Ruby Perfection', savoy 'January King', round 'Danish Ballhead', and conical 'Early Jersey Wakefield'—likes moist, cool conditions. Grow it as a spring or fall crop in warm climates or as a winter crop in the South and southern California. In northern climes, harvest after first frost. It does best in fertile, sweet soil that is high in organic matter, and it needs lots of water if it is to form a big, crunchy head. Start seeds ¼-inch deep indoors 6 weeks before the last frost date and transplant into the garden when the shoots have six to eight leaves. For fall crops, start in May and transplant into the garden in late June or early July. Space plants 12 to 24

inches apart. The closer the spacing, the smaller the heads. Three plants will fit in a single large container (10-plus gallons); use a 2-gallon pot for a single plant.

D O N ' T B E K I S S E D B Y T H E C O L D

- For the last and first frost dates and the length of the growing season in areas of the United States and Canada, see page 123.

Carrots



Carrots' natural sugars make them a sweet, crispy treat. Cool temperatures transform starches into sugars, making them even sweeter. To grow long and straight, carrots need deeply tilled soil that they can push through. Make raised beds and fill them with sandy loam and compost. Sow the tiny seeds thinly, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep, in rows 12 inches apart. Mix in fast-germinating radish seeds: The roots will loosen the soil and the leaves will mark the rows. Pull and eat the radishes, then thin the carrots (clipping the foliage with scissors, if necessary) to stand 4 inches apart.

A cool weather crop good for northern climates and available in a rainbow of colors (white, yellow, red, orange, and purple), carrots can be planted from early spring through mid-July. If sown late in northern areas, carrots can be left in the ground in fall; alternatively, store in tubs of moist sand for winter use. Grow short or round carrots in a 1- to 2-gallon container; longer carrots need a deeper pot.

Eggplant



Choose from two types of **eggplant**: broad and oval or long and slender. They all come in a range of colors (white, green, pink, purple, black—even striped). Start seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep indoors 8 weeks before your last frost date and plant when the soil temperature reaches 60°F and all danger of frost has passed. Space plants 18 to 24 inches apart. Eggplants benefit from rich, organic soil and regular watering, heat (black plastic mulch helps to warm the soil and hold in moisture), and a long growing season. In cooler zones, try 'Apple Green'. Some heavy-bearing plants may need support. Harvest when

fruits are firm and shiny. Cut—don't tear—they from the stem to avoid damaging the plant, and handle with care; they bruise easily. Eggplant, especially dwarf species that bear prolifically and early, grows well in containers of 2 gallons or more. The large, feltlike leaves and mauve flowers are very decorative.

C O N T I N U E D

Leeks can be grown from seed or purchased plants. They need well-drained, near-neutral-pH soil that is amended with extra compost and aged manure. Start seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep indoors 10 to 12 weeks before last frost or direct-seed in a shallow trench in early spring. Transplant or thin to 6 inches apart in rows 24 inches apart. As the plants grow, fill the trench around the base of each plant to blanch the stem. Water well and fertilize every 3 weeks with liquid fish emulsion and seaweed fertilizer. Harvest at any size; baby leeks are a European delicacy. Cold hardy, leeks will survive a light frost. Store in a moist sand/peat moss mix. Leeks can be grown in a 5-gallon container; leave room to hill up the soil around the bases of the plants.

Leeks



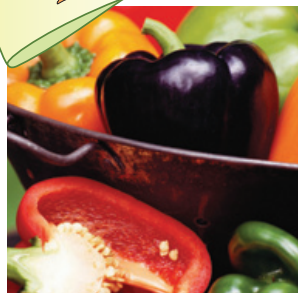
Peas



Choose from shelling, snow, and snap peas. Try *petit pois*, or tiny peas, a shelling pea that is a French delicacy. A cool weather plant, peas will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 40°F, making them a great short-season vegetable and spring and fall crop. Sow in a double row, 1 inch deep and 2 to 4 inches apart, as soon as the soil can be worked. Give tall climbers a fence, trellis, or string to cling to before the plants begin to grow to avoid damaging the roots. Dwarf varieties do well in containers. Pea roots spread laterally, so use wide, shallow containers at

least 8 inches deep. Harvest shelling peas when the pods are plump. Pop them out of the shell and steam or boil them briefly. Collect snow pea pods just as the peas start to swell. Harvest snap peas at any size.

Peppers



Sweet or hot peppers are easy to grow in warm climates and figure prominently in Cajun, Indian, Mexican, and Thai cuisines. Start seeds $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch deep indoors 8 to 10 weeks before the last frost date or buy sturdy plants. After the danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed to



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60°F, plant outside, 18 to 24 inches apart. (Northern gardeners can heat up the soil by covering it with black plastic.) Water regularly in hot, dry weather. Many compact pepper plants grow nicely in containers; try hot ‘Thai Dragon’ or sweet ‘Redskin’ and ‘Tequila Sunrise’.

K E E P G R O W I N G

■ For advice on cultivating corn, okra, and shallots, plus nutritional information for all of the vegetables here, go to Almanac.com/CooksGarden and Almanac.com/VegNutrition.

Potatoes



Potatoes are a culinary mainstay, but fresh from the garden they are a treat! Choose from white, blue, red, purple, or yellow potatoes with textures ranging from moist or firm to mealy, creamy, or waxy. Plant seed potatoes (pieces of a larger potato with an “eye,” or sprout) cut side down in a shallow trench 12 inches apart about 2 weeks before your last frost date. As the plants grow, fill in around the base with soil. Potatoes will form above the seed. Harvest the tubers by gently digging with your hands soon after the plants bloom. Let the plants grow until they die down naturally and then dig up the remaining potatoes. Dry them in a dark place at 50° to 60°F for 2 to 3 weeks. Then store in a cool, dark place. No garden? Learn how to grow potatoes in a large, deep container or trash barrel at Almanac.com/PotatoVideo.

Summer Squashes



Zucchini and **summer squashes** are versatile vegetables that can be eaten steamed, fried, raw, grilled, and baked. Even the flowers are edible! Sow two to three seeds 1 inch deep and 18 to 24 inches apart, after danger of frost has passed. Many zucchini are ready to pick in 50 days and will continue to produce until frost.

Choose from numerous sizes and shapes of standard varieties, as well as vining varieties (which grow best from hills or small mounds) or bush plants perfect for container culture. Place two plants in the center of a container of 10-plus gallons. Water and fertilize often. (Note: Too much fertilizer will reduce flowering and fruit set.)



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These orange-yellow roots are native to South and Central America and belong to the morning glory family; they are not related to tuberous potatoes. **Sweet potatoes** grow from sprouts called slips that are taken from the stem. You can buy slips or prepare your own. Six to 8 weeks before the last frost date, suspend an organically grown sweet potato halfway in a glass of water. Place in a sunny window. Roots will develop after a few weeks, and sprouts (slips) will begin to grow. Once several slips have developed, carefully twist or cut them off and plant them ½-inch deep in a pot of light, moist soil. When the danger of frost has passed, prepare 3-foot-wide, flat-top soil hills or raised beds that are 3 to 4 feet apart. Use sandy soil, deeply dug but not overly fertile (high nitrogen will promote lots of leafy growth but not much fruit). Plant the









CULINARY COMBOS

	BASIL	CHEVIL	CHIVES	CILANTRO	DILL	FENNEL	MARJORAM	MINT	OREGANO	PARSLEY
Beans										
Cabbages										
Carrots										
Eggplant										
Peas										
Peppers										
Potatoes										
Summer Squashes										
Sweet Potatoes										

Leeks, like onions, often act like an herb. They seem to go with everything

slips 3 inches deep 12 inches apart in single rows. Most varieties need at least 90 days to form a good crop; a frost will kill them.

Fresh sweet potatoes need curing to develop the sweet flavor we love. After digging, let them dry on the ground for 2 to 3 hours. Then place them in a warm (85°F), humid (85 percent) spot for 5 to 10 days. This converts the starches to sugars and toughens the skins for storage. Store them at 55° to 60°F. □□

SAGE	SUMMER SAVORY	TARRAGON	THYME
			
			
			
			
			

except peas.

Pick & Cook

Try your vegetables in these recipes and others at Almanac.com/Cooking:

Beans

- Bean Chowder
- Composed Salad Niçoise With Simple Vinaigrette
- Shaker Dilly Beans

Cabbage

- Church Supper Coleslaw
- Swedish Cabbage Soup With Meatballs
- Thirty-Minute Meal

Carrots

- Baked Ziti
- Carrot and Ginger Soup
- Pineapple Carrot Cake

Eggplant

- Baba Ganoush
- Eggplant-Tomato Bake
- Moussaka

Leeks

- Artichoke, Leek, and Mushroom Ragout
- Leek and Herb Quiche
- Leek “Pasta” With Garlicky Shrimp

Peas

- Cream of Pea Soup
- Pasta With Shrimp and Peas
- Stir-Fried Snow Peas

Peppers

- Green Pepper Relish
- Nest Egg Omelet
- Roquefort-Stuffed Peppers

Potatoes

- Auntie Ei’s Guaranteed Smashed Potatoes
- Bacon-Striped Potatoes
- Potato Fajitas

Summer Squashes

- Baked Summer Squash
- Chocolate Zucchini Cake
- Watchtide’s Lemon-Blueberry-Zucchini Bread

Sweet Potatoes

- Lacy Sweet Potato Patties
- Sweet Potato Custard Pie
- Sweet Potato Puffs

Robin Sweetser, a regular contributor to the *All-Seasons Garden Guide*, loves cooking with herbs and produce picked fresh from her garden in Hillsborough, New Hampshire.

Preserve Your Harvest!

It's easy and inexpensive to can, freeze, or store your harvest. Plus, you will enjoy healthy, nutritious vegetables and fruit all winter long.



On a hot day in Virginia, I know [of] nothing more comforting than a fine spiced pickle, brought up troutlike from the sparkling depths of the aromatic jar below the stairs of Aunt Sally's cellar.

—Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), third U.S. president

PREPARATIONS

Pickling Preparations

FOR CRISPER PICKLES

■ Put the vegetables, whole or sliced, into a wide bowl and spread a layer of pickling salt on top. Cover and let sit overnight in a cool place. Discard the liquid, then rinse and dry the vegetables before pickling or canning as usual. The salt helps to pull the moisture out of the vegetables and makes them crisper.

SALT MATTERS

■ Use pickling salt, not iodized salt. Pickling salt has no additives. Iodized salt makes the brine cloudy and may change the color and texture of the vegetables as well as possibly leave sediment at the bottom of the jars.

VINEGARS

■ For the best results, use white distilled or cider vinegars

with 5 percent acidity. Use white vinegar when light color is desirable, as with fruit and cauliflower.

LIDS AND BANDS

■ Always use new jar lids for a tight seal. To avoid rust, screw bands should be removed from processed jars that are stored. They can be easily removed after the jars have cooled and sealed, and then reused.

SAFE STORAGE

■ Store processed pickles in a cool, dry, dark area such as a pantry, cabinet, or basement. To allow the pickles to mellow, wait for at least 3 weeks before using.

(Recipes begin on next page.)



CRUNCHY DILL PICKLES*The name tells all.*

- 4 pounds small cucumbers**
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled, for each jar**
- 1 fresh sprig of dill for each jar**
- 4 black peppercorns for each jar**
- 2 quarts white vinegar**
- ½ cup pickling salt**

Soak freshly picked cucumbers in a tub of ice water overnight. Remove and dry the cucumbers, then pack them into sterilized jars along with the garlic cloves, dill sprig, and peppercorns. In a large pot over medium-high heat, bring 2 quarts of water to a boil. Add the vinegar and salt and boil for 5 minutes. Pour the hot brine over the cucumbers, leaving ¼ inch of headroom. Wipe dry the rims of the jars, then cap each with a lid and screw band. Prepare a boiling water bath and process the jars in it for 10 minutes. Remove the jars from the bath and set them on a towel on the counter. They will “seal” during the cooling-off process. Place any jars that do not seal properly in the refrigerator and use first. **Makes about 8 pints.**

**PERPETUAL PICKLES***This is more of a marination than a pickling.*

- cider vinegar**
- 2 or 3 dill heads**
- 2 or 3 cloves garlic, peeled**
- ¼ to ½ cup pickling salt per gallon of liquid**
- 2 or 3 bay leaves**
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns**
- 1 tablespoon whole mustard seeds**
- assortment of freshly picked, clean, young vegetables (baby carrots, beans, cauliflower florets, cucumbers, peppers, small squashes, snap peas)**

In a clean stoneware crock or 1-gallon glass jar, combine equal amounts of cider vinegar and water to half-fill the container. (Use bottled water if your tap water is chlorinated.) If desired, measure the total liquid in order to calculate the salt. Add the dill heads, garlic cloves, salt, bay leaves, peppercorns, and mustard seeds. Stir. Toss in the vegetables and set the crock aside, uncovered. Every day, eat the vegetables that you added the day before, then add more. (The vegetables should not be in the crock for more than 2 days.) Empty and clean the crock after 2 weeks and begin again.

Experiment with flavored vinegars and different fresh and dried herbs and spices.

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TOMATO JAM

Here's a yummy way to use plum tomatoes.

- 4 cups ripe plum tomatoes, peeled and coarsely chopped**
- 2 oranges, washed, thinly sliced, and seeded**
- 2 limes, washed, thinly sliced, and seeded**
- 4 cups sugar**
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger**
- 2 cinnamon sticks**

In a large pot over low heat, combine all of the ingredients and stir until the sugar dissolves. Simmer for 1 to 1½ hours, or until the jam is thick and clear. Stir often near the end of the cooking time to prevent scorching. Remove the cinnamon sticks and pour the mixture into sterilized jars, distributing it equally among them. Wipe dry the rims of the jars, then cap each with a lid and screw band. Prepare a boiling water bath and process the jars in it for 10 minutes. Remove the jars from the bath and set them on a towel on the counter. They will “seal” during the cooling-off process. Place any jars that do not seal properly in the refrigerator and use first.

Makes about 3 pints.

Pleasing Freezing**BERRIES**

■ If you're using strawberries, be sure to hull them. Spread unwashed berries (blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries) in a single layer on a cookie sheet, then put the sheet into the freezer. When the berries are frozen, transfer them to a plastic container or freezer bag. If you're using a container, cut a piece of brown paper bag or paper towel to fit inside it and lay the paper on top of the berries before putting on the lid. If you're using a freezer bag, cut the paper about the size of the bag, lay the bag on a flat surface, and place the paper inside. The paper will prevent “frost” buildup on the berries. Seal, label, and return to the freezer.

PEACHES**4 cups sugar**

1 can (12 ounces) frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed

35 peaches

■ In a large bowl, combine the sugar and the frozen orange juice. Stir until it becomes a thick liquid. Peel and pit the peaches as follows: Bring a pot of water to a boil. Put cold water and ice cubes into a large bowl and set it aside. Carefully put a few peaches at a time into the boiling water. When you can see that the skins are becoming loose, use a slotted

(continued)

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spoon to remove the peaches and put them into the cold water to cool. Slip the skins off, cut the peaches in half, and remove the pits. Slice the peaches and put them into the orange juice mixture. Stir to coat all of the slices. (The acid in the orange juice will keep the peaches from turning brown.) Fill plastic containers or freezer bags with peach slices and liquid to cover. Fill to ½ inch from the top to allow for expansion. Seal, label, and freeze.

TOMATOES

■ Core fresh, unblemished tomatoes and place them whole in plastic containers or freezer bags. Seal, label, and freeze. Be prepared: The skins will slip off when they defrost. Use in sauces or soups.

ZUCCHINI

■ Wash and grate the zucchini. Pack premeasured amounts into plastic containers or freezer bags, leaving ½ inch of headroom. Seal, label, and freeze. Use for zucchini bread, soups, and stews.



Two Time- and Flavor-Saving Tricks

BAG IT!

Very little or no frost will accumulate in the bag and there will be no freezer burn on your produce.

You will need:

3 brown paper lunch bags
bell peppers
yellow squashes
zucchini

Inset one bag inside the other, then repeat, resulting in one triple-thick bag. Wash and towel-dry your vegetables. Slice the biggest ones so that they fit inside the bag. Put the vegetables into the triple-thick bag, fold the top, and staple it shut. Label the bag and put it into the freezer.

CUBE IT!

You will need:
chopped fresh herbs
ice cube tray

Spoon 1 tablespoon of chopped fresh herbs into each compartment of an ice cube tray. Add about 1 inch of water to each compartment, making sure that the herbs are completely covered, and put the tray into the freezer. Remove it when the liquid freezes solid. Lift the herb cubes from the compartments and put each kind into a separate plastic freezer bag. Label the bags and return the herb cubes to the freezer.

Store More

APPLES

■ Apples keep well for about 6 months at temperatures above freezing but below 45°F. If you don't have a root cellar, a double cardboard box in a cool mud-room or basement can approximate the same conditions.

Don't store apples and potatoes together. Apples give off ethylene gas that will spoil the potatoes.

CHILE PEPPERS

■ To keep chile peppers fresh longer in the short term, remove the stems.

ONIONS AND GARLIC

■ Hang mature, dry-skinned onion bulbs in a mesh bag in a cool, dry, airy location. Braided onions and garlic also can be hung.

PUMPKINS AND WINTER

SQUASHES

■ Squashes like a temperature of 50° to 65°F—not quite as cool as for root crop storage. Store in a single layer so that none are touching. If you have a cool bedroom, stash them under the bed!

ROOT CROPS

■ Brush any excess dirt from beets, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, and other root crops before storing. Put them into plastic or cardboard containers or brown bags in a cool, dry, dark, airy place with

a temperature of 35° to 45°F. Clip the leafy green tops of beets, carrots, parsnips, and turnips and pack in moist sand to keep them fresh longer.

TOMATOES

■ Store tomatoes at about 55°F, out of direct sunlight. Position them with stems pointed down, and they will stay fresher longer. Never refrigerate fresh tomatoes.

"TROPICAL" VEGETABLES

■ Avocados, beans, cucumbers, eggplants, and peppers do not keep well in the cold. Store at room temperature.

It's a Wrap!

To keep most vegetables fresh longer, wrap them in newspaper before refrigerating.

Let Nature Take Its Course

LEAVE 'EM IN THE GROUND

If they are covered with a thick layer of mulch (hay, dried leaves, or straw), carrots, garlic, horseradish, leeks, parsley, parsnips, radishes, and turnips can be left in the ground well into the winter and harvested into the spring.

HANG 'EM HIGH

If your tomato plant still has fruit on it when the first hard frost threatens, pull up the entire plant and hang it upside down in the basement or garage. Pick tomatoes as they redden.



FOREVER FIGS!

Grower Aldo P. Biagiotti tells how to get these gigantic, delicious, honey-flavor fruit to thrive in a pot.

When friends come into our farmhouse for figs and a glass of homemade red wine, they savor the golf ball-size purple nuggets and ask, “Where did you buy these figs?”

“I didn’t buy them,” I say proudly. “I grew them.”

Because fig trees are associated with Mediterranean climates, most people assume that they can’t grow figs. Wrong. For over 50 years, I have been growing fig trees in containers at my family’s farm, Casa di Campagna, in Ridgefield, Connecticut. I currently have two ‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf trees and one ‘Blanche’ dwarf, which produces what is also known as the Italian honey fig.

My fig trees grow in 25-gallon, wooden, whiskey half-barrels. Large plastic tubs will also work. Whatever you choose, be sure to drill half-inch drainage holes in the bottom of each.

Dwarf fig trees need good soil. Having an active farm, I use a mixture of earth from my garden and some of my ready supply of cow, donkey, and chicken manure. Any one type of barnyard manure or a combination will do; make sure that it is aged, not raw, or it will burn the roots. Layer several inches of wood chips and then 3 inches of soil mixture in the bottom of the barrel. Set the tree in the middle and spread out its roots, then add soil to about 3 inches below the top of the barrel. Now, and every spring, layer about an inch of pulverized lime on the surface soil around the tree trunk. On top of the lime, add a layer of straw to hold

moisture in the soil.

Place the barrel where it will get at least 8 to 10 hours of sun per day. Over the years, I have found that if ‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf fig trees have plenty of air and



Biagiotti’s dwarf fig trees in wooden half-barrels

ROLL OUT THE BARREL

■ My fig barrels were originally used to age whiskey. They are usually sold to grape dealers, who in turn sell them to wine makers, like me. (I ferment and store my red wine in these barrels. A new oak barrel costs over \$300; a used whiskey barrel is about \$75.) Every few years, I cut a barrel in half for a fig tree. —A.P.B.



sunlight, neither will diseases take hold nor birds flutter in, perch, and peck at the fruit.

‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf fig trees have an incredible thirst, so watering is extremely important. Give each tree 2 gallons of water daily (this helps to dissolve the lime). If there is a dry spell, water in the morning and night, pouring slowly and letting the water soak in.

“*Ci vuole la pazienza con i fichi,*” my father, a skilled gardener, would say in Italian. “You need patience with fig trees.” How true. The ‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf fig tree produces fruit in its third year. With luck, you may pluck and eat a fig or two in the second year. But it’s worth the wait.

In July of the third year, small figs, the size of a pinhead, appear at the crotches of the branches. By late September and early October, mouthwatering, honey-flavor figs will be ready to eat.

continued

edibles

As I pass by the ‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf trees during the day, I pluck off a fig or two and eat them. (There is no need to wash the figs if, like me, you never spray the trees.) When the supply of ready-to-eat figs is low, I hasten the ripening process with a spoonful of olive oil: I dip a finger into the oil



and coat the bottom of each unripe fig. This treatment never fails.

Occasionally, if the figs are overripe and flowing with juices, hordes of small ants visit the fruit. Even then, I do not surrender the fig. I take it in hand and shake off the ants or blow them away.



After the first frost, prepare each ‘Brown Turkey’ dwarf fig tree for winter. (It isn’t necessary to wait for the first frost, although this will cause the leaves to fall and make the tree and barrel easier to transport into the garage. If you store the fig tree with leaves, they will drop later and scatter, making a mess.) With pruning shears, snip off the top of the plant **(A)** so that the remaining tree is about 5 feet tall. Cut away lateral and crisscrossing branches but keep pruning to a minimum. Remember, you want enough branches for the production of figs. Next, tip over the barrel, gently grasp the tree at the base of its trunk, and pull it out **(B)**. With a grub axe, chop vigorously at the ball of soil **(C)**, removing some soil but more importantly cutting away the bunched root system. With pruning shears, trim back protruding roots **(D)**.

Overwinter the tree in a plastic or metal 30-gallon garbage can. Drill half-inch holes in the container’s bottom and place small stones over them to slow water drainage. Then, layer in some hay, set the fig tree on it, and stuff the barrel with more hay **(E)**. Store the barrel in an unheated garage and drape blankets over the tree. (If your garage is heated, place the tree and barrel in an area that does not get too much daylight.)

Once a month, water the tree, stopping



C



D



E

when the water trickles out from the bottom of the barrel. (It is important not to overwater.)

In February, the tips of the branches will sprout pale green nibs, the first signs that the fig tree is nearing the end of its dormancy. By about mid-May, the 'Brown Turkey' dwarf fig tree is ready to be moved outside; however, be especially mindful of the weather: A surprise frost may kill the tree.

When danger of frost has passed, replot the 'Brown Turkey' dwarf fig tree in the wooden half-barrel (as described). The tree is set for vigorous growth and an abundant production of fruit.

Over the years, the tradition of *La Festa dei Fichi* ("the Fig Feast") has taken hold at the Biagiotti farm. Two friends and I set aside an evening for the gigantic treats from my dwarf fig trees. One friend brings *prosciutto di Parma*, a special Italian ham, and provolone cheese. Another provides Italian bread. I supply homemade red wine and, of course, the 'Brown Turkey' figs. Reenacting a Roman bacchanal, we devour the figs and exclaim heartily, "*Viva i fichi!*" ("Long live figs!")

TAKE YOUR PICK

■ The 'Brown Turkey' dwarf fig tree (*Ficus carica*) is a hardy variety. Other varieties include 'Celeste' and 'Blanche'. In cool climates, try 'Desert King'. For some online sources of trees to purchase, visit Almanac.com/MailOrder.

You can start a 'Brown Turkey' dwarf fig tree from a shoot. Dig up the shoot, leaving soil around the root. Plant it immediately or wrap it in a water-soaked paper towel. Insert it into a plastic bag and wrap that with newspaper. Plant within a few days. □□

Aldo P. Biagiotti has had fig trees growing and producing for as long as 20 years. When one dies, he starts another.

FANCY A FIG?

Try your fresh figs in recipes at Almanac.com/Cooking.



Soil and Fertilizer Helpers

TYPE OF MANURE	WATER CONTENT	PRIMARY NUTRIENTS (pounds per ton)		
		Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
Cow, horse	60%–80%	12–14	5–9	9–12
Sheep, pig, goat	65%–75%	10–21	7	13–19
Chicken: Wet, sticky, and caked	75%	30	20	10
Moist, crumbly to sticky	50%	40	40	20
Crumbly	30%	60	55	30
Dry	15%	90	70	40
Ashed	None	None	135	100

TYPE OF GARDEN	BEST TYPE OF MANURE	BEST TIME TO APPLY
Flowers	Cow, horse	Early spring
Vegetables	Chicken, cow, horse	Fall, spring
Potatoes or root crops	Cow, horse	Fall
Acid-loving plants (blueberries, azaleas, mountain laurels, rhododendrons)	Cow, horse	Early fall or not at all



Soil Fixes

If you have . . .

CLAY SOIL: Add coarse sand (not beach sand) and compost.

SILT SOIL: Add coarse sand (not beach sand) or gravel and compost, or well-rotted horse manure mixed with fresh straw.

SANDY SOIL: Add humus or aged manure, or sawdust

with some extra nitrogen. Heavy, clay-rich soil can also be added.

Soil Amendments

To improve soil, add . . .

BARK, GROUND: Made from various tree barks. Improves soil structure.

COMPOST: Excellent conditioner.

LEAF MOLD: Decomposed

leaves. Adds nutrients and structure to soil.

LIME: Raises the pH of acidic soil. Helps loosen clay soil.

MANURE: Best if composted. Good conditioner.

SAND: Improves drainage in clay soil.

TOPSOIL: Usually used with another amendment. Replaces existing soil.

Fertilizer Formulas

Fertilizers are labeled to show the percentages by weight of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Nitrogen is needed for leaf growth. Phosphorus is associated with root growth and fruit production. Potassium helps the plant fight off diseases. A 100-pound bag of 10-5-10 contains 10 pounds of nitrogen, 5 pounds of phosphorus, and 10 pounds of potassium. The rest is filler.

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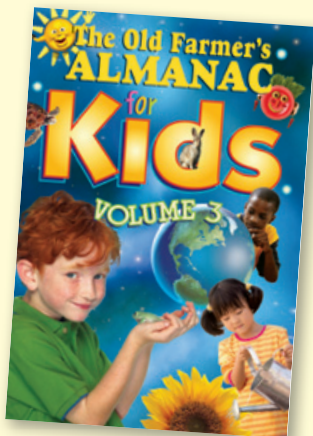
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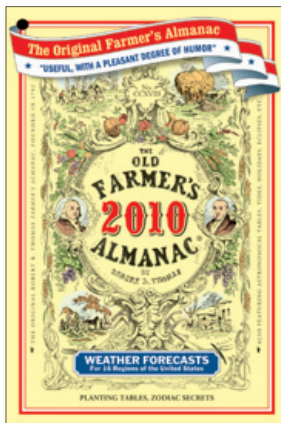
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pH Preferences of Plants

Trees, Shrubs, Vegetables, and Flowers

An accurate soil test will tell you where your pH currently stands and will specify the amount of lime or sulfur that is needed to bring it up or down to the appropriate level. A pH of 6.5 is just about right for most home gardens, since most plants thrive in the 6.0 to 7.0 (slightly acidic to neutral) range. Some plants (blueberries, azaleas) prefer more strongly acidic soil, while a few (ferns, asparagus) do best in soil that is neutral to slightly alkaline. Acidic (sour) soil is counteracted by applying finely ground limestone, and alkaline (sweet) soil is treated with gypsum (calcium sulfate) or ground sulfur.

COMMON NAME	OPTIMUM PH RANGE
-------------	------------------

TREES AND SHRUBS

Apple	.5.0–6.5
Ash	.6.0–7.5
Azalea	.4.5–6.0
Basswood	.6.0–7.5
Beautybush	.6.0–7.5
Birch	.5.0–6.5
Blackberry	.5.0–6.0
Blueberry	.4.0–6.0
Boxwood	.6.0–7.5
Cherry, sour	.6.0–7.0
Chestnut	.5.0–6.5
Crab apple	.6.0–7.5
Dogwood	.5.0–7.0
Elder, box	.6.0–8.0
Fir, balsam	.5.0–6.0
Fir, Douglas	.6.0–7.0
Hemlock	.5.0–6.0
Hydrangea, blue-flowered	.4.0–5.0
Hydrangea, pink-flowered	.6.0–7.0
Juniper	.5.0–6.0
Laurel, mountain	.4.5–6.0
Lemon	.6.0–7.5
Lilac	.6.0–7.5
Maple, sugar	.6.0–7.5
Oak, white	.5.0–6.5
Orange	.6.0–7.5
Peach	.6.0–7.0
Pear	.6.0–7.5
Pecan	.6.4–8.0
Pine, red	.5.0–6.0
Pine, white	.4.5–6.0
Plum	.6.0–8.0
Raspberry, red	.5.5–7.0
Rhododendron	.4.5–6.0

COMMON NAME	OPTIMUM PH RANGE
-------------	------------------

Spruce	.5.0–6.0
Walnut, black	.6.0–8.0
Willow	.6.0–8.0

VEGETABLES

Asparagus	.6.0–8.0
Bean, pole	.6.0–7.5
Beet	.6.0–7.5
Broccoli	.6.0–7.0
Brussels sprout	.6.0–7.5
Carrot	.5.5–7.0
Cauliflower	.5.5–7.5
Celery	.5.8–7.0
Chive	.6.0–7.0
Cucumber	.5.5–7.0
Garlic	.5.5–8.0
Kale	.6.0–7.5
Lettuce	.6.0–7.0
Pea, sweet	.6.0–7.5
Pepper, sweet	.5.5–7.0
Potato	.4.8–6.5
Pumpkin	.5.5–7.5
Radish	.6.0–7.0
Spinach	.6.0–7.5
Squash, crookneck	.6.0–7.5
Squash, Hubbard	.5.5–7.0
Tomato	.5.5–7.5

FLOWERS

Alyssum	.6.0–7.5
Aster, New England	.6.0–8.0
Baby's breath	.6.0–7.0
Bachelor's button	.6.0–7.5
Bee balm	.6.0–7.5
Begonia	.5.5–7.0
Black-eyed Susan	.5.5–7.0
Bleeding heart	.6.0–7.5

COMMON NAME	OPTIMUM PH RANGE
-------------	------------------

Canna	.6.0–8.0
Carnation	.6.0–7.0
Chrysanthemum	.6.0–7.5
Clematis	.5.5–7.0
Coleus	.6.0–7.0
Coneflower, purple	.5.0–7.5
Cosmos	.5.0–8.0
Crocus	.6.0–8.0
Daffodil	.6.0–6.5
Dahlia	.6.0–7.5
Daisy, Shasta	.6.0–8.0
Daylily	.6.0–8.0
Delphinium	.6.0–7.5
Foxglove	.6.0–7.5
Geranium	.6.0–8.0
Gladiolus	.5.0–7.0
Hibiscus	.6.0–8.0
Hollyhock	.6.0–8.0
Hyacinth	.6.5–7.5
Iris, blue flag	.5.0–7.5
Lily-of-the-valley	.4.5–6.0
Lupine	.5.0–6.5
Marigold	.5.5–7.5
Morning glory	.6.0–7.5
Narcissus, trumpet	.5.5–6.5
Nasturtium	.5.5–7.5
Pansy	.5.5–6.5
Peony	.6.0–7.5
Petunia	.6.0–7.5
Phlox, summer	.6.0–8.0
Poppy, oriental	.6.0–7.5
Rose, hybrid tea	.5.5–7.0
Rose, rugosa	.6.0–7.0
Snapdragon	.5.5–7.0
Sunflower	.6.0–7.5
Tulip	.6.0–7.0
Zinnia	.5.5–7.0

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Traditional Planting Times



■ Plant **corn** when elm leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear, when oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear, when apple blossoms begin to fall, or when the dogwoods are in full bloom.

■ Plant **lettuce, spinach, peas,** and other cool-weather vegetables when the lilacs show their first leaves or when daffodils begin to bloom.

■ Plant **tomatoes, early corn,** and **peppers** when dogwoods are in peak bloom or when daylilies start to bloom.

■ Plant **cucumbers** and **squashes** when lilac flowers fade.

■ Plant **perennials** when maple leaves begin to unfurl.

■ Plant **morning glories** when maple trees have full-size leaves.

■ Plant **pansies, snapdragons,** and other hardy annuals after the aspen and chokecherry trees leaf out.

■ Plant **beets** and **carrots** when dandelions are blooming.

Plants That Repel Pests

Some plants attract insects; others repel them. By planting specific herbs and flowering plants among your vegetables and berries, you can shoo away unwanted insects. This avoids the need for insecticides and/or the time that would have been spent picking off bugs, while adding beauty to the bed and edibles to your harvest.

PLANT PREFERENCES

- Basil dislikes rue.
- Dill dislikes carrots.
- Fennel is disliked by most vegetables; plant it away from the main bed.
- Hyssop dislikes radishes.
- Sage dislikes cucumbers.



THESE PLANTS . . .	REPEL . . .
Basil	flies, hornworms, mosquitoes
Borage	tomato worms
Catnip	aphids, flea beetles
Dead nettle	potato bugs
Flax	potato bugs
Garlic	Japanese beetles
Horseradish	potato bugs
Hyssop	cabbage moths
Leek	carrot flies
Marigold	Mexican bean beetles, nematodes
Mint	cabbage moths, mosquitoes
Nasturtium	aphids, squash bugs, striped pumpkin beetles
Rosemary	cabbage moths, carrot flies, Mexican bean beetles
Rue	Japanese beetles
Sage	cabbage moths, carrot flies, rosemary
Summer savory	bean beetles
Tansy	ants, Japanese beetles, squash bugs, striped cucumber beetles
Thyme	cabbageworms



LAST PLANTING DATES FOR SECOND-SEASON CROPS

FIRST EXPECTED FREEZE: SEPTEMBER 10 SEPTEMBER 20

VEGETABLE	PLANT BY . . .	
Beets	June 25	July 5
Broccoli (<i>transplants</i>)	*	June 15
Bush beans	*	*
Cabbage (<i>transplants</i>)	*	June 15
Carrots	June 25	July 5
Chard	June 25	July 5
Corn	*	*
Cucumbers	*	*
Leaf lettuce	July 20	August 1
Peas	June 25	July 10
Peppers (<i>transplants</i>)	*	June 20
Radishes	August 1	August 15
Spinach	July 15	July 25
Tomatoes (<i>transplants</i>)	June 15	June 20
Winter squashes/pumpkins	*	*

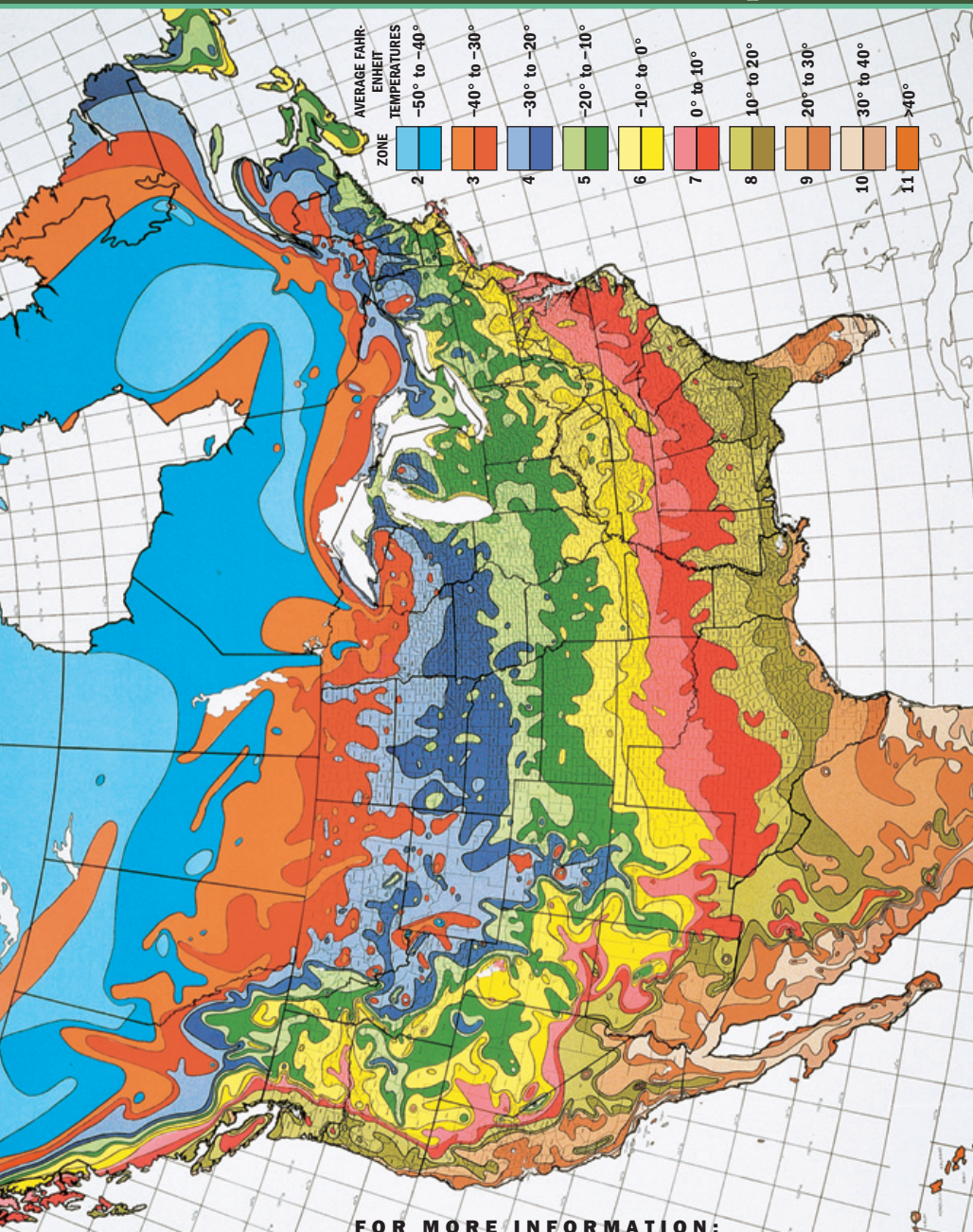
*indicates a vegetable that probably will not survive as a second crop in your garden

To calculate the best time to plant your second vegetable crops, look at the first expected freeze dates in the chart below. Choose the date that comes closest to the expected first killing frost in your area. (See page 123 for some normal averages throughout the United States and Canada.) If you do not know the date, call your local county extension agent or go to our Web site at Almanac.com for more frost-date information.

SEPTEMBER 30	OCTOBER 10	OCTOBER 20	OCTOBER 30
July 15	July 25	August 5	August 20
June 25	July 10	July 25	August 10
June 15	July 1	July 15	July 30
June 25	July 10	July 25	August 10
July 15	July 25	August 5	August 15
July 10	July 20	July 30	August 15
June 15	June 25	July 10	July 20
June 15	June 30	July 15	August 1
August 10	August 20	September 1	September 10
July 20	August 1	August 10	August 20
June 30	July 7	July 15	July 25
September 1	September 10	September 20	September 30
August 5	August 15	August 25	September 5
June 25	June 30	July 5	July 15
June 15	June 25	July 5	July 15



USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Frosts and Growing Seasons

Dates given are normal averages for a light freeze (29° to 32°F, or -2° to 0°C); local weather and topography may cause considerable variations. The possibility of frost occurring after the spring dates and before the fall dates is 50 percent. The classification of freeze temperatures is usually based on their effect on plants. A light freeze kills only tender plants, with little destructive effect on other vegetation.

City	Growing Season (days)	Last Spring Frost	First Fall Frost
UNITED STATES (alphabetical by state abbrev.)			
Juneau, AK	148	May 8	Oct. 4
Pine Bluff, AR	240	Mar. 16	Nov. 12
Denver, CO	157	Apr. 30	Oct. 4
Hartford, CT	166	Apr. 26	Oct. 9
Wilmington, DE	202	Apr. 10	Oct. 30
Athens, GA	227	Mar. 24	Nov. 7
Cedar Rapids, IA	163	Apr. 25	Oct. 6
Boise, ID	147	May 10	Oct. 6
Chicago, IL	187	Apr. 20	Oct. 24
Indianapolis, IN	181	Apr. 17	Oct. 16
Topeka, KS	174	Apr. 19	Oct. 11
Lexington, KY	192	Apr. 15	Oct. 25
Worcester, MA	170	Apr. 26	Oct. 14
Baltimore, MD	200	Apr. 11	Oct. 29
Portland, ME	156	May 2	Oct. 6
Lansing, MI	145	May 10	Oct. 3
Willmar, MN	154	Apr. 30	Oct. 1
Jefferson City, MO	188	Apr. 13	Oct. 18
Helena, MT	121	May 19	Sept. 18
Bismarck, ND	129	May 14	Sept. 21
North Platte, NE	137	May 9	Sept. 24
Concord, NH	124	May 20	Sept. 21
Newark, NJ	217	Apr. 3	Nov. 7
Albany, NY	153	May 2	Oct. 3
Cincinnati, OH	192	Apr. 13	Oct. 23
Tulsa, OK	225	Mar. 27	Nov. 7
Portland, OR	236	Mar. 23	Nov. 15
Williamsport, PA	168	Apr. 30	Oct. 15
Kingston, RI	147	May 8	Oct. 3
Rapid City, SD	140	May 9	Sept. 27
Memphis, TN	235	Mar. 22	Nov. 13
Amarillo, TX	185	Apr. 18	Oct. 20
Cedar City, UT	133	May 21	Oct. 1
Richmond, VA	206	Apr. 6	Oct. 30
Burlington, VT	147	May 8	Oct. 3
Seattle, WA	251	Mar. 10	Nov. 17
Parkersburg, WV	183	Apr. 21	Oct. 22
Casper, WY	120	May 22	Sept. 19

City	Growing Season (days)	Last Spring Frost	First Fall Frost
CANADA (alphabetical by province abbrev.)			
Calgary, AB	114	May 23	Sept. 15
Edmonton, AB	138	May 7	Sept. 23
Red Deer, AB	106	May 25	Sept. 9
Dawson Creek, BC	84	June 5	Aug. 29
Kelowna, BC	123	May 19	Sept. 20
Nelson, BC	159	May 4	Oct. 13
Vancouver, BC	221	Mar. 28	Nov. 5
Victoria, BC	200	Apr. 19	Nov. 5
Brandon, MB	105	May 27	Sept. 10
Lynn Lake, MB	89	June 8	Sept. 6
Thompson, MB	61	June 15	Aug. 16
Winnipeg, MB	119	May 25	Sept. 22
Edmundston, NB	112	May 28	Sept. 18
Saint John, NB	139	May 18	Oct. 4
Gander, NL	123	June 3	Oct. 5
St. John's, NL	131	June 2	Oct. 12
Halifax, NS	166	May 6	Oct. 20
Sydney, NS	141	May 24	Oct. 13
Truro, NS	113	May 30	Sept. 21
Aklavik, NT	76	June 13	Aug. 31
Yellowknife, NT	110	May 27	Sept. 15
Kapuskasing, ON	87	June 12	Sept. 8
Kingston, ON	160	May 2	Oct. 10
Ottawa, ON	151	May 6	Oct. 5
Sudbury, ON	130	May 17	Sept. 25
Thunder Bay, ON	105	June 1	Sept. 15
Toronto, ON	149	May 9	Oct. 6
Charlottetown, PE	150	May 17	Oct. 14
Tignish, PE	138	May 23	Oct. 9
Montreal, QC	156	May 3	Oct. 7
Quebec, QC	139	May 13	Sept. 29
Sherbrooke, QC	100	June 1	Sept. 10
Trois-Rivières, QC	124	May 19	Sept. 23
Prince Albert, SK	93	June 2	Sept. 4
Regina, SK	111	May 21	Sept. 10
Yorkton, SK	110	May 23	Sept. 11
Watson Lake, YT	91	June 2	Sept. 4
Whitehorse, YT	74	June 11	Aug. 25

Sources List

Contact these suppliers to order plants and products mentioned in this issue.

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
2278 Baker Creek Rd.
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www.rareseeds.com
Catalog free.

Baker's Acres Greenhouse
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www.bakersacresgreenhouse.com
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Wayside Gardens
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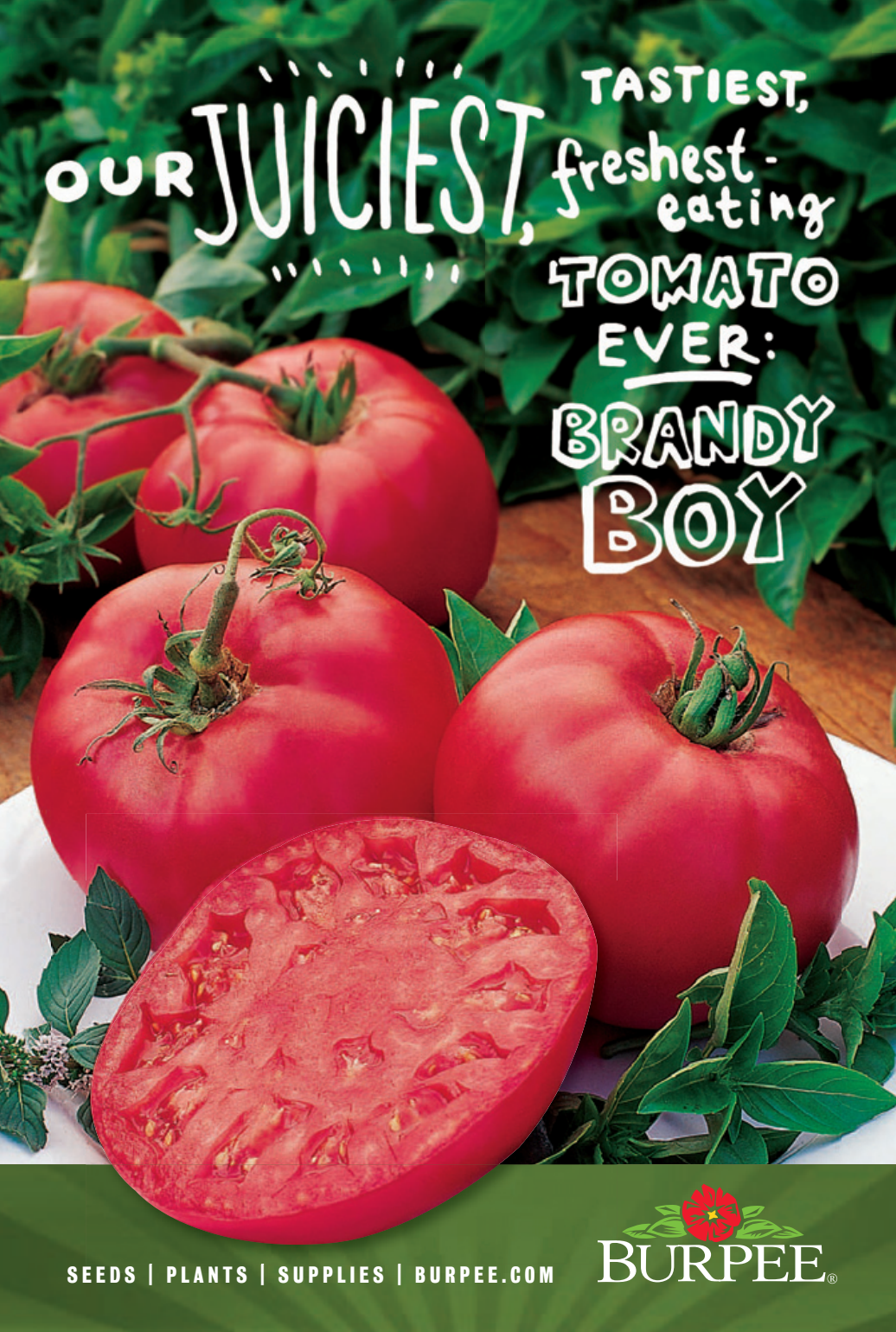
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