



The Spade & The Hoe

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June 2003

June Meeting

The next meeting will be a planning session for the Glenview street sale on the 28th. We will be discussing the requirements for our booth as well as the plants that members will be bringing. If you have extra pots, please bring them for distribution to others. I will be bringing some of the plant markers that I make from old mini-blinds. They will be available for everyone to take to put in their pots. The name of the plant is sufficient, though it is often helpful to state 'sunny' or 'shade' for purchasers who may not be familiar with the plants' requirements. Use a fine point Sharpie to write on the mini-blinds.



O, my Luve's like a red red rose
That's newly sprung in June:
O, my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.
- Robert Burns

Preplanning the Street Sale

The June meeting is very important as we will be discussing the needs and requirements of our booth sale at the street fair. Please plan to attend. If you have extra pots, 4" or smaller, please bring them to share with others. Everyone should be digging in their gardens, potting up some extra plants for the sale. Remember to put name tags on the pots. Avery labels work very well, as do popsicle sticks. Plan to contribute 10-15 pots of plants; I'll pass around the sign-up sheet then, too, so you can choose what time slot you prefer to work. Many hands make for light work!

"The world's favorite season is in the spring." - Edwin Way Teale

Remember that when growing plants in containers, you must water the plants more often.

Through the Garden Gate

The bleeding hearts are blooming, as are the irises, lupines, forget-me-nots, coral bells, dianthus and columbines. Roses should be bursting out with flowers any day now. My neighbor came out to talk to me as I worked in my garden. He said that the dark irises were nicely set off by the white columbines. They are good companion plants! The tree men came out to open the crowns of six of my trees and to fertilize the two oaks. Now, more sun gets to the beds beneath the maples, which makes sun-lovers happy but the shade-lovers are a bit put out. May has been one heck of a rainy month, however all that rain made the garden burst out overnight, it seems! It has been a struggle to keep ahead of necessary projects. My neighbor & I have planted our tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, zucchini, beans, peas, and potatoes. Wow!

Summer Solstice occurs on June 21st and marks the official beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere. This means that each day thereafter get a tiny bit shorter, until you have Winter Solstice on December 21st when days get a tiny bit longer.



The Kitchen Herb Garden

The herb garden should contain most of the herbs you usually use, but these are the basic ones:

- 1 or 2 chives #
- 3 Italian basil (curly basil are more tart)
- 2 rosemarys
- 1 sage #
- 1 oregano (they spread) #
- 6 Italian parsleys
- 1 sweet marjoram
- 1 thyme #
- 1 dill
- 1 mints (keep potted) #
- 1 lemon verbena

= perennials
 rosemary is an annual, but the rest can be potted up & brought inside for the winter.

Diatomaceous Earth

slugs and other soft-bodied bugs do love to eat hostas & herbs. Sprinkle some diatomaceous earth around these plants. It is made from ground oyster shells and, when these critters crawl over it, it cuts them, they lose their body fluids, and they die.

In June, remember to:

- make sure tomatoes have plenty of water, cage or stake them, & put compost around their roots;
- mulch all your flower, berry, and vegetable beds with compost;
- fertilize roses, tomatoes, peppers, & berries as they are heavy feeders;
- fertilize all container plants every week with a weak solution;
- pinch off new growth of chrysanthemums, asters, & tall sedums to maintain a compact shape;
- put houseplants outside for the summer, each according to their sun or shade requirements.

Try mint leaves & flowers on ice cream and fruit salads.
 Yummy!



Last Month's Meeting

The May field trip was well attended. We had two cars and eight members were evenly divided between them. The day was very pleasant, the drive fun, the companionship priceless. We were given a tour by one of the owners. He grows all his own stock and our trunks were full for the return trip home. Some of his plants did not survive the winter (as did some of ours) due to no snow cover. Afterwards we went to Burlington to a very nice pub for a delicious lunch. A little siteseeing in Burlington, then home.

Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

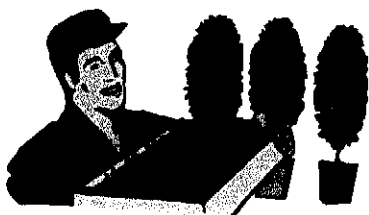
Did you have a mild infestation of Japanese Beetles last year? this spring spray the ground around their favorite plants & the plants with Diazinon, and do it again in fall. Aphids? Make a batch of an inexpensive spray: put 1 peeled onion, 2 peeled garlic cloves, and 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper in a blender. Add 3 cups water & blend until smooth. Let it sit overnight, then strain the liquid into a spray bottle. Can be refrigerated for up to a week.

Did you know...

If you have had a large amount of damage done by hungry rabbits, you may want to peruse this listing taken from *Perennial Garden Plants* by Graham Stuart Thomas:

aconitum	aegopodium
agapanthus	alchemilla
anemone	aquilegia
aster	astilbe
bergenia	brunnera
campanula	clematis
corydalis	crococsmia
cyclamen	digitalis
epimedium	eupatorium
euphorbia	fuchsia
gentiana	geranium
helenium	hemerocallis
hosta *	iris
kniphofia	lamium
lysimachia	malva
miscanthus	nepeta
peony	papaver

* I know hosta is on this list, however, I know that they have nibbled on the emerging shoots of hosta. And you should see my rose canes! You'd think that thorns would stop them, but no...



Conservancy Garden Walks

The season begins for the exciting and highly interesting open gardens this year. The Open Days Directory will be available again at the June meeting for anyone to checkout.

Tickets are available at the Chicago Botanic Garden and are good on any date, at any garden, in any town.

You know you are a serious gardener when...

you don't hesitate to hire an extra moving van to move your plants; when on vacation, your car automatically turns into every garden center along the way (this also applies to quilt shops, if you're a quilter!);

you know far too much about manure and compost;

you hesitate when your spouse says there's not enough room in the house for him and the houseplants;

you insist on planting all 36 tomato seedlings, even though you only need 6;

while you are visiting friends and family, you begin removing dead leaves from their houseplants;

your neighbors don't recognize your face because that's not usually the end that they see; and finally, you never have dinner before sunset in the summer.

- courtesy of Ron Wolford,
Pioneer Press Urban Gardener

Basil flowers: Basil should not be allowed to flower because it will stop producing leaves once it flowers.

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth"

- Dorothy Frances Gurney

In the paper this week was an article about how a dead crow was found in western Illinois. It was determined that it had West Nile Virus. So it begins again...

After losing all chickadees, blue jays, red house finches, and goldfinches, a few goldfinches have arrived from someplace and are joined by some red house finches. But, no blue jays and, worst of all, no chickadees. The clerk at Wild Birds said there was a report of 1 (one) blue jay in Winnetka and 1 (one) in Northfield. Sigh....

Questions, comments, payment of dues?

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