



The Spade & The Hoe

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From the Desk of Pamela Frank

The meadow rue that ate 907 Glendale. I have a slew of meadow rue in my back garden from one plant I bought innocently from a garden center several years ago. *Thalictrum rochebrun-eanum* has been a great addition to my garden as it grows like crazy and is quite lovely. The leaves are delicate and lobed, very similar to columbine but smaller. The flowers of meadow rue are small, light purple and white, and cute.

Thalictrum has been a great grower in my garden and is very prolific. It sprouts up everywhere but is easy to control by pulling which I rarely do. The leaves and flowers are on four foot stems usually, but this year the stems are (and I am not kidding) seven feet tall. The rue's are in my shade garden among toad lilies, hostas and ostrich ferns. Speaking of ostrich ferns, they are several feet tall this year. All that rain did it!



July Program

On July 14th, Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m., members will meet at the Glenview Police Station meeting room for a program by Diane Smith entitled *Ten Top Ways to Give Your Garden a Professional Look*. This promises to be a very interesting program so plan to be there.

*Come to the garden,
The soul's sweet bouquet
The flowers of tomorrow
Are in the seeds of today.*
- JoAnna O'Keefe

June Field Trip

The June field trip to Lurvey's was canceled due to rain.

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The soul's sweet bouquet
The flowers of tomorrow
Are in the seeds of today.*
- JoAnna O'Keefe

Members information:

Edith Hahn's email address is hued@huhahn.com.

In London, England in 1879, if a man improves his lot and his next door neighbor does not, the improver gets a reduction on his tax, and the non-improver a rise. This is rather a good idea, and when carried out, must tend to greatly improve the appearance of towns and villages.
-The Household, 1879

Through the Garden Gate

All of the rain we've been having has turned my garden into a lush jungle. And that one mid-June tore down the top half of the Boston ivy that was clinging to the brick wall on the south side of the house. What a mess to remove it! Oh, well. That's life. As I went through the beds to dead-head, I also divided things that really needed thinning out. And giving them to my garden friends. That's the fun part of gardening, sharing plants with friends. Aren't the lupines beautiful? And the irises! The roses are so lovely. The downside of all that rain is that fungus and powdery mildew are rampant in plants that are susceptible to it. Dan & I couldn't get to spray the crabapple tree and now it has the apple scab. Again, oh well. The good news of all that rain, besides having lush gardens, is that our water bill is so tiny. You see, every cloud has a silver lining. But now the hot weather has come, plus more storms. We just have to roll with it.

Esther



Name Tags

As you come in to the meeting room, please stop by the table and pick up a name tag. We have several new members and it would be easier for them to make new friends if they knew our names.

I hate to be reminded of the passage of time, and in a garden of flowers one can never escape from it.

- E. V. Lucas



Reminder: Pot Contest

Call or email Gloria to register your pot or pots for the contest. Judging will be in August.

*Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind.*

- William Wordsworth

Helpful Hints

You can find solutions to garden problems and inspiration for new projects at your neighbors' gardens and at public gardens and arboretums. Make sure you visit other gardens often to see how plants and plantings change throughout the seasons.

Day's sweetest moments are at dawn.

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

It may be true time began in a garden. It's time the way God created it: as servant, not master.

- Emilie Barnes

Have You a Special Gardening Tip to Share With Us?

Call or email Esther with your great gardening tip and it could appear right here in The Spade & The Hoe!

Labels, Labels....

Do not pay much attention to labeling; if a plant is not worth knowing, it is not worth growing.

William Robinson

The English Flower Garden, 1883

Let zinc labels oxidize a little by dipping them in water for a day or two before using, and then write with a common lead pencil. We have seen labels in use for twelve years so written, as 'black as ink' and with all the appearance of lasting for half a century.

The Gardener's Monthly, 1872

Be a Weather-wise Gardener

The coming of a rain or electric (lightening) storm may often be detected by the drooping attitude of many plants and tree leaves, such as wild oxalis, wood violet, parsley, and bleeding hearts.

John Hugh Ross

Meehan's Monthly, 1902

You may also notice extra-busy ants or silent birds. Also, birds fly low in foul weather. And remember the old saying: Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky at dawning, sailor's warning.

Make lawns look bigger

Regular geometric shapes such as squares and rectangles make lawns look smaller. Add some gentle curves to your turf area to make it look larger. Easy curves have another benefit, too. They're easier to mow than sharp ones.

Do not allow pine needles to remain on growing grass; they pack so tightly that they kill anything that underneath them. The same quality that makes pine needles death to lawns makes them a great weed-smothering mulch under trees and shrubs. Pine needle mulch packs so tightly that it keeps out light, and no light means no weeds.

Recipe

Pickled Cucumbers

4 quarts vinegar
2 cups sugar
3 nugsmeigs, grated
2 large onions, sliced
1/2 cup grated horseradish
1 ounce mustard seed
1 ounce celery seed
1 ounce salt
1/2 ounce mace
1/2 ounce black peppercorns
1 ounce allspice.

(The sugar can be omitted.)

*The Household Guide,
1891*



More Recipes

Pickled red cabbage

When the cabbage is dry, shred the leaves and put them in layers in a mason jar with a little salt, pepper, and ginger, and fill up with cold vinegar.

Encyclopedia of Practical Receipts and Processes, 1872

Eggplant Fritters

Peel a whole eggplant and put it into a pot of boiling water to which 1 tbsp. vinegar or lemon juice and a little salt has been added. Cook until tender, then mash and drain. To each cup of eggplant, add 1 beaten egg, 1/4 cup flour, salt & pepper. Fry in small, thin cakes, browning well.

The Garden Magazine, 1908

Pickled Peppers

The peppers are picked while green, slit down on one side and, after the seeds are removed, immersed in salt and water for 24 hours, changing the water at the end of the first 12 . After this soaking, they are laid to drain an hour or two, put into mason jars, and boiler vinegar (after being cooled) poured over them until they are completely covered. Wait a few weeks before eating.

Garden Vegetables and How to Cultivate them, 1866

Summer Fun for Children

Without detaching it from the vine, slip a small cucumber into a fair-sized bottle, and, after it grows so big as to fill the bottle, cut it from the vine. Folks will wonder how it got there. Note: do not try to get it out as the bottle will break and you'll have glass shards in the cucumber!

In July, remember to:

- check on containers' moisture level;
- pinch back mums, asters and sedum for the last time;
- remove leaves of spring-flowering bulbs after they have yellowed and withered;
- stake perennials that grow tall;
- begin checking for Japanese beetles;
- continue deadheading;
- divide Oriental poppies as the foliage yellows;
- water the garden deeply once a week;
- fertilize roses for the last time at the end of the month;
- apply an insecticide for grubs if you spot a lot of Japanese beetles;
- don't fertilize the lawn until early fall;
- let the lawn go dormant and apply 1/2" of water only every two weeks to keep the roots alive'
- mow the grass at 2 1/2" to 3" to conserve water;
- plant late season vegetables by mid-July (beets, beans, cucumbers, cabbage and summer squash).

Tips for Gardens

Are your tomatoes making a lot of flowers but no fruit? That's because of the 90'+ daytime temps and 70'+ nighttime temps. They'll begin to fruit when temps drop to the 80s'. Also, ease up on the fertilizer or you'll get all leaves and no fruit.

Mulch heavily around the plants to keep in moisture.

I should like to enjoy this summer flower by flower, as if it were to be the last one for me.

- Andre Gide

What's Blooming Table

Bring your flowering plants for show & tell at our next indoor meeting.

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