

SPADE and TROWEL Newsletter

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Conquer Cutworms, with molasses!

To protect young seedlings, drizzle a few spoonfuls of molasses around the base of each plant at dusk.

When the cutworms emerge from their chambers to feed, they'll get caught in the sticky stuff which will harden on their bodies and leave them helpless. Sweet success!

Sun oil:

1 cup of vegetable oil

1 Tablespoon dish or liquid soap

Add 2 1/2 teaspoons to 1 cup of water.

Before applying on target insects shake vigorously to blend water and oil, test a few leaves of plant before applying liberally.

“And the fruit thereof shall be for food,
and the leaf thereof for healing.”

Ezekiel 47:12

Seed: Cold storage before planting;

Almonds 4 weeks Apple 2-3 months

Apricot 2-4 months Grape 3 months

Peach 3 months Walnuts 3 months

Pruning:

Rose of Sharon: when buds start

Wisteria: cut back to spurs at axis of the leaves, repeat in mid summer

Viburnum: early spring, remove a few old branches also weak ones.

Obedient plant: likes wet sites, deadhead as flowers begin to fade.

Deutzias: after flowering remove a few older branches and dead wood. Do not let growth get too dense.

Forsythia: remove some old branches to the ground.

Hydrangea: early spring, weak and old flower stems to 2 buds.

REPEL DEER: Plant runaway mint in 4” pots, sink them at intervals throughout your flower and vegetable beds especially along semi-shady edges of beds (leave 2” lip above ground)

Deer Deterrent: The following ingredients will be needed:

3 T liquid hand soap- 1/2 t of oil of peppermint-3 T Kelp- 1 Pint of warm water

Mix well, strain and put into a spray bottle and spray areas the deer frequent, **do not use on food plants!**

PERENNIALS:

Achillea: (Yarrow) - Full sun and well-drained soil. Thrives in average to poor soil and is drought tolerant once established. After flowers have faded, cut the plant back by half to stimulate a second flush of blooms in late summer. Do not let plants go to seed as most will not come true from seed. Divide every few years to keep plants a manageable size

Shrubs For Flower Arrangements.

Bigleaf Hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Amethyst’)

Bush Cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa ‘Abbots wood’)

Butterfly Bush (Buddleia x weyeriana “Honeycomb”)

Drooping Loucothoe(L fontanesiana)

Highbush Cranberry (Viburnum trilobum ‘Compactum’)

Lilac (Syringa vulgaris ‘Beauty of Moscow’)

Scotch Broom (Cytisus scorparius;C. scorparius ‘Moonlight’)

Warminster Broom (c. x praecox).

Bright Veggies among flowers

Lavenders and white complement violet eggplant.

Golden tones blend with yellow bell peppers, and fiery reds pair well with purple bells. Scarlet runner beans and hyacinth beans on bamboo poles, and marigolds at their feet.

Each planting will look like a bouquet, making it hard to harvest

The bonus of inter - planting.

Raise salad greens by interplanting them with flowers that encourage beneficial insects_ the farm’s main weapons against crop pests. Parasitic wasps, ladybird beetles, lacewings, syrphid flies, and other beneficials hang around the plants they love-dill, fennel, garlic chives, parsley, ox-eye and Shasta daisies, and yarrow, for instance. The adults feed on flower nectar and pollen and lay eggs on garden crops. When the eggs hatch, the hungry larvae of the beneficials feed on the pests that plague these crops So the pest/ prey ratio remains balanced.

Nectar and pollen-rich flowers also attract honeybees and other pollinators, helping to ensure good fruit set in crops such as eggplants, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. Inter planting confuses plant pests When mass planting eggplants, for example, sphinx moths can spot these host plants quickly. But when these crops are mixed with other plants in a rich

tapestry, the moth is more likely to miss his target and lay its eggs elsewhere.

Other Inter-planting ideas.

Dressing up a bed of low growing vegetables can be as simple as adding a row of marigolds in front and a row of cosmos in back.

Dahlias look great with tomatoes, eggplants, and squash. Cannas and corn make great mates. To embellish them further, add a row of zinnias in the foreground.

The big, silvery leaves of artichokes look wonderful with other gray Mediterranean foliage such as Artemisia, lavender, and santolina.

Don't forget containers. Red chard planted in Italianate terra-cotta urns can be under planted with a trailing flower such as sweet alyssum or verbena.

*And the Lord planted a garden eastward
in Eden...And out of the ground made the
Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant
To the sight, and good for food....
GENESIS 2:8-9 KJV*

It's Blackfly Season!

LUCKILY, Only female blackflies bite.

Unfortunately, these bites can be painful and become itchy, red, and swollen.

Sooth a blackly bite by making a paste of baking soda and water and applying it to the affected area.

A couple of books I love

'All new Square foot gardening' by Mel Bartholomew

'Tomatoes love carrots' by Louise Riotte

Also I do not have But can buy used for \$6.99 plus \$3.99 shipping, from amazon.com / home and gardening books, 'Roses love Garlic', Louise Riotte.

"Best among all good plants for hot, sandy soils are the ever blessed lavender and rosemary, delicious old garden bushes that one can hardly dissociate."

Miss Jekyll . Home and Garden 1900
They love sun, at least 4 hours a day, they tend to look weedy and disheveled if not sheared periodically. They need excellent drainage and lime . They prefer a soil containing lime and with a pH in the range of 6.4 to 8.3. A soil of 7.0 pH is neutral lavenders need little in the way of extra nutrients. Commercial growers in France use less than .10 a pound per 100 square feet of ammonium sulfate(21 percent nitrogen), superphosphate (20 percent phosphorous), and potassium sulfate(54 percent potassium).(The sulfur compounds in the ammonium

sulfat and the potassium sulfate help adjust the alkalinity of the soil, due to the presence of limestone, down to the slight alkaline pH that lavender plants prefer.) It's important to plant your on a well-drained raised mound. The soil amendments in a lavender mound don't have to be organic in the sense of fibrous , just fast draining. Mix native soil with one part, or less, *very* well-rotted straw mixed with manure (Turkey, chicken, or horse bedding) and one or two parts of *Round* river rock, in mixed sizes up to ½ to ¾ inch in diameter. Don't use crushed rock which will compact over time.

You can simply buy a sandy-loam topsoil and add some river rock when building your mound. Make the mound 8 to 18 " tall and 16 to 24 inches wide.

Construction should be at least 4-9 inches tall after it has settled(amended soil can settle by 50%)

Dig out a shallow planting spot in the mound. Form a cone of rocky soil in the bottom of the hole, spread the roots of the lavender over the cone, and cover them with the gravel/soil mix. *Water thoroughly !!*



Mahonia Aquifolium, "Apollo" (Oregon Grape) *

*****Fragrant Variety*****

Sun/Half-shade, 24 inches X 4 feet

If I could put in song
And tell what's there enjoyed,
All men would to my garden throng,
And leave the cities void.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

VOLES, tend to be active day and night. Dust suspected areas for tracks with flour or talcum powder and recheck the next day.They develop surface runways above ground, that lead between burrows and food sources .Try a sprinkling of ammonia. Or traps with peanut butter bits of fresh bacon, hotdog or nutmeats tied to the trap works best Place the trap along the rodent's runway with the trigger end against a wall, or any places where voles have been active .In the garden set the trap in a coffee can.Experts recommend you feed your vermin 2 or 3 x from the trap before setting them, put out many at once, or try glue traps then dispose.

