

GARDENING FOR FUN AND FLAVOR

IN THIS TALK WE WILL LOOK AT GARDENING IN CONTAINERS AS WELL AS OUR HOME GARDENS. WE WILL EXPLORE HERBS AND HOW TO GROW A COMPLETE SALAD GARDEN IN A BAG. TOMATOES SEEM TO BE AMERICA'S FAVORITE BACKYARD FRUIT/VEGETABLE AND EVERYONE IS INTERESTED IN GROWING BIGGER, BETTER, MORE FLAVOR FULL, AND DISEASE RESISTANT VARIETIES. WE WILL LOOK INTO THE BEST VARIETIES FOR CONTAINERS AND FOR THE BACKYARD GARDENER. WE WILL LOOK AT WAYS TO INCREASE YIELDS ON OUR FAVORITE VEGETABLES BY 3 TO 400 PERCENT FASTER AND MORE FLAVOR GROWING TECHNIQUES.

SPRING GARDENING TIPS

BY REV. JIM BENNETT ©

When applying lawn fertilizer with a spreader, apply half the fertilizer in one direction and the other half in the opposite directions. This will ensure even distribution and will avoid having visible lines left on the lawn. Use a broadcast spreader and it will make easy work of this project.

Compact annuals are a good choice for containers. Petunias, marigolds, pinks, sweet alyssum, pansies, geraniums, and impatiens will provide beautiful color. When choosing the container, make sure there is adequate drainage. Avoid containers without drainage holes in the bottom or sides. If you use a decorative container, place your plants in a pot with drainage holes that will fit inside the decorative one.

The best time to cut flowers is early morning. Use a sharp cutting tool, like a Professional By-Pass Pruner with razor sharp surgical steel blades. It is an excellent tool for cut flowers and for pruning roses. Remember, to cut long stems. They can be shortened but not lengthened.

Some seeds that can be planted in early spring include peas, radishes, lettuce, spinach, onions, leeks, parsnips, early beets and carrots, Swiss Chard, Kohlrabi, and turnips. Seeds that cannot be safely planted until the soil warms up are snap beans, lima beans, corn, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, melons, and okra.

White and pastel colors have a cooling effect for decks and patios... plus they have reflective qualities. Using white flowers along driveways, sidewalks, decks and patios will help brighten these areas in late evening and night.

The National Garden Bureau recommends the easy-to-grow sunflower as a child's first exploration into the world of gardening. Sunflowers are perfect for children as the large seeds can be easily handled by small fingers and the plants grow quickly. Share the fun and gardening responsibility of nurturing by watering the plants together.

An excellent way to grow a salad garden is in a container. Radishes, lettuce, and onions have shallow roots needing only four or five inches of soil. Good drainage is essential when growing in a container and always use a premium potting soil for best plant growth.

A sturdy bow rake is a great tool for raking wildflower and grass seed into the soil.

Evergreens need to grow in their natural form as much as possible. Do not prune into the inactive center (where there are no needles or leaves attached) because conifers will not grow new branches... to conceal the stubs left behind.

Most evergreen pruning is done for removing dead, diseased or damaged branches. Disinfect tools between each cut an acceptable mixture is 1 TBS of Clorox to 4 cups of water, dip in this mixture after each cut.

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WHAT A HOME GARDEN **CAN** BE WORTH...

BY JIM BENNETT

PLANT		VALUE OF THE HARVEST
1.	TOMATO PLANT	1 \$35-60.00
2.	TOMATO PLANTS	10 \$350-600.00
3.	PEPPER PLANT BELL	1-4 \$12-100.00
4.	EGGPLANT	1-4 \$8-45.00
5.	CUCUMBER	1-6 \$12-90.00
6.	LETTUCE MIX CONTINUOUS	BED \$25-100.00
7.	BEETS ROOT/TOPS	BED \$5-15.00
8.	BEANS TEPEE/BUSH	CONTAINER/GARDEN \$8-55.00
9.	MISCELLANEOUS	SEASONAL \$12-100.00
10.	HERB GARDEN	AS AVAILABLE \$50-150.00
11.	APPLE/PEAR	2 \$50-400.00
12.	NUT TREES	2 EACH \$50-600.00
13.	MUSCADINE	4 EACH \$25-100.00
14.	SMALL FRUIT	STRAWBERRIES/ BLUE...? \$100-300.00
15.	ROOT CROPS	ONION-ASPARAGUS-CARROT \$25-100.00

CONTAINERS...ON AVERAGE... 8-12 CONTAINERS CAN SAVE THE GARDENER \$300-600.00 BASED ON YOUR SELECTION... AND... ABILITY

SMALL GARDEN ...150 SQ FT CAN SAVE UP TO \$800-1,200.00 BASED ON YOUR SELECTION... AND... ABILITY

MEDIUM GARDEN ...600-1000 SQ FT \$900-2,500.00 BASED ON YOUR SELECTION... AND... ABILITY

LARGER GARDEN... 2000-3,700 SQ FT \$2,000-3,500 + BASED ON YOUR SELECTION... AND... ABILITY

EDIBLE LANDSCAPE... 5-6 FRUIT TREES...5-6 BLUEBERRY BUSHES \$600-1,300.00

NEVER FORGET THAT FUN AND FLAVOR ARE ALWAYS AS VALUABLE AS THE SAVINGS... MAYBE MORE...

NOTE: THE ABOVE IS BASED ON MY OWN GARDENING SKILLS ...AND... RESEARCH THAT I HAVE DONE AND NOT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM CLEMSON UNIVERSITY OR ANY OTHER SOURCE...ALL THE ABOVE IS BASED ON RETAIL PRICING...

WE MUST BE REALISTIC ... DO SOMETHING THAT IS OBTAINABLE ...THEN GO ON TO THE NEXT THING... AND...THEN TO THE NEXT... START SMALL... THIS WORLD IS FRAGILE... THE ECONOMY ...OUR LINES OF SUPPLY ... OUR ENVIRONMENT ... WE MAY NEED THE GARDEN JUST TO SURVIVE... OR...TO IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE... WHO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS ... ONLY... GOD...

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THE YEAR ROUND YARDENING CALENDAR

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JANUARY

1. RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE
2. FINISH PLANTING YOUR SPRING BULBS
3. MAKE SURE ALL TENDER PLANTS ARE COVERED WITH HEAVY MULCH
4. DO A SOIL TEST IF NEEDED
5. THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PREPARE BEDS AND TRANSPLANT SHRUBS
6. ORDER ANY SEEDS FROM MAIL ORDER CATALOGS
7. IF IT DOESN'T RAIN, WATER IN MID DAY... NEVER WHILE FREEZING
8. KEEP FEEDING THE WILD BIRDS

FEBRUARY

1. LATER THIS MONTH PRUNE SUMMER FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS... **NOT CRAPES OR AZALEAS**
2. CUT BACK WISTERIA... DO NOT CUT BACK HYDRANGEA UNTIL AFTER THEY BUD OUT... CUT ONLY DEAD FOLIAGE...
3. TRIM OLD FOLIAGE OF LIRIOPE...
4. TRIM ANY WINTER DAMAGE OUT OF ALL PLANTS
5. THIS IS A GOOD MONTH TO PLANT NEW TREES AND SHRUBS
6. IF IT DOESN'T RAIN, WATER IN MID DAY... NEVER WHILE FREEZING
7. MID MONTH...PLANT HARDY ANNUALS LIKE BABY BREATH... PANSIES...PETUNIAS ... SWEET PEAS...AND FOX GLOVE

MARCH

1. PLANT HARDY ANNUALS LIKE BABY BREATH... PANSIES...PETUNIAS ... SWEET PEAS...AND FOX GLOVE
2. SPRAY SHRUBS FOR DISEASES... SCALE... FIRE BLIGHT
3. START PRUNING OVER GROWN TREES AND SHRUBS THIS MONTH... **NOT CRAPES OR AZALEAS**
4. CHECK MULCH AND ADD NEW MULCH NOW
5. NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY A GOOD SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER TO ALL TREES AND SHRUBS... 4-6 MONTHS KIND AND MATCH THE NEEDS TO PLANTS
6. CLEAN AND REMOVE OLD LEAVES AND PINE STRAW FROM FLOWERS AND SHRUBS...
7. DIG AND DIVIDE CROWDED PERENNIALS ... DAHLIAS... IRISES...DAYLILIES
8. PLANT ROSES AND FRUIT TREES NOW

APRIL

1. LEAVE BULB FOLIAGE ALONE - DO NOT CUT IT BACK UNTIL IT TURNS YELLOW
2. AGAIN CHECK FOR WINTER DAMAGE ON ALL LANDSCAPING
3. BE READY TO PROTECT NEW GROWTH FROM FROST DAMAGE... THE CSRA ALWAYS HAS ONE LATE FROST...
4. START LOOKING FOR SPECIALS ON LANDSCAPE PLANTS
5. CHECK FOR BAG WORMS
6. CHECK EVERGREENS FOR SCALE
7. PRUNE FLOWERING SHRUBS SUCH AS QUINCE...AZALEAS... SPIREA AND FORSYTHIA ... **AFTER THEY BLOOM**
8. PLANT SUMMER BULBS NOW
9. CHECK ALL PLANTS FOR PEST... SPIDER MITES... APHIDS ... FIRE ANTS IN THE MULCH
10. THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO START NEW PLANTS FROM CUTTINGS... ROOTING YOUR OWN
11. **PRUNE CRAPE MYRTLE ... FOLLOW CLEMSON'S DIRECTIONS**

MAY

1. PROGRAM YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO DELIVER ABOUT 1 ½ - 2 INCHES OF WATER EACH WEEK IF THERE IS NO RAIN.
2. CHECK YOUR MULCH... DO NOT HAVE IT TOUCHING THE TRUNK OF THE TREE OR SHRUBS... ABOUT 3-4 INCHES DEEP...
3. START SPRAYING YOUR WEEDS... EARLY MORNING IS THE BEST TIME
4. PLANT YOUR TOMATOES IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO
5. REMOVE SUCKERS FROM GRAFTED TREES. THEY FORM NEAR THE ROOT AND MAIN STEM
6. PRUNE CLIMBING ROSES
7. CHANGE THE MULCH AROUND YOUR ROSES ...USE FINE PINE BARK ...CHANGE MULCH ONCE A YEAR...
8. DIVIDE DAYLILIES...AND IRIS'S
9. YOU CAN NOW PLANT THE TENDER ANNUALS
10. START A COMPOST BEN
11. FINISH MOST OF THE LARGE GARDEN PROJECTS... AS ...SOON IT WILL BE TOO HOT TO WORK OUTSIDE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME...

JUNE

1. PRUNE SPRING FLOWERS AND TREES FOR SHAPE OR DISEASE ONLY.
2. PUT ALL CLIPPINGS INTO YOUR COMPOST BIN
3. APPLY POST EMERGENCE HERBICIDE TO BEDS TO CUT DOWN ON WEEDING
4. PRUNE YOUR HERBS BACK AND FERTILIZE
5. YOU CAN NOW PRUNE CAMELLIAS FOR SHAPE
6. CHECK GARDENIAS... CAMELLIA ... SOME CRAPE MYRTLE FOR WHITE FLIES, APHIDS, AND SCALE.
7. NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO MAKE YOUR LAST PLANTING OF TENDER ANNUALS...MARIGOLDS, ZINNIAS, SALVIA, VINCA AND BEGONIAS
8. SPRAY ROSES AND FERTILIZE
9. START YOUR CONTAINERS ...TREES... FLOWERS... BOXES... LARGE POTS

JULY

1. MOW YOUR LAWN JUST A LITTLE HIGHER BECAUSE OF THE HOT WEATHER... 1/2 INCH
2. CHECK FOR SPIDER MITES ON... AZALEAS ... FLOWERS ...AND SHRUBS
3. CUT BACK LEGGY ANNUALS TO ENCOURAGE NEW AND HEALTHY GROWTH
4. PLANT WILD FLOWERS FORM SEED NOW
5. KEEP A EYE ON CRAPE MYRTLES FOR POWDERY MILDEW
6. DEAD HEAD FLOWERS
7. FERTILIZE AND SPRAY ROSES
8. PUT OUT HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

AUGUST

1. KEEP HUMMING BIRD FEEDER FRESH AND CHECK OFTEN...
2. KEEP A EXTRA EYE ON ALL LANDSCAPING FOR LACK OF WATER ... THE SIGNS ARE THE SAME FOR TOO MUCH WATER AND NOT ENOUGH... FEEL THE SOIL AROUND THE PLANT...
3. THIS IS THE TIME FLEAS MAY APPEAR ... CHECK THE LAWN...
4. EMPTY ALL NON NECESSARY CONTAINERS... OF WATER TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES
5. KEEP DEAD HEADING AND PRUNING ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS FOR BETTER SHAPE AND GROWTH... AND FLOWERING
6. CHECK AGAIN FOR BAG WORMS
7. RE-FEED WITH LIQUID FERTILIZER ... FROM A HOSE END SPRAYER...DO THIS IN THE EARLY MORNING... OR LATE AFTERNOON... USE A BRAND NAME FERTILIZER LIKE PETERS... OR MIRACLE GROW ...DO NOT USE MIRACID
8. PLANT COLCHICUMS... AUTUMN CROCUS. AND ALL OTHER FALL BULBS NOW
9. CHECK YOUR HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER ... DON'T FORGET
10. SPRAY ZINNIAS AND DWARF GARDENIAS FOR POWDER MILDEW

SEPTEMBER

1. HARVEST AND PLANT CAMELLIAS AND MAGNOLIA SEED IN A ROOTING MIXTURE NOW
2. LOOK AT YOUR SUMMER ANNUALS AND IF NEEDED REPLACE THEM WITH COOL SEASON ANNUALS LIKE PANSIES
3. CHECK FOR SOD WORMS
4. REPROGRAM YOUR IRRIGATION... FOR ABOUT 1/3 LESS WATER
5. PLANT SPRING BULBS
6. PLANT MUMS
7. PRUNE BACK LANTANA ABOUT 1/3 NOW AND MULCH
8. THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO DIVIDE AND TRANSPLANT MONDO GRASS AND LIRIOPE
9. PLANT SNAPDRAGONS AND GLONOSA DAISY NOW FROM SEED

OCTOBER

1. SPRAY MOST EVERGREENS FOR SCALE
2. RAKE UP AND CLEAN UP LEAVES AND DEBRIS FOR THE COMPOST BEN
3. DO SOIL TEST
4. DIG CALADIUMS TUBERS BEFORE FROST OR MULCH THE HECK OUT OF THEM
5. APPLY LIME IF NEEDED TO BEDS
6. THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT OR REPLANT TREES AND SHRUBS
7. LOOK FOR SOME GREAT PLANT AND LANDSCAPE SPECIALS FROM THE DISCOUNT STORES NOW

NOVEMBER

1. CONTINUE GARDEN CLEAN-UP... REMOVE ALL DEAD PLANTS ...THIS WILL MAKE YOUR GARDEN HEALTHIER ...IT REMOVES HIDING PLACES FOR PEST
2. ADD WASTE TO YOUR COMPOST BIN
3. FERTILIZE TREES AND SHRUBS FOR THE FALL AND SPRING ...NOW IF USING THE 6 MONT FERTILIZER
4. CHECK MULCH AND ADD MORE IF NECESSARY
5. CHANGE YOUR CONTAINER TO WINTER PLANTS
6. MAKE NOTES OF THINGS TO DO NEXT SPRING
7. TRY FORCING SOME EARLY WINTER BULBS INSIDE
8. SPRAY AND MULCH ROSES

DECEMBER

1. CONTINUE TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS
2. BRING IN YOU HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER....
3. KEEP FEEDING THE WILD BIRDS
4. CLEAN AND REPAIR ALL OF YOUR GARDEN TOOLS
5. MAKE SURE ALL GARDEN CHEMICALS ARE OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND SAFE FROM FREEZING
6. GIVE SOMEONE A RAIN GAGE AND A WEATHER RADIO FOR CHRISTMASMAYBE YOURSELF
7. CURL UP AND REST NEXT TO A WARM FIRE AND READ YOUR NEW MAIL ORDER GARDEN CATALOGS ... AND THEN THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE... WHERE DID THEY GET THOSE PICTURES ANYWAY.

GARDENING ORGANICALLY... WHAT WORKS FOR ME!

REV. JIM BENNETT ©

TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIC GARDENER YOU HAVE TO START PLANTING SMARTER ... BY THAT I MEAN ... IF YOU DON'T WANT TO USE **INSECTICIDES OF ANY KIND**.... THEN GIVE THE PLANTS... FLOWERS... VEGETABLES ... THE MOST PERFECT HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT THAT YOU CAN...AND INSPECT THEM DAILY. **A STRESSED PLANT DRAWS PEST... CUT'S PRODUCTION... MAY HAVE LESS FLAVOR ... AND MESSES WITH THE HARVEST TIME... NUMBER OF DAYS TO HARVEST.**

- IF A PLANT IS DRY ... ITS VERY WEAK... NO FLUIDS TO TRANSPORT NUTRIENTS... NO... IMMUNITY
- TOO MUCH SHADE... IF SUN LOVING VEGETABLE ...WRONG ENVIRONMENT ... SAME IF PLANT IS SHADE LOVING ...
- PLANT IN THE CORRECT SOIL Ph... POTATOES... BLUEBERRIES... LOW Ph 5-4 RANGE
- CABBAGE... TOMATOES ... PEPPERS ... CARROTS... MOST OTHER VEGETABLES ... LIKE 5.5-6.5 Ph
- SOME PLANTS DON'T MIND WET FEET... OTHER NEED DRY SOIL...
- LOW MOISTURE SOIL... PEPPERS ... BEANS... CARROTS ... MOST HERBS... DAY LILLY'S
- MOIST SOIL ... NOT WET... TOMATOES... CABBAGE ... BROCCOLI ... PEAS... PARSLEY ... OKRA
- HIGH MOISTURE SOIL... RICE IN THE HOME GARDEN ... WATER CRESS ... LETTUCE ... CUCUMBERS

VERY HEAVE FEEDERS... POTATOES... CORN... TOMATOES ... ONIONS... SWEET POTATOES... CABBAGE.

LIGHT FEEDERS ...LETTUCE ... PEAS ... BEANS ... MOST HERBS ... OVER FERTILIZING WILL DAMAGE THE ROOTS... AND... DRAW PEST ... KILL THE PLANT ... ENDANGER THE REST OF YOUR GARDEN...

VERY- VERY SHALLOW CULTIVATION ... BEANS... PEAS ... PEPPERS ... TOMATOES ... MOST HERBS...

ASK YOURSELF... DOSE IT HAVE AN EXTENSIVE ROOT SYSTEM... THEN DON'T DISTURB OR DISTRUB THEM UP...

WILL TAKE DEEP SOIL CULTIVATION... CARROTS... ONIONS ... BEETS ... TURNIPS ... GARLIC

BEST TIME TO WATER... LANDSCAPE... GARDEN... EARLY MORNING ... 5:00-9:00 AM

WORST TIME TO WATER ... LATE AFTERNOON - EVENING... GARDEN ...LANDSCAPE ...IT NEEDS TO DRY OUT BEFORE DARK ...

BEST ALL -A -ROUND- PEST - CONTROL PRODUCT ... FOR ME IS ... NEEM OIL...ORGANIC BUT IT CAN HARM BEES ... ONLY IF SPRAYED DIRECTLY ON THE BEES ... SPRAY IN LATE AFTERNOON ...

2ND BEST FOR MOST SMALL INSECTS ...AND... SIMPLE DISEASES ... DIAL LIQUID HAND SOAP... 2-3 TABLE SPOONS AND 1 CUP OF RUBBING ALCOHOL PER IN A 3 GALS WATER SPRAYER...

FOR MEALYBUGS ...AND... WHITEFLIES ... VOLCK OIL ... BUT... NOT IN THE SUMMER

OTHER STUFF ... EPSOM SALTS ... (MOUTH WASH WITH LISTERINE ...MENTHOL) ...CALCIUM ... LIME SULPHUR... FOR FRUITS TRESS ... AND... EVER GREEN ... CAYENNE PEPPER POWDER TO REPEAL RABBITS ... DEERE ...AND SOME IN-LAWS ...

... NOTHING BEATS PLANTING THE RIGHT PLANT... IN THE CORRECT ENVIRONMENT... WITH THE PROPER CARE ... BE FAMILIAR WITH EACH PLANTS NEEDS, UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND THE FERTILIZATION NEEDS. EVERY PLANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY WHEN TRADED AS AN INDIVIDUAL PLANT.