

From The Ground Up

VOLUME 109 ISSUE 2

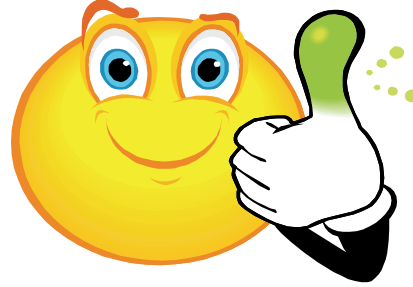
EDITOR: GLORIA BAUSKE, INTERN MASTER GARDENER

MAY, 2009

Green Thumb

By Gloria Bauske,
Intern Master Gardener

Green Thumb is a series of articles on gardening green to protect the environment and save money.



RAIN GARDEN 101:

The purposes of a rain garden are to provide runoff storage, enhance water infiltration, trap sediments, nutrients and pollutants, provide soil/biological water treatment, provide wildlife habitat, provide landscape amenities and capture and utilize high quality precipitation.

Make the rain garden about 1/3 the size of the drainage area and 6 to 9 inches deep. Construction of the rain garden:

- 1) Remove a foot of the top soil and set it to the side.
- 2) Dig out a shallow bowl six to nine inches deep and slope the sides of the hole.
- 3) Fill the hole with a mixture of 70 percent sand and 30 percent compost before placing the foot of top soil back in the hole.
- 4) Form a ridge of dirt (berm) on

the downhill side of the rain garden to assure a level of water will fill the area. Part of the berm should be slightly lower than the outlet to allow controlled overflow.

- 5) Plant grasses and native plants in the spot and mulch the area with shredded wood chips.

Wildlife Sanctuary

By Karin Woltjer, Master Gardener

While driving to work in the fog in early March, I see a big lump in a nearby field. As I drive past, that big lump turns out to be a Bald Eagle gazing over and through the leftover cornstalks. Lately, I have chatted with more than one person who has sighted a spring robin in her yard. It looks like southeastern South Dakota is going to the birds.

Outside the Sioux Falls boundary, there are many open fields that serve as beneficial wildlife habitat. However for this article, we are going to concentrate on the urban Sioux Falls environment. You may not realize it, but your being a property owner qualifies you as a habitat manager; your backyard can provide quality of life for dozens of wildlife species.

You can make your property attractive for yourself and wildlife by considering the following:

- Plant more trees and shrubs.
- Vegetation is the key to attracting a

variety of wildlife.

Add a source of water with a birdbath or garden pond. A safe place to bathe and drink is an animal magnet. If you already have a birdbath, now is the time for spring cleaning. Use a ratio of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water for cleaning the birdbath; then rinse well.

Add a bird house. Cavity-nesting birds have been impacted by urban development. A properly dimensioned bird house can substitute for tree snags where these birds used to nest.

If you choose to feed the birds for your own viewing pleasure, keep birdfeeders clean and safe. Use the same bleach and water recipe listed above to clean the feeder.

Cover openings under the eaves or other places around your house where house sparrows and starlings may nest. Many native birds have suffered because of the presence of non-native sparrows and starlings.

Control cats that may be prowling around in your yard. They can be harmful to birds that feed or nest on the ground.

Get your neighbors involved. Adjacent yards with good wildlife resources are more effective than a single lot.

Share your outdoor living room with your neighbors, songbirds and other wildlife. Good environmental stewardship can begin in your own backyard.

MINNEHAHA MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 9

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Sioux Empire Fair Grounds


Proceeds benefit educational programs

Great prices on locally grown, tested varieties of perennials, herbs, bulbs, annuals, vegetables, bulbs and house plants.

From The Ground Up

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Phone 605-367-7877
Fax 605-367-4609

May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Update Landscape Plans	2 Record New Plants
3 Kill or remove Dead grass In garden Beds	4 Move Tropical vines Outdoors When frost Danger is past	5 Dig & divide Overcrowded Flowers	6 Water new Plants & Keep soil Moist	7 Fertilize Plants	8 Check winter Creeping vines For euonymus Caterpillar	9 Master Gardener Plant Sale 9 to 11 a.m.
10 Check Junipers for blight	11 Plant flowers In old wicker Baskets	12 Place deck Planters on Dish drainer Trays	13 Organize Garden tools In back of Door shoe Hangers	14 Use silicone Gloves when Transplanting Cactus	15 Use netting to Sift garden Compost	16 Plant a Container Garden
17 Don't trim Winter burned Foliage until Frost danger Is past	18 Flush ground Around plants That may have Salt run off From winter	19 Remove Winter Wrappings From grapes	20 Save bulb Catalogues for Spring Planning.	21 Clamp rake to Wheelbarrow For handy use	22 Plant warm Season Vegetables in Your garden	23 Use sock tops To protect Arms for Garden Work
24 Create a Garden spot For homeless Plants to move Later	25 Cut Ornamental Grasses and Use for mulch	26 Use color Wheel to plant Companion Flowers	27 Scatter wood Ashes around Squash plants To prevent Vine bores	28 Plant radishes Around Squash vines To detour vine Bores	29 Plant basil by Tomatoes to Repel plant Eating pests	30 Put coffee Grounds Around Hostas to Detour slugs
31 Put dish Detergent In rain barrel To stop Mosquito Hatching						

Tips and Tricks, Quotes and Notes...

By Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener

A tip for remembering what you have planted: Wonderful Websites...

Don't forget where your plants (such as bulbs) are in the landscape, nor forget "who" your plant varieties are – labeling helps solve such mysteries. Inexpensive labels can be made from just about anything---pieces of broken pots, seashells, rocks, or pieces of mini blinds.

A trick to help seeds sprout:

By topping sown seeds with a light, non-crusty material like vermiculite, sand, finished compost or potting soil, your seeds will not have to fight through a hard soil surface.

A quote/old saying

You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt.

~Author Unknown

May's Note

Garden beds should be prepared for the seeds and transplants you have decided to grow this season. If uncertain of the quality of your soil, a soil test is a good idea before planting. Be certain to harden off any young transplants before placing them in the garden.

Wonderful Websites...

Mail Order Gardening Resources
<http://www.gardenlist.com/>
 Garden Tools
<http://www.gardeners.com/>

Recent Reads...

The Complete Book of Plant Propagation

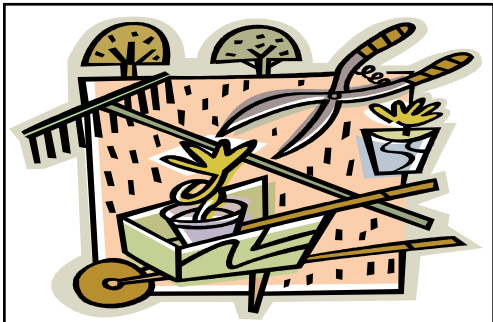
by Jim Arbury
 ISBN 1-56158-234-4

Planting the Seed: A Guide to Gardening

by Suzanne Winckler
 ISBN 0-8225-0471-5

Vegetables

by Suzanne Michalak
 ISBN 0-8759-6563-6



Garden Fence

By Gloria Bauske, Intern Master Gardener

Plant Disease:

Abiotic: environmental

Biotic: Pathogenic

Vein Distortion: most likely 2-4D. It can travel for miles.

Yellowish Leaves: new leaves are depleting older leaves of Nitrogen.

Iron deficiencies: show up in new leaves; yellow leaf with dark green veins.

Nitrogen Deficiencies: show up in older leaves.

The ABC's of Gardening....., By Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener

E...Erosion

The wearing/washing away, or removal of soil through the action of moving water, wind, other geological agents or man. For the home gardener, mulching or planting cover crops after the last harvest helps to prevent wintertime erosion.

F...Full Sun

A plant described as needing "full sun" is one that requires more than six hours of unobstructed sunlight each day to flourish. These plants often do best on the south or west side of a structure.

G...Germinate

Germination is the sprouting of a seed above the soil. The germination period is the time it takes from planting the seed until the time it sprouts/emerges from the soil. This period can vary greatly due to a number of factors, but largely due to soil temperature and soil moisture.

H...Herb

A plant without woody, persistent stems above ground—distinguishing it from a shrub or tree. Herbs are used for their medicinal, aromatic, or savory qualities. Examples of popular herbs grown by home gardeners are basil, chives, parsley, sage and thyme. Containers are an easy and convenient way to propagate these culinary jewels.

Odds & Ends



Soil Testing An important step in knowing the nutrient needs of your garden is to conduct a soil test. A general series test done through the SDSU Soil Testing laboratory costs \$14.00 plus tax. The testing kit is available through your local Cooperative Extension Office.

This test will tell you the pH level (the alkalinity or acidity of your soil), the percentage of organic matter, the salt level, the soil structure class, and the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Use a core sampler or garden trowel to collect the top six inches of soil in five to ten locations within the bed. Mix these samples together in a clean container. Take about one pint of the soil and put it into the sample bag. This bag along with an information sheet are mailed directly to the testing laboratory. Allow 5-10 days for processing.

Apple Tree Disease Spraying Apple scab is a common disease that causes distorted leaves and velvety brown to olive green spots. The infected leaves fall off the tree in the middle of the summer. The fruit may also have spots or may develop brown, corky or cracked fruit. Select a product containing captan or Bordeaux mixture.

The first application is applied when the buds are turning green. Three additional applications should be applied about 10 days apart. If the summer is extremely wet, additional applications should be made.

Cedar-apple rust causes yellow/pale leaf spots on the upper leaf surface. These spots become orange or rusty in appearance. The leaves may also drop earlier than normal. Fruit may develop similar spots at the blossom end.

Apply mancozeb as the flower buds open followed by two additional doses 14 days apart.

Chris Zdorovtsov Chris Zdorovtsov

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220 WEST 6TH STREET
SIOUX FALLS SD 57104-6001

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