

From The Ground Up

VOLUME 109 ISSUE 3

EDITOR: GLORIA BAUSKE, INTERN MASTER GARDENER

JUNE, 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.

Recycling Broken Pots & Dishes 101:

Rather than just throw those broken pots and dishes away, recycle them for use in the garden by placing them in stepping stones.

Use a circular cake pan or purchase a stepping stone pan from a hobby store.

Place contact paper in the bottom sticky side up.

Lay glass pieces on the contact paper. Mix powdered stepping stone powder purchased in a hobby store with water and pour it over the glass in the pan.

Carefully coax it out of the pan when the required set time is done. Place them in the garden or on the deck. Bring them indoors during winter months.



Natural Pollinators

By Lana Kullander,
Intern Master Gardener

Did you know? Along with birds and bees, butterflies are pollinators and are found nearly everywhere. It is estimated 700 butterfly species are found in the U.S. and Canada; of these South Dakota has 177 species recorded.

Butterfly habitat includes trees and shrubs as well as nectar sources such as native wildflowers and garden perennials.

The first butterfly of spring often seen is the Mourning Cloak. Unlike other short lived butterflies, it is able to survive for almost a year.

They spend the winter as unmated adults, hiding under loose tree bark or in woodpiles until spring when they mate. The females lay eggs in clusters on branches of Willow, Quaking Aspen, Cottonwood, Paper Birch, American and Siberian Elm and Hackberry trees.

The adult butterflies feed on rotting fruit, tree sap, nectar from fruit tree blossoms and animal droppings. This butterfly is common throughout South Dakota, found in woods, shelterbelts, suburbs, parks and Riparian areas.

Battling the Bunnies:

By Michelle Erpenbach,
Master Gardener

Exploding populations of rabbits in residential areas have homeowners and gardeners waging an increasingly frustrating battle to maintain attractive plantings and productive vegetable gardens.

It's become clear that rabbits will eat nearly anything if they are hungry enough. And, no amount of soap shavings, human hair or smelly spray will keep them away very long. Whether you bought it commercially or mixed it in your kitchen, eventually the rabbits in your yard will ignore your attempts to discourage them.

Barriers. Surround your vegetable garden and more precious plantings in chicken wire (1" mesh or smaller). Fencing should be at least three feet tall and buried four to six inches in the ground. Commercial tree tape and wire mesh are both effective in protecting trees and shrubs.

A clean environment. Clear out wood and brush piles that provide cozy rabbit homes. Keep leaf piles and trash away from shrubbery. Turn your compost pile regularly to discourage nesting. An active dog also can help keep critters away.


Plant selection. Choose plants that are less attractive to bunnies. The following list features shrubs that have been successful for other gardeners as options for discouraging rabbit foraging.

(continued on page 3)

From The Ground Up

is published monthly during the growing season by the Minnehaha County Extension Office, 220 West 6th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone 605-367-7877
Fax 605-367-4609

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>1</i> Sprinkle cornmeal near plants to kill cutworms</p>	<p><i>2</i> Plant hostas In front of tulips to hide brown foliage</p>	<p><i>3</i> Scatter Irish spring soap pieces around plants to detour rabbits</p>	<p><i>4</i> Plant hostas In bottomless pots to from moles</p>	<p><i>5</i> Use popsicle sticks to mark plants</p>	<p><i>6</i> Mulch garden Vegetables and water in Morning to Detour Blossom end Rot</p>
<p><i>7</i> Transplant seedlings on cloudy days to lessen plant shock</p>	<p><i>8</i> Prune spring flowering shrubs right after blooming ends</p>	<p><i>9</i> Weed perennial beds</p>	<p><i>10</i> Deadhead flowering plants to extend bloom</p>	<p><i>11</i> Place banana peel at base of rose bush as fertilizer</p>	<p><i>12</i> Place crumpled pop bottles in bottom of planters to conserve soil use</p>	<p><i>13</i> Add earthworms to pot containers to help break down soil</p>
<p><i>14</i> Store potting soil in trash cans with lids</p>	<p><i>15</i> Store seed packets in coupon folder</p>	<p><i>16</i> Cut old window blinds in half and use as plant markers</p>	<p><i>17</i> Cut top and bottom off large pop bottles and place over ailing plants</p>	<p><i>18</i> Be careful not to over water tomato and other vegetables to discourage fruit disease</p>	<p><i>19</i> Store freshly picked herbs in plastic bag in refrigerator</p>	<p><i>20</i> Use hog fence panels as trellis for climbing beans and peas</p>
<p><i>21</i> Bake egg shells in microwave for 60 seconds, crush them and spread near plants</p>	<p><i>22</i> Paint garden tool handles with brightly colored paint so they don't get lost in garden</p>	<p><i>23</i> Use water from rain barrel for indoor plants</p>	<p><i>24</i> Put small bar of soap in rain barrel to prevent mosquitoes from breeding</p>	<p><i>25</i> Store garden tools in bucket of sand soaked with motor oil to prevent rusting</p>	<p><i>26</i> Mark plants with stones in garden</p>	<p><i>27</i> Plant zinnias around garden to detour garden pests</p>
<p><i>28</i> Plant potted roses</p>	<p><i>29</i> Tie up climber vines to trellis</p>	<p><i>30</i> Make second application of fertilizer to roses</p>				

Tips and Tricks, Quotes and Notes...

By Bonnie Lynch, Master Gardener

A tip for keeping handtools rust-free

Fill a pail or bucket with sand. Add vegetable or motor oil to the sand. At the end of the day, shove the blade of your shovel or other garden tool into the sand. The abrasion of the sand will clean off the dirt and the oil will coat the tool to prevent rust. If the tool is extremely dirty, try to dislodge the majority of the dirt before inserting in the sand.

A trick to make watering easier

Punch small holes in the “feet” of an empty plastic soda bottle and bury it up to its shoulders next to the plant(s) you wish to water. Normally, filling with water once a day is adequate for most plants. Cheap and simple drip irrigation!!

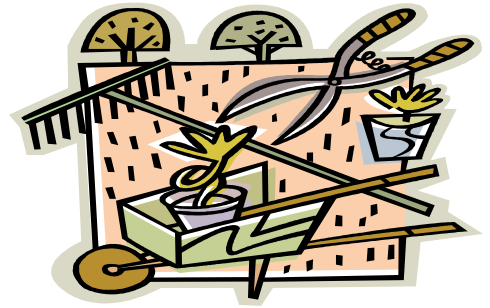
June’s Note

Gardens, flower beds and containers should be attended to daily to be certain that adequate moisture is provided. Windy conditions tend to dry soils much faster than calm days. Shading of tender young plants may be

necessary if they are being taxed by the elements (wind, heat, rapid evaporation of moisture).

Plants Rabbits Don’t Like:

- Butterfly bush. (*Buddleia davidi*) This plant is less hardy in our area. It requires mulch on the plant’s crown to help it overwinter. Plant it with protection from winter winds. *Black Knight* variety appears to be hardier than other varieties.
- Boxwood. Try Chicagoland Green, any of the Korean varieties, Green Mound, Green Mountain.
- Cotoneaster. Generally listed for Zone 5 and above. Some varieties are hardy and available to purchase here.
- Currants and gooseberries. Many varieties are hardy in this area. originated in North Dakota.



Garden Fence

By Gloria Bauske, Intern Master Gardener

DEADHEAD: pinch the flower buds off of Mums and Black-eyed Susans in the flower bed to encourage more flowering

They also need lots of water for budding .

Zinnias and Cosmos will bloom all season if dead flowers are pinched off.



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

I...Intersowing

To save space, you can sow two different crops in the same row. This is known as intersowing. For example, sow a slow-growing crop such as carrots or parsnips at well-spaced intervals along a row. Then sow a fast-growing crop like lettuce or radishes in between. The rapid-maturing crop will be ready for harvesting before the slower one needs the space.

J...Jiffy pot

Jiffy pots provide an easy and economical method of starting seeds indoors. A jiffy pot is molded from a mixture of 70% peat moss and 30% wood fiber, to which soluble fertilizers are added. Transplants such as cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, melons, etc. that are grown in jiffy pots can be set out in the garden, pot and all. There is little transplant shock or check in growth.

K...Kids’ Gardens

Gardening with children offers great opportunities for family bonding, exercise, fresh air, and good food. Growing their own food expands a young person's choice of foods, a key to good nutrition, and encourages children to make good food choices. When children garden, they augment their classroom studies with experiential learning, build a love of nature, often stimulate social interaction and facilitate cultural exchange. Moreover, both kids and adults learn patience in the garden. Be sure to keep kids' gardens simple and of a manageable size (about 6 by 10 feet). Begin with only a few seed or plant varieties that grow quickly (beans, peas, carrots, lettuce, radishes, pumpkins and tomatoes are great choices for kids). Have the children perform tasks appropriate to their age and skill level. Watering is a favorite task and even weeding can be fun.

Odds & Ends



Photo from University of Nebraska-Lincoln archives

trees are killed and in a relatively short time period,” Ball said. It is recommended to plant species other than ash tree at this time.

One of the main ways this insect has been moving across the county is by transporting firewood. Avoid bringing in out-of-state fire wood.

Emerald Ash Borer The borer has now been found in St. Paul, Minnesota, and it is believed that it has been present there for 3-5 years. This means there could very likely be unfound infestations within our South Dakota borders.

John Ball, Extension Forester says residents should watch for pockets of dead and dying ash trees that have extensive woodpecker damage. If seen contact your local extension educator or the South Dakota Department of Agriculture Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry.

A D-shaped hole where the borer exited the tree may also be present on the trunk.

“Ash is one of the most common species in our communities and windbreaks, but once the emerald ash borer insect arrives in a community, all the ash

Treatment is not recommended until a we are aware of an infestation in the area. These treatments will likely not be a permanent cure, but a way to buy time while replanting other species. The soil drench will cost around \$100 to be done commercially with an application required every 1-2 years.

Chris Zdorovtsov Chris Zdorovtsov

In 2010, 'From the Ground Up' will be transitioning to an internet-only based newsletter. Please contact Maureen at mbuller@minnehahacounty.org to provide an email address if you currently receive a mailed version of our newsletter.

South Dakota State University, South Dakota Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating South Dakota State University is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer (Male/Female) and offers all benefits, services, education, and employment opportunities without regard for ancestry, age, race, citizenship, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, national origin, sexual preference, or Vietnam Era veteran status.

**MINNEHAHA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
220 WEST 6TH STREET
SIOUX FALLS SD 57104-6001**

**NON PROFIT ORGRANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 7804
SIOUX FALLS SD**