

## June Success Tips

- 1. Plant a tree or rose** as a memorial, or for a graduate, as a lasting legacy!
- 2. Father's Day is June 15.** We've got the perfect gift for him!
- 3. Gas expensive?** Spend more time working in and enjoying your garden!
- 4. Our herbs add excitement** to food, look great, and liven up a garden in many ways. We have a wide selection of herbs—including old favorites and ones you've probably never seen before.



Agapanthus

## Beautiful Low-Water Bloomers!

We have many summer-blooming shrubs, vines, patio trees, and flowers that don't need much water and have a long blooming season. Here is just a sampling of some of them.

Plant **agapanthus** anywhere and it will be happy—in full sun or lots of shade. Agapanthus, also known as lily-of-the-Nile, produces strap-like leaves and stems 3 to 4 feet tall and bears blue or white 6' clusters of flowers throughout the summer. There are dwarf and standard forms.

**Lantana** can be planted in flower beds, hanging baskets, other containers, or as low hedges, foundation shrubs, or small patio trees. Lantana will help control erosion and also acts as a fire retardant.

Other colorful spring or summer blooming shrubs available now for your landscape include *convolvulus*, *buddleias*, *flower carpet roses*, *phormium* (flax), *bougainvillea*, *grevillea*, *raphiolepis*, *ceanothus*, *leptospermum*, and *cistus* (rockrose). These vary in their water needs, but all are lower water users once established.

## MULCHING

### It's The Thing to Do!

Thank goodness for MULCH! There are many good reasons it is called "black gold"! Just its weed-preventing capabilities alone prove it is worth its weight in gold. It can literally save you HOURS of back-breaking weeding time. A thick layer of mulch, means you will have few weed problems.

Want to get even more for your money? You'll just love how it decreases evaporation of water from the soil surface, allowing you to water less often and saving you both time and resources. Plus, mulch moderates soil temperature for optimum root growth, improves the soil as it decomposes, encourages earthworms, and last but not least, it looks BEAUTIFUL!



Look around at professionally installed and maintained landscapes and you'll notice the one thing they have in common is an extensive application of mulch. **TIPS:** Spread mulch at least 2-4 inches deep for the most advantageous benefit around vegetable and flower beds, trees, and shrubs. Leave a couple inches gap between the crown or trunk of trees and shrubs in order to guard against crown and root rot. Soak dry soil to restore moisture before applying mulch.

We recommend using our *Greenall Micro Bark* for great results.



## Plant Brilliant Containers

Catch the excitement for container gardening and discover how to brighten up small spaces like patios, decks, and entryways with this easy and flexible way of landscaping. Containers add instant EYE-CATCHING color that is fun and easy to change. Here are some tips to make your container gardening a HUGE success.

✿ **A GROUP of containers** is the most spectacular. Select three or more containers of varying heights for each spot.

✿ **A good strategy** for large containers is to plant a taller long-blooming perennial or small shrub in the center. Then plant lower-growing flowers which you can change, along the edges of the container.

✿ **Plant flowers and shrubs** more closely together than you would when planting in the ground. This creates a more intense effect.

✿ **Use trailing plants** to conceal the edges of the pots. We have an excellent variety of blooming trailers that are ideal for this.

✿ **Good soil is crucial.** Never use soil from your garden—it's full of soil diseases that seem to thrive in containers. Use our *Black Gold Potting Soil* and fertilize with *Osmocote time release plant food* and add *Soil Moist* according to label directions. Also, mulch the top of the containers with *Greenall Micro Bark*.



## Plant June Vegetables Now

It's not too late to plant summer vegetables like *beans*, *carrots*, *sweet corn*, *cucumbers*, *eggplant*, *melons*, *peppers*, *squash* and *tomatoes*. To get the maximum benefit from the remaining season, choose from the vegetable seedlings we have available, instead of seed packets. A second planting of beans and corn can also go in now for an additional harvest later.

## New Mantra for Parents: Grow Your Veggies!

Looks like it is true that actions really are better than words. Three 6th grade classes in Idaho were tracked to determine how garden-based nutrition education affected their fruit and vegetable preferences and eating habits.



Control group #1 received no nutrition education. While groups #2 and #3 both received 12 weeks of nutritional education, group #3 had the added benefit of participating in gardening activities. It was this last group of young gardeners who showed the most significant increases in healthy eating—their intake of fruits and vegetables *more than doubled* from 1.93 to 4.5 fruit and vegetable servings per day!

These students grew strawberries, cucumbers, cantaloupe, corn, potatoes, peppers, sunflowers, peas, broccoli, tomatoes, squash, greens, and more.

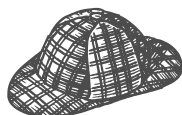
Researcher McAleese observed, "All of a sudden it was really cool for them to eat a carrot, or lettuce, because they had been involved in growing and harvesting them."

Wow! Hands on learning provides lasting benefits, and a perfect time to replace that old "Eat Your Veggies" mantra with the new and improved "Let's Grow Your Veggies!"

## Kid's Corner Bottled Squash How Did They Do That?!

This is a variation of the "ship in a bottle" project featuring a zucchini or cucumber inside a large plastic soda bottle instead of a ship.

First, plant zucchini or cucumber in your garden. When the young vegetable begins to form, gently slide it in through the mouth of a 2-liter bottle that has had several holes poked in for ventilation. A mini-greenhouse effect will be created, so leave the bottle under some shady leaves so it doesn't get too hot and burn the vegetable! Once the zucchini or cucumber gets too big to pull out of the bottle, cut the vine and put the cap on. See how long it takes friends to figure out how you happen to have a bottled zucchini!



## How's Your Curb Appeal?

So, you've spent a lot of time and money to make your back yard look great and meet family needs, but what first impression does your front yard make? A few simple improvements can make a big difference. As you get started, consider the following tips.

⌘ **What landscaping fits your home and neighborhood?** Foundation plantings should accentuate the architectural features of your home while remaining in harmony with others surrounding you. Enhance your home with green, trimmed grass, colorful flowers, and plants that have interesting textures, sizes, and leaf colors.

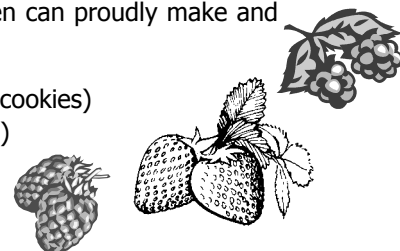
⌘ **Front door focus.** Paint your front door with a color that is in contrast with the base color of your home. Guide a viewer's eye toward the front door by planting taller plants at the corners and smaller ones leading towards the door. Shrubbery that spreads horizontally will soften your taller plants. Enhance this key area with beautiful container plantings.

⌘ **Use garden ornaments as accents.** Carefully select statuary, a trellis, or bird bath, etc (just one or two items is recommended) that will complement the natural beauty of your landscape and provide extra interest.

## Garden Fresh Fruit Tarts

Any type of fresh berries or cut-up fruit makes this tart a wonderful treat, also feel free to experiment with your favorites, or whatever you have to harvest! With a little bit of supervision, children can proudly make and serve this yummy dessert.

18 oz package sugar cookie dough (24 precut cookies)  
1/3 c. lemon curd (find in the jam/jelly section)  
1½ c. fresh blackberries  
1½ c. sliced fresh strawberries  
¼ c. fresh raspberries



Preheat oven to 325° F. Coat an 8½" round baking dish with vegetable oil spray. Press in 16 of the 24 cookie dough squares. Bake for 12-15 minutes until light brown. Completely cool. Spread lemon curd over cookie crust. Arrange the fruit on top and serve as soon as possible. NOTE: To use the full package, press all 24 squares into a 12" pizza pie pan and increase the lemon curd and fruit as desired. Or mold the extra dough into a muffin top pan (two squares each circle) for 4 individual-sized tart crusts.

## The Case of the Missing Petunias

New to San Ramon, California resident Barb Evans asked columnist Gary Bogue what could have consumed her newly planted petunias? Two flats of planted petunias had completely disappeared overnight!

While the usual culprits of tree or ground squirrels, gophers, roof rats, and voles were suggested, the mystery was eventually solved by another resident. His garden had been raided by wild turkeys who, by this eye-witnesses account, did "a better job than a swarm of locusts!"

