



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

www.JLGardenCenter.com

vol 19 issue 1

March - April 2006

March Gardening

It's Time To Wake Up Your Yard, Spring Is Here! Now is the time to start planning and planting your vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees. As soon as the weather is warm, and the soil has time to dry out, plant all of your early-season veggies such as broccoli, cabbage, peas, onions, carrots, and potatoes. You can also start planting pansies, primroses, and many other perennial flowers.



However, don't be in too big of a hurry to plant your warm-season flowers and veggies, or you will end up having to plant them twice. Once early, and then again after the last frost is over. Marigolds, impatiens and most annual flowers cannot tolerate any cold temperatures. Tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, corn, and beans are just a few of the vegetables that need warm soil, without any frost. It is better to plant warm-season vegetables and annual flowers a little too late than a little too early.

We have an excellent selection of packaged seeds from Mountain Valley Seed Company, Lilly Miller Seed Company and Lake Valley Seed Company. In addition to the many varieties of packaged vegetable and flower seeds that are available, we have 1/2lb, 1lb and 5lb bags of many beans, corn and pea seeds. We also have carrots, onions, Swiss chard, lettuce, radishes, and several other vegetable seeds, available in 1/2 ounce and 1 ounce sizes. **Stop by and check out our supply of 'bulk-pack' vegetable seeds.**

New Items for 2006

We have two new brands of patio furniture available this spring. The first is a brand of resin furniture with a 'Bear' theme. We have small, medium, and large 'bear' tables. We also have 'bear' benches and 'bear' chairs. They really look nice. We also have a new brand of swinging, deck and patio chairs. This company also manufactures hammocks. You can hang these chairs from your deck, a 'large' tree in your yard, or from a metal frame that you can move from one area to another. They are well built and will last for years.



Wild Bird Seed & Supplies

Feeding the birds is not just for the fall and winter months. Birds are hungry year round. If you provide food and water for birds, you can enjoy a wide variety of birds in your yard all summer long. We have an excellent selection of **Wild Delight® Wild Bird Food**. This company packages many different mixes of wild bird seed including, Buffet Mix, Gourmet Mix, Nut & Berry Mix, Fruit & Berry Mix, Total Cuisine Mix, Song Bird Food, Dove and Quail Mix, and Nyger Seed, just to mention a few. For a complete listing of the ingredients of these mixes, and the types of birds they attract, please refer to our '**Wild Bird Food**' handout.



Besides these **Wild Delight** mixes, we also have roasted and unroasted peanuts, whole and cracked corn, and black or striped sunflower seeds available.

Don't forget to feed the birds in the spring and summer too!

Smith Feed - Sorry to see you go.

We were sorry to see Smith Feed close their doors after all the years they have been in business. They have provided a valuable service for many years. We understand that DeVan is going to spend more time working in his other business, farming. Brad is going to continue working in his other business, growing sod. Good luck to both of you.

New Rose Varieties

We have all the new **2006 AARS winning roses**, along with several new roses from both Jackson & Perkins and Weeks Rose Nursery. The 2006 All American Rose Winners are: **Julia Child** - a golden yellow floribunda Rose; **Rainbow Sorbet** - a yellow floribunda rose, edged in pink, orange and red; **Tahitian Sunset** - an apricot hybrid tea rose, with a pink blush; and **Wild Blue Yonder** - a reddish-purple, grandiflora rose.



Our '**2006 Rose Price List**' has a complete listing of all the roses that we have available. All of our roses are in stock now.

Rose Care

Start pruning your roses as soon as the warm weather is here to stay; usually mid-April. Continue trimming and shaping your roses all summer, to keep them blooming their best. Fertilize your roses with **Fertilome Rose Fertilizer with Systemic Insecticide** as soon as you prune them. Fertilize them every two months from April through mid-August, with this same fertilizer. This fertilizer will help your roses grow and bloom vigorously while keeping the pesky aphids and thrips under control. Also, spread one-third cup of **Magnesium Sulphate** (Epsom Salts) around each rose bush when you prune them, and spread another third cup of epsom salts around each rose bush again about mid-July. Your roses will look beautiful all summer. Magnesium Sulphate is also great to use in all the flower and vegetable gardens, put some around your petunias and marigolds and you'll see a big difference in how they grow and bloom. For more information about taking care of your roses, please refer to our '**Rose Care**' handout.



Climbing Roses

If your climbing roses are not blooming very well, don't give up, just be patient. Newly planted climbing roses have their own timetable. They do not grow and bloom like regular hybrid tea or floribunda roses.



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Many varieties of climbing roses (Climbing Queen Elizabeth, Peace, Royal Gold, etc.) only bloom on three year old canes. Some varieties (Climbing Soaring Spirits, Valentines Day, and Stairway to Heaven) will bloom on both old and new canes, so they start blooming sooner. Don't prune climbing roses like bush roses or they will not bloom like they are supposed to. Fertilize them regularly, just like other roses, to help them bloom their best. If you have questions about your climbing roses stop by to talk to Jay or Lloyd, they will be able answer your questions.

Lawn Care Tips

A healthy lawn is not an accident. It takes regular fertilization, consistent watering, weekly mowing, and a constant diligence (watching for insect or disease problems) to maintain a nice healthy lawn. A healthy lawn is more resistant to diseases, crowds out more unwanted weeds, overcomes insect damage faster, and withstands drought conditions better than a struggling lawn.

Fertilize your lawn four times this year and you will have a great looking lawn. Each lawn is different, and requires different care. Choose a plan to best suit your lawn's needs. We have created a **4-Step Lawn Fertilizer Package** to fit most lawn's needs. If your lawn has different needs we can modify this fertilizer package to meet your lawn's needs. Stop by and let us show you this plan and help you with your lawn's fertilizer needs.



Tree Tip

Do you have a problem trimming the grass around the trees in your lawn without damaging the bark of the tree?



If so, you may want to use a **'Permascape Tree Ring Mat'**. This tree ring is a mat made of recycled car tires. It is 24" in diameter and is painted brown. It prevents weeds and grass from growing, but it allows air and water to penetrate through the mat. What's more, it is a mat that you can push your lawn mower over to make the edge of the lawn look neat and tidy.

Eliminate Nuisance Fruit

Plums, crabapples, pine cones, maple whirlygigs and cottonwood's cotton can sometimes be reduced or eliminated. Obviously the best defense against unwanted, or nuisance fruit, dropping all over your lawn or sidewalks, is not to plant trees with nuisance fruit in the first place. However, many of us inherit trees that may be quality trees, most of the year, until their fruit arrives and drops all over the lawn.



There are chemical sprays available to help eliminate nuisance fruit. However, these sprays have to be applied each year, and timing of the spray is crucial. The trick is **'the chemical must be applied during flowering time and before fruit set'**. For most flowering trees there is a only a ten day to two week window of opportunity to make the application. (even cottonwood trees have flowers -- that is where the fruit comes from.)

Florel® Fruit Eliminator can eliminate much of the fruit without harming the leaves. **Florel** can also eliminate the fruit without causing premature flower drop, so you will still get to enjoy the flowers. One problem you may encounter is that many trees do not have showy flowers. For example, cottonwood and sweet gum trees have flowers that usually go unnoticed. However, many arborists have found that sprays are effective if Florel is applied just as new leaves begin to emerge on these trees.

Again, timing is critical but with a little planning, and lots of practice, you may be able to reduce, and even eliminate the unwanted fruit. For more information please refer to our **'Florel, Fruit Eliminator'** handout.

Peach Tree Care - Coryneum Blight



Coryneum Blight, or Shothole Fungus, is a disease that infects trees whose fruit have a *'pit'*, rather than trees whose fruit have a seed. Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Plum, and Cherry trees are all susceptible to this disease. Flowering Cherry and Flowering Plum trees are also susceptible to Coryneum Blight.

Coryneum Blight is known as Shothole Fungus because the leaves of trees that are infected with this disease have lots of small **'BB'** like or **'Shot'** holes. The leaves look like they have been shot with a shotgun. This disease has been a problem for the last several years but it was even more prevalent last year, because of the spring weather. If your trees are infected with this disease, you need to spray your trees to eliminate it because coryneum blight will ruin the fruit and kill your infected trees unless you control it. For more information please refer to our **'Coryneum Blight'** handout. Please stop by and let us help you cure this disease problem.

'New Home' Landscaping



The topics of good **soil health** and proper **soil conditions** are becoming more and more important. As *'new home'* gardeners begin to try to improve their gardens and properly take care of their plants, they need to keep these two topics in mind. Without good soil health, and without the proper soil conditions, gardening will not be easy nor will it be enjoyable. Gardening will become a chore and will produce many undesirable and often disastrous results. Whether you are starting with a brand new house or starting from a brand new addition to your existing home, these topics are important to consider. Take time to improve these two gardening situations before you start gardening and you will have much better success. For more information please refer to our **'New Home Landscaping'** handout.

Feed Your Garden Soil - not just your plants

Your garden's soil condition is the single most important part of gardening success. Without the proper soil conditions, gardening can be a chore for you, and your plants will not respond and grow the way you want them to grow. Some of the insect and disease problems your plants struggle with during the summer can be prevented just by making sure your soil is well prepared before you plant them in it.



First, remember **Garden Soil is not Dirt**. Dirt is the stuff you wash out of your clothes after working in the yard. Garden Soil is a complex mixture of minerals, air, water, organic matter, microbes, and other critters. Soil is full of life and deserves your attention. With good soil, gardening will be more fun. The soil will be easier to plant in, cultivate, and it will be easier to grow your plants.

Perfect soil is hard to come by in most home gardens and it may take a little extra effort to achieve. The best way to improve your garden soil is by adding **Organic Materials** every year. The best time to apply **Organic Materials** is in the fall, not in the spring. However, if you forgot to add **Organic Materials** last

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fall, it is important that you add **'well-rotted' Organic Materials** this spring, so you do not injure tender plants. Mix as much well-rotted manure, Bumper Crop, Ferti-Mulch, or Compost, (within reason) as you can afford. You will be amazed how much better your soil is this year than it was last year. Many garden soils may take four, six, or even ten years to completely change, but you will notice an improvement in your soil each year.

Dr. Earth® Organic Fertilizers

We have an excellent brand of fertilizer from the **Dr. Earth®** fertilizer company. It will fertilize your plants and feed your soil at the same time. **Dr. Earth** is a company that produces very effective organic fertilizers that incorporates many beneficial bacteria in their fertilizers. These organic fertilizers are derived from fish meal, cottonseed meal, alfalfa meal, fish bone meal, feather meal, soft rock phosphate, kelp meal, and potassium sulphate. With all these sources of fertilizer, the plants benefit greatly.



Traditionally, organic fertilizers have been very slow to break down, and it took plants several weeks to start receiving any benefits from the fertilizer. The **Dr. Earth** company changed this slow process into a faster releasing fertilizer by adding beneficial bacteria to the fertilizer. These beneficial bacteria digest the natural ingredients and release the nutrients in a form that plants can absorb and start to utilize within just a few weeks. All of the **Dr. Earth** fertilizers include humic acid, seaweed extract, ecto & endo mycorrhizae, and seven strains of soil building microbes, all of which help improve the soil conditions and help make the plants more vigorous.

For more information about organic fertilizers please refer to our **'Dr. Earth Organic Fertilizer'** handout. Also, be sure to attend our gardening class on April 15. Gretchen Taylor from Kellogg Garden Products will be here to talk about organic mulches and organic fertilizers in much more detail.

Organic Soil Amendments

We have several excellent mulches that will help you improve your garden soil.

Bumper Crop is a natural, fortified soil amendment that is excellent for both vegetable and flower gardens. This product contains Chicken Manure, Bat Guano, Worm Castings, Kelp Meal, Composted Bark products and Mycorrhizae, a beneficial bacteria. Bumper Crop will not burn any plants - new or old. It helps break up clay soil and helps increase the water holding capacity of sandy soils. It is also an excellent mulch to mix in soil when planting new shrubs.



Black Forest Compost is great for mulching in gardens, covering lawn seed, and for planting trees and shrubs. This product contains Chicken Manure, Bat Guano, and Bark products. Its long lasting ingre-

Recipe for Good Garden Soil

For a quick fix of a 100 square foot area (10'x10') 8" deep use:

5 bags **Bumper Crop Mulch** It adds organic mulch, 'trace' nutrients, and mycorrhizae.

5 lbs **Ironite** to add iron to your soil

4 lbs **Dr. Earth #7 All Purpose Fertilizer**

4 lbs **Gypsum**. It adds sulphur and calcium to the soil and releases nutrients already in the soil.

5 lbs **Natural Guard Soil Activator**. It contains Humic Acid which organically activates the soil with humates.

Mix well into the soil, plant, and water thoroughly.

You will be pleased with the results.

lients help break up clay soil and improve drainage in compacted soils. It also helps increase the water holding capacity of sandy soils. It contains many of the same ingredients as Bumper Crop but it is a black compost instead of a brown compost. If you want to help darken your soil, this is the right product to use. It is also great to use as a top dressing, to improve the appearance of your soil, after you plant your vegetables and flowers.

Gardener's Choice Planting Mix is an all-purpose, all natural, all organic, planting mix that improves porosity and promotes drainage in clay soil. This is a good planting mix that has been composted and pH balanced to prevent burning new roots. You can even plant directly into this mix, although its most beneficial use is to help improve the existing soil. This product contains worm castings, bat guano, chicken manure, kelp meal, sand, and screened topsoil. Use this product instead of peatmoss or soil pep, when you plant new flowers, trees or shrubs.

Acid Planting Mix is formulated for all acid loving plants. It contains all organic, long lasting ingredients that help improve soil porosity and drainage. Use this product when planting rhododendrons, azaleas, Japanese maples, daphne and other acid loving shrubs and trees. This is a good mix of organic products that are composted and pH adjusted to prevent burning new roots. You can use this product to amend soil in containers or to mix 50% in the soil around each plant, your acid loving plants will love it. **Use this mulch instead of peatmoss.**

Utelite® - Clay Soil Conditioner

Many garden soils lack the necessary physical structure to hold and move air or water for plant growth, especially clay soils. Most clay soils need additives that will hold water (like peatmoss) but that will allow water to drain (like sand). But adding peatmoss or sand to clay soils may just add to the problem rather than correct the problem; unless they are added in the proper amounts. The best way to fix a clay soil is to add lots of compost, bumper crop, soil pep, manure, or perlite to the garden, rather than adding peatmoss or plain sand.



Another additive available to help improve clay soil is **Utelite Clay Soil Conditioner**. **Utelite** is a porous, rock chip which acts as a permanent reservoir for both air and water. **Utelite** increases the water holding capacity of the soil and it also helps improve drainage within the soil. It does not decompose, like mulch, so it does not have to be added every year. We have **Utelite** available by the bag and in bulk, making it an affordable way to improve your clay soil conditions.

Gypsum is a soil conditioner that helps improve clay soil by changing the chemical structure of the soil; it does not improve the physical structure. Gypsum helps improve all soils, not just clay soils. Gypsum adds calcium and sulphur to the soil, which allows plants to absorb and utilize fertilizers that are already in the soil, but were not previously available for plants to absorb.

For more information about improving your garden soil please refer to our **'Garden Soil and Mulch'** handout.

Mycorrhizae

Mycorrhizae are some of the most important microbes that all soils need to help plants grow properly. Most native soils contain mycorrhizae naturally, but many home garden soils do not have them. Without mycorrhizae, many plants will struggle and die that would otherwise grow and thrive in the garden.

Mycorrhizae are specialized fungi that establish a symbiotic relationship with plant roots. Mycorrhizal fungus penetrate plant root tissues and live in the soil surrounding the plant. The



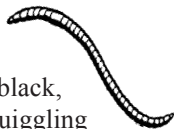
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fungi capture and use nutrients from the soil, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus. They share these nutrients with the roots of the host plant. In return, the host plant provides many carbohydrates, sugars and other nutrients for the fungus to use in its growth and development. The plant also helps the fungi grow and move through the soil as its root system develops.

Mycorrhizae are also good soil-binding agents. They tend to accumulate in the soil and remain in the soil for a long period of time. The fungi 'roots' are sticky and physically hold soil particles together. In addition, plant 'hair-roots' also secrete a similar, sticky substance. Between the two of these sticky substances, the soil particles are bound together to form semi-stable aggregates. These aggregates help make more air spaces in the soil, which allows roots to penetrate the soil faster, and helps make the soil more friable. **Bumper Crop®** contains mycorrhizae. All of the **Dr. Earth®** fertilizers contain mycorrhizae. In addition, we have mycorrhizae available in 1lb packages. If there is one product that will drastically change how your plant grows and develops, it is definitely this fungus. Try it and see how much different your plants will look in just a short time.

Don't Forget the Worms

Earthworms are a barometer of your soil's health. When you turn over a shovel full of black, moist soil, and spot three or four earthworms squiggling away, you know you're working with rich, healthy soil. By the same token, a lack of earthworms in your garden indicates a condition that prevents them from living there.



The presence of earthworms has a profound effect on plant performance. Plants growing in soil with earthworms will produce yields three times higher than those grown in soil without worms. These industrious wigglers have an insatiable appetite and work day and night improving the soil. As one of nature's best recyclers, earthworms feed on organic matter such as decaying leaves, roots, and any other compost.

Many homeowners are dismayed at the castings earthworms leave above the soil and try to kill them. While the bumpiness may leave you with a less-than-perfect lawn, earthworms make enormous contributions to your lawn's health. Earthworms aerate the soil so that water and air can move through the soil more freely. Earthworms also decompose thatch and create valuable nutrients. Controlling or eliminating earthworms is about as beneficial to your lawn as removing the sparkplug out of the motor of your lawnmower.

Humic Acid - a beneficial soil supplement

Humic acid is a natural, soil stimulant. It is processed from some of the most concentrated organic materials available. Most humic acid was formed when trees and vegetation underwent compaction, and heating, many thousands of years ago. Over the ages, this organic material was slowly carbonized and became coal. During this compaction process, many of the organic acids and esters contained within the vegetation, were squeezed out and formed a pool on top of the coal. This pool dried, aged, and became a layer known as shale. This layer of shale is the source of humate, which contains humic acid. It benefits all plants when incorporated into the soil and can be applied any time of the year.



Humic acid helps chelate many nutrients and helps bind them to soil particles. Chelated nutrients, that are attached to soil particles, are easier for plants to absorb and use. Magne-

sium, iron, calcium and many other 'trace elements' are just some of the nutrients that humic acid helps plants utilize more effectively. Humic acid helps the fertilizer, that you apply, reach the plants easier. It also helps to release nutrients, already in the soil, that your plants have not previously been able to utilize. Add humic acid to the soil as you rototill your gardens in the spring. You can also spread humic acid on top of your lawn any time of the year. Humic acid is not a fertilizer, but your plants will react as if you just fertilized them. We have 20 lb bags of Humic Acid called **Natural Guard Soil Activator** and 50 lb bags called **Humate Soil Conditioner**.

Dormant Spray ... It's Important

Dormant Spray means spraying your plants with an insecticide before the plants begin to grow; while they are still dormant. **Dormant spray** is the single most important spray of the year for fruit trees, raspberries, and junipers, because it prevents and kills more insects than any other single spray during the year. Dormant oil (not motor oil) can be sprayed alone, or it can be mixed with another insecticide such as **Malathion** or **Lime Sulfur**. All plants benefit from **Dormant Spray**, especially fruit trees, raspberries, roses and evergreens. Sometimes the only way to kill certain insects (such as pear psylla, juniper scale, spider mites) is with your dormant spray.



Wait to apply **Dormant Spray** until the buds of your plants begin to swell, but be sure to spray them before the buds completely open. The best time is usually early-to-mid April. Thoroughly spray the upper trunk and branches. Do not spray the lower trunk because many beneficial insects lay their eggs in the lower part of the tree.

Unfortunately, dormant spray does not kill all insects. You will have to spray later in the year as needed. For example, dormant spray will not kill the worms in apples, worms in cherries, peach tree borer, aspen borer, or root weevil. These insects live inside the tree, or in the soil, during the winter. Dormant spray only kills those insects it comes in contact with. We have an information sheet about using dormant spray. Our '**Dormant Spray Guide**' will explain more about this important spray.

Fruit Tree Care

Besides pruning and dormant spraying your fruit trees, fertilizing them should be a high priority each spring. Fruit trees must be fertilized early each spring if they are to produce high quality fruit each year. Fruit trees need more fertilizer than shade trees or pine trees. They should be fertilized at least six weeks before they bloom. Do not fertilize fruit trees after June, or your trees may produce undesired growth later in the year.



Young trees (up to 5 years old) benefit from the use of **Ross Fertilizer Stakes**. Older trees (more than 5 years old) benefit more from a good garden fertilizer, such as **Dr. Earth #7 All Purpose Fertilizer**, rather than fertilizer stakes. Be careful, too much fertilizer can be just as bad for trees as not enough. Stop by and pick up our '**Fruit Tree Fertilizer**' handout, to help you decide how much fertilizer your trees really need.

Pansies and Primroses

Pansies and primroses are great flowers. They bloom early each spring, letting us know that spring is just around the corner. Pansies and primroses love cool areas, so they grow great in gardens that are also used for



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begonias and impatiens. Pansies will bloom repeatedly from early spring until the temperature gets hot during the summer. Some gardeners actually have pansies bloom all summer.

Primroses will grow and bloom for at least a month or two. You can extend their blooming time if you will take time to remove the old flowers as soon as they start to fade. A new set of flowers may begin to grow if you remove the old blossoms. Remember, pansies and primroses love cool areas, they do not like the hot, sunny areas. We have them both now - ready for planting in your yards.

Tulip Alert

Watch your tulips this spring, because the deer certainly will be. Your tulips will be just about ready to bloom when one night they will all suddenly disappear. To prevent deer from eating your tulips and pansies, you can physically cover them at night with netting, a frost blanket, or even with a sheet. You can also try fertilizing them frequently with either **Blood Meal** or **Milorganite** fertilizer. These two fertilizers have an odor that deer don't like, and it will sometimes repel them. However, if they are hungry enough, the deer might not care about the smell and eat the plants anyway. Deer do not eat daffodils, hyacinths, or fritillaria, so you don't have to watch them as closely.

We also have several deer repellents for use in the yard; Liquid Fence®, Not Tonight Deer®, This One Works®, and three different Predator Urines. I wish that we could say that some of these deer repellents were 100% effective, but they are not. Sometimes they work and sometimes they do not work, depending on the weather, the time of year, the repellents that your neighbors are using, and the general mood of the deer that are in your yard. We do have a handout that can help you minimize deer damage, but, *'where there are deer, garden damage is going to be inevitable'*.

Veggies Do Like Pots

Many vegetables and herbs adapt well to growing in containers, making it possible to grow vegetables on decks and in balconies of apartments. If your apartment is located on the south or west side of the building, you are in luck. Most veggies require full sun to grow their best. However, with some planning, and a little luck, even apartments on the east and north sides can still produce a limited harvest.

You can use almost any kind of pot; wood, plastic, clay or ceramic. But remember, *'the bigger the better'* when it comes to pot sizes and vegetables. Small 8" pots will be adequate for some veggies such as onions, lettuce, radishes, and most herbs. Larger 12", 14", or even 16" pots are needed to grow tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and yes, even squash.

If space is an issue, or if you just want to go vertical, try using a trellis. Trellises work great for planting pole beans, squash, pumpkins, melons and cucumbers.

Don't skimp on the soil. Use **Gardener's Gold Organic Potting Soil** and buy new potting soil every year. Take the old soil and spread it out in your flower and vegetable gardens, it is still excellent soil for those areas, but start with fresh soil each year in your containers.

For more tips about planting and growing veggies in pots, be sure to attend our **Pot Gardening Class** on April 22. Albert will give you several more tips and suggestions that may help you grow veggies successfully in your containers.



Plants Improve Air Quality

One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. This amount equals 11,000 miles of car emissions. Landscape plants, including shrubs and lawns, remove smoke, dust, and other pollutants from the air. One study showed that one acre of trees has the ability to remove thirteen tons of particles and gases annually.



Maple Tree Care

If you have Red Sunset Maple, October Glory Maple, Sugar Maple, or any of the other acid loving Japanese Maple trees in your yard, you may notice that they sometimes struggle during the heat of summer. These maple trees, as well as many other acid loving trees such as magnolias, and flowering dogwood, respond well to a little extra, special care every spring, especially when they are young. Early in the spring, February or March, spread five pounds of gypsum within the dripline of these trees. Fertilize them with **Rhododendron and Azalea Fertilizer**, instead of the regular tree and shrub fertilizer that you normally use for trees. This extra care will help these trees produce healthier roots that will help the trees resist summer heat stress more effectively.

Also, if the leaves are always a little yellow, or if the trees are always struggling, poke several holes six to twelve inches deep throughout the dripline of each tree. Put one tablespoon of **Master Nursery Iron Plus** in each of the holes. **Caution:** do not put too much iron in any one hole or you will have a lawn with dark green circles around each of the holes. Use one pound of iron for every two inches of diameter around each tree.

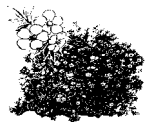
Pruning, Its Important

You should prune to make plants more eye appealing, to correct potential problems, to keep plants healthy and strong, to encourage more blossoms, and to just make plants look more beautiful. One of the most important jobs, early in the spring, is pruning. Pruning helps keep your plants growing the way they should (or at least the way that you think they should grow). Pruning is not really that hard, it is just something that takes a lot of trial and error to learn. Attend one of our pruning classes to help learn the basics, and then just get out and do it.



Flowering Shrub Shape Up

To keep flowering shrubs looking their best you need to prune them. The best time to prune summer-flowering shrubs (potentilla, spiraea, weigela, roses) is in winter or early-spring, while they are still dormant. The best time to prune spring-flowering shrubs (lilac, forsythia, snowball, wisteria, quince, etc.) is after they finish blooming, in the early-summer.



Flowering shrubs that bloom on new wood can be pruned more severely than flowering shrubs that bloom on old wood. Forsythias, potentillas, spireas, privets, weigelas, and viburnums bloom on new wood and they are easy to train and prune. Lilacs, climbing roses, wisteria vines, and rhododendrons bloom on older wood, so you need to be a little conservative when you prune these types of plants.

You will increase flowering, and make shrubs more compact, by pruning them every year or two. If you want a plant to grow large, don't cut it back as much, and don't prune it as often as the other shrubs you are trying to keep small. To keep large

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plants bushy, let the plants grow a little taller each year, but don't let them grow uncontrollably fast. For example, Cistena plum bushes can be kept very bushy if half of last year's growth is removed each spring. The results will be more eye appealing than just letting the plant grow uncontrolled.

Pruning tip: try to keep the tops of your shrubs a little narrower than the bottoms. By keeping the bottom a little wider than the top, sunlight can reach all the leaves, and the plants will stay bushy at the bottom, instead of losing the bottom leaves. This is very critical when you are trying to maintain a hedge.

The easiest method of pruning many of the shorter flowering shrubs is to cut all the stems down to within a foot or two of the ground. You can cut the stems longer or shorter as needed, depending on the type of plant you are pruning and how tall you want it to be. Don't worry about where you make each individual cut, like you normally do when you prune trees. You may even want to remove some of the larger branches completely to the ground, leaving the smaller branches to grow back in their place. New growth will emerge all along these cut stems, the plants will quickly rejuvenate, and the plants will start blooming at their normal time. Some spiraeas, potentillas, dwarf privet, and even the dwarf barberries respond well to this type of pruning. They can grow 18" to 36" after being trimmed this severely.

Pruning Japanese Maples

This is a plant that does not require much pruning. Try to prune the younger growth, not the older branches. Pruning the older, larger branches will not stimulate new growth from those points. Your tree may start to look 'different'. Prune Japanese maples anytime from December to April. Light summer pruning can also be done from June to August. Try not to prune in September or October. Pruning in the late-fall may stimulate tender new growth that may be injured during the winter.



Plant Several Trees in One Hole

Today, families have less space for fruit trees, they have less time to take care of them, and they have less time to process or preserve large harvests than in the past. Accordingly, today's family orchards should be planned and managed differently. The main objective of planting several trees in one hole is to prolong the harvest of tree-ripe fruit in a small space. This means planting several varieties, of the same type of fruit, in one hole, which will ripen at different times. Having three or four trees, instead of one, means you can harvest fruit for ten to twelve weeks instead of only harvesting fruit for two or three weeks. For more information, we have a handout about 'Planting Several Trees In One Hole'.



Weed Preventers for the Garden

Besides cultivating the soil and pulling the weeds, there are easier ways to keep weeds out of gardens. Many chemical weed preventers are available that are safe to use in both the vegetable and flower gardens. **Treflan®** is one of the most common weed preventing chemicals because it can be used safely around vegetable plants and in flower gardens. Treflan only kills seeds as they germinate, so it will not harm young seedlings. Treflan will not control roots growing from perennial grasses or from plants that have already germinated. The best time to apply Treflan is after all your plants are planted and growing for at least a week. You can enjoy your



garden, without very many weeds, for the rest of the summer. **Treflan is also sold as Preen®.**

Casoron® is another popular weed preventing chemical. It is much stronger, and prevents more weeds, than most other common weed preventers. Casoron is great to use around shrubs, trees, and along fence lines. Casoron prevents weeds up to nine months. It is much safer to use in home gardens than the soil sterilizers because it will not kill existing plants, it only kills emerging plants. Casoron cannot be used in the vegetable or flower gardens, but it is labeled to control weeds in shrub areas and around trees. Casoron can also be used in the raspberry patch and in the rose garden. Stop by to learn more about these labor-saving, weed-preventing chemicals. We have a 'Weed Preventer' handout that explains many of the weed preventing chemicals.

Spring Gardening Class Schedule

1. Pruning Classes

Come learn the basics of pruning

Saturday - March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 9:00 am

2. Seed Starting Tips

Seed Starting For the Beginners

Saturday - March 18 & 25 at noon

3. Herb Growing Class

How to use Herbs once you have grown them

Saturday - April 1, 22 & 29

4. Organic Fertilizer & Which Mulch is Best?

Organic Gardening - does it make a difference?

Saturday - April 15 at 9am

5. Pot Gardening - the legal kind

You can grow tomatoes & peppers on your balcony

Saturday - April 22

6. Top 10 Gardening Questions & Tips

An open forum to ask your questions.

Saturday - April 8

7. Planting Etiquette

Help your shrubs and trees survive in your yard.

Saturday - April 8 & 15

8. Pond Care Class

Pond care isn't really that difficult

Saturday - April 8

9. Pond Plants Class

Wow, are there that many pond plants?

Saturday - April 29

Call for times of Classes. No registration required.

Repotting Your Houseplant Week

Bring in your Houseplants and we will help you repot them -

Limit 2 plants per household per day.

If You buy the pot, we buy the soil!

Bring your houseplants in anytime from

9am to 6pm April 1 through April 8

Houseplant Care

Now that winter is almost over, you should start fertilizing your houseplants more frequently. Fertilize most of your houseplants every two weeks in the spring, instead of once a month that you fertilized them during the winter. Use **Schultz All Purpose Fertilizer** or one of the other spe-



J&L's Coupon of the Month

One
Knee Cushion



for only
25¢

Choose From Several Colors.

Selection limited to supply in stock. Coupon expires April 15, 2006 or while supply lasts. Limit 1 coupon per household.

Buy More
Knee Cushions

for only
99¢ each with coupon

Limit 5 per customer - while supplies last
Regular \$3.98 each



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cialty fertilizers such as **African Violet Fertilizer**, **Cactus Fertilizer**, **Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer**, or **Orchid Fertilizer**. Each type of houseplant needs its own special type of fertilizer and care. Take time to learn about your houseplant's special needs.



Insects are another problem you need to watch for all the time. It is nice to have an indicator that alerts you to a potential problem rather than waiting until a major outbreak occurs. Put a few **Yellow Sticky Traps** near your houseplants. The yellow color attracts many insects and they get stuck on the glue. If you start seeing a large number of insects on the traps, you know it is time to inspect your plants for possible problems. We use traps in our houseplant department all the time, to help us prevent insect problems.

Pine Tree and Shrub Care

Now is the time to fertilize all your trees and shrubs, including pine trees and pine shrubs, before they start to grow this spring. Fertilize young trees and shrubs (one to five years old) with **Ross Evergreen Fertilizer Stakes**, use 2 to 5 stakes per tree. Fertilize older plants with **Dr. Earth #7 All-Purpose Fertilizer**.



Watch your trees to see if they are getting enough, or too much fertilizer. Your trees will tell you if they are getting the right amount of fertilizer by their rate of growth. If a tree is not getting enough fertilizer it will grow very slowly. Too much fertilizer will make a tree grow too fast. Too much fertilizer can be just as bad for the tree as not enough. Have you ever wondered why your dwarf mugho pines are not so dwarf? We didn't sell you the wrong plant, they just got too much fertilizer and they grew larger than they were supposed to. A rule of thumb is to fertilize pine trees and shrubs about half the amount you fertilize similar sized deciduous trees and shrubs.

Top Mulches

Top mulches have several important roles in the garden. They are even more important in 'low-water-use conditions'. Some of the most common **Top-Mulches** include Bark Chips, Shredded Bark, Black Forest Compost, Soil Pep, Coconut Fiber, Grass Clippings, Newspaper, Weed Cloth, and Plastic sheeting. The key benefits are:



1. Retains soil moisture by reducing the amount of evaporation from the soil surface.
2. Protects the plant roots from heat, cold, drought.
3. Keeps the soil cooler.
4. Prevents germination of unwanted weed seeds.
5. Helps prevent erosion from wind, rain, sprinklers.
6. Adds a decorative top cover to your garden.

Crop Rotation

Crop rotation is the practice of changing the type of crops growing in the same spot of your garden each year. Farmers use crop rotation extensively in the management of their fields. Without crop rotation farmers would suffer heavy losses in their harvest. Home gardeners have a much harder time trying to rotate crops because of the limited amount of space and the types of plants desired. However, it is always a good idea not to plant the same type of crop in the same soil year after year. Both insects and diseases multiply in the soil and can greatly affect the productivity of the plants.



When planning your crop rotation schedule remember that you must plant different types of plants in the soil. You cannot just plant a different variety of squash in the same soil each year, you must plant something different. Listed below is a partial listing of plant groups. Rotate your crops between these groups and do not plant any of the same group of plants in the same soil year after year.

- A: Peas
- B: Corn, Beans
- C: Carrot, Onion, Beet
- D: Tomato, Potato, Pepper, Eggplant
- E: Cabbage, Cauliflowers, Broccoli, Radish
- F: Melons, Cantaloupes, Cucumbers, Squash



Flowers have the same problems as vegetables and need to be rotated just the same. Do not plant petunias and geraniums in the same spot year after year or you will notice that the plants do not bloom as nicely, and the plants tend to die prematurely before the summer is over. Try something new and different each year, even if you *'only like petunias and geraniums'*.

For more information about this important subject, please refer to our handout **'Crop Rotation'**.

J&L Garden Center

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The Gardening Newsletter

Rhododendrons (and Azaleas)

It is hard to resist trying to grow Rhododendrons in Utah, after all, they are one of the most spectacular blooming shrubs available. Rhododendrons are known for their spectacular flower clusters and for their handsome foliage in the garden. An important factor in growing rhododendrons in Utah is to protect them from drying winds both during the summer and the winter. Plant rhododendrons in areas that have light shade. Areas with morning sun, such as on the east or north side of the house are excellent. The soil should be light, have plenty of organic matter, and should be **acidic**. Soil acidity should be within the range of 4.5 and 5.5. Most of the soils in Utah are alkaline (7.5 to 8). To help change the ph of the soil use plenty of **Acid Planting Mix** when you plant them. Use about 50% Acid Planting Mix and 50% garden soil when you plant them because this is the only time you can get mulch deep into the soil.

After the first year, apply aluminum sulphate or garden sulphur around each plant early in the spring, before the plants begin to grow. Fertilize them with **Rhododendron and Azalea Fertilizer** every two months from March until August. Do not fertilize them after August 15. Rhododendrons also benefit from another application of sulphur during the summer. In severe situations, apply **Mastery Nursery Iron Plus** during the spring or summer to help them stay green.

For more information about growing Rhododendrons in Utah, please refer to our handout about growing **Rhododendrons and Azaleas**'.



Give your Hydrangeas the "Blues"

If you want blue hydrangeas this year, instead of them turning pink or white, you must start feeding them **Aluminum Sulphate** (not Ammonium Sulphate) early in the spring. You need to create an acid soil condition for them to stay blue. This acid treatment will only help the blue ones stay blue, and help to turn the pink ones (the ones that should be blue) back to their correct color. The white hydrangeas will not turn blue.

If you want pink or red hydrangeas, you need to create an alkaline soil condition. Utah soils are generally alkaline but adding a little gypsum, magnesium, or lime (in very small quantities) may help enhance the pink and red colors.

You must change the soil conditions before any buds start to form, if you want to change its color for the current year's flowers.

J&L Handouts

Many of the articles in our newsletters suggest that you refer to a copy of a specific handout. Unfortunately, we are not able to go into a lot of detail in many of our newsletter articles so we end up writing a more detailed version of the article and making it into a handout. Our gardening newsletter is usually how we decide what new handouts we need to find.

We have all of these handouts available in our store to help you with your specific gardening questions. We also have all of our gardening handouts, as well as many of our previous newsletters, available on a CD. You can also download all of them from our website.



www.JLGardenCenter.com