



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

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## Summer Gardening

### How Much Should You Water?

This question is the most discussed topic in gardening circles today. It gets many different answers, and many of these answers are correct, even though they may seem very different. A gardening axiom states: **Ask ten gardeners the same question and you will probably get twelve different answers.**

Most gardening problems can be attributed to one single factor - **WATER - Too Much or Too Little?** How much is enough and when is it too much? That is the million dollar question.

Too much water is just as bad for plants as not enough. Plants that are watered often do not establish strong, healthy roots. When a problem comes along, the weak rooted plants are going to die before the strong rooted plants die. Plants that are always kept wet cannot absorb enough oxygen from the soil so the roots start to rot and die. The symptoms of over watering are very similar to those caused by the lack of water - **The plant wilts and dies.** The reason the plant wilts is that many of the roots have died and the remaining roots cannot absorb water from the soil fast enough to support the leaves and flowers. A simple test to check for 'over or under' water is to watch a wilted plant. If you water a wilted plant and it recovers within a short period of time the plant needed more water. If the wilted plant does not recover it is probably dying from too much water.

A simple gardening fact is: **More plants die from too much water than die from the lack of water.**

## Rose Care

Fertilize roses every six to eight weeks from mid-April through mid-August with **Systemic Rose and Flower Care.** This rose fertilizer helps stimulate new blossom development and helps kill unwanted insect pests. Do not fertilize roses after late-August.

Roses are thirsty plants. Although roses will survive with skimpy watering, they'll bloom their best when their roots are kept moist (not wet) during the growing season, especially during their blooming season. Water them once or twice a week during the hot weather but do not sprinkle them. If water gets on the blossoms, the flowers will fade and fall off prematurely. Watch for powdery mildew and black spot on



the new leaves and stems. Spray regularly with either **Ortho Funginex** or **Greenlight Rose Defense** if you see any signs of these two diseases. Spidermites are a major pest of roses this year. Spray them with **Isotox** every two weeks for two or three applications to control this pest.



## Summer Garden Care

Most gardeners realize that bark mulch is an excellent way to conserve water in the gardens. Bark also helps to prevent weeds, helps to cool the soil during the summer, and helps to keep the soil warm in the spring and fall. But what many gardeners do not realize is how much bark they need to cover their gardens. With a little math help, you can determine your needs and decide whether you need a bag or two, or a truck load or two.

<b>L</b> (ength) (feet)	<b>D</b> = Depth (inches) of Mulch or Soil
<b>W</b> (idth) (feet)	

**L x W x D = volume**

**\_\_\_\_\_ ft. x \_\_\_\_\_ ft. x ( \_\_\_\_\_ in. + 12 inches)**  
**= Cubic Feet ÷ 27 cubic feet = Cubic Yards**

Measure your garden area in feet and determine how much bark you want to add in inches. Plug the numbers into this formula to find out how much bark you need. One bag of bark is 3 cubic feet. One standard pickup truck can hold two or three cubic yards of bark.

## Summer Lawn Care

Fertilize your lawn every six to eight weeks during the spring, early-summer, and fall. Do not fertilize during July or early-August unless you absolutely have to. Your lawn should slow down during the heat of summer. Fertilizer stimulates growth, which is not good for the grass when it is hot. Fertilizer also makes the lawn require more water to keep it growing during the heat. Wait until Labor Day to fertilize your lawn this fall.



**Lawn Fertilizer Tip:** Do not fertilize your lawn at all this fall if the weather is extremely hot **and** if the water will be shut off early. The normal shutoff date for Weber Water is October 15 but the shutoff date may change depending on the

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water supply and the weather conditions this summer. If the water is shut off early, wait until it starts to snow, in October or November, before applying any fall fertilizer. Put your fall or winter fertilizer right on top of the snow this winter if you have to.

## Lawn Weeds

Crabgrass is the name used by everyone to describe almost every grassy weed in their lawn. Fortunately, true crabgrass dies each winter giving you a chance to kill its seed before the next summer. Crabgrass can be controlled without any weed killers if the lawn is well-fed, watered correctly, and is mowed at the proper height. For those of us who have a patch of crabgrass even though we did everything we were supposed to do, there is still one more option left. **Fertilome Crabgrass Killer** is a spray you can apply during July and August to kill any young crabgrass plants (and many other annual grass weeds in the lawn) that are just starting to grow. Don't wait too long, **Fertilome Crabgrass killer** will not work once the weed reaches a certain stage of growth. When the crabgrass starts to produce seeds it is usually too late to kill the plant and you will just have to pull it. You may have to spray two or three times to control crabgrass completely. Spray the edges of the lawn and other lawn areas where you have these unwanted grasses.



Do not spray the entire lawn with any of the **broadleaf weed killers** (Weedit II, Weed B Gon, Weed-out, etc) during the heat of summer. Wait until the temperature will stay below 85 degrees for 24 hours before spraying with these types of chemicals. Broadleaf weed killers volatilize (evaporate) when the temperature is too warm and will then drift on to other plants and either damage them or kill them. If you are very careful you can *spot-treat* certain areas of the lawn, but do it during the cool part of the day.



Fall is the best time to kill clover, oxalis, morning glory, and many other broadleaf weeds. Until the temperature starts to cool down this fall, pull all the weeds you can and spot treat small areas - during the cool part of the day. Oxalis is probably the hardest of these weeds to kill because its goes dormant early in the fall. Watch the weather closely and start treating broadleaf weeds as soon as the temperature will stay below 85 degrees for 24 hours. Wait until after a light frost to control clover and morning glory this fall.

## Lawn Grubs

The larvae of different types of beetles and moths live in the lawn's root system and chew on the roots. During hot weather the lawn cannot keep up with the damage these insects cause and the grass dies. There are several different methods of control.



1. Apply an insecticide such as **Diazinon Granules, Intercept Granules, Dylox Granules, or Eight Granules**. Most grub damage occurs during July and

August so the lawn should be treated during this time. Sod webworms, the larger caterpillars, are usually active in May or September. Sod webworms are easier to find and are sometimes easier to control because the lawn is not under as much stress that time of year.

2. Mow the grass high; at least 2.5 to 3 inches tall. Beetles prefer to lay their eggs in short grass, so they might migrate to your neighbor's lawn.

3. Water deeply but infrequently. Beetle eggs need moisture to hatch. They will dry out and die if they do not get enough water while they hatch.

4. Stab the grubs with aerating sandals. You can buy strap-on plastic sandals with 1.5 inch spikes that will aerate your lawn and impale grubs as you walk over your lawn. Use this method in late-spring and summer, when the insects are near the surface.

Right now the billbug larvae are our major pest. These larvae will turn into a little black beetle when they are mature. They love the heat and usually hatch next to a sidewalk or driveway but they can cause damage throughout the lawn. Unfortunately by the time you see their signs the damage has been done. After treating the lawn with an insecticide your lawn will continue to look worse for a while. Your lawn will not start looking good again until the weather begins to cool and you can apply a good fall fertilizer. You may have to reseed or lay new sod in the damaged areas if you want your lawn to recover quickly.



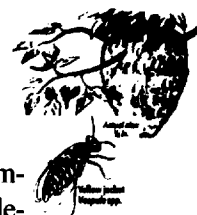
## Diagnosing Plant Problems

One of the biggest problems in trying to keep trees and plants alive is trying to diagnose what is actually wrong with them. Many different problems may produce similar symptoms but the corrective solution for each problem may be quite different. Once the problem is known, the solution is usually easy to apply. In order to effectively diagnose tree and shrub problems, several questions should be asked and a little investigation should be performed. Stop by for a free **Diagnosing Plant Problems** handout that may give you some tips about solving your plant's problems.



## Insect Stings and Bites

If you have ever disturbed a hornet's nest or stumbled onto a beehive, you may already know how important it is to learn what to do for an insect sting. The most common stinging insects are honeybees, bumblebees, hornets, wasps, and yellow jackets. If you are stung, you will feel pain and see swelling and redness around the site of the sting. The area may also itch and burn. These symptoms can last from 48 to 72 hours.



Yellow jackets, and other wasps, don't just sting, they also bite! Yellow jackets feed on meats, sugars, fruits, and most everything you take outdoors for a summer picnic.

**Life Cycle** - The fertilized queen first appears in spring. By the end of summer, a nest may contain a queen and more than 200 yellow jackets. Yellow jackets are not very aggres-

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sive during the spring and early-summer. However, late-summer and fall they need extra protein and they become very aggressive. The insects are most aggressive in the fall, when an accidental encounter could bring on dozens of stings or bites. They will seek out and bite animals, insects, and humans, trying to get protein from meat. During this time you need to be extra careful when you encounter them.

**Control:** Yellow jackets make paper-like nests, both above ground and in the soil. If you know where the nest is located you can spray the nest with **Stinger Hornet & Wasp Spray**. This insecticide kills all bees on contact; they will drop from mid-flight if you have a good aim. **Be careful;** if you arouse the nest you better run because they can be mean! The safest time to spray the nest is at dusk or a little after dark when the wasps are less active; you are *less likely* to be stung.



Another control is to use a wasp and hornet trap. Hang the trap in a tree or next to a house that is being infested by these pests. The trap usually contains a hormone that attracts the hornets, but, hornets are also attracted to fried chicken, peaches, and most any food with a sweet smell. The hornets climb into the trap and they cannot get out. Empty the trap as often as necessary. Do not hang the trap in a hot, sunny area. The attractant may become too strong and repel the hornet instead of attracting them.

## Summer Pruning

Petunias, marigolds, geraniums, and most flowers benefit from a light summer pruning. Don't be afraid to give your flowers a little haircut during the summer to make them more bushy and to stimulate more flowers for the fall. After trimming your flowers be sure to give them a little extra fertilizer to make them flower again quickly. Fertilize them with **Fertilome Blooming and Rooting Fertilizer**. This fertilizer contains all the right ingredients to make most flowers bloom again very fast. This fertilizer also helps many "hard-to-bloom" flowers such as Martha Washington Geraniums, Gerbera Daisies, and hanging basket flowers, produce more blossoms.

Except for the heavy pruning of fruit trees and roses, you can also trim nearly all ornamental shrubs and trees anytime during the year. Hedges benefit from several light prunings during the summer. Any deciduous tree or shrub that needs shaping can be pruned lightly during the summer. You can prune entire branches on pine trees but do not just prune the tips of pine trees and most spruce trees during the summer.

## Summer Fertilizer

Don't give up fertilizing your vegetable and flower gardens during the heat of the summer. They need regular fertilization to grow and bloom properly. Fertilize every six to eight weeks with **J&L 16-16-8 Multipurpose Fertilizer**. This fertilizer provides a long lasting fertilizer. Stop fertilizing roses and perennial flowers mid-August.



If your flowers need a little extra boost, to make them bloom even a little better for a special occasion, fertilize them with **Fertilome Blooming and Rooting Plant Food**. Fertilize your flowers at least a week or two before that special occasion. This fertilizer is fast acting but needs to be re-applied frequently.

## Peach Tree Borer

Spray your peach trees for the peach tree borer about the Fourth of July. Spray all stone fruit trees (peach, nectarine, apricot, cherry, plum, almond, etc.) every three to four weeks through September. You only need to spray the lower trunk and soil to control this borer. Do not spray the leaves or fruit. Use either **Greenlight** or **Bonide** borer killing spray.

## Beat the Heat When You Take a Retreat

Going on vacation and don't trust the teenager next door to give your plants the attention they need? Here are some tips to help your green guys tough it out on their own:

**Plan ahead.** Don't plant sensitive plants that are going to need extra TLC when you won't be around to deliver. Try to be back home before that bumper tomato and zucchini crop comes in.

**Mulch garden beds** up to 3 inches thick to help conserve moisture and keep the soil cool. Pull mulch back a few inches from the base of your plants so you don't invite rot and disease.

**Wrap unglazed terra-cotta pots** in aluminum foil to keep moisture from evaporating through porous surfaces. Plastic containers do not need this attention.

**Create a tropical micro-climate** by placing bricks in your bathtub, filling the tub with water to just below the top of the bricks, and setting your indoor houseplants on the bricks.

**Relocate outdoor container plants** to a spot where they will receive afternoon shade and shelter from drying winds. Group your pots together in clusters to help increase humidity.

**Install soaker hoses** linked to a timer.

**Trim flowers and shrubs lightly** just before you leave. The plants will have few leaves to support while you are gone, and the plants will have some fresh new growth, and flowers, when you return home.

## Cucumbers

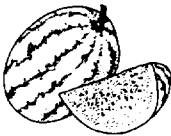
Cucumbers require consistent, not constant, watering. Cucumbers are usually trouble free, except for the occasional mildew problem. They tend to have a mildew problem in humid areas and in gardens that are sprinkled. If your plants have a mildew problem try to keep the leaves dry, especially at night. You can also spray with **Greenlight Powdery Mildew Spray** which is supposed to prevent and kill mildew, spider mites, and many other cucumber pests. The biggest complaint cucumber growers have is that the cucumber is bitter. The exact reason for the occasional bitter cucumber is

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not completely known but several factors can influence bitterness. **1. Inconsistent watering** (dryness). **2. Lack of adequate fertilizer**. **3. Heat stress**. **4. Over-ripe fruit**. **5. Variety**. The bitterness is found just under the skin. You can peel a bitter cucumber a little deeper and eat the rest of the fruit. Burpless, Straight Eight, Sweet Slice, and Sweet Success are excellent varieties and they are rarely bitter.

## Watermelons

It is very hard to tell when a watermelon is ripe. Check the fruit for bee stings. If the bees are starting to enjoy the watermelon it is probably ripe. Tap the watermelon with your knuckle. If it has a dull thud it is still immature. If it has a hollow sound it is probably ripe. (It may take some seasons of thumping before you can discern the perfect pitch.) Finally, check the underbelly of the melon. In seeded varieties, the underbelly will appear creamy-white when ripe; in seedless varieties, a golden-yellow color indicates ripeness. Check the tendril located at the point where the fruit is attached to the vine. If the tendril has turned brown and shriveled it is probably ripe.



## Tomatoes

**1. Water consistently but not constantly** — "Blossom-end Rot" is a common tomato problem that is usually caused by stress (keeping the plants too dry and/or too wet). Tomatoes prefer well-drained soil and deep irrigation. If the plant is under stress the plant cannot absorb calcium. The brown area is actually a sign of a calcium deficiency, not a disease.



If your tomatoes "always have blossom-end rot" or they "just won't grow" in your garden, mix 1/4 cup of Epsom Salts and a cup of Gypsum (for each plant) in the soil before you plant your tomatoes next spring. Gypsum contains calcium and epsoms salt contains magnesium. These two minerals may help your plants grow more vigorously and they may not get blossom-end rot as easily.



Peppers and squash can also suffer the effects of blossom-end rot so be sure to treat these vegetables just like tomatoes to prevent this problem.

**2.** Do not over-fertilize tomatoes during the summer. Tomatoes do not need much fertilizer after the first two or three months.

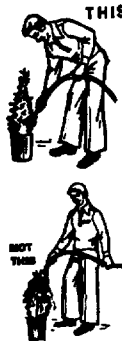
**3.** Tomatoes set fruit when night temperatures stay between 55 degrees and 75 degrees. Use **Tomato Set** if blossoms do not set fruit because of temperature problems.

**4.** Tomatoes do not like too much water, especially late in the season, as they start to ripen. Too much water will delay ripening. Let plants dry out a little when the tomatoes start to turn pink and mature.

## Summer Leaf Scorch

Many trees and shrubs may have leaves with brown tips or edges this summer. This browning is commonly called "sum-

mer leaf scorch". Leaf scorch is a problem this summer because many varieties of plants could not tolerate the extreme heat or the dry winds we had a few weeks ago. Other plants (especially newly planted shrubs) could not absorb water fast enough to supply moisture to the leaves during the heat. Leaf scorch doesn't usually kill plants (except for newly planted ones) it just makes them look terrible for a while. The damaged leaves will not recover and some plants may not produce any new leaves until next year, but the older plants should be fine.



Leaf scorch may affect one side of the tree and not affect the other side. Leaf scorch may also affect one plant but not bother another plant just two or three feet away. The best cure for leaf scorch is to soak your plants, with a slow trickle of water, every two or three weeks during the heat. You may need to soak them for several hours because the water needs to soak as deeply into the soil as possible. Don't drown your plants, just water them deeply once or twice a month during the summer and fall. Once the snow starts to fall *Mother Nature* usually takes care of them the rest of the winter.

## Spiders - Good or Bad?

Most spiders in your yard are beneficial. They trap and kill many insects that would otherwise love to cause problems for your flowers, shrubs and trees. Spiders make a natural insect trap and as long as they stay outside it is to your benefit to leave them alone. Spiders may actually kill more insects than you can kill by spraying.



However, once a spider decides to invade your home it becomes a nuisance pest. Most nuisance pests are very hard to control such as boxelder bugs, flies, ants, and millipedes. Spiders are no different; they are hard to control. The best control for these nuisance pests is persistence. Chemical insecticides will kill any insects that come in contact with the spray. However, there is usually not a very long residual effect to control these types of pests. If you can prevent these insects from entering your house the control is much simpler. Make sure your screens are in good condition. Caulk around doors and windows. Spray the outside foundation of your house, with a pesticide, regularly in the fall; spiders are there looking for warmth and protection from the weather.

Once spiders enter your house, control is a little harder. Regular applications of an insecticide inside your house may help to control some pests. An **Indoor Insect Fogger** is a fairly safe way to eliminate some unwanted pests inside your home. Vacuuming the unwanted pests is another safe way to eliminate them. Perhaps one of the best ways to control these nuisance spiders is to use spider traps.

Most spiders inside your home are not dangerous, they are a nuisance. Two spiders are dangerous. The Black Widow spider and the Aggressive House Spider (Hobo Spider) are two spiders that can cause serious injury. The **Hobo Spider**

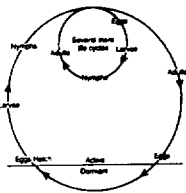
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**Elimination Kit** (a spider Trap) traps and kills all different kinds of spiders; not just the bad ones. This kit contains five pre-baited cards that attracts and kills all types of spiders. You can put spider traps in several different areas of your house to catch spiders; it is an excellent way to control the unwanted spiders in your house.



## "Mighty Spidermites"

Spidermites are a very troublesome pest to marigolds, roses, junipers, alberta spruce, etc. Spidermites are not an insect; they belong to the spider family so many insecticides do not control them. Spidermites are so tiny that they cannot be seen with the naked eye. The best way to test for spidermites is to place a white piece of paper under the leaves of the affected plant. Shake the plant vigorously and watch the dust that falls on the paper. If any of the dust particles start to move, your plants have spidermites.



Controlling spidermites is a major problem for most homeowners. Mite damage is costly and their control is difficult, time consuming, and expensive. Spidermites feed on plant tissue by piercing the surface with their sharp, forcep-like mouthparts. They suck the sap and destroy the chlorophyll. The damage first appears as stipples. As feeding continues the leaves turn silver or yellow. If left uncontrolled, dense webbing will appear and the plant will defoliate and die. Even light infestations may adversely affect the appearance of both the foliage and the blossoms.

Spidermites thrive in hot climates: they are flourishing this summer! The female can lay up to a hundred eggs in her 30 day life span. When the eggs hatch they pass through one larval and two nymphal stages before becoming adults. Under optimum breeding conditions, the life cycle can be completed in eight to twelve days. One female, in one month, through successive generations, can generate a population of millions. In cold weather, spidermites can survive under leaves and in other sheltered places without feeding. When warm conditions return, the female resumes reproduction.

The spidermite is a stubborn pest. It is difficult to detect, very adaptable, and is known to develop resistance to chemical controls quickly. Some pesticides that give adequate control are phytotoxic (may burn or kill some leaves) to some plants, which makes control even more difficult. Other products leave a residue that makes them unavailable for use on edible plants or makes flowers look less than ideal.

The most difficult part is that spidermites feed on the underside of leaves. Good control is difficult unless the spray comes in direct contact with the mites, on the underside of the leaf. A high pressure sprayer, (hose sprayer) is more likely to make the leaves move enough for the chemical to come in contact with the mite than an aerosol container, or a small trigger sprayer.

**A general recommendation is:**

**Isotox** is good for flowers, trees, shrubs. It cannot be

used on fruits or vegetables.

**Fertilome Ornamental and Evergreen Spray** provides fair spidermite control for flowers, trees, shrubs. This spray cannot be used on edible plants.

**Hi-Yield Cygon** - Cygon is labeled for use on some edible plants and provides limited control of spidermites.

**Kelthane** is good for flowers, trees, and shrubs. It can be used on some edible plants such as beans and strawberries. It is not registered for squash or cucumbers.

**Neem Oil** is good for flowers, trees, shrubs. It can be used on all edible plants. This is an oil and may cause some burning on leaves in hot weather.



## Dividing Perennials

One of the joys of a perennial garden is watching the plants grow and fill the spaces allotted to them. However, perennial flowers can outgrow their assigned areas quickly unless they are moved and divided periodically. Most perennial flowers do not know when to stop growing; you need to make that determination for them.



Dividing perennial flowers is not a bad thing for the plant. In fact, many plants are invigorated by dividing them regularly. Don't be afraid of breaking roots or plants as you divide them. This is a necessary evil when dealing with strongly rooted plants. Don't be afraid of throwing away extra or unwanted plants, or giving extra plants to neighbors. The hardy perennial flowers will take over and dominate the weaker varieties, if you don't do some refereeing.

Divide spring and summer blooming perennials in the fall, as soon as the temperatures begin to moderate. Divide fall blooming perennials either in the spring or after they finish blooming in the fall, if there is still several weeks of good weather before the ground freezes hard. Divide perennials as often as the plant overtakes its assigned area. You may need to divide your Shasta Daisy or Coreopsis every two or three years. Phlox, Astilbe, and Daylilies may only need to be divided every 5 to 6 years. Peonies only need to be divided every 10 to 15 years.

## Better Late Than Early

Trees and shrubs cling to the growing season even more tenaciously than we do. As we pack up our tools and move indoors, these plants continue growing longer than we think. Granted, they're downshifting and slowing down. As photosynthesis slows because of the reduced light and heat, leaf (and needle) pores contract, and less water vapor escapes into the air. But even when above-ground activity seems to have halted, there's still underground root activity. As the ground gradually cools, roots keep absorbing moisture until the soil temperature reaches 40 degrees. Because the release of water through the top growth has slowed, there's a good supply of moisture still in the system. That makes fall an ideal time for planting conifers, trees, and shrubs, since there is little danger of

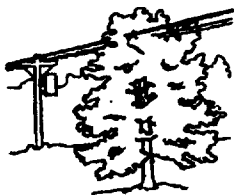


transplanting's major cause of failure: dehydration.

You can safely plant trees and shrubs up to four to six weeks before the ground freezes. Prepare the planting hole just as you would in the spring or summer. After planting and watering your plant (be sure to fertilize your plant with root starter even when planting in the fall), apply a mulch on top of the rootball; to prevent the soil from cooling too fast, allowing the roots extra time to get established before the ground freezes solid.

## Avoid Tree And Utility Conflicts

Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Many factors should be considered prior to planting. When planning what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and look down to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines.



Often, we take our utility services for granted because they have become a part of our daily lives. These services arrive at our homes through overhead or underground lines. Overhead lines can be either electric, telephone, or cable television. Underground lines include these three plus water, sewer, and natural gas. The location of these lines should have a direct impact on your tree and planting site selection. The ultimate mature height of a tree to be planted must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree. Proper tree and site selection will provide trouble-free beauty and pleasure for years to come.

Before you plant, make sure that you are aware of the location of any underground utilities. To be certain that you do not accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call the *Blue Stake* service first. Never assume that these utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig. In some cases, utility lines are very close to the surface.

## Butterfly Bush *Buddleia* spp.

*Grows 3' to 15' tall and 3' to 15' wide, depending on the variety. Likes full sun. Needs well-drained soil. No serious insect pests or diseases. Cold hardy to 0 degrees. Heat tolerant above 100 degrees.*

Have you ever wondered how some plants get their names? You may have to dig around for some bit of folklore, or look up words from an ancient language. But that's not the case with butterfly bush. Spend a few minutes on a summer day near one and you'll know exactly how it got its name.



Beginning mid-summer and continuing until fall, butterfly bush's sweetly fragrant flowers bloom on long arching stems. Each flower cluster is made of tiny blooms in shades of white, pink, blue, red, lavender, purple and even yellow.

Butterfly bush is mainly known for its colorful flowers. In fact, the foliage is usually pretty bland or neutral. It has soft, gray-green leaves that blends with the foliage of the surrounding plants. The Harlequin variety has a white leaf margin, making it a little more interesting even when it is not in bloom.

The plant has a rather loose growing habit; the branches tend to sway in the breeze. The movement won't stop the butterflies from visiting. As the blooms bob and wave in the breeze, the butterflies hang on tightly and usually enjoy the ride.

A butterfly bush needs plenty of sun - shade will make the plant grow sparse and open, sometimes without any flowers at all. A butterfly bush loves the heat and needs a well drained soil. Too much water will stimulate the plant to grow too large, at the expense of flowers.

Butterfly bushes are supposed to be loose and open. Do not try to train them into a hedge or a formal shrub. The best way to prune butterfly bush is to trim them severely early to mid-spring. Cut them off to about 2' for tall varieties and 1' for dwarf varieties. You can prune them taller if you want the plants to be large. Let them grow naturally the rest of the summer and fall, only pruning them lightly to correct major defects. After frost, trim them just enough to prevent snow breakage and then wait until spring to prune them again.

Deadhead your butterfly bush as the flowers fade so the small side branches will form larger flower heads.

Very few harmful pests bother the butterfly bush, however, many beneficial insects do frequent them. Spidermites are the one pest that can create a problem. Try to prevent spidermites by washing off the leaves on a regular basis. Insecticidal soap, applied in the evening, is the least toxic insecticide to butterflies that may provide some control for spidermites.

If you want butterflies to visit your plant regularly do not spray insecticides on your plant. You must learn to ignore a few holes in leaves, and a few caterpillars in the garden. These are the larvae of butterflies and you may see a few more of these insects in your yard than you have in the past. They are not bad insects: they don't kill plants, but they must eat and they will eat the leaves of flowers and shrubs.

## Heavenly Bamboo *Nandina* spp.



*Grows 1' to 8' tall and 1' to 5' wide, depending on variety. Likes full sun but will tolerate some shade. It prefers well-drained soil, but tolerates moist soil as long as the soil does not stay wet. Cold hardy to about 10 degrees. Tolerates temperatures above 100 degrees.*

If you are looking for something unusual for the yard you may consider planting a Heavenly Bamboo. Fortunately this is not a true bamboo, so it is not going to take over the entire garden area.

Heavenly bamboo gets its name because the leaves and stems resemble bamboo. It has small, narrow leaves that hold well into the winter. It is considered a semi-deciduous plant which means it will keep its leaves during a mild winter and drop them during a severe winter. The leaves turn red to reddish-purple during the fall. If the weather is just right the red color will last throughout the winter, maintaining a nice color in the yard.

This is a nice plant to substitute for the common burning bush (*Euonymus alatus compacta*). It is more heat resistant than the burning bush and it does not have the insect or disease

# J&L's Coupon of the Month

**Free**  
One  
Pansy Plant  
in a 4" pot

**Your Choice of Color**



**Bonus Buy**  
Buy More  
Pansy Plants  
in 4" pots for only

**\$ .99 each**

regularly \$1.49 each

*Coupon Expires September 30, 2002 Limited to supply in stock.*

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problems that burning bush have. Heavenly bamboo is not as hardy in the cold winter which means it will sometimes die in the very cold winter weather, especially the more dwarf varieties. But, it is well worth the time to plant one of these bushes in a nice, hot, sunny spot - right in the front yard!

## **Crape Myrtle** *Lagerstroemia spp*

*Grows 2' to 5' tall and 2' to 5' wide.*

*Likes hot, sunny locations with good drainage. Cold hardy to about 15 degrees and tolerates temperatures over 100 degrees. Great flowering plant for a hot area. Blooms from July to October.*



Crape myrtle is not supposed to grow in Utah, but, you see them popping up in various locations along the Wasatch front. They are part of large hotel gardens, they can be found in the gardens on Temple Square, and, they are often found in gardens of many people who want to try something different.

Crape myrtle plants grow well in the hot climates of St. George and Nevada. They start blooming in the spring and bloom till frost. In our climate they don't start blooming until mid to late-summer, but they do bloom until frost. Crape myrtle plants are often grown as large shrubs or small trees in the hot climates. In our climate they usually do not get taller than five feet.

Plant your crape myrtle in a very hot location in the yard, one that will not get a lot of water early in the spring and summer. Since crape myrtle are only hardy to about 15 degrees and our winter temperature frequently drops below that mark, it is not uncommon for the tops of the branches to die right to the ground each winter. Don't be too eager to pull out and replace the plants because the roots do not always get

that cold, especially if you will cover the plants with six inches of bark during November - after the ground has frozen but before the temperature gets extremely cold.

Prune off all the dead branches in the spring: scrape the bark with a fingernail to make sure they are dead. If the stem just under the bark is green when you scratch it, the branch is still alive. If the stem is yellow or brown, the branch is dead. I have to cut all the stems right to the ground every spring because my plants die to the soil line. Some plants that are a little more protected may only have to be pruned down to a foot.

Crape myrtle does not start to grow until the soil starts to get hot. My plants often look dead until June but then a little stem starts to emerge from the soil and by July the plants are two feet tall and covered with small lavender-pink balls. The flowers are colorful all summer and they add something *different* to an otherwise common garden.

## **Plant Pansies Now**

Pansies are wonderful plants. They love the cool weather and will grow and bloom all fall, winter, and spring. Pansies can add color to a fall and winter garden that would otherwise be bare. Unfortunately the pansies you planted last fall and this spring are probably turning yellow and brown because of the summer heat and because of the spidermites that are just loving your pansies. The best control for both heat and insects in pansies this time of year is to pull them out and plant new ones. It is much cheaper, and it is easier on your garden.



The best time to plant pansies is in the fall: September through October. The second best time to plant pansies is in March or April. Plant pansies so they have four weeks to grow before the ground freezes hard. Water them often and

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# The Gardening Newsletter

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fertilize them regularly with **Miracle Gro** to help them grow as large as possible this fall. By planting pansies in the fall you can have colorful gardens when your tulips begin to bloom in March. The gardens will still be colorful when you plant your petunias and marigolds in May. Pansies do not like the heat so you may have to remove them next July or August, then plant a few more pansies next September.

## Potentilla and Spiraea

Potentilla and spiraea shrubs can look leggy and a little rough if not pruned properly. To keep these shrubs looking their best prune them lightly once or twice a summer. It is also good to prune them heavily once in a while in the winter or early-spring, while the plants are dormant. By pruning, you'll increase the flower production and you will make the plants more compact.

The easiest pruning method for me is to cut the plant back the same way you would a perennial. Cut all of the stems down to within a foot of the ground. Don't worry about where you make each cut. New growth will start all along the stems and the plants will quickly rejuvenate and start blooming by early summer. Pruning it in this manner will keep your plants small. If you want a large plant, just don't cut it back as far. Or, you can do a hard pruning every other year, allowing the plant to grow taller the second year after cutting.



## Be Careful

When an insect pest or fungal disease strikes a plant, beginning gardeners may grab any pesticide from the shelf and start spraying indiscriminately. More experienced gardeners know that a product must be selected to address a specific problem and used wisely.



Good gardeners never forget that pesticides designed to kill insects can be dangerous for people as well. That's why it's **SO** important to select garden chemicals carefully, apply them sparingly, and always read and follow all instructions to the letter.

Besides gardening in the fall, it is time to enjoy the fruits of your labors. Many insects are also enjoying your fruits and vegetables. Be careful when you spray your plants with insecticides. Make sure that you use the correct sprays and that you wait the proper length of time after spraying before you harvest. Chemical insecticides are safe to use if you apply them correctly and follow the warnings on the label. Each bottle will tell you how long you must wait after applying it until you may safely eat the food.



## Diazinon Update

**The latest information we have about Diazinon is:**

1. Manufacturers cannot produce **Diazinon** after May 31, 2003.
2. Wholesalers cannot sell **Diazinon** after August 31, 2003.
3. Retailers cannot sell **Diazinon** after December 31, 2004.

It looks like we will be able to stock and sell **Diazinon** for another year or two, or until the supply runs out.