



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

vol 15 issue 2

May - June 2002

## Summer Gardening

I was driving to work early during the big snowstorm (April 16). Snow had covered most lawns, trees were sagging because of the weight of snow, tulip flowers were laying on the ground because of the snow, but what do you know - the sprinkler system in one yard was turned on!



I am sure this family was not watering on purpose; they probably had no idea their sprinklers were even on. However, we should all be aware of our water needs, we should make sure our sprinklers are working correctly, adjust our sprinkler timers as needed - at least twice a month, and above all just be aware of how we use water in our yards.

**How much should you water?** The answer isn't as simple as you think. This question is going to be the most asked question of the year. A lawn requires one type of watering schedule, annual flowers and vegetables require another watering schedule, perennial flowers need a different schedule, shrubs another, trees another, container gardens another, and so on. We will try to address many of these questions in this issue of our newsletter.

One point to remember is that most plants that die in a landscape die from too much water, not from the lack of it.

## Coconut Fiber

Coconut Fiber is just what its name implies, shredded coconut husks. The coconut plantations have found a solution to their biggest problem, how to get rid of the unwanted coconut shells. They grind the shells into fibers, compress them into bales, and then package them for a variety of uses including soil conditioners. Coconut fibers have a unique ability to absorb a large amount of water quickly and then slowly release the water over a long period of time. Coconut fiber is quite fibrous and takes several years to decompose; maintaining a spongy texture during this time.



Coconut fiber has many uses in the garden. It can be used in hanging baskets and in containers on the patio. It can be mixed into the garden soil to help loosen clay soil and to help maintain water in sandy soil. Coconut fiber can be used for almost any planting situation in the yard.

Coconut fiber is a little more expensive than peat moss but it lasts much longer in the soil, making it an excellent

substitute for peatmoss. Coconut fiber is one way to help maintain a consistent moisture level in your soils.

## Soil Moist®

Suppose you could plant tiny sponges in the soil to absorb water and then release it slowly as your plants need it. Sound Impossible? **Soil Moist®** crystals are a mineral that looks like salt crystals when they are dry. When they absorb water they act like a sponge, and look like pieces of gelatin. They slowly release their water as the soil around them dries out. **Soil Moist** is an excellent way to help keep containers moist. **Soil Moist** can also help to retain water in flower and vegetable gardens, and, if you are ambitious, you can aerate your lawn and put a few **Soil Moist** crystals down each of the holes to help keep your lawn moist; don't just broadcast the crystals on the top of your grass or you will be sorry. Your lawn will have a slippery gelatin covering that will not be pleasant to walk through.



Since **Soil Moist** crystals are a mineral they do not break down very quickly and will remain useful for several years. (These same types of crystals are used in diapers to absorb water quickly.)

## Excessive Water

Wilting leaves are not always the sign of the lack of water. The lack of healthy hair (feeder) roots (sometimes caused by root rot - too much water) also hinders the plant's ability to absorb water. A simple test to determine the cause of the problem is to completely soak a wilting plant. If the plant recovers fairly quickly and the leaves regain their normal appearance, it is very likely that the plant was dry. However, if the plant remains wilted, or if it takes a long time to recover, it is very likely that the plant is suffering the effects of too much water.

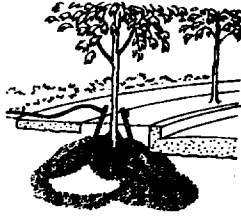


The biggest problem with root rot is that by the time you know you have a problem it is sometimes too late to save the plant. The best hope for the affected plant is to cut back on the water as much as the plant can tolerate. Do not just cut back on water completely, remember the plant does not have as many hair roots as it should. Stimulate the plant to start growing roots a little faster by fertilizing the plant with a liquid root starter fertilizer. Mix **Root Starter** 1/4 strength

with the water each time you water. Also, you can spray the root starter fertilizer on the plant's leaves once or twice a month until the plant either dies or it starts to recover.

## Drought Resistance

The drought resistance in plants is the capacity of each plant to withstand periods of dryness. Plants achieve this in a number of ways: (1) improving their water uptake from the soil, (2) reducing their loss of water, and (3) increasing their ability to store water.



Water from the soil enters the plant through the tiny root hairs at the end of the roots. Some drought-resistant plants have extensive root systems with a large active surface area. Some plants are capable of rapid growth into the deeper subsoil strata where moisture may be available. The seedlings of some trees and shrubs, adapted to drier areas, may have tap roots many times longer than the plant itself, which enables them to obtain the necessary subsoil moisture. Some native grasses are very deep rooted while others have shallow, fibrous roots systems, which simply act as a sponge, immediately absorbing any rainfall which might fall on the soil surface.

Some drought resistant plants are able to reduce their water loss by closing their stomates, the cells in leaves that open and close to allow air exchange. Some plants have small leaves or have thick leaves, which also reduces water loss. Many of the drought resistant plants have a blue-gray or a gray leaf color, which also plays a major role in conserving water.

Cactus and other succulents have the ability to absorb water and store it until the plant needs to use it.

A few common drought resistant plants are:

Scrub Oak	Chokecherry	Golden Rain Tree
Amur Maple	Junipers	Pine & Spruce
Honeylocust	Ginkgo	Sycamore
Sumac	Potentilla	Wild Roses
Lilacs	Serviceberry	Rabbit Brush
Silvermound	Sedum	Snow In Summer
Yarrow	Blanket Flower	Blackeyed Susan
Penstemons	Yucca	Sagebrush
Ornamental Grasses	Daffodils	Honeysuckle vine

## Tips For a Water Wise Garden

Water is a critical part of home gardening. As water becomes scarce we need to be more aware of conservation. The key is using water efficiently not extravagantly.



- 1. Water infrequently but water deeply and thoroughly.** This will encourage deep rooting and greater root tolerance in dry spells. Don't water every day.
- 2. Mulch the soil surface** to cut down on water loss due to evaporation. We recommend a one or two inch layer of **Fine Bark** or **Soil Pep**. Leaf clippings or newspaper will also work. Apply mulch around shrubs, trees, flowers, vegetable gardens and even in containers.
- 3. Water early in the day or late in the evening,** espe-

cially during the hot summer days, to reduce evaporation loss.

**4. Aerate your lawns** to insure maximum water penetration. You can also spread **Peatmoss, Coconut Fiber** or **Soil Moist** over your lawn after aerating it. Make sure these products go into the holes to help the soil retain water longer.

**5. Don't be a gutter flooder.** Turn off lawn sprinklers before water is wasted. Water two times a day if needed, but don't water every day.

**6. Properly condition your soil.** Water does not easily penetrate clay soil and water passes too quickly through sandy soil.

**7. Raise the height of your lawn mower.** Keep your lawn two to three inches long during the summer. Longer blades of grass can help the lawn go one or two days longer between waterings.

**8. Discourage water competition from weeds.** Keep them pulled.

**9. Group plants together** having similar water requirements. More plants die from drowning than die from lack of water.

**10. Use bath water** in your gardens. Soft water is not desirable for flowers and vegetables but won't hurt older trees, shrubs, and lawns occasionally, especially if there is no other water available.

**11. Fertilize well in the spring and fall,** but don't fertilize much during the summer.

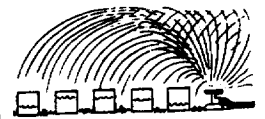
**12. Plant shrubs and trees early** in the spring, or late in the fall. Trees will withstand drought better once they are rooted thoroughly.

**13. Use water holding and water penetrating additives.** Mulches are excellent to use because organic material holds water. **Water In**, or liquid dish soap, helps water soak into the soil faster. **Soil Moist** keeps water from draining away too quickly. You can also use **Soil Moist** in containers and when you are planting new shrubs and trees.

**14. Hand Water dry areas.** Don't water the entire lawn if it doesn't need it.

**15. Do not over water older trees.** Many trees (apples, maples, pines, willows, sycamores, etc) do not need much water until mid-summer. Water them deeply once a month from mid-summer until snow fall. Pine trees and junipers don't need as much water as fruit trees and other shrubs. Water plants differently, as needed.

**16. Measure how much water you apply.** Place cans in several different locations throughout your lawn. Measure how much water is applied to each area. You may be surprised at the difference in the amount of water between areas!



Being "**Water Wise**" not only conserves water but actually helps you achieve a healthier garden. Your plants will appreciate you more!

## Summer Lawn Care

Fertilize your lawn every six to eight weeks during the spring, summer, and fall. Try not to fertilize during July. Your lawn should grow slower during the heat of summer. Fertilizer stimulates growth, which is not good for the grass when it is really hot. Too much fertilizer also makes the lawn require extra water to keep it growing.

Don't forget to control the dandelions, clover, and oxalis

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before the heat of summer arrives. Spray them with **Morgro Weedit II**. You may need to spray some weeds again in 2 weeks to completely kill them. Be sure to mix a spreader-sticker with your weed spray. Many leaves repel water. If the weed killer doesn't stick to the leaf long enough to be absorbed, the chemical will not kill the weed. Oxalis and violets are probably the hardest weeds to kill in the lawn - be persistent.



Be careful, broadleaf weed killers can also kill petunias, roses, grape vines, and many other trees and shrubs in your yard, or in your neighbor's yard. Spray on a calm day, and when the temperature will stay below 85 degrees. Weed killers volatilize (evaporate) when the temperature is too warm and will then drift on to other plants and kill them.

### Mowing Tips:

**Mow your lawn when it is dry; not wet.** Wet grass tends to plug up your lawn mower. Besides the extra mess, mowing while the lawn is wet can create a compaction problem. Wet thatch and soil is easily compacted by your weight and by the weight of the lawn mower.

**Mow in the cool part of the day.** Besides helping to keep you cool, your lawn will recover quicker after being mowed if the soil is cool.

**Mow regularly.** Don't wait until your lawn looks like an alfalfa field to mow it. Letting the lawn grow to an excessive height and then removing most of the plant creates excessive stress within the plant and root system.

**Mow grass at a longer height** in the heat of summer. Mow your lawn about 1.5" during the spring and fall. Mow your lawn to about 2" or even 2.5" long during the heat of summer. Long grass provides extra shade for the roots system and it helps prevent as much water from evaporating.

**Keep your mower sharp.** A dull blade tends to whip the grass rather than cutting it. A dull brown tinge will appear a few days after mowing if the blade was not sharp.

### Watering Tips

**Water during the cool part of the day;** either morning or evening. The lawn cannot use as much water efficiently during the hot weather, and, water evaporates much quicker during the heat of day. Do not water between 8 am and 6 pm because of the city water restrictions: you might get a ticket!

**Water infrequently.** Do not water every day, even during the heat of summer. Change how often you water as the temperature changes. You may only need to water once a week in April. You may need to water twice a week in May. You may need to water three times a week in June and July. You may only need to water twice a week in August and September. You may only need to water once a week in October. Watch the weather and change accordingly.

**Water deeply.** Grass roots do not seek for water, they will just grow in the areas that already have water available. Water long enough so water can penetrate 4" or 5" deep into the soil. If the water is just running off the lawn and down the gutter, or into your neighbor's yard, the extra watering time is

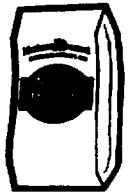
not benefiting your lawn. You may need to aerate more frequently or water your lawn differently. Try watering half as long but two times on the day you normally water (do not water every day). Once the water starts to run off instead of penetrating into the soil, stop watering immediately. Water for the rest of the needed time two or three hours later, so the water will be absorbed.

### Thatch Problems?

Thatch is the organic layer between the soil line and the green blades of grass. Thatch naturally occurs in your lawn due to dead grass and from grass clippings. A small layer of thatch is beneficial. An extreme thatch buildup is detrimental and can cause several different problems including a breeding ground for insects and an excellent harbor for lawn diseases. Too much thatch can also repel water and stop your lawn from growing normally. Measure the layer of thatch in your lawn. If the layer is less than 1/4" thick your lawn is healthy. If the layer is 1/4" to 1/2" thick you need to watch your lawn closely. If the thatch layer is more than 1/2" thick you need to remove some of the thatch.

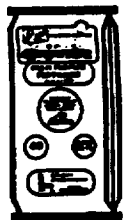


Traditionally, power raking the lawn has been the way to remove excess thatch. However, the **Natural Guard Company** has packaged an organic product called **Lawn & Garden Soil Activator** that helps remove thatch naturally. This product contains humic acid. Humic acid not only helps remove excessive thatch naturally but it also provides many microorganisms that helps the lawn to grow better and helps to improve the soil structure. Humic acid is an important part of the soil structure that you can apply any time of the year; spring, summer, or fall. This product can also be used in flower and vegetable gardens to help improve the health of the soil. Please stop by and ask for a copy of the fact sheet about this product.



### Summer Fertilizer

Don't give up fertilizing your vegetable and flower gardens during the heat of the summer. They need fertilizer regularly 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.



If your flowers need a little extra boost to make them bloom even a little better for a special occasion, spray them with **Fertilome Blooming & Rooting Fertilizer**. Spray your flowers at least a week in advance of the special occasion. This fertilizer is fast acting but needs to be re-applied frequently, so, don't rely exclusively on it to fertilize your gardens. Use a combination of both **16-16-8 Fertilizer** and **Fertilome Blooming & Rooting Fertilizer** for best results.



## Sucker-Stopper

Sucker-Stopper is hormone made from the plant growth regulator NAA (naphthalene-acetate). This product is widely used in commercial agriculture to prevent suckers and as a thinning agent on fruit trees.



Sucker-Stopper is used to prevent suckers and water sprouts on apples, pears, willows, maples, non-bearing citrus and woody ornamental plants. Unfortunately quaking aspen is not specifically listed on the label but the label does indicate it is effective on many woody ornamental trees and shrubs. It is worth a try if aspen suckers are a major problem in certain areas of the yard; just don't plan on this product stopping all your aspen suckers!

Many trees produce suckers every spring. Even though you cut them back, the suckers will continue to grow all summer long, which can be very annoying. Also, after pruning, many trees will send out suckers around the pruning wound. These are very hard to keep under control. One application of **Sucker-Stopper** after pruning will help prevent this. Thoroughly cover the primary wound, or where the existing sprouts have been removed. Be sure to treat before new suckers are 10 inches in length. The earlier you treat, the better. Control should last about 3 months.

## Be Careful

Be Careful, all insecticides (chemical or organic) are poisons and many organic insecticides will kill animals and people just as quickly as the other older types of chemicals. Be sure to wear gloves, use proper eye protection, and wear a mask or respirator when needed. Don't just use a dust mask as a respirator. The paper dust mask will absorb chemicals and you will still breathe them, sometimes at even a stronger concentration than without a mask.



A Utah company has developed a disposable dust mask, **Air-Aid Emergency Mask®**, that helps remove many unwanted odors, fumes, and disease organisms. This mask is not a replacement for a respirator but it is better than not wearing any mask at all. It is a charcoal coated filter that filters cleaning fumes, smoke, chemicals, and many communicable diseases.

## Chemical Updates

**Diazinon** has been the most common insecticide for most insects in fruit trees but it will not be available next year. Many synthetic chemicals are now available to start replacing the older types of chemicals. The **Bonide Company** has two products for use on fruit trees **Eight Insect Spray** contains permethrin, an organic insecticide. **Eight Insect Control** is labeled for use on both Fruit Trees and Vegetables, along with many other ornamental trees and shrubs. This product kills insects quickly and may last up to four weeks for certain types of insects, it has even provided excellent control of boxelder bugs.



**Eight Insect Control** is also available in a granular form for use on lawn insects.

The other spray is **Bonide Fruit Tree Spray**. This spray contains the traditional fruit tree sprays that have been used for years; Sevin, Malathion and Captan. This spray effectively kills insects and prevents diseases at the same time. The Bonide Company also bottles this same spray as **Bonide Rose RX**. This is a good combination that helps prevent powdery mildew and kills many insects that feed on roses and flowers.

**Neem Oil** is another option for an organic way to control many insects and diseases. The **Greenlight Company** packages this product as **Rose Defense and Fruit and Vegetable Insect Control**. We have had mixed reports of the effectiveness of Neem Oil. Some say it works great and others have not had much success, but it does seem to be worth a try to use this product. Neem oil is an insecticide, a miticide, and a fungicide all in one. And the best news is that it is nontoxic to mammals and birds.



**BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)** is a naturally occurring bacterial disease of some insects. **BT** will not kill mammals, fish, and will not kill all insects; only certain insects are susceptible to this product. This product is sold as **Thuricide** in the liquid form and as **Dipel** in the dust form. **BT** controls many caterpillars that love your plants, including: Cabbage Looper, Tobacco Budworm, and Tomato Hornworm. Do not use **BT** in your Butterfly Garden or if you are trying to attract butterflies. **BT** doesn't know the difference between a good caterpillar and an unwanted caterpillar.



**Insecticidal Soap** will kill many soft bodied insects without harming plants (unless you mix it too strong or use the wrong type of soap). Soap does not always kill the hard bodied insects or many of the large insects very effectively.

**Plain Water** will dislodge and drown many insects and is often a very effective control for spidermites. Be sure to spray the undersides of leaves where aphids and spidermites hangout.

Don't try to kill every bug in your garden. If you can live with a few holy leaves, or, if a few curled leaves do not bother you, your chemical bill will decrease and your garden will still survive.

## Growing Summer Squash

There is no doubt about it, summer squash is a prolific producer - zucchini leading the way. But, did you know you can even increase its production with two simple tips?

1. Plant 2 crops of summer squash instead of just one. Plant your first crop of summer squash when the soil temperature is at least 65 degrees. If you try to plant too soon the squash plant is often stunted or dies completely. Plant a second crop of summer squash 30 to 45 days later.

The first crop will slow down and stop producing late-summer or early-fall. The second crop will just be starting to produce when the first crops slows down.

2. When you plant your squash plants bury a one-gallon nursery pot in the middle of your seeds. Make



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sure the rim is an inch out of the ground and no soil is inside the pot. When you water your plants during the summer the water will immediately reach the roots and supply plenty of water for the roots to absorb, without the water just running off.

Do you ever get a *Mystery Squash*? Maybe a big, round, dark-green squash with yellow spots scattered over the entire surface?

Squash plants cross very easily. The fruit may resemble the mother plant (the plant the cross is growing on) or it may resemble the father plant (the plant where the pollen came from) or it may be something totally different. As long as both parents are edible you can eat the fruit without any problem although it may have an unusual taste because of the genetics involved. If, however, one of the parents could have been a gourd do not eat the fruit because some gourds can make people sick.

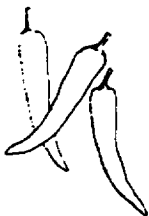
## Butterfly Gardening

You can attract butterflies for much of the year by growing succession of flowers and herbs that bloom from spring through fall. Butterflies have a few simple needs: sunlight, nectar sources, host plants on which to lay eggs, water, basking areas and roosting areas. Food has to be available for the adult butterflies, which sip nectar, and for their caterpillar offspring, who eat specific plants. Like all creatures, butterflies require moisture. They also need the minerals and nutrients they get from mud and muddy water. Butterflies are most active in morning and afternoon before it gets hot. Since their enemies, such as birds, are active during the same time, butterflies need the shelter of shrubby plants where they can take refuge. Gardeners must be aware that improper application of chemicals can upset the delicate balance of nature in the garden and wipe out the butterfly habitat in an instant. You don't have to forego modern products, but you must go easy. Read the label. Don't apply above the recommended rate. Be aware of the side effects of whatever you are using. Also, keep your head. If leaf-eating insects are nibbling on your plants ask yourself if it really matters. Can the plant spare a few leaves? Remember, butterflies come from caterpillars - and caterpillars eat leaves. If you kill all the leaf eating caterpillars, where will the butterflies come from? Unless you are entering your plants in a contest, it probably doesn't matter if something has nibbled some of the leaves.



## Hot Peppers

Just one nibble can take your breath away and make you sweat. And depending on the variety, a single bite can move the most macho among us to tears. We're talking about chile peppers - those searing morsels that separate the daring diners from the rest of us. Chiles are the basis for some of the world's hottest sauces.



The compound that makes chile peppers so pungent is capsaicin. Pure capsaicin is a whitish powder that is soluble in fats, oils, and alcohol, but doesn't dissolve in water. Although many blame the seeds for harboring the heat, capsaicin is actually more concentrated in the white membranes of the fruit.

Once the chemical comes in contact with the nerve endings in your mouth, it fools the brain into thinking you are in pain. The brain responds to this trickery by producing endorphins, natural painkillers that can produce a feeling of euphoria. Can chile peppers be addictive? You bet! Unlike other spicy foods, hot peppers eaten frequently can cause a long-lasting, selective desensitization, sending chile lovers in search of a hotter "high."

With more than 200 varieties to choose from, peppers are among the most nutritious foods around. They are loaded with vitamins A, C, and E. Peppers are also a good source of beta-carotene, capsanthin, and zeaxanthin. Just one fresh red chile serves up as much vitamin A as 1/2 cup of broccoli, as much potassium as one cup of spinach, and more vitamin C than five oranges, along with trace amounts of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and folic acid - all with less than thirty-seven calories! In fact, eating 1 ounce of fresh green chiles can satisfy the recommended dietary allowance for vitamin C, and a teaspoon will cover your vitamin A needs.

Cooking or drying the fiery fruit, however, changes the equation. Since vitamin C is one of the least stable of all the vitamins, the application of heat or air will cause the pepper's vitamin C content to drop significantly. Dried, ground red chiles contain less than 3 percent of the vitamin C level found in fresh peppers. Vitamin A, on the other hand, actually increases when the peppers are cooked, boosting levels one hundred-fold. In fact, processed red chile peppers contain more vitamin A than carrots!

Because capsaicin doesn't dissolve in water, drinking water won't alleviate the burning sensation. Put out the fire with a glass of milk. Casein, a protein found in milk, literally strips the capsaicin from the nerve endings while the fat content in the milk absorbs the chemical. Hot sauce aficionados always keep plenty of whole milk on hand.

## Fairy Ring

Fairy rings may appear in a variety of ways in lawns. The most common is large circles of dark-green, tall grass. Mushrooms often appear within these rings. Another common symptom of a fairy ring is an arc of dead, brown grass.

Fairy ring fungi do not always attack grass directly, they usually just break down organic matter in the soil. As a result of this process, nitrogen is released that the grass is able to use, forming the dark green ring. If the fairy ring fungi become very dense they prevent water movement in the soil and the grass can die of dehydration. The mushrooms that



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you see within the fairy ring are the fruiting structures of the fairy ring fungi.

However, fairy ring fungi can also deplete the soil of some nutrients and can produce toxic levels of hydrogen cyanide.

Fairy rings will appear in one spot in the yard and not another because of an unknown source of organic materials buried in the soil; a rotting stump or root, a buried log, or even buried lumber. Once this organic material is decomposed the fairy rings will often disappear on their own. However the decomposition process can last for years.

Unfortunately there is not an easy control for fairy ring but you can help manage the problem, to lessen the visual effects, by fertilizing and watering differently. Use less fertilizer but fertilize more frequently - to help all the grass to grow at the same rate. Aerate and deep water the rings occasionally to help water penetrate the fairy ring fungi.

The only sure control for fairy ring is to dig up the ring, find the organic food source, and remove as much of the fairy ring fungi as you can. Sound easy? The fairy ring fungi are usually 18" to 24" deep.

Chemical controls include aerating the soil 12" to 18" deep and filling the holes with a water-dishsoap solution. After letting the dishsoap penetrate for an hour or two, fill the holes with a solution of water mixed with either **Consan** or **Fungaway**. These fungicides may provide some limited control of the fairy ring fungi. Chemical controls may need to be reapplied 2 or 3 times each summer.



## Grubs, Webworms, Billbugs

White grubs, sod webworms and billbugs are three (or more) separate insects that invade the lawn. Confusion exists because they are all commonly called grubworms. Although the control is often the same for all three of these insects the time of application is very different.

**Sod webworms** are the larvae of a small moth. The larvae is actually a caterpillar and it feeds on the leaf blades of the lawn. These caterpillars are fairly large and have a greenish appearance; they are easy to find. These pests are active in May and June so spring treatment is necessary. They occasionally re appear in August, which means a summer treatment may be necessary as well.

**Billbugs** are the larvae of a small black beetle. This beetle has a long elephant-like snout. The larvae of the billbug are very small. They resemble a small white pebble except that they have a brownish head. These larvae are active during the hot summer weather, they feed on the grass roots just below the soil. Treat for billbug problems mid-Summer (July).

**White grubs** are the larvae of various (*several different*) beetles. They are usually large and are easy to find. They feed on the roots of the lawn. They are active at different times of the summer, depending on the particular beetle.

Lawn insect problems vary from year to year. The only problem we seem to have every year is the billbug problem. Sod webworms and white grubs are not a regular problem but they



must be controlled when they do become a problem. Several chemicals are labeled for use to control all of these lawn insects. **Diazinon Granules** has been the most common chemical used in the past. It is available this summer but it will not be available next year. **Intercept Granules** and **Eight Lawn Insect Granules** are very effective chemicals to control these lawn insects. These products contain **Delta-methryn**, a synthetic pyrethrum that will probably be the best chemical to replace diazinon. **Merit Granules** is another chemical that effectively controls lawn grubs. It is sold as **Bayer Season Long Grub Control**. It controls lawn grubs as they hatch and the product lasts for two or three months - all season. **Dylox Granules** are another common chemical that has excellent grub control qualities. Choose the chemical that is best for you needs and apply it at the proper time.



## Household Ants

The first thing you notice when you walk in the kitchen is that a crumb from your midnight cherry pie raid has sprouted legs and is moving across the kitchen counter. What was last night's 'cast off' is now a feast for a family of ants.



Ants are common pests in homes. Damage from ants varies. Most ants are primarily a nuisance and cause little damage. Some ants can weaken wood in structures. However, unlike termites, ants nest in wood but they do not eat wood. Ants have a wide range of nesting habits and food preferences. Some ants build nests in soil producing characteristic mounds while others nest in homes behind moldings, baseboards, countertops and similar places.

Not all ants found outdoors are pests. Ants are important in aerating the soil and in seed dispersal of many wildflowers. Ant colonies in lawn and garden areas generally do not require any control.

Ants feed on a variety of foods including starches, meats, fats and sweets. That's why they hang out in the kitchen with us. A common ant is the **Odorous house ant**. It gets its name from its unpleasant smell when it's crushed. They nest in soil, under stones, boards, patio blocks, and in nearly any other object laying on the ground. They can nest in homes inside wall voids, under floors, and even in potted plants. Odorous house ants do not cause structural damage to buildings.

Sometimes the best control for household ant pests is to sweep, vacuum, or disinfect drawers and countertops regularly. If there is no food to eat, the ants will go somewhere else. Spraying a pesticide on the occasional ant foraging for food is only a temporary solution, and has little impact on the nest. However, spraying may be useful for major, seasonal ant problems when ants enter from outside nests. Indoor sprays such as **Bioganic Crawling Insect Killer** and **Concern Citrus Home Pest Control** are safe to use inside, and they leave a pleasant odor; not a chemical odor. Do not spray large areas, just try to spray the area where the ants travel regularly.



Ant traps and baits can also be effective. Put the ant traps under the sink, in the food closets, or behind the drawers in your kitchen. Do not set baits where small children or pets can reach them. A mixture of boric acid and honey, or syrup, is also an attractive bait. When using any pesticide inside the house,

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# J&L's Coupon of the Month

**Free  
One Herb Plant  
in a  
2" Pot.**

Choose from Parsley, Lemon Grass,  
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Oregano, Cilantro,  
and many other varieties.



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be sure to read and follow all label directions.

For long term control you must find the nest, follow the ants. Ants usually take regular routes to and from their nest and their food by establishing a chemical scent trail. Instead of leaving bread crumbs to find their way back home, they leave a smell to find their way back to the bread crumbs. If the trail is outside the house, put some **Diazinon Granules** or **Eight Granules** in the ant trail. The ants will pick up the granules as food and carry them back to their nest to share. You can also apply an insecticide barrier around the outside of the home. Areas that attract ants on a regular basis can be spot treated as often as needed. Otherwise, treat a two foot wide area around the building. This control method is only temporary and you may need to treat the areas again in a few weeks. Outside pesticide sprays include **Diazinon** and **Conquest**.

## Parsley

Parsley was once used as a wreath of glory for Greek Athletes. Now parsley is used mainly as a garnish, stuck next to a rapidly drying orange slice or by an unnaturally red slab of a pickled apple. Parsley is often left on the plate, unappreciated and uneaten.



Parsley has a zesty taste. It is high in Vitamins A, C, and many of the B vitamins. It also contains iron and calcium. Parsley's high chlorophyll content works as a natural breath freshener.

Parsley is easy to grow; it is a highly ornamental in pots, borders, or in the vegetable garden. It stores and freezes beautifully. There are two common types of parsley; flat leaf and curly leaf. They are very similar, the biggest difference is just the appearance of the leaf; they are both great herbs to grow.

Parsley can grow in full sun or in partial shade. The plants

need rich, moist soil but they can grow in 8" deep pots if the potting soil you use holds moisture well.

All varieties of parsley are biennials. They are a leafy plant the first year and then send up a flower stalk the second year. When the plant begins to flower most of its energy is spent producing seeds so the leaf production and leaf quality diminish greatly. It is often best to start a new plant of parsley each spring rather than trying to harvest leaves during the blooming period. If you have room in your garden to let your parsley bloom, keep a few plants from year to year. Their blossoms attract many beneficial garden insects and you can harvest the seed for next year's plants.

Parsley seeds are sometime hard to germinate, but if you soak your parsley seeds for 24 to 36 hours the germination rate will improve. Plant seeds indoors to start them and then transplant them outside in the garden when they are 5 to 6 weeks old. Cover your parsley seeds with peatmoss and set the containers inside a plastic bag to keep the soil moist. Put your containers in a warm place until the seeds germinate. After germination, remove the container from the plastic bag, put it in a nice, warm, sunny area until they are ready to transplant. You can harvest parsley anytime the stems are at least 6" long, whether the plants are inside or outside.

## Lemon Grass

Among the lemon herbs, lemongrass is one of the most popular. The other popular lemon herbs are *lemon verbena*, *lemon mint*, *lemon balm*, *lemon basil*, and *lemon thyme*. Lemongrass is native to southern India and Sri Lanka. It is cultivated for its oil in Florida and in Texas.

Lemongrass grows up to 6 feet tall in warm climates but is not hardy enough to survive the winter in Utah so it doesn't have the chance to grow that tall in our gardens.

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# The Gardening Newsletter

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As a medicine, lemongrass has been used to reduce fevers, alleviate cold symptoms, relieve headaches, calm upset stomachs, and relieve spasms. Lemongrass inhibits the growth of fungi and bacteria, and can be used externally to treat ringworm, lice, athlete's foot, and scabies.

Lemongrass is used to flavor fish, sauces and curries. The young shoots are sometimes eaten as a vegetable with rice. The tougher leaves are often cooked into soup or made into tea or vinegar. Lemongrass oil is used to make artificial perfumes, to provide scents for bath soaps, hair oils, and herbal baths.

Lemongrass, and its oil, are used as an insect repellent and do a fairly good job keeping away pesky mosquitos. Plant a few lemon grass plants, or other lemon scented plants, around your patio so you can enjoy an evening outside; free of some of the bothersome flying pests.

## Slug and Snail Controls

Slugs and snails are always a problem in both flower and vegetable gardens. There is no simple or easy way to control these pests. Diligence is perhaps the only way to win the battle against these critters. There are many different ways to try. See which of these methods work best for you.

**1. Snail traps.** You can make a snail trap with a pop bottle and use something sweet smelling, or snail bait, to attract them. The snails are lured into the trap and then they can't get out. Your trap may need to be emptied every few days if you have a lot of snails.

**2. Snail bait.** Remember, most slug and snail baits do not kill or poison them. Most slug and snail baits only paralyze them so the sun can kill them - by dehydrating them. Be sure to remove the 'dead' snails before they have a chance to crawl away. You may want to change the brand of slug and snail bait you use periodically. Some snails may not be attracted to some baits but may love another brand. Try using **Pax Snail Bait** and then switching to a liquid bait called **Deadline**. Both of these products are effective for both slugs and snails if used regularly. In large groundcover areas you may want to spray with **Cooke Slug n Snail Spray** over the entire area instead of using bait.

**3. Diatomaceous earth.** This sharp sand dehydrates snails, and many other insect pests, as they crawl through it. Diatomaceous earth is a very safe way to control snails. Dust the ground and the plants affected by these pests. Reapply diatomaceous earth regularly, especially after watering.

**4. Slug & Snail Barrier Tape.** This copper strip prevents slugs and snails from crossing it. Have you ever put aluminum foil in your mouth and been shocked? This copper barrier strip does the same thing to snails. It produces an electrical charge as the snail crosses it. Snails will stay away.

**5. Plant a few flowers slugs and snails don't like.** Remember, if a slug or snail is hungry enough it will eat anything. A few flowers slugs are not particularly fond of are:

Ageratum	Alyssum	Begonia	Cosmos
Geranium	Lobelia	Nasturtium	Nemesia
Portulaca	Verbena	Zinnia	Columbine
Arabis	Armeria	Astilbe	Aubretia
Campanula	Geum	Day Lily	Candytuft
Lupine	Peonies	Sedum	Thyme