



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

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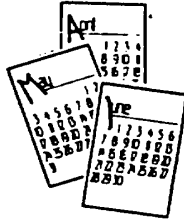
The Gardening Newsletter

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March 2002

## March Gardening

Another spring has arrived. It is time to start getting the yard ready to plant your flowers and vegetables. We at J&L are ready to help you with your Gardening questions and we are ready to help you pick out some new and interesting plants and garden supplies. **Be sure to pick up a free copy of our 2002 Gardening Calendar. It gives many helpful hints for gardening.**



We have been busy this winter changing our **PET SHOP** into a **POT SHOP**. The area in our store that we used to have pets and pet supplies is now our **Pot and Patio Area**. We still sell a few pet items such as bird seed, small animal food, and crickets. We also have **Male Betta Fish** for those who would like to try growing a peace lily in a fish bowl with a fish swimming around the roots. Other than those few pet items we decided that after 44 years it was time to close down our pet department; we ran out of space for all the garden supplies that we have for sale. We will also continue to stock and sell a complete supply of pond supplies, including pond fish.

We have many new and different items in our **Pot and Patio Area**, including some original oil paintings by Albert Smith, and some very pretty wood lamps, bowls, and dishes made by Robert Smith. Albert is quite the artist and Robert is a very handy wood worker. Both Albert and Robert (two of John's brothers) still work at J&L; painting and woodworking are their hobbies.

## New Rose Varieties

### The 2002 All American Rose Selections are:

**Love & Peace** .....Amber-pink Blend Hybrid Tea  
**Starry Night** ..... White Shrub Rose

Other new roses we have this year include:

**Cesar Chavez, Crowd Pleaser, Habitat for Humanity, Lover's Lane, Mellow Yellow, Success Story, The 777 Rose, and Climbing William Baffin.** For a complete listing of all the roses we have available stop by to pick up our 2002 rose price list.



## Rose Care

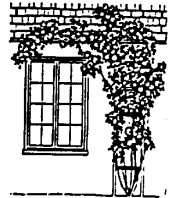
Start pruning your roses as soon as they start to grow in the spring; usually mid-April. Continue trimming and shaping your roses all summer, to keep them blooming their best. Fertilize your roses **J&L Rose & Flower Fertilizer with Systemic Insecticide** as soon as you



prune them and repeat every two months until August 15. This fertilizer will help your roses grow and bloom vigorously while keeping the pesky aphids and thrips under control. 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 again about mid-July. Your roses will look beautiful all summer. Magnesium Sulphate is great to use in all the flower and vegetable gardens. Put some Magnesium Sulphate around your marigolds and you'll see a big difference.

## Climbing Roses

If your climbing roses are not blooming 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. Many varieties of climbing roses (Climbing Queen Elizabeth, Peace, Louisiana, Royal Gold, etc.) only bloom on three year old canes. Some varieties (Climbing America, Dortmund, New Dawn, etc.) may bloom on both old and new canes.



Fertilize climbing roses just like regular hybrid tea and floribunda roses, including giving them magnesium sulphate twice a year. Don't prune climbing roses like bush roses or they will not produce three year old canes and they will not bloom. If you have questions about your climbing roses please stop by to talk to Earl, Lloyd, Diane, or Barbra, they will be able answer all your questions.

## 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 used for begonias and impatiens. Pansies will bloom repeatedly from early spring until the temperature gets hot during the summer. Some gardeners 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.



## Sweet peas in a pot

No doubt about it: sweet peas are charmers. Their crepe-papery flowers unfurl in soft pastels or vibrant orange, purple or scarlet, perfuming the air around them. One whiff and you're

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a convert: you want to grow as many as possible. Sweet pea vines are rambunctious annuals that need six foot tall trellises to stretch to their full potential. You can also plant low-growing bush varieties if you don't have an area to put a trellis. Either way you will definitely enjoy your new found plant.



Where space is at a premium, plant low-growing bush varieties in pots and train them up small pot-trellises. Choose pots with at least a 16 inch diameter and fill them with **Black Gold Potting Soil**. In mild-winter areas, or if you can protect your pot from extreme cold weather, you can sow seeds directly in pots (or in the soil) in the fall. If you cannot protect your pots in the cold winter weather, sow seeds during the first warm weather in February; either in your pots or directly in the soil. You can also start seeds indoors in late-winter to be transplanted outside after the frost danger is past.

Sweet Peas bear flowers in many vibrant colors, from pink and purple to orange and scarlet.

'**Jet Set**'. Bushy plants grow 2 to 3 feet tall.

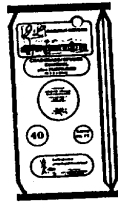
'**Knee-Hi**'. Grows to 2.5 feet tall. Large, long-stemmed flowers, five or six to a stem.

'**Super snoop**'. Grows to 2.5' tall; long-blooming and heat tolerant.

'**Royal Family**'. Grows to 5' to 8' tall. Very fragrant and excellent for cut flowers.

## Lawn Care

Now is the time to start thinking about your lawn. Don't fertilize too early in the spring. Wait until the soil begins to warm before applying your first application of fertilizer. If you fertilize your lawn four times this year you should have a strong, healthy lawn. A healthy lawn is more resistant to diseases, crowds out unwanted weeds, overcomes insect damage faster, and withstands drought better. The four fertilizer steps we recommend are:



1. **Crabgrass Preventer** - mid-April
2. **21-7-7 Lawn Food** - June
3. **Weed & Feed \*** - late-August
4. **Fall & Winter Fertilizer** - October

\* I prefer to use 21-7-7 Lawn Food in August and spray broadleaf weeds with **Morgro Weedit II** whenever I see the weeds during the year, instead of applying Weed & Feed; I think it is more effective and easier.

## Train Your Lawn

"Training your lawn for water efficiency begins in the spring." According to **Blake Moore** from **Ferta-Lawn Company**.

A common mistake is made far too often: setting the irrigation system to water every other day for 10 minutes during the early spring. When summertime arrives, the system is then adjusted to water every day. We then wonder why our lawns suffer from summer heat stress.

Here are some steps to get your lawn ready to face the summer heat.



**Begin Now.** While the temperatures are still cool, the soil can be allowed to dry without causing heat stress to plants. Plants lose less water to evapo-transpiration in the spring.

**Water only when needed.** Use the "bounce-back" test. If, after stepping on the lawn, the grass blades don't bounce back, then the lawn needs water. Don't make the mistake of setting automatic sprinklers to turn on every other day so early in the year. This discourages the roots to go deeper into the soil.

**Know your water system.** The question that gets asked the most is, "How much should I water?" Lawns need about 1" to 2 1/2" of water per week, depending on the weather. Using straight-sided cans, measure the amount of water applied in 15 minutes. If the system reaches 1/2" of water in 15 minutes, then you should water for 30 minutes to 75 minutes per week.

**Water deeply and infrequently.** Avoid the temptation to water everyday or even every other day when the lawn appears dry. Try adding more time to the duration and keep the same number of days between watering. Water should penetrate to just below the root zone each watering (you can check this with a shovel or screwdriver) to encourage roots to go deeper. If runoff occurs before reaching this level, stop watering. Allow the water to soak in for an hour, then run the cycle again.

**As the temperature increases, so should the mowing height.** Springtime mowing can be at 1 1/2", but when the temperature gets into the 90's and 100's, 2 1/2" to 3" is recommended. The longer grass will keep the soil from losing water to evaporation and protect the crown of the plant. Longer grass helps promote a deeper root system.

By following these steps, you can avoid the drought stress problems that occur in many lawns during the summer. And remember the trick is to begin in the spring and not when the lawn is suffering from drought stress.

## Pruning Trees

When to prune trees depends to a large extent on why you are pruning. A simple rule of thumb is:



**Winter:** Pruning during winter dormancy helps the tree produce a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring. The tree's framework is easy to see and major faults can be easily detected and repaired.

**Summer:** Pruning after the burst of new growth helps to slow down or dwarf a tree. You can control the suckers and branches you don't want, without stimulating new branches to take their place. You can also reduce the number of leaves on the tree, which will also help slow down the tree's growth.

**Fall:** Fall pruning helps to prevent damage from heavy snowfalls. Fall pruning also helps eliminate unwanted insect and disease problems. Fall pruning, however, should be kept to a minimum so as not to stimulate any new growth late in the year that would be prone to winter injury.

**Spring Flowering Trees:** If your main goal, for a flowering tree, is to have as many flowers as possible, be sure to wait until after it is finished blooming to prune it.

Pruning trees is an art, not a science. Even though there are correct principles and steps in pruning, there is not one best way to prune a tree or shrub. Unfortunately, trial and error is usually the best teacher. Pruning is one of the most important

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tasks a gardener must do. Many gardeners are reluctant to prune because they aren't sure how to prune or they are afraid of making a mistake and injuring their plants. Plants are usually very forgiving and will usually recover from incorrect pruning (the plants may take a few years but they usually recover).

Perhaps the most important step in pruning is learning how and just starting to do it. If you follow a few simple guidelines you will do fine and your trees will look great.

1. Start pruning the tree while it is still young. The cuts will be small and the tree will grow the way you want it, right from the beginning.

2. Start with a visual inspection of the tree. Start at the top and work to the bottom. Remove defective parts before you prune to shape the tree.

3. After removing defective parts trim and shape your tree according to the type of tree it is. Knowing what shape and what size your tree should grow is helpful in determining how much to prune.

4. Make clean cuts: keep your tools sharp.

5. **Do not leave a stub** or cut too close to the trunk of the tree. This is the most important part of pruning.

6. No pruning can be just as bad for a plant as incorrect pruning.

7. Light pruning and the removal of dead branches should be done "now": whatever time of the year it happens to be.

## Potentilla Shape Up

To keep potentilla shrubs looking their best you need to prune them. The best time to prune these plants is in winter or early-spring, while they are still dormant. Since potentilla bloom on new wood you will increase its flowering and make a more compact shrub by pruning it every year. If you want a large plant don't cut it back as much or prune it every other year, letting it grow taller the second year.



The easiest method, and my favorite, is to cut all the stems down to within a foot of the ground. You can cut the stems even shorter if necessary. Don't worry about where you make each cut. Remove all the large branches completely to the ground, leaving the smaller branches to grow. New growth will emerge all along the stems and the plant will quickly rejuvenate and start blooming by early-summer. Potentilla will grow 18" to 24" each year after being trimmed severely.

Most varieties of spiraea also respond well to this type of pruning; Prune Early; Prune Severely; Prune Often.

## 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 and your tree may start to look 'different'. Prune Japanese maples from December to March. 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.

## 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 and pine trees, and must be fertilized at least six weeks before they bloom for the best results. Do not fertilize fruit trees after June or your trees may produce undesired growth too late in the year. Young trees (up to 5 years old) benefit from the use of **Jobs Tree Stakes**. Older trees (more than 5 years old) benefit more from a good garden fertilizer such as **16-16-8 Multi-Purpose Fertilizer** than from tree stakes.



Too much fertilizer is just as bad for trees as not enough so stop by and pick up a **Fertilizing Fruit Tree** handout to help you decide how much fertilizer your trees need. The handout is free, just ask for a copy.

## Dormant Spray ... It's Important

**Dormant spray** is the single most important spray of the year; because it prevents and kills more insects than any other spray during the year. **Dormant Spray** means spraying your plants with an insecticide before the plants begin to grow; while they are still dormant. **Dormant spray** is usually a mixture of plant oil (not motor oil) with another insecticide such as **Diazinon, Isotox, or Lime Sulfur**. All plants benefit from **Dormant Spray**, especially fruit trees, raspberries, roses and evergreens. Sometimes the only way to kill a specific insect (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 before the buds completely open (usually early April). Thoroughly spray the upper trunk and branches. Do not spray the lower trunk because beneficial insects lay their eggs in this location.

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. This sheet will further explain how to use this important spray. Please stop by and pick one up.

## Garden Peas

What can taste better than peas fresh from the garden? Peas are one of the first vegetables to ripen in your garden and they are one of the first rewards of the year for your efforts. Pea plants love the cool spring weather and should be planted as early in the spring as possible. Plant peas as soon as the soil dries out enough that you can cultivate it. If you plan ahead you can roto till your gardens in the fall so you don't have to wait so long in the spring to plant your peas. If you haven't planted your peas yet, plant them as soon as possible.



When you plant pea seeds early, or any other seeds, be sure to dust them with a fungicide because the soil is still pretty cold and damp. Seeds planted in a cold and wet soil may rot before they have a chance to germinate. You can also help your

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pea plants to be more productive by soaking the seeds in **Garden Inoculant** before you plant them. Garden Inoculant is a natural nitrogen-fixing bacteria that helps the pea plants absorb nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil. Garden Inoculant also works great with bean seeds.

**Some of the best pea varieties are:**

**Little Marvel, Victory Freezer, Lincoln, Early Frosty, Mr Big, Sugar Daddy, Oregon Sugar Pod**

Peas love warm companions. Why not grow two crops in the space of one and provide extra benefits for both? Plant peas and a warm-season crop together and reap the benefits from an extra harvest: Peas and tomatoes work well together.



Plant peas in a ring around the outside of tomato cages in early-spring. The peas will climb the wire. Transplant tomatoes into the cages as the weather allows. The peas will protect tomatoes from cool weather. The peas will fade away and leave behind an extra boost of nitrogen for the hungry tomatoes.

You can also train peas up a wooden A-frame, covered with a net. Interplant cucumbers between the peas when the weather warms. As the peas fade away, the cucumbers will be filling in the space, reaping the benefits of the nitrogen left by the peas.

## The Three Sisters

I always thought the three sisters were the three big hills we had to pull our trailer through between Evanston and Fort Bridger to get to Flaming Gorge. Another use of the term **The Three Sisters** was used by the Iroquois Indians when they planted Corn, Beans, and Squash together.



Corn, beans and squash are considered by the Iroquois to be special gifts from the Great Spirit. The well-being of each crop is believed to be protected by one of the Three Sisters, spirits that are collectively called **De-o-ha-ko**. This word means "our sustainers" or "those who support us".

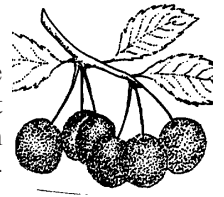
The three sisters system refers to the planting of corn, pole beans, and squash together in hills. In the Three Sister planting system, raised areas are made about three feet apart. Several seeds of corn are planted in each hill. As the emerging plants grow, the soil is gently mounded around the base of the corn plants. When the corn is about four to six inches high, bean seeds and squash seeds are planted in the hills. Pole bean seeds are planted in each hill, and squash seeds are planted in about every seventh hill. The three crops grow together for the remainder of the season.

This interplanting has many advantages. The hills provide support around the base of the corn plants, so they are not as prone to wind damage. The corn forms a support for the pole beans, and the squash covers the soil, helping to control weeds. Beans are in the legume family; they take nitrogen from the air and convert it into a form that plants can use. This is important because corn demands a fairly high amount of nitrogen. The nitrogen "left" in the hill by the beans is available for the other plants to use.

We also have a list of other plants that grow well together. Stop by for a copy of **Companion Planting**.

## Berries of Interest

Many different types of berries are able to grow and flourish in this area without much care. Other berry plants will grow in Utah if they are given special care. Blueberries, for example, need an acid soil condition to grow in Utah. Listed below are some of the very hardy berries that you can plant and grow without giving them any special care.



**Cherry Currant** - Produces large, dark red fruit with an acid flavor. The fruit is excellent for jams, jelly, and sauces. Plants grow 4' to 6' tall and 2' to 5' wide. Great to attract birds.

**Black Currant** - Clusters of black currants with an unusual, sweet-tart flavor. Excellent for jams, juice, wine, and syrup; not for eating fresh from the garden. High source of vitamin C. Birds love this fruit.

**Jostaberry** - A cross between a black currant and a gooseberry. It has the vigorous growth habit and the disease resistance of the black currant. The leaves are gooseberry-like and the fruit, until ripe, looks like a gooseberry. In late June the fruit ripens and the elongated fruit turns black, The flavor is sweet like a gooseberry with a hint of black currant. It grow similar in size and shape to a gooseberry.

**Oregon Champ Gooseberry** - Medium to large yellowish-green berries. Flavor sweetens as it ripens. Excellent for pies, jams, canning, and wines. Grows 3' to 5' tall. Berries hold well on plants.

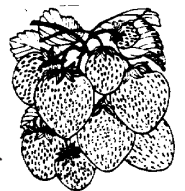
**Pixwell Gooseberry** - Medium sized, oval-shaped fruit. Pale green color becomes pink when ripe. Has fewer thorns than other varieties, making the fruit easier to pick, hence the name. Fruit is too tart to eat fresh but makes wonderful pies, jams, and preserves. Grows 4' to 6' tall.

**Nova Elderberry** - Produces large, sweet fruit. Good for jelly, pie, syrup, and wine. Grows 6' to 8' tall. Ripens in August. Needs to be pollinated with **York Elderberry**.

**York Elderberry** - Largest cultivated elderberry. Juicy, sweet, purplish berries. Last elderberry to ripen. Good for jam, jelly, juice, pie, and wine. Good source of vitamin C. Grows 6' to 8' tall. Plant 6' apart. Pollinate with **Nova Elderberry**.

## Growing Strawberries

Strawberries are one of the most popular small fruits for the home garden. They are easy to grow and taste great picked fresh from the garden, frozen, and in jam. Strawberry plants will produce about one quart of berries from each plant. They grow well in a wide variety of soils and in most locations in the yard. All you need to do is fertilize early each spring, water often all summer, and harvest regularly.



Plant strawberries as early in the spring as possible. They grow best in cool weather. Strawberries prefer sunny areas but they will tolerate some shade; they just don't produce as abundantly in the shade. Many varieties of strawberries are available including spring crop and everbearing varieties. Everbearing strawberries produce berries from late spring until frost. Spring bearing strawberries set buds in the fall and produce one large crop of berries in June. Both types of strawberries are fun and easy to grow both in the garden and in containers.

**Strawberry jars** are a fun way to grow a few strawberries on the deck or patio. Plant your strawberry jar as early in the spring as you can. Always plant everbearing varieties so the plants will produce berries all summer. Fertilize and water the strawberry jars regularly if you want large, sweet berries. The best way to fertilize is to mix **Osmocote Fertilizer** in the soil when you plant the jar. Put a 1" PVC pipe (drilled with holes) down the middle of the jar to allow water to penetrate the entire pot. These strawberry jars will produce just enough berries to keep the kids interested, the kids may even help water the plants occasionally. Don't expect to harvest many berries yourself if the kids help; kids seem to know exactly when the berries will ripen.



## Diagnosing Tree 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. Once the problem is known the solution is usually pretty easy.

In order to effectively diagnose tree and shrub problems, several questions must be asked.

### 1. Determine the history of the tree and the surrounding area as best you can.

- How long has the tree been there?
- Has any trenching or ground work been done near the plant in the last five to six years?
- Has any fill material been added?
- Has a plastic sheet or weed cloth been used under the dripline of the plant?
- What kind and how much fertilizer is used?

### 2. Check other plants in the immediate vicinity.

- Is this plant the only one showing this symptom?
- Are any other plants showing similar symptoms, or other abnormal growth?

### 3. Describe the symptoms.

- How are they distributed? Whole tree, single branch, roots, stem, leaves, randomly scattered, definite pattern.
- Types of symptoms. Wilting stems, twigs, roots. Discolored leaves. Chewed leaves or stems. Missing leaf or parts of leaves. Leaf distortion.
- Progression of symptoms. Inside-out, or bottom-up usually means slow killing of roots. Outside-In or Top-Down usually means some traumatic environmental occurrence such as roots chopped off, abrupt change in water supply, insect infestation.

### 4. Examine the plant closely for a suspected cause.

### 5. Take a sample of some healthy and damaged plant parts to an expert.

## 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. 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 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 has a pH of 5.0 to 5.8; perfect to help lower the pH of the surrounding soil.

Coconut fiber is very compressed (9 to 1). A 1.5 lb block will make about 9 quarts of mulch. A 10 lb block will make a wheelbarrow full (3.5 cubic feet) of mulch. Mix 1 part coconut fiber with 1 part soil in containers. Rototill 1" of coconut fiber in the garden.

## Clay Soil Conditioner

Many soils lack the necessary structure to hold and move air and water for maximum plant growth, especially clay soils. Most clay soils need additives that will hold water (like peatmoss) but will allow water to drain (like sand). Adding peatmoss and sand to clay soils may just add to the problem rather than correct the problem; unless they are added in the proper amounts. Clay and sand mixed together may produce bricks. If you add sand you must add "a lot of sand" to improve the soil. Peatmoss mixed with clay may produce a soil that stays too wet. The best way to fix a clay soil is to add manure, compost, soil pep, or perlite to the garden rather than peatmoss or sand.

**Gypsum** is another soil conditioner that helps improve clay soil. **Gypsum** helps improve the chemical structure of clay soils; it does not improve the physical structure very quickly. 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.

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 also helps improve drainage within the soil. For more information about improving your garden soil please ask for our "Garden Soil and Mulch" handout.

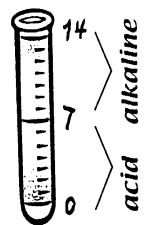
## Soil pH

Soil pH is the measurement of how acidic or alkaline the soil is. The pH scale runs from 0 to 14. Numbers from 0 to 7 are acid, and from 7 to 14 are alkaline; 7 is considered neutral.

For Gardeners, soil pH is the number that really counts. Soil pH affects nutrient availability and microbial activity. Most plants grow best at a slightly acid to neutral pH (6.5 to 7) although certain plants have adapted to extreme pH environments both directions.

To lower the pH of an alkaline soil, use sulfur or gypsum; to raise the pH of an acid soil, add gypsum or lime. However, these measures are temporary and cannot wholly counteract soil conditions in your yard. They need to be repeated every year, or even several times each year.

We have an excellent handout about Garden Soils that goes into more details about the soil pH. Please stop by for a free



## Solarizing the soil

Healthy soil is the key to a productive garden. Adding organic matter, such as compost, and checking nutrient levels with a soil test will help. But how do you get rid of disease organisms, insect eggs, larvae, and weed seeds?

Soil solarization is one technique of controlling these problems without the use of chemicals. Soil Solarization uses sheets of clear plastic, moisture, and the sun. Cover the moist soil with plastic and it acts like a greenhouse. The temperature rises and gradually pasteurizes the soil; it does not sterilize the soil. The soil is heated to a temperature hot enough to kill harmful soil organisms but does not kill everything in the soil. You can plant directly in the soil, once the plastic is removed. Soil solarization only pasteurizes the soil four to eight inches deep so be careful not to roto-till too deep or you may bring unwanted seeds and diseases back to the surface.

Unfortunately the time to start this project is when the weather is sunny and hot - 80 degrees or more. Most gardeners want to have their gardens planted and growing by the time the weather gets that hot, which makes soil solarization a little more difficult to use. For more information about soil solarization stop by and pick up an informative handout about **Soil Solarization**.

## 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 around vegetables 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. Remove any existing weeds, apply treflan and enjoy your garden for the rest of the summer. **Treflan is also known as Preen.**



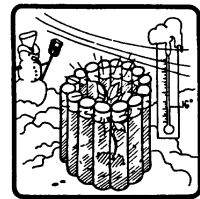
**Casoron** is another popular weed preventing chemical because it is much stronger and prevents more weeds than most other weed preventers. Casoron is great to use around shrubs, trees, and along fence lines. Casoron prevents weeds up to nine months and is much safer to use than the soil sterilizers because it will not kill existing plants. Casoron cannot be used in the vegetable or flower gardens but it is recommended to control grass in shrub areas. 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 handout available about many of the weed preventing chemicals.

## Broccoli

Broccoli is a cool season vegetable that may be grown early in the spring or late in the fall. Plant broccoli as soon the soil is dry enough that you can roto-till the garden. If you roto-till in the fall you can plant broccoli as soon as the temperature will stay above 28° F without any protection or as soon as it will stay above 20° F



when planted in a **Wall of Water®**. Because you can plant broccoli very early in the year, you can harvest broccoli for at least a month or two before the weather gets too hot in the summer.



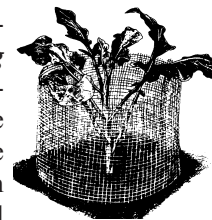
Broccoli produces best in cool conditions, between 60°-70° degrees. If the temperature gets too hot, broccoli will not be as sweet and will sometimes get woody and bitter. Many gardeners want to buy broccoli plants in April and May; the same time they are planting tomatoes and peppers. Although we may still have broccoli plants available that late in the season, you will not get a very good harvest and many insects will enjoy the fruits of your labors, instead of you.

Three insects are very attracted to broccoli: Green Cabbage Worms; Cabbage Loopers, and Cabbage Aphids. All of these insects can be eliminated by boiling the broccoli and then skimming the insects from the water before eating the broccoli. However, if this doesn't sound too appealing, you can control the first two insects by dusting or spraying **BT** (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) which is sold as **Dipel®** or **Thuricide®**. **BT** is safe to use, it is not poisonous to humans, and can be applied up to the day of harvest. Aphids are a little more difficult to control. You can dust or spray with **Diazinon®**, **Malathion®**, **Sevin®**, or **Eight®**. These sprays will also control the worms and loopers but you have to wait longer to harvest after spraying. (Please read the article '**Changing Pesticides**' in this issue of our newsletter)

Some of the best varieties of Broccoli to plant are: Packman (50 days) Green Comet (55 days) and Premium Crop (65 days). We have a more detailed fact sheet available about growing and harvesting broccoli. Stop by for a free copy of this handout.

## Cutworm, Slug & Snail Collars

If you would like to try a different way to prevent damage from slugs, snails and cutworms you might want to try using a **Slug Collar** around your plants. Cut aluminum window screen into 4" x 10" long pieces. Leave sharp ends rather than smooth cuts because even if the slugs would crawl up the screen they will not crawl over the cut-wire ends. Roll the pieces tightly so they hold their shape then put a collar around each of your plants. Bury the bottom edge to hold them in place. This should keep the pesky slugs, snails, and even cutworms away from your new seedlings.



## Changing Pesticides

Many of you know there is constant change in the chemical industry. It is hard for us to keep ahead of all the changes so I am sure it is even harder for home gardeners to understand all of the changes. Listed below are a few of the changes that will affect home gardeners this year.



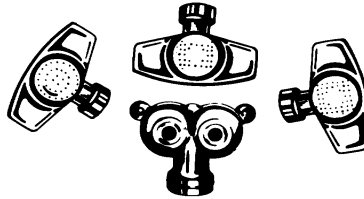
**Dursban** - This product is no longer available for purchase by homeowners. Homeowners can continue to use this chemical until it is gone. Commercial applicators can also use Dursban until it is gone.

**Diazinon** - This insecticide is still one of the most broad spectrum insecticide for lawns and gardens. It is scheduled to

# J&L's Coupon of the Month

**Free  
One Package  
of  
Sweet Pea Seeds**

Choose from dwarf or tall varieties.



**Bonus Buy  
1/2 Price  
Sunmate®**

**Hose-End Sprinklers  
and Fittings**

One Purchase Only.  
No limit on Quantity Purchased.

*Selection limited to supply in stock. Coupon expires April 15, 2002 or while supply lasts*

be discontinued for sale in 2003.

**Spinosad** - This is an insecticide in a new class of insect controls; the Naturalytes. Spinosad is derived from a naturally occurring bacteria, *Saccharopolysopra spinosa*. Spinosad is very effective controlling many butterflies, flies, wasps, and beetles. This insecticide does not harm many of the beneficial insects such as lady bugs and lacewings. It is however, harmful to honeybees and bumblebees when it is first sprayed. Once it has dried spinosad doesn't seem to bother the foraging honeybees to a great extent. Spinosad is not harmful to mammals, reptiles or fish. This product is labeled to control borers and many insects on fruit trees, vegetables and ornamental flowers. Spinosad is the main ingredient in **Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer & Tent Caterpillar Spray** (that is a long name for a bottle of insecticide!) We have a more extensive handout explaining this new product, please stop by and ask for a copy.

**Neem Oil** - This is not a new pesticide; we have been selling it for three years. It is bottled by the Greenlight company and sold as **Rose Defense, Fruit Nut & Vegetable Spray, and Powdery Mildew Killer**. Neem oil is an organic oil derived from the Neem Tree, grown in Australia. Neem oil smothers and kills many insects and diseases without having a toxic impact on humans. It is safe to use within a few days of harvest on most vegetables and fruits. We have a more extensive handout explaining Neem Oil, please stop by and ask for a copy.

**Eight** - This is an organic insecticide that has many of the safer properties of the inorganic insecticide named **Sevin**. **Eight** contains *permethrin*. It is labeled for use on fruits, vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees. Eight controls most insects both good and bad. Eight does not have a long residual, making it a good choice for controlling most insects in the vegetable garden, especially close to harvest. Eight is a poison even though it is classified as an organic insecticide and must be treated accord-



ingly. **Eight** is a good alternative to **Diazinon** and **Malathion**. Eight does not last as long as diazinon so it must be re-applied more frequently.

**Permethrin** is also the main ingredient of **Greenlight Borer Killer**. This is the product we are recommending this year to control peach tree borer, as the replacement for Dursban. **Greenlight Borer Killer** is also labeled for use on vegetables, fruits, flowers and shrubs, making it a versatile spray for home use.

## Stay Alert

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. Even "safe" organic pesticides can be fatal to humans if improperly used.



## What to Spray?

When facing an insect infestation, some gardeners grab the nearest spray. But wait! Be sure you know which pest you're dealing with and that the product you plan to use is effective on that particular pest. Also check to make sure the product is safe for your particular plant. For example, insecticidal soaps are very safe to use but they may not get rid of some insects such as fungus gnats. Insecticidal soaps even though they are very safe may still damage delicate plants, such as African Violets.

## Borer Killer Update

The common borer killer, **Dursban** has been taken off the market. You can still use this chemical until it is gone but we do not have it for sale. We have two new insecticides that have been registered for borer controls. **Greenlight Borer Killer** con-

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# The Gardening Newsletter

*continued from page 6*

taining **permethrin** and **Fertilome Borer, Bagworm, Leaf-miner, & Tent Caterpillar Spray** containing **spinosad** are now available to control borers. These products are organic insecticides: you have to apply them more frequently than dursban. **Orthene** is also available to control borers in pine trees, birch trees, ash trees, and other ornamental trees, it cannot be used on fruit trees.

## J&L Handouts

I don't know if you noticed but many of the articles in our newsletters suggest that you stop by for 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 on what new handouts we need to find. In this newsletter we mentioned twelve different handouts; four of these are new because we didn't have enough space in this issue of our newsletter.

Many people ask for individual copies of these handouts and many others ask for a copy of all our handouts. Individual copies of our handouts are free, including our **2002 Gardening Calendar**. If you have a specific question or if you would like more details on a particular item, please stop by and ask for a copy of one of our many gardening handouts.

At last count we have more than 75 J&L Handouts and 30 USU extension handouts available. Because of customer demand and of printing costs, we charge for sets of our J&L handouts.



We have a set of the twelve handouts mentioned in this newsletter. We are selling the March 2002 Garden Newsletter Handout set for \$2.00.

We also have a complete set of our J&L Gardening Handouts that we are selling for \$15.00. We have a set of Plant Description Handouts that we are selling for \$8.00.

We do not have a set of the USU extension handouts available but I believe you can buy those at one of the USU extension offices.

We still offer many free handouts to Garden Clubs and Church Groups, that are interested in giving them out to their members.

Customers have also requested copies of our previous newsletters. We are working on this request but don't have it available yet. We hope to have the previous newsletters available in a paper set as well as on a CD. The gardening business is trying to catch up with the computer age. We do not plan to have a Web site this year but we hope to have a site set up by next year.

## J&L Gardening Class Schedule

Pruning .....	Saturday Mar 2, 9, 16	11:00
Rose Care .....	Saturday Mar 23	11:00
Planting Annual and Perennial Flowers..	Saturday Mar 30	11:00
Growing Herbs .....	Saturday Apr 13	11:00
Planting Containers - Demonstration .....	Saturday Apr 20	11:00

Further class details will be listed in the Davis County Clipper..