



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

The Gardening Newsletter

vol 14 issue 1

April 2001

## April Gardening

We try to publish our first spring gardening newsletter in March rather than waiting until April because March is usually the best time to start getting ready for the coming spring season. However, April is still a great time to prepare your yard for the coming spring and summer season. We hope some of the ideas presented in this newsletter will help give you a few ideas for your gardening this spring.



This year our schedule at J&L was disrupted by two deaths. Faye Smith died on January 28 as the result of a heart attack she had a week earlier. Faye, John's wife, had been J&L's book keeper ever since the business was started, way back in 1958. She was working on J&L's W-2 forms just prior to, and during, her heart attack.

Lloyd Smith, John's Brother and co-founder of J&L Garden Center (John & Lloyd) died on February 5 from complications of a stroke he had 18 months previously. Lloyd had been in the hospital and in a rest home since his stroke.

These two deaths were tremendous losses for our family business, especially Faye's, she will be greatly missed.

## Something New at J&L

Each spring we always find something new and exciting to add to our line of gardening products. This year we have added **Turtle Turf** to our grass seed line up. This grass grows very slow, doesn't use much fertilizer, and requires very little water. **Turtle Turf** does not look the same as kentucky bluegrass but its big advantage is its ability to grow and stay green without much water. We will have a sample of **Turtle Turf** as soon as the weather allows the grower to cut the sod.



You may want to use **Turtle Turf** in your park strip or in other areas where you tend to waste water. Unfortunately **Turtle Turf Seed** is very expensive and **Turtle Turf Sod** is even more expensive. The supplier maintains the savings in water and labor is well worth the expense; we'll let you decide.

In addition to Turtle Turf seed we will also have **Waterless Triple Dwarf Tall Fescue Seed**. This blend of

dwarf fescue requires the use of a lot less water than kentucky bluegrass, but it still does not look like traditional kentucky blue grass. This type of grass is also available as sod from the sod farms.

## New Rose Varieties

The 2001 All American Rose Selections are:  
**Glowing Peace** .....**Golden Yellow Grandiflora**  
**Marmalade Skies** ..... **Orange Floribunda**  
**Sun Sprinkles** ..... **Yellow Miniature**

Other new roses we have this year include: Apertif, Burning Desire, Pearl, Pearl Essence, Sultry, and eight new French and English Garden Roses. For a complete listing of all the roses we have available stop by to pick up our 2001 rose price list.

## Rose Care

Start pruning your roses as soon as they start to grow in the spring; usually mid-April, this year it is probably early-April. Continue trimming and shaping your roses all summer, to keep them blooming their best. Give 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. Evenly spread about one-third cup of **Epsom Salts** (magnesium sulphate) around each rose bush when you prune them and another third cup again about mid-July. Your roses will look beautiful all summer.



## 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

*continued on page 2*

continued from page 1

sulphate twice a year. Don't prune climbing roses like bush roses or they will never produce three year old canes and they will never bloom. If you have questions about your climbing roses please stop by to talk to Earl or Jim, they will be able answer all your questions.

## Lawn Care

Many gardeners are not exactly sure when to fertilize, when to spray for weeds, how much water to apply, or when to prevent insect and disease problems. These questions may vary from year to year, and from yard to yard, but the basics are:



1. Fertilize your lawn 4 times each year (every two months). Start fertilizing in March or April.
2. Prevent crabgrass (and many other weeds) when the forsythia finishes blooming (usually April).
3. Prevent spurge (and many other weeds) when the soil temperature reaches 65 to 70 degrees (usually mid-May).
4. Control dandelions as soon as you see them (April through October)
5. Prevent sod webworms and lawn grubs in April or May. Prevent billbugs in late June or July.
6. Control lawn diseases when you see them. Many lawn diseases can be prevented just by proper watering and fertilizing.
7. Aerate every 2 or 3 years or as needed. Aerating your lawn will also help to control Nightcrawlers. Chemicals are not very effective in controlling nightcrawlers.
8. Power rake in the fall rather than in the spring. Aerating is usually better for the lawn than power raking.
9. Water deeply and as infrequently as possible. Do not water every day, even during the heat of the summer. Start watering once a week; then twice a week; then three times a week during the hot summer weather. Cut back to twice a week in September and once a week in October, or as the weather permits.
10. Mow your lawn about 1.5 inches long in the spring and fall. Raise the lawnmower to 2 or 2.5 inches during the hot summer weather. Lower the lawnmower to 1.5 inches in the fall, when the temperature begins to drop.

Each lawn is a little different and may require special care. Stop by to talk to one of our lawn experts. We have a **"Four-step Lawn Fertilizer Package"** that provides enough fertilizer for an average 5,000 square foot lawn for the entire year. This package sells for only **\$59.98**. We can customize this package to fit your fertilizer needs.

## What do the Numbers Mean?

**Q. When you buy a bag of lawn fertilizer what are you buying?**

**A.** The numbers listed on each bag of fertilizer indicate how much Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium is contained in the bag. Example-**21-7-7 Lawn Food plus Iron**

This bag contains 21% Nitrogen, 7% Phosphorous and 7% Potassium. This bag also contains Iron because it is listed as an added ingredient.

The other 65% of the bag may be anything the manufacture decides to use. It may be other minerals, sand, perelite, or gypsum. Inexpensive fertilizers usually contain sand. The more expensive fertilizers usually contain other minerals, gypsum or other soil conditioners.

**Q. Why does a 15 lb bag of 33-6-18 lawn food treat a 5,000 square foot lawn and a 40 lb bag of 21-7-7 lawn food treat a 8,400 square foot lawn.**

**A.** A rule of thumb is 1 lb of actual Nitrogen should cover 1,000 square feet of lawn. There is 5 lbs of actual Nitrogen in an 15 lb bag of 33-6-18 lawn food so that bag should cover 5,000 square feet. There is 8.4 lbs of actual nitrogen in a 40 lb bag of 21-7-7 lawn food so that bag should cover 8,400 square feet of lawn.

## Seed Sprouting

Sprouting your own seeds, to use in salads and sandwiches, was made a lot easier by the **Mountain Valley Seed Company** in Salt Lake City. Mountain Valley Seed Company packages 12 ounce packages of ten different seed varieties. They also package a seed sprouting sampler package containing a sample of each of these ten varieties of seeds. You can try some of each of these seeds to see which varieties you like most, then purchase those seeds in affordable 12 ounce packages. We also have a two-tray seed sprouter available so you can have seeds at various stages of sprouting.



## 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



continued from page 2

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 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.

## 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 **Jobes 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.



## Peach Trees

Peach trees are one of the easiest fruit trees to grow and take care of in this area. Gardeners in many areas of the country cannot grow peach trees because of their climate. Peach trees will not survive temperatures below -20 F. Late frosts also prevent peaches from being grown in certain areas. Gardeners in Cache Valley have a difficult time growing peaches and nectarines.



Peach trees are relatively short-lived trees. They generally live twenty to twenty five years but may live a little longer if properly cared for. Peach trees grow well in this area. If you follow a few guidelines you can grow and harvest peaches for many years.

1. Prune peach trees heavily every spring. This job is the most important project for the year.
2. Thin fruit heavily every summer. If you leave too much fruit the branches may break.
3. Treat for peach tree borer every year starting in July. Repeat in August and September.
4. Do not over-water peach trees. Water them deeply once or twice a month, especially when the fruit begins to ripen.
5. Do not sprinkle peach tree leaves. Coryneum blight is a disease that damages peach trees that can often be prevented by proper watering.

Some of the most popular varieties of peaches to grow in this area are:

**Red Haven** This is one of the earliest varieties to ripen.

**Early Elberta** (Gleason Strain) This is a mid-season variety that has yellow flesh and a good flavor. This strain originated in Utah.

**Elberta** This variety has been the standard of comparison for other peaches. It is a large peach with good flavor.

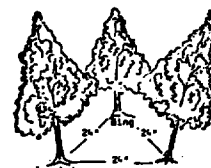
**J.H. Hale** This variety produces one of the largest peaches available. J.H. Hale ripens late. It has a reddish center with a good flavor.

A close cousin to peaches are the nectarines. They have similar growth habits and cultural requirements.

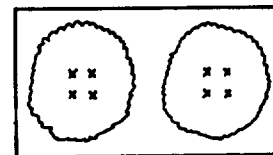
**Redgold** is one of the most popular nectarines. It has a red skin with yellow meat. It ripens late-August.

## Plant Several Trees In One Hole

Just because you have a small yard doesn't mean you can't have a good variety of fruit trees. If you have limited space but you still want to enjoy a wide variety of fruits, try planting two, three, or even four different varieties of the same fruit tree in one hole. Plant the trees in a square or triangle 24" apart, and at a slight outward angle. Prune the center limbs so that crossing limbs are removed, otherwise normal pruning and care is all that is necessary. Your trees will grow slightly larger than a single tree but you can control the size by summer pruning.



One advantage of planting several trees in one hole is you can plant a good pollinating variety along with other varieties that need a pollinator. Plums, cherries, pears, and apples all produce better with a pollinator. You can extend your harvest season by planting an **early ripening** variety, a **mid-season** variety, and a **late ripening** variety; all in the same hole. Make sure all the trees have the



continued from page 3

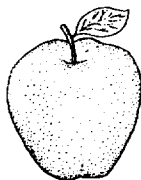
same growth habits. Do not plant dwarf trees in the same hole as standard trees. Do not plant a Cherry tree with a Pear tree or with a Peach tree, they grow differently! Be sure to choose your trees carefully before you plant them; you will be growing them for a lifetime.

We have a more detailed handout about the advantages of planting several trees together. Stop by for a free copy of this handout.

## Florel Fruit Eliminator

Are you tired of always picking up the crabapples from your lawn or sidewalk? Monterey chemical company has a product called **Florel, Fruit Eliminator** that will help eliminate unwanted fruit on many different varieties of trees. This product can be sprayed on crabapple, maple, cottonwood, flowering pear, horsechestnut, oak, sweetgum and sycamore trees. Unfortunately **Florel** is not labeled for use on all trees that produce unwanted fruit such as plums, cherries, or apricot trees but it seems to eliminate fruit on many of these trees as well.

This product must be sprayed at the right time and at the right concentration to completely control the unwanted fruit. You must spray the tree while the tree is blooming. One application is not usually enough to control all the fruit. If you have questions stop by to pick up a copy of the label to see if this product may help you eliminate your unwanted fruit.



## Raspberries and Blackberries

Red raspberries, yellow raspberries, blackcap raspberries, purple raspberries, boysenberries, and blackberries are all very closely related and belong to the rose family. Botanists separate the raspberries from the blackberries by determining if the core stays in the ripe fruit or if the core is lost during picking. Berries with the core intact are blackberries and berries that lose their core are raspberries. A few berries are a cross between blackberries and raspberries, such as Loganberry and Tayberry.



Although blackberries and raspberries are closely related they are quite different in their growth habits. Blackberries generally grow long, trailing canes and spread when the tips of the canes grow roots when they come in contact with the soil. Plant blackberries 8' to 10' apart along a fence line or trellis. Marion and Chester Thornless blackberries are two excellent varieties to grow. Thornless Boysenberry is another type of blackberry that grows well.

Red, purple, and yellow raspberries generally grow upright canes and spread from underground roots. Plant these raspberries 2' apart in areas you can keep the roots in bounds. Newburgh and Heritage are two excellent varieties of red raspberries for this area. Brandywine is a good

purple raspberry and Fall Gold produces yellow raspberries.

Blackcap raspberries grow upright, arching canes. They grow in clumps, and they only spread when their canes touch the ground. Cumberland is a the most popular blackcap raspberry.

## 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.

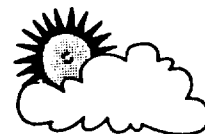


Plant strawberries as early in the spring as possible. They grow best in cool weather. Strawberries prefer sunny areas but they will tolerate some shade; they just don't produce as abundantly in the shade. Many varieties of strawberries are available including spring crop and everbearing varieties. Everbearing 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.

## Shade-Loving Perennials

While some plants are shade tolerant, others do not like any part of the hot sun's rays. Listed below are a few of my favorite shade tolerant and total shade perennials. Pick a shady spot in your yard and try one or two.



**1. Bleeding Heart:** This plant positively hates the sun. Plant in a cool shady area with plenty of moist fertile soil. Bleeding hearts grow 2' tall and are covered with drooping pink, heart-shaped flowers in the early spring. White blooming varieties of bleeding hearts are also available. Plant bleeding hearts 3' apart. Bleeding hearts are

like tulips: they grow and bloom in the spring and then the plant turns yellow and dies. Remove the yellow leaves in August.

2. **Lily of the Valley:** This plant is more of a ground cover than an individual flower. Plant this variety where it has plenty of room to spread; it will crowd out less hardy varieties. The fragrant white flowers will infiltrate the entire yard with its sweet smell.

3. **Hosta:** Hostas are available in an unlimited number of varieties. The leaf colors are spectacular with an added benefit of lily-like flowers that appear in the summer. The leaves can be blue, dark green, yellow, or a combination of several different colors. Some varieties flourish in deep shade while other varieties show their best leaf color with a little direct sun. Some varieties sell for \$6.00 while other varieties sell for \$30.00 to \$50.00 each.

4. **Hardy Fern:** Ferns are valuable garden plants of great dependability and beauty. Their leaves, known as fronds, can be lacy or leathery, plain green or variegated. Ferns can provide a long season of interest. Ferns do not flower but their foliage is extremely pleasing in the shade garden. Stop by for a handout listing many of the common ferns available.

5. **Daylilies:** Daylilies are exceedingly long-lived perennial plants. They prefer direct, cool-sun, but many varieties will tolerate a certain amount of shade. Daylilies are easy to grow and maintain. Daylilies are available in many different colors and shades. The new hybrid varieties are even more striking and have better blooming habits. Stop by and pick up a copy of our Daylily Handout that gives more information about planting and growing daylilies.

## Clematis Vines

Are you looking for a vining plant with breath taking flowers? Something that's easy to grow and very forgiving? Sounds like you're thinking about the **clematis vine**. The genus name "Clematis" which means "branch of the vine" is from the Greek word "klema". It is very descriptive of the growth pattern of this plant. Clematis is a deciduous vine which ranges in height from 6' to 20' tall. It bears large, striking flowers in a range of colors. Plant them with their roots in the shade and their tops in the sun and make sure they have the support of a trellis or fence for growth. For the most part they like average watering and loose well draining soil.

**Clematis** vines have twining leaf stalks that act as tendrils. They wind around to almost any type of support. Clematis will not, however, cling to brick or to a bare wall; they must have a trellis of some type. Clematis are also attractive when they hang over rocks or tree trunks. Clematis are not demanding plants but they do have a few special requirements. If you follow a few simple guidelines they grow and bloom profusely.



Clematis prefer a loose, well-drained soil. Make sure the rootball is about one or two inches below the soil surface. The roots should be shaded even though the plant will grow in full sun. Shading the roots can be accomplished by mulching with coarse bark, planting non-competing annual flowers, or planting clematis behind a rock or fence. As the clematis vines grow they may need to be tied or supported in several places. Be careful when handling clematis vine stems. The stems are brittle and are easily broken.

Clematis vines need a consistent supply of both water and fertilizer during the growing season. Fertilize monthly with **6-10-4 Flower Fertilizer** until mid-July. To keep the soil moist, cool, and loose, add plenty of compost around your plants each fall. This compost also helps protect the clematis vines during severe winter weather. Don't worry if your plant dies to the ground during the winter; new shoots will appear from the roots when the warm weather returns. Clematis do not like to constantly stay wet. Make sure the soil will drain after watering.

Clematis are available in many colors; Pink, White, Blue, Red, and by far the most popular - Purple. Stop by and pick up one of our very informative handouts about growing **Clematis Vines**.

## Hot Pepper Wax -

The **Hot Pepper Wax Company** has developed a way to use cayenne pepper to repel insects from houseplants, ornamental plants, and from fruit and vegetable plants. Hot Pepper Wax is available in a ready to use sprayer or in a concentrate that you can mix and spray yourself. Be careful spraying and using **Hot Pepper Wax** because it is a hot pepper extract; you will not like the effects of the material on you!



**Hot Pepper Wax** effectively repels aphids, spidermites, and even repels the hard-to-control white flies and fungus gnats from your houseplants. It can be used on most houseplants and even on poinsettias.

This same material also repels many animals from eating your plants. Squirrels, rabbits, and many rodents are among the animals that are repelled by this product. Deer do not care for the taste but it doesn't offer a reliable way to repel them. The **Hot Pepper Wax Company** also manufactures a **Gopher Repellent** (made of castor oil instead of cayenne pepper) and a **Bird Repellent** for use on cherries and grapes.

We have all of these products in stock. You may want to try one of these **Hot Pepper Wax** products in your fight against the pests in your gardens.

## 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

continued from page 5

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.**
  - a. How long has the tree been there?
  - b. Has any trenching or ground work been done near the plant in the last five to six years?
  - c. Has any fill material been added?
  - d. Has a plastic sheet or weed cloth been used under the dripline of the plant?
  - e. What kind and how much fertilizer is used?
2. **Check other plants in the immediate vicinity.**
  - a. Is this plant the only one showing this symptom?
  - b. Are any other plants showing similar symptoms, or other abnormal growth?
3. **Describe the symptoms.**
  - a. How are they distributed? Whole tree, single branch, roots, stem, leaves, randomly scattered, definite pattern.
  - b. Types of symptoms. Wilting stems, twigs, roots. Discolored leaves. Chewed leaves or stems. Missing leaf or parts of leaves. Leaf distortion.
  - c. 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.

## Slugs and Snails

There are many ways to kill slugs and snails but I don't think there is a "best way". The most important thing to remember is persistence. Don't give up. Keep killing those pesky critters all spring, summer, and fall. Try different methods until you find one that works; then try a new one when the last method stops working.



1. **Snail traps** are available to catch snails without using poisons. You can also make your own snail traps using pop bottles and milk jugs.

2. **Snail bait** Apply snail bait just before dark. Think like a snail. Put your snail bait where you would hide if you were a snail. Don't put the bait over the entire yard, just in cool, moist areas. Apply the bait on the edges of the gardens so the snails will die before they can reach your tender young plants. Put a little bait out every week rather than a lot all at once. Don't use the same bait time after time, try a different one.

3. **Liquid Deadline Snail Killer** Use this product

# J&L's Coupon of the Month

Limited Supply  
Limit 2 Pots Per Customer

Free  
One  
Pot Of  
Bulbs



Choose from Tulips & Daffodils

**Bonus Buy**  
Buy More  
Potted Bulbs  
for only  
**\$1.99**  
Your Choice of  
Color or Variety

Selection limited to supply in stock.

Coupon expires April 15, 2001 or while supply lasts

just like a snail bait; apply it at night, apply it around the area the snails might be, and re-apply it often.

**4. Diatomaceous earth.** This sharp sand dehydrates snails and many other insect pests, as they crawl across it. Diatomaceous earth is not a poison. Dust the ground and plants affected by these pests. Re-apply diatomaceous earth regularly especially after watering heavily.



**5. Decollate (Killer) snails.** These tiny snails love to eat the big garden snails, they will not eat slugs. Decollate snails are very territorial and will seek out and destroy any garden snails in their area. These snails will not usually eat plants. Decollate snails will not survive well through the winter so you will need to release more of them every few years. Do not use snail baits or other snail killers while you are using decollate snails.

**6. Slug & Snail Copper Barrier Tape** repels both slugs & snails. Slugs & snails will not cross a copper barrier because of an electrical charge the copper emits when it contacts the snail; similar to putting tinfoil inside your mouth. This tape works great for containers, raised beds, trees, and vines.

## Weed-Eater-Itis

Do your trees suffer from the fatal Weed-Eater-Itis disease that plagues many trees? Many trees struggle and die from this problem each year.

Most trees will recover from a car stripping off bark; cats using a tree as a scratching post; snow breaking branches;



and even a prankster stripping bark from the tree. Few trees, however, will recover from damage caused by a weedeater or a lawnmower removing just a small amount of bark completely around the entire trunk. Girdling a tree means 'almost certain death'. Even if the tree doesn't die it will be permanently damaged.

You may want to protect the trees in your lawn by putting a **Permascape Tree Mat** around each tree. This mat is made of recycled tires, ground up and glued together to form a nice barrier between your weed eater and tree trunk.

## 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. Caso-

## J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift

And Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Ut 84010

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bountiful, Ut 84010  
Permit No. 151

# The Gardening Newsletter

*continued from page 6*

ron 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.



## 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 fungus gnats. Insecticidal soaps may damage delicate plants, such as African Violets.

## Dursban Update

The common borer killer and insecticide **Dursban** has been scheduled to be discontinued this fall. We will have **Dursban** available at least until September or October; through this peach borer season. Many new insecticides such as Permethryn and Delta Methryn are now available to take the place of Dursban for most insects. These products are available in the **Bonide Brand**. Orthene is also available to control borers in pine trees, birch trees, ash trees, and many other ornamental trees. However, **Dursban** is still my insecticide of choice to prevent and control the peach tree borer. You may want to get an extra bottle of dursban this summer to use next summer if you have peach tree borer problems in your yard.



**Diazinon** is also scheduled to be discontinued in the next three or four years. Many new synthetic pyrethroid insecticides are becoming available to replace the older chemicals. You can still keep ahead of the bugs.

*Be sure to pick up a copy of our 2001 Gardening Calendar. It gives many helpful hints for gardening.*