

# GARDEN CHATTER

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The Official Publication of Laclede County Master Gardeners



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## Master Gardener Bob Smith Shows off his 2019 Laclede Co. Fair

### “Best Of Show “

**His entry was an Asian Lily he named “Erin Elizabeth” with a bloom 12” across for a special friend.**



Griffon Bakeberg with his Your  
Class "Best of Show" Ribbon  
For his Bearded Wheat,



**Just a couple of  
more pictures from  
the 2019 Fair**

# Sudden Oak Death confirmed in Missouri

*Consumers should properly dispose of infected rhododendrons and lilac plants*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Agriculture, in coordination with USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service, has detected ramorum blight on rhododendron plants shipped to some retail nurseries in Missouri. The disease is more commonly known as Sudden Oak Death when it infects oak trees. The rhododendrons were shipped to Wal-Mart and Rural King stores throughout Missouri, as well as the Home Depot, Stark Bros. Nursery Garden Center and Fort Leonard Wood PX.

Consumers who purchased rhododendrons or lilac plants of the known infected varieties labeled Park Hill Plants from these stores between March and June of this year should dispose of the plants immediately. Consumers who are unsure of their plant's variety should look for wilting or browning leaves, leaf spots and twig dieback. If consumers notice these symptoms, they should contact the Department's Plant Pest Control team at (573) 751-5505 and begin the disposal process.

Varieties that have been infected should be disposed of immediately to prevent further spread of the disease. Plants may be destroyed by burning, deep burial or by double-bagging the plant with its root ball in heavy duty trash bags for disposal into a sanitary landfill (where allowable). Consumers should not mulch, compost or dispose of the plant material in municipal yard waste. Garden tools used to dig up any affected plants should also be sanitized before they are used again.

Sudden Oak Death is a form of ramorum blight and is caused by a fungus-like pathogen known as *Phytophthora ramorum*. Since the 1990s, the plant disease has caused mortality in some types of oak trees in California and Oregon, but it has not established itself in the Midwest. The disease has a host list of more than 100 species of trees and shrubs, including rhododendrons.

Since early June, the Department has worked alongside USDA-APHIS to visit more than 113 retail locations to collect samples and place potential host plants under quarantine. USDA-APHIS has worked with Wal-Mart to organize a voluntary recall of the impacted plants, while other locations have isolated or destroyed affected plants. Any remaining plants confirmed with ramorum blight, and any host species comingled with the confirmed positive plants, will be destroyed.

Shipment of these rhododendrons has been successfully traced back to Park Hills Plants in Oklahoma and may have originated from nurseries in Washington State and Canada. Plant varieties identified during the investigation, which is still partially ongoing, were shipped to at least 18 states.

Specific varieties of rhododendrons that have tested positive in other destination states.



# August Garden Celebration Days



Every month has a few offbeat gardening holidays in it. Here are some of our August favorites:

August is the time to leaf out and enjoy all of your garden's rewards and surprises: from abundant veggies and stellar flowers to mystery plants that seem to have sprouted from nowhere and good times at the [local farmers market](#). There isn't a federal holiday that honors America's gardeners and farmers, but there a bunch of national days that give growers their due.

## National Farmers Market Week

Although it just passed, National Farmers Market Week runs from August 6-12, so make sure to mark it on your calendar for next year. Farmers markets have been around for hundreds of years in some form, but they've gained popularity in the U.S. over the last 50. These markets are a great way for local growers to get their produce and products in front of consumers. Plus, locations with multiple growers attract a wider variety of people because of the diverse range of locally-grown crops and goods they offer. Farmers markets increase access to nutritional food, help preserve farmlands and orchards, stimulate local economies, and create a social gathering place for their communities. Good food, great farmers, and new friends: now *those* are things worth celebrating.



## National Zucchini Day

Chances are National Zucchini Day (August 8) and Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night (August 8) were both started by some gardener who was a little too enthusiastic about growing "zukes," but these days do provide some great ways to honor the [zucchini](#) and bring more of this delicious vegetable to the table. If you already grow them, then you know that these plants can [produce more fruit than is humanly](#)

possible to eat, and after your friends, neighbors, and local school principal have accepted their fair share of these, you'll probably have to resort to a little "cover of darkness" subterfuge to spread the wealth because you know that just pulling up the plants is not an option. Baked, stuffed, fried, or sliced into noodles — there are plenty of ways to polish those spare zukes off.

## Eat a Peach Day

The month of August is National Peach Month, and August 22 is Eat a Peach Day. The sweetness and goodness of peaches are hard to ignore, and who doesn't love peach pie, peach ice cream, or barbecued peaches? Ty Cobb, the hard-nosed major league baseball player, was nicknamed "the Georgia Peach," but I don't think anyone would confuse him with the delicious fruit that came, and still does come, out of the great state of Georgia. Apples get their time in the fall, but August belongs to the peach.

## More Herbs, Less Salt Day



This national day, which always falls on last Friday of August, is more a nutritional day but one that celebrates the herb garden. Fresh herbs picked right from the garden (or maybe from a flower box on the front porch) offer some delicious ways to enliven food. During the summer, there's no reason to use dried herbs when fresh ones are still growing, and they're great for grilling and adding to salads. Using more herbs and less salt to flavor your food is a healthy way to enjoy summer — and the rest of your life, for that matter.

## Potato Day

Coming up on August 19, National Potato Day takes spuds from out of the earth and puts them on a pedestal. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 45 billion pounds of potatoes are grown each and every year. Loaded with vitamin C, potassium, and iron, potatoes are good for us, although the things we smother them in may not be. What would Idaho be without its beloved state vegetable (designated in 2002)?

## Daffodil Day

This day might seem a little odd at first glance. In the U.S., daffodils bloom early in the spring, but this one goes to our "down under" compatriots, the Australians. Their Cancer Society has embraced the daffodil as their official symbol in the fight against cancer. Contributors get a daffodil in exchange for their donation and a smile from those working hard to find a cure.





# 6 Great Veggies To Plant for Barbecue Season



Summer's around the corner. What's going to be on your grill.

In anticipation of warm, festive gatherings centered in the backyard around the barbecue, gardeners begin the joy of planning their summer fests. Gather your seeds and pick the growing [sites you prepped](#) in spring in anticipation of the summer's harvest.

Depending on how much space you have available in [your yard and how early](#) you get your goodies in the ground, the sky's the limit when it comes down to growing and grilling vegetables.

## Planting

Once the soil temperatures have reached optimal starting temperature, plant seeds directly in the ground. Some seed catalogs define the soil temperature for germination and when selecting seeds, make note of the days needed for harvest, if needed. Consult with the local extension agent to determine how long seed germination is until harvest for your area. Choosing established sprouts from your local nursery is another option for [starting your own seeds](#) inside to get them ready for transplanting.

Some catalogs will also tell you the fertilizer needs for each vegetable. Amend your soil accordingly. Here are the growing needs of some of your summer grilling vegetables.

## Onions

Onions have the coolest soil temperature requirements of all the grilling plants. Once the soil temperature reaches 50 F, the seeds or transplants can be planted. Most species of onions have growth that is heavily tied to the amount of sunlight they get, so be sure to choose seed species that best correspond to the day lengths in your area. For instances, long day varieties tend to grow better in the north. Onions require only a moderate amount of fertilizer, and they prefer a light, sandy, loamy soil.



Onions require from 104 to 110 days to mature. Once they mature, stop watering them so the protective paper coating around the bulb forms. Once the tops fall, harvest in about a week. Cure in a warm shaded area until the necks and outer skins are dry.

### Zucchini

Zucchini or yellow squash can be planted when the soil temperatures reach 65 to 85 F. Resist the urge to plant squash too early because they don't like cool weather. This makes them an ideal veggie to start for those planters who are always finding themselves behind schedule, or the BBQ fan who doesn't realize they want grilled veggies to pair with their steaks and burgers until summer is in full swing. Black mulch and raised beds help keep the soils warm for earlier planting. Plants mature at 38 to 60 days, depending on the variety. A moderate fertile, and well-drained soil will produce the best squash for grilling. Remember that bees are necessary for pollinating squash, so plant bee attracting plants to ensure plants are pollinated. To [keep the plants producing](#), harvest when the zucchini are young.

### Corn



Later in the season plant corn. It requires soil temperatures of 65 to 85 F. The best most successful corn is grown when seeds are planted at the higher soil temperatures. Before planting, corn is a heavy feeder and needs a high amount of fertilizer. Some corn matures as early as 68 days while others mature in 80 to 90 days. When the ear silks brown and dry, harvest the ears.

One delicious grilling techniques after harvesting your corn, is to wet the entire corn, husks and all, then barbecue directly on the grill.

Tomatoes and bell peppers may be planted Once the soil temperatures reach 70 F. Both of these plants have high need for fertilizers and are susceptible to cold temperatures. Protect them from freezes.

Peppers are warm season annuals which thrive in composted, well drained soils. Grow these plants in raised beds with black mulch. Amend the soils with extra calcium and phosphorous which should produce the best yields. Harvest the peppers when they are colorful red, orange, or yellow.

### Tomatoes

Tomatoes, the peppers partner, also love a large amount of fertilizer and grows best in well- drained, raised beds with black mulch. Some considerations when planting are to bury the plant up to the top two sets of leaves. Also growing in full sunlight and cooler temperatures keep the plants from getting leggy. A typical disease, blossom end rot can be prevented by the application of additional calcium. Harvest when the tomatoes are red in 70 to 80 days. Green tomatoes can be ripened in a cool dark area where the fruit is not touching each other.

### Eggplant

The final favorite for summer grilling are eggplants. These plants are heat loving and need a long day. With soil temperatures up to 75 to 90, these plants do well in well- drained raised beds with black mulch. As with the





tomatoes and the peppers, the eggplants require a high amount of fertilizer. The best growth occurs when night temperatures are at least 70 F. Harvest these plants in 55 to 75 days depending on the variety, when the skin is smooth and silky

### Cooking and Grilling

After harvesting these veggies, browse the Internet for a variety of marinades. Then you have a choice of four popular types of grills. The most popular grill is the gas grill which is quick to light, produces moister meat, and is quick to clean up. It is also possible to use a

smoker box which smokes the veggies.

A charcoal grill is portable, less expensive, provides a smoke flavor and can be used with charcoal.

Lastly another grill often enjoyed by summer grillers is the electric grill. These grills incorporate electric plates which makes them smoke free. They are inexpensive, portable, easy to clean and good for apartments.

From garden to grill, summertime is a great time to fire up the barbecue and enjoy your summer bounty.



**[SPECIAL BH&G OFFER]**

## Fragrant Peony Trio

Peonies are known for the lush, romantic ruffles they bring to a garden, but the ones in our collection—'Duchesse de Nemours', 'Dr. Alexander Fleming', and 'Command Performance'—also have a heady, sweet to spicy scent as impressive as their looks. Blooms in early June.



Order the Fragrant Peony Trio from White Flower Farm at [BH&Ggardenstore.com/Peony](http://BH&Ggardenstore.com/Peony) or call 800/420-2852. Mention item GM083531 and offer code BHS15. The cost is \$49 plus shipping. Your bareroot peonies will ship at the proper fall planting time. Recommended for Zones 3-7S/8W.

**EASY CARE**  
Peonies are low-maintenance and high-performing.

**Here is a new offering I thought worthy from “Better Homes and Gardens” for your consideration**



# August Gardening Calendar

## Ornamentals

- Continue spraying roses that are susceptible to black spot and other fungus diseases.
- Annuals may appear leggy and worn now. These can be cut back hard and fertilized to produce a new flush of bloom.
- Deadhead annuals and perennials as needed.
- Divide oriental poppies now.
- Feed mums, asters and other fall-blooming perennials for the last time.
- Roses should receive no further nitrogen fertilizer after August 15th.
- Powdery mildew on lilacs is unsightly, but causes no harm and rarely warrants control, though common rose fungicides will prove effective.
- Madonna lilies, bleeding heart (*Dicentra*) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria*) can be divided and replanted.
- Divide bearded iris now. Discard old center sections and borer damaged parts. Replant so tops of rhizomes are just above ground level.
- Prune to shape hedges for the last time this season.
- Order bulbs now for fall planting.
- Evergreens can be planted or transplanted now to ensure good rooting before winter arrives. Water both the plant and the planting site several days before moving.
- If you want to grow big dahlia flowers, keep side shoots pinched off and plants watered and fertilized regularly.

## Lawns

- Zoysia lawns can receive their final fertilizer application now.
- Apply insecticides now for grub control on lawns being damaged by their activity.
- Lawns scheduled for renovation this fall should be killed with Roundup now. Have soil tested to determine fertility needs.
- Dormant lawns should be soaked now to encourage strong fall growth.
- Verify control of lawn white grubs from earlier insecticide applications.

## Vegetables

- Compost or till under residues from harvested crops.

- Sow seeds of beans, beets, spinach and turnips now for the fall garden. Spinach may germinate better if seeds are refrigerated for one week before planting.
- Cure onions in a warm, dry place for 2 weeks before storing.
- Broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower transplants should be set out now for the fall garden.
- Begin planting lettuce and radishes for fall now.
- Pinch the growing tips of gourds once adequate fruit set is achieved. This directs energy into ripening fruits, rather than vine production.

## **Fruits**

- Prop up branches of fruit trees that are threatening to break under the weight of a heavy crop.
- Protect ripening fruits from birds by covering plants with a netting.
- Continue to spray ripening fruits to prevent brown rot fungus.
- Thornless blackberries are ripening now.
- Watch for fall webworm activity now.
- Cultivate strawberries. Weed preventers can be applied immediately after fertilizing.
- Spray peach and other stone fruits now to protect against peach tree borers.
- Fall-bearing red raspberries are ripening now.
- Sprays will be necessary to protect late peaches from oriental fruit moth damage.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Soak shrubs periodically during dry spells with enough water to moisten the soil to a depth of 8-10 inches.
- Once bagworms reach full size, insecticides are ineffective. Pruning off and burning large bags provides better control.
- Spray black locust trees now to protect against damage by the locust borer.
- Hummingbirds are migrating through gardens now.
- Watch Scotch and Austrian pines now for Zimmerman pine moth damage. Yellowing or browning of branch tips and presence of pitch tubes near leaf whorls are indicative. Prune and destroy infected parts.
- Clean out cold frames to prepare for fall use.
- Monitor plants for spider mite activity. Hose these pests off with a forceful spray of water.
- 2nd generation pine needle scale crawlers may be present on mugo pine now.



## Recipe of the Month

# Skillet Creamed Corn



Now that sweet corn is coming in here is a recipe I think you and the whole family will really enjoy

Creamed corn makes a delicious side for any meal with its creamy sweetness and warmth. This recipe for Skillet Creamed Corn is sure to be a hit every time you serve it up. It's very easy and absolutely delicious. This creamed corn recipe and we know you will too! (recipe courtesy for Mr. Food)

### What You'll Need

- 2 (12-ounce) packages frozen corn kernels, thawed
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

### What to Do

1. In a skillet over medium heat, combine corn, cream, butter, sugar, salt, and pepper; heat 5 minutes or until hot. In a small bowl, whisk together milk and flour, and stir into corn mixture. Cook 5 minutes or until mixture is thickened. Serve.





**Progress continues on the Route 66 gardens as work continues this past Tuesday. It is really beginning to take because of the hard work of many. Just keep it up gang – your looking good!**



# Gummosis on Peach Fruit

Gummosis is often apparent near harvest on the surface of peach fruit, especially in organically grown or minimally sprayed orchards. Gummosis appears as beads or a string of clear ooze after certain types of plant bugs (*Nezara viridula*, *Acrosternum hilare*, *Halyomorpha halys*) puncture



Gummosis on peach fruit surface caused by stink bug feeding. Photo credit: University of California IPM

the skin of the peach to feed (Figure 1). This year stink bugs have caused much of the gummosis observed at harvest in central Missouri. Dry, corky, sunken areas also occur just beneath the feeding site in the fruit flesh. Gummosis can be brushed off the fruit and the superficial damage in the flesh can be cut out. While stink bug feeding results in slight imperfections in the appearance of the peach, the fruit is safe to eat.

Gummosis can also occur on developing peach fruitlets in the spring as a result of tarnished plant bug (*Lygus lineolaris*) or stink bug

feeding. When peaches are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, feeding by either type of plant bug causes not only gumming of the fruit, but also severe catfacing damage, fruit distortion, or fruit drop. Tarnished plant bugs are attracted to orchards where winter annuals are in bloom. Controlling broadleaved winter annual weeds and legumes, such as clover and vetch, in and surrounding orchards can reduce the incidence of plant bugs. Because these plant bugs are in orchards in early spring before peach trees bloom, scouting for these insects is recommended at the pink floral bud stage (before any flowers are open). Insecticide may be applied at the pink stage when tarnished plant bugs or stink bugs are found. Stink bugs feed throughout the growing season and may have one or two generations per year, depending on the species. Tarnished plant bugs have multiple generations each year. Thus, these insects require monitoring until harvest even though they may begin to leave peach trees for other hosts after petal fall.

Yet another insect that causes gummosis on peach fruit is the Oriental fruit moth. However, unlike the plant bugs, gummosis resulting from Oriental fruit moth feeding contains frass (excrement from larvae). In the spring, a larva bores into a terminal shoot, causing it to wilt. Later, a larva may bore into the peach fruit near the stem and burrow through the fruit. When it exits the peach, a hole with gumming and frass remains on the surface of the fruit. Monitoring for Oriental fruit moth also begins at the pink stage of flower development and continues through October since there are multiple generations of these insects during the growing season. Homeowner recommendations for controlling insect pests may be found at: [extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPrinterFriendlyPub.aspx?P=G6010](https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPrinterFriendlyPub.aspx?P=G6010) and those for commercial orchards are at: [https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Hort/Pages/sfg\\_sprayguide.aspx](https://ag.purdue.edu/hla/Hort/Pages/sfg_sprayguide.aspx).





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 A sensational mixture of rare, strange, devil, curious, singular, comical, fantastical, queer, comely, funny, big, little, long, thin, fat, round, oblong and oddly odd shaped gourds. Just the sort you will want to plant for the children and for your own fun and pleasure. Gives free with each order. See page 1.  
 Pkg. 20 cents; 2 lbs. 40 cents; 1 lb. 25 cents.



# Harvesting and Using Elderberries

I remember as a child we spend the day filling our buckets, and our stomachs with wonderful sweet goodness. We'd then head home where Mom would make jelly and jam, or simply wash and freeze our harvest

It seems that in this world of 60-hour-workweeks and take-out food, some of our simpler pleasures have been forgotten. Very few children or adults for that matter, know the pure joy of popping a sun-warmed berry in their mouth while standing surrounded by bushes full of vine-ripened bounty. I can wistfully recall those times and each summer the roadsides and fields beckon me.

My daily errands take me down a stretch of four-lane highway on a regular basis and I couldn't help but notice the beautiful white umbels of elderberries as the flowers bloomed in late Spring. Their big flat blooms nodded over the right-of-way fence like beach umbrellas at a fancy resort. I admired them as I headed about my business and thought to myself that the birds would have a real feast come August.

As summer stretched on and the long, hot, humid days became even longer and hotter, I forgot about the lovely cheerful blooms that greeted me as I drove about my business. I had succumbed to the ratrace and buried my instincts inside the ever-present need to deal with modern life which consisted of job, mortgage, taxes and the daily necessities of what it takes to stay afloat in today's society.



Oh, but then came August. Sweltering hot and humidity that ran down one's back in small rivers. Dashing from one air conditioned building to another and barely daring to take a breath in the oven that summer had become. My air-conditioned car was a haven between errands, until I caught sight of that unmistakable glossy blackness that could only be one thing. The [elderberries](#) were ripe! They hung in weighty masses over the fence along the four-lane and taunted me. For three days, I drove down that stretch of road and longingly looked at the heavy heads of berries. I didn't need them. We don't even eat jelly as a rule. I didn't have time to fool with them. There were many more tasks that were higher on my to-do list than making jelly that I'd probably just give away. But.....there they were. They were calling my name and not just a little nagging buzz like a mosquito would make...no, these were screaming for me to rescue them from the roadside. "Come get us, please! We want to be something besides bird food!"

On the fourth morning, they had me. I could resist no longer. Gathering up a couple of five gallon buckets, my garden shears, and actually putting on heavy shoes suitable for stepping where one could not see, made it final. The elderberries were coming home. I headed out to the right-of way and started snipping them into my buckets, one big glossy head at a time.

In no time I'd filled my buckets to overflowing, much to the amusement of my neighbors and the curiosity of one County Deputy. They all know me by now anyway and one more odd task didn't seem to surprise anyone. The birds didn't go hungry either; I left even more berries than I took.

Back to my kitchen I went with my bounty and started the task of preparing the berries for jelly. I pulled the tiny, seedy globes from the stems and put them in my biggest stockpot with a little water to keep them from sticking. Simmering on low to release the juices took about forty minutes. I strained the juice from the pulp and the juice was so dark that light barely came through it. I knew better, but had to sample the raw juice. Elderberry juice isn't exactly fit for consumption in it's 'raw' state. It has a slightly insipid, sour taste that is best combined with sugar or other juices to bring out its full potential.

I made jelly with my harvest, adding the juice of a couple of lemons to boost the pectin content. The result was a beautiful, rich, dark purple jelly with a unique flavor. I ended up giving most of it away, just as I predicted, but the ghosts of my ancestors were looking with approval over my shoulder the whole time I worked on it.

As with all wild foods, please verify exactly what you harvest. Be aware that pesticides and poisons may have been used nearby. Also, do not trespass on private property, and always ask permission before you pick.



# Freshwater Fliers

*Discover what makes dragonflies, the iridescent mosquito eaters, so special.* BY RACHEL MAIDL

Over 80% of their brain is used to interpret what they see

Small antennae make it easy to get close and bite prey

Legs grab and hold larger prey in midair

Wings propel them forward as fast as 35 miles per hour

Holes in long abdomens allow them to breathe

When it's chilly outside, dragonflies bask in the sun or vibrate their wings quickly to generate heat.

Slaty skimmer

## ANCIENT WONDERS

Dragonflies are some of the oldest animals on the planet, with fossils dating back more than 300 million years! Nearly 2,500 different kinds of dragonflies are found all over the world, in colors from purples to bronzes that often shimmer or look metallic. They lay their eggs and hunt around water, so consider installing a pond to attract them to your backyard.





# Perennial 'Tulips?

## THE STRAIGHT DOPE



### IT'S A COMMON FRUSTRATION:

You buy tulip bulbs, plant them in the fall and enjoy a great display in the spring. But the following spring, all you get is a smattering of flowers and maybe a bunch of leaves. “*What happened?*” you ask yourself. “*Aren't tulips supposed to come back? My grandmother has tulips that have bloomed every spring for as long as she can remember. Did I do something wrong?*”

#### PAMPERED BEGINNINGS

More than likely, you are not to blame. It's in the nature of tulips. **Most tulips are not strong perennializers in the landscape. They don't flower well the second year after planting.**

Why don't tulips come back? The tulip bulbs you buy and plant in the fall have been groomed to bloom. They were raised in sandy Dutch soil and fertilized in just the right measure. When they bloomed in the spring, the flowers were cut off soon after they opened to keep them from drawing too much energy from the bulbs. The leaves were allowed to continue to grow for another six weeks in the famously cool Dutch weather. After going dormant in early summer, the bulbs were dug and stored in a climate-controlled warehouse to mimic a long, hot, bone-dry summer in the mountains of Central Asia, which is where most tulips are native.

#### SPLITSVILLE USA

All of this TLC yields a high percentage of flowering-size bulbs, including many topline bulbs, which measure 12 centimeters in circumference or larger. A topline bulb can't get bigger, but it will get smaller, typically by splitting into two or more smaller bulbs. Under less-than-perfect garden conditions, when the bulbs split into smaller bulbs, those smaller bulbs may take years to grow to flowering size. Some may also rot due to heavy soil or excess moisture. And so your breathtaking tulip display dwindles to little or nothing.

#### BUCKING THE ODDS

Despite the obstacles, **there are some tulips that are willing (but not guaranteed) to bloom for more than one year.** The best known are the Darwin Hybrids, but the Fosterianas, and many of the wild, or species, tulips also have perennial tendencies. They won't keep going indefinitely, but it's possible to get two or three reasonable displays from them before you feel the need to replant. You can find a list of these tulips on our website, [colorblends.com](http://colorblends.com), under Tulips, along with tips on encouraging perennial behavior.

#### HONEST TALK

Some bulb companies feature perennial tulips and charge a premium for them. **Since repeat performances are never a sure thing, Colorblends avoids making promises the bulbs may not keep.** We'd rather keep our prices wholesale and our information straight.



The Straight Dope and the tips below on Daffodils came from a catalog from a company by the name of *Colorblends*. Some of you may have gotten this in the mail in the past week or so – A few of us have been discussing getting a group order together and if you are interested in joining us we plan to meet for a bit after our meeting this week – 8-8-19 would love to have all that are interested. – Bob

## To get the most from **Daffodils** follow these 4 basic rules

*Daffodils want to be perennial.  
All they need is a little help from you.*

**1** Plant them where they will get at least 6 hours of direct sunlight—even after the trees have leafed out. Daffodils must have lots of sun after they bloom to produce the following year's flowers.

**2** Plant them in soil that drains well. Avoid areas where water stands after a rain storm.

**3** Fertilize very lightly with a low-nitrogen fertilizer, preferably organic, just as the shoots emerge in early spring.

 After daffodils flower, wait at least 8 weeks—until the leaves turn yellow—before cutting them. Never tie or braid foliage. This year's leaves = next year's flowers.



# ***FINGERSPIT – ZENGEFUHL***

**Fingerspitzengefuhl is a German expression that means having a feeling about how something has to**

**be done. Dutch bulb growers use this expression to decide when flower bulbs are ready to be harvested and shipped.**

# How to Get Your Weeds Under Control



Whether you are a control freak or just a good gardener, nobody likes weeds.



Weeds can suck the life out of any garden. They can turn a beautiful rose garden into an ugly patch of chickweeds and foxtails. Not only do they look ugly; they also take up precious space and nutrients that your other plants and grass need to be healthy. A meadow full of clover and dandelions may be pretty out in the countryside, but it turns your lawn into a mess of patchy bare spots and irregular lawn growth. So, whether you have a few pesky weeds popping up in your garden or a whole yard full of wild onions and garlic, you may need some help in getting those pesky patches to disappear.





## What is a Weed Anyway?

A weed is typically any kind of plant that grows where you don't want it to. And when you think about it, that can be just about anything. For example, many people love dandelions, but even more people hate them and wish they would go away. And just one of these perky plants can make up to 15,000 seeds! How do you fight something like that? It can be a long and difficult struggle which you may or may not win. Sure, those bright yellow flowers may be pretty to some folks, but do you want your lawn to be full of them instead of lush green grass? Really, I would not mind. But I live in the country and enjoy watching the wild critters snack on the dandelions and the clover that grows wild in our lawn. It drives my husband crazy, but I don't mind it at all. Here are the [top 10 weeds](#) you may find in your yard:

1. **Bindweed:** Also called creeping jenny is one of the most invasive weeds in the United States. It looks similar to ivy but has a white flower that looks like a morning glory.
2. **Ground Ivy:** Also called creeping Charlie, many people love this stuff and will let it grow wherever it wants. But it is an aggressive weed that will invade any patch of grass or garden.
3. **Milkweed:** This one is well-liked by many because the Monarch butterflies love it. It is also not a bad looking plant.
4. **Ragweed:** This is one of the number one allergy-causing plants in the United States. In fact, it is considered to be the worst allergen of all the pollens and the main cause of hay fever.
5. **Jimsonweed:** Growing up to five feet tall, this annoying plant can take over your lawn and kill anything that eats it. It is found all over the United States and Canada.
6. **Pokeweed:** Also known as inkberry or pokeberry, this is another tall weed that is toxic to animals and humans.
7. **Sorrel:** This small perennial is also called sheep's sorrel and they are edible. It grows in the eastern half of North America.
8. **Dandelions:** This is the one that almost everyone complains about although I personally like them. They are edible and pretty to me, but they can take over your yard and garden.
9. **Broadleaf Plantain:** Large leaves and small flowers, these perennials will take over your flowerbeds and lawn.
10. **Thistle:** The most common weed found in North America is the thistle. Mowing or pulling this weed will not help. The roots grow down to over 10 feet so forget about digging them up.

## Getting Rid of The Pesky Perennials

So, for most of these, you can just **dig them up** and make sure you get all of the roots. However, for some of the more difficult ones that tend to spread such as the thistle, ragweed, ground ivy, bindweed. While spraying some insecticide on them usually does the trick for even the aggressive ones, these chemicals can also kill your lawn and other plants as well as insects and other critters. It can also poison the groundwater, which can be a major problem if you live uphill from a lake like we do. So, let's talk about the top seven **natural killers**.

1. **Vinegar:** Full strength vinegar, either apple cider or white, can get rid of those irritating weeds. However, if it rains in the next 24 hours you will have to do it again. This is one of the safest and cheapest ways to kill weeds. Although some weeds may not be as easy to get rid of with this method.

2. **Bleach:** Dump some bleach on those weeds. Then wait a couple of days and they will be ready to pull out. The bleach will keep them from returning but it will also kill any other plants or grass it comes into contact with so use it carefully.



3. **Salt:** Mix table salt with water and boil it for a cheap and safe alternative. One cup of salt mixed with two cups of water will do it. You can also just dump salt onto the weeds. Just do not get it on anything you want to stay alive.

4. **Borax:** Pour some borax into the cracks and crevices in your driveways or areas where weeds tend to crop up before they start. It will kill them before they have a chance to set down roots. This one is a bit dangerous though and will kill everything it touches.

5. **WD-40:** It will get rid of those pesky squeaks around your house and you can also use it to kill the weeds. This is especially good for thistle.

6. **Baking Soda:** This is a safe, easy, and cheap way to keep the dandelions and other weeds away. However, it is not as effective as the rest of the others.

7. **Vodka:** If you cannot get rid of those annoying weeds, just grab a bottle of vodka to share with them. Either they will die, or you will not really care after you take a few drinks.

### **AND FINALLY,**

.....No matter what weeds you have, you can always use a trowel or shovel to dig them up. It may take a lot longer and be a lot more work, but you don't have to worry about killing anything else like your prize rosebushes or friendly deer.