



Patty's Plants

July Newsletter

Family, Friends and Fireworks

July is the time when summer truly begins for families, friends, parades, and picnics. Of course, we must not forget the children, with their first lemonade stands. It's a time to celebrate theirs and our Independence. Have them plant a red, white and blue flowering container. They can decorate their lemonade stand with some flowers that look just like fireworks. In this newsletter I will list some easy flowers to use and add a couple of fun gardening projects for children. I will also recap on some of the articles from previous newsletters on veggie, annual and perennial care for summer.



We may also want to think about changing or fixing up some our plant-

ers or gardens to make sure our flowers and veggies are growing and looking their best for our parties or gatherings. We might want to replace a few annuals at this time or even create a tropical paradise in our backyard living space. I'll list some wonderful tropical plants for you to choose from. Here at Patty's Plants we are busy creating fresh new flowering container gardens with annual, perennials and tropical plants. You can freshen yours up too with tips from this newsletter.

We still have many fun plants to choose from.

So come in and visit us at:

220 S. Janesville St.

Milton, WI 5356

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Make Some Liber-tea

We can thank the "Daughters of Liberty" for starting us on herbal teas. During the days of the 'Boston Tea Party' the ladies made up their own teas using sage and other local plants, we call herbs. An herbal tea is actually called a tisane or herbal infusion.

Sweet Liber-Tea

To celebrate this 4 of July, brew up some "Liberty Tea".



- 5 sprigs spearmint
 - 3 sprigs applemint
 - 2 sprigs red bee balm flowers
 - 1 sprig peppermint
- Pour 10 cups of boiling water over slightly bruised fresh herbs. Steep 15 minutes. Strain, cool and pour over ice.

Inside this issue:

Summer Plant Care	2
Flashy Firework Flowers	2
Fun Project For Adults and Children	3
Tropical Paradise In Your Own Backyard	3
Garden Disease Control	4
Hot Weather Food Tips	4

Gopher Trouble?

- ♦ Try this:
- ♦ Put two or three garlic bulbs, several chili peppers and some water in a blender, blend well. Pour some down the gopher holes and rinse with a strong stream of water from the base. **Please wear gloves, the peppers can be irritating.**

Summertime Plant Care

In the heat of the summer, there is no reason your plants should suffer. Here are some tips to keep your flowers and plants looking their best.

Water- Water your plants regularly. The morning is the best time. They will be under less stress when the hottest part of the day arrives. Some plants droop during the hottest time of the day even though they have enough moisture, so it is very important to check them first before you go the water them. You don't want to overwater them. If it's a container you can lift, like a hanging basket see how heavy it is. It won't need it if it's heavy. If it's more then you can lift, stick a chopstick down in the container if it comes up wet with soil on it (like a oil dipstick or cake tester) it's not time to water. Also remember rain doesn't always come straight down so don't think that your plants have been watered thoroughly enough.

Mulch –Mulching around your plants keeps the roots cool and conserves moisture, so you won't have to water as much. You can use long fibered moss on your containers or hanging baskets to hold moisture



Mulching will reduce weed competition for valuable moisture & nutrients.

in. Bark, wood chips or compost works well in the flower garden. Use dried grass clipping(with out weed killer residue) or straw on your veggie garden. This will help especially your tomatoes so any soil bourn diseases doesn't splash up on the leaves and cause a blight.

Spraying -Spray any organic fertilizers, insect and diseases controls only in the morning or at dusk, never in the hot sun. This can cause leaf and root burn when

you apply it in hot weather. You also want to make sure all the beneficial insects (bees & butterflies) either haven't woken up or have gone to bed.

Garden Chores - Wait to do major pruning, transplanting and dividing in cooler weather. You don't want to put stress on you or your plants in the heat of the summer. Light pruning, dead heading flowers or harvesting herbs throughout the summer is fine to keep plants looking tidy (especially hanging baskets).



Flashy Firework Flowers

Sun Loving

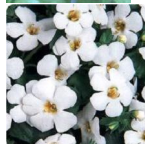
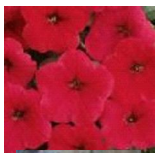
Red Salvia– A sun loving and heat tolerate annual. These are a great spiked flower that hummingbirds love. They look just like firecrackers.

We carry Lady in Red and Red Hot Sally.

Red Wave Petunias One of the best things about Easy Wave Red is that it has a great spreading habit, but it also has a little more height.

Blue Victoria Salvia A very easy care, low maintenance annual. 18-24" tall, sun.

White Bacopa –Wondering trailing plant with small white flowers. Keep well watered to encourage bud development in



high heat.

Shade Loving

Red and White Impatiens Brighten up a shade area with these flowers. Low maintenance

Blue Lobelia Masses of bright blue blooms will fall over the sides of hanging baskets and spill over walls and container edges. Can take part sun too.



There are too many red, white and blue flowers to choose from, this is just a few. You can add fountain, fiber optic grass and silver dusty miller and you'll have an explosion of color for your 4th of July decorating.

Don't forget to add the flag!

Fun Project For Adults and Children

How To Grow A Pineapple

1) First and most important is to go to the grocery store and buy a pineapple with a nicer or fresher looking green top.

2) Cut the top off the pineapple so that there is about an inch of the yellow part showing from the green top. **Ask a parent or adult to help you with the cutting.**

3) Lay it on its side on a plate for one to two days so it dries out a little.

4) Fill the pot with good potting soil like (Black Gold Coco Blend), then push the top of the pineapple in the soil. Press the pineapple down just a little and cover with a



tiny bit of dirt. You might have to use a wire to pin it in a couple of places so it won't tip over Until it gets roots.

5) Water it well and then let it dry out between watering. It may need more water when it starts growing roots.

6) Place it in a east or west window. You can also mist it with warm water once or twice a day.

7) Don't forget to have someone cut up the rest of the pineapple to eat. Yum!



You can grow your own plant!

Tropical Paradise In Your Own Backyard

With gas prices these days more and more people are enjoying their backyard living space. You can create a backyard paradise using Tropical plants. You can enjoy them all summer, then bring them inside for the winter. That makes tropicals very economical too.

Hibiscus is one of the most popular tropicals. This plant is great on a hot sunny patio. It is best to repot any of the tropicals from their small pots they come in. Here at Patty's Plants we can help you with that. We have wonderful potting soils that will give your new plants all the nutrients they need to survive a hot summer. **Bird Of Paradise** is another fun plant that can give you a very tropical look. White Birds have huge leaves and they can take sun or part shade. They also can dry out slightly between watering . That alone makes it a easy plant to care for. In our area it is just grown for it's huge leaves and not it's flowers, they very rarely flower here. **Crotons** with their bright colorful leaves



of red, yellow, orange and green are a great one for full sun. For part shade **Alocasia** or **Elephant Ears** are perfect, plant lime or black sweet potato at it's base.

You will need to care for your new plants, here are some care tips:

Water, fertilize and deadhead. Check your planters daily, usually in the morning. Water it thoroughly so the water drains out the bottom. This way you know the entire root system is watered. Don't let the planter sit in water for more the 15 minutes. If it's not soaking it up it's plenty wet. There are all different types of fertilizers. From

water-soluble to granular to organic. You can fertilize with a diluted solution every time you water or once a month using a granular fertilizer.

Pruning or deadheading will help your flowers and plants stay in the best shape by growing and filling in more.

Peace of mind is great fertilizer. It's an organic slow release fertilizer. We carry many different formulas for all your plant needs.



Patty's Plants

Natural & Organic Garden
Supply

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Patty's Plants

With all the rain, warm and cooler days, our weather has certainly been up and down. Be on the look out early for harmful garden diseases. This product works great on veggies, flowers, including roses. We carry it right here at Patty's Plants.

You can effectively treat the diseases in your garden without worrying about the safety of your family and pets or the effects of harsh pesticides in your yard and garden.

Serenade Garden Disease Control offers you the same effective control used by 1000s of farmers to grow beautiful, disease-free fruits, vegetables and flowers - without chemicals that can be harmful to people or the environment.

Serenade Garden provides protection against a broad spectrum of the most common fungal and bacterial garden diseases, yet is completely non-toxic to bees and beneficial insects. It is so safe you can confidently harvest and eat fruits and vegetables the very same day they are treated. Unlike sulfur-based disease control products, Serenade Garden is non-irritating to skin and lungs. And, unlike neem oil-based products that can injure plant foliage, there are no weather or timing restrictions limiting its application.

From: www.serenadegarden.com



*****I thought I would include some food safety tips from Peggy Trowbridge Filippone, About.com, so we can all have a safe, healthy and happy 4th of July and many summer picnics.*****

Hot Weather Food Tips

Basically, the idea is to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. This means forethought and preparation on the part of the cook, including safe food preparation, smart transportation of foods to your destination, and safely storing leftovers. Here are some tips for outdoor food safety and convenience:

*Think ahead before opening your cooler. Every time you open it, cold air escapes and the temperature rises.

*If possible, have all your cooler food in watertight containers. Add water to the ice which will keep the foods and beverages colder for a longer period.

*If you don't have blue-ice packs, you can fill up zip-top baggies, plastic or cardboard cartons with

water and freeze ahead of time. With the baggies or sealed plastic jugs, the melted ice can be used for cold drinking water.



Be safe this 4th of July with these food tips

*Be sure the food is already cold before putting into a cold cooler of ice to keep temperatures low. Warm or even room temperature foods added to a cold cooler will reduce your storage time.

*Unless you have facilities to boil leftover marinades for sauce, toss out the leftover marinade or risk food borne illness.

*Leftover hot foods need to be refrigerated or iced immediately to avoid bacteria contamination. Make sure you bring extra ice if you are away from home.

Have a Happy 4th!