



Garden Talk!

for the Heartland Garden Enthusiast

May 2003

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BUYING HOME & GARDEN CHEMICALS? GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW WHEN USING PESTICIDES

Every year homeowners are faced with various pest problems such as weeds, moles, deer, and insects. The first step to managing the pest is to properly identify it. By correctly identifying the problem you will be able to choose an appropriate method of control-chemical, mechanical, cultural, biological, or a combination.

You should use pesticides when other control methods fail. Extensive use of pesticides can kill beneficial organisms that help keep pest populations under control.

The following are guidelines you should follow if you choose to use pesticides:

- Read the label carefully; it tells you how, when, and where to use the product.
- Apply the amount specified on the label and apply only to the plants and areas listed. Over-application is a waste of money and an environmental hazard.
- Wear protective clothing as directed on the label. Do not wash clothing contaminated with pesticides with other clothing.
- Make sure the pesticide is designated for use on the pest you want to control.
- Do not mix different pesticides unless instructed by the product directions.
- Keep pesticides in their original containers, so you know what they are and how to use them. It's the law!
- Do not apply pesticides if rain is in the forecast.
- Never spray on windy days. The spray drifting in the wind poses a serious danger to no-target plants and animals, including those in your neighbor's yard.
- Never apply pesticides to bare ground or eroded areas. When it rains, pesticides can easily be washed off these sites with eroding soil.
- Never apply pesticides near wells, streams, ponds, or marshes unless instructions specifically allow for such uses.

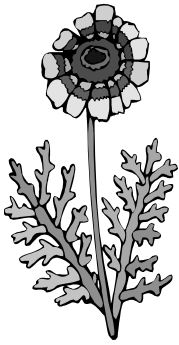


Consider this fundamental principle of ecology-everything is linked to everything else. Because of this, pesticides can often have unintended consequences. For example, don't be surprised if songbirds leave the yard after spraying pesticides. Many birds are directly harmed by pesticides; others leave because insects they feed on have been killed. Even approved weed killers have been known to cause harm to animals and allergic reactions in people.

When pests invade lawns and gardens, consider the full range of pest control options. In many cases pesticides will not be necessary. When pesticides must be used, follow label directions carefully to minimize harm to people and beneficial plants and animals.

Source: Lawn Care and the Environment, University of Wisconsin Extension

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PLANT PROFILE:
Blanket Flower

Scientific Name:

Gaillardia x grandiflora

Flowers: Ragged yellow and orange daisy-like flowers have single or double

rows of toothed petal-like rays surrounding a raised yellow center.

Bloom Time: summer

Size: 2-3 feet tall; 2 feet wide

Hardiness: zones 4-9

Culture: full sun; grow in average soil that is well-drained; they will tolerate poor soil and are drought and salt tolerant; does not like heavy, wet, clay soil; plants grown in soil that is too rich and moist tend to be floppy and short lived.

Propagation: divide every 2-3 years in spring to keep them vigorous; sow seed outdoors in fall or indoors in spring after stratification.

Landscape Uses: use blanket flowers in rock gardens, borders, or seaside gardens

Disease & Insect Susceptibility: no serious pests or diseases

**RECOMMENDED
STRAWBERRY
CULTIVARS FOR
MISSOURI**



I have had some calls on which strawberry cultivars are recommended for Missouri. MU Guide 6135 suggests the following:

- Earliglow
- Cardinal
- Honeoye
- Redchief
- Surecrop
- Allstar
- Guardian
- Jewel
- Lateglow
- Sparkle

For more information on each cultivar or other information about strawberries, contact your county extension center and ask for G6135.

Why Plants Fail To Bloom

By: Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist,
Purdue University Cooperative Extension

Flowering plants that don't flower can be a big disappointment in your garden. A little detective work can usually pinpoint the trouble. The most common factors associated with blooming are light, plant age, nutrition, winter temperatures, and improper pruning. Some, such as chrysanthemums, flower in response to short day lengths. Some plants such as peonies will flower sparsely or not at all when grown in shade. Similarly, shade-loving plants such as begonias will not bloom well in full sun.

Many woody plants must reach a certain age before they mature enough to produce flowers. Fruit trees such as apples and pears can require as many as five or six years to become fruitful. Ginkgo trees can take up to 15 years to bloom. Overfeeding plants with nitrogen can encourage plants to produce lush foliage at the expense of blossoms. A lack of nutrients, particularly nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium may also delay flowering. Stick with a balanced, low analysis fertilizer such as 12-12-12 or 6-10-4 to avoid applying excessive nitrogen.

Landscape plants that bloom in spring set their flower buds in autumn on one-year-old wood. These buds can be killed by extreme low winter temperatures or by late frosts in spring after growth has begun. Choose plants that are adapted to your area. Pruning spring-flowering plants before bloom will remove the flower buds as well. The rule of thumb is to prune spring flowering shrubs and vines after blooms have faded.

AROUND THE REGION

- Lewis County resident, Russ Heindselman, has a few tips for our readers:-He suggests watering vegetable crops, particularly tomatoes by placing a five gallon bucket full of water next to the plant and let the water slowly drain out around your plants. It takes about two hours for the bucket to completely drain. He uses a 3/8 bit to drill a hole in the bottom of the bucket.
- Another useful practice that Russ uses is placing pieces of old carpet around bramble fruit and other small trees to keep the weeds down. The carpet also holds in moisture. If your brambles are spreading, the carpet is good at keeping them from spreading further. If you are looking for another weed control method, try this one.
- Pine Sawflies are active on pines right now. The larvae can be seen feeding on the tips of pine branches. Monitor your plants closely for the larvae.
- If we have a wet spring, Fireblight on apples, pears, and possibly even Bradford Pears may be a problem.
- Anthracnose may become a problem later in the spring, but I have not seen any nor as it been reported yet.
- Moles and grubs seem to be a problem right now. Call your extension office and ask for the guidesheets on Controlling Moles, and Controlling Grubs.

SMALL SPACE AND CONTAINER GARDENING

Do you enjoy gardening? Is lack of space a problem for you? If so, try container gardening. Plant breeders and seed companies are offering a wide variety of vegetables that are suitable for containers. Even if you live in an apartment with only a balcony, you can enjoy fresh vegetables you can grow yourself. Any space with ample light and access for watering and fertilizing is appropriate for container gardening, including a window sill, patio, doorstep, or rooftop. Container gardening does have its advantages such as freedom from soil-borne diseases, insects, nematodes, and poor soil, all of which threaten plants in a traditional garden.

When choosing containers, consider the following:

- 1) they must be large enough to support fully grown plants
- 2) they must have adequate drainage
- 3) they must never have held products that are toxic to plants or people

There are a wide variety of containers to choose from including hanging baskets, clay or plastic pots, barrels, trash cans, milk containers, and bushel baskets or wooden crates lined with plastic punched with drainage holes. When using wood products, it is important to avoid those treated with creosote or pentachlorophenol (Penta). These treatments are toxic to plants.

Watering is very important. Containers dry out quickly, especially in full sun and wind. Clay pots, due to their porous nature, allow evaporation from the sides. Pots should be watered thoroughly until water runs out the bottom. However, the pot should not be left standing in water. Soil should be checked for moisture at least once a day, and in hot, dry weather, twice a day. Often, premixed, packaged soil includes fertilizer. If this is the case, plants will not need additional nutrients for 8-10 weeks. After this, use a water-soluble fertilizer every two to three weeks. Always follow the recommended rates to prevent fertilizer burn or possible death of plants.

When given the proper care, a container garden can be every bit as satisfying and enjoyable as a traditional one.

Annual flowers suitable for containers include:

Alyssum	Begonia	Vinca	Coleus
Geraniums	Zinnia (dwarf varieties)	Impatiens	Marigolds
Lobelia	Nasturtiums	Pansy	Petunias
Salvia	Verbena		

Vegetable suitable for containers include:

Snap Beans (Bush Romano, Bush Blue Lake, Tender Crop, Royal Burgandy)

Lima Beans (Henderson Bush, Jackson, Wonder Bush)

Beets (Little Egypt, Early Red Ball, Early Wonder, Detroit Dark Red, Boltardy, Burpee Golden)

Broccoli (Green Comet, DeCicco, Spartan, Italian Green Sprouting)

Brussels Sprouts (Jade Cross, Long Island Improved)

Cabbage (Dwarf Modern, Red Ace, Early Jersey Wakefield, Little Leaguer, Earliana, Copenhagen Market, Ruby Ball Hybrid, Red Head Hybrid)

Carrot (Short & Sweet, Tiny Sweet, Baby Finger Nantes, Little Finger, Ox Hart)

Cucumber (Patio Pink, Spacemaster, Pot Luck, Bush Whopper, Bush Champion, Burpee Hybrid, Salad Bush)

Eggplant (Slim Jim, Ichiban, Black Beauty, Modern Midget, Mission Bell, Small Ruffled Red, Thai Green, Bambino)

Garlic (most varieties)

Lettuce (Salad Bowl, Ruby, Grand Rapids, Oak Leaf, Buttercrunch, Dark Green Boston, Little Gem, Bibb)

Onion (White Sweet Spanish, Yellow Sweet Spanish)

Pepper (Sweet Banana, Yolo Wonder, Long Red Cayenne, Bell Boy, California Wonder, New Ace, Red Cherry, Jalapeno, Thai Hot)

Radish (Cherry Belle, Icicle, Champion, Scarlet Globe)

Spinach (Dark Green Bloomsdale, Melody, America, Avon Hybrid)

Squash (Scallopini, Baby Crookneck, Creamy, Golden Nugget, Gold Rush, Zucchini)

Tomatoes (Small Fry, Sweet 100, Patio, Burpee's Pixie, Toy Boy, Early Girl, Better Boy VFN, Red Robin, Sugar Lamp)

GARDEN TIPS FOR MAY

ORNAMENTALS

- Pinch azaleas and rhododendron blossoms as they fade. Double flowered azaleas need no pinching.
- Fertilize azaleas after bloom. Use a formulation that has an acid reaction.
- Apples, crabapples and hawthorns susceptible to rust disease should have protective fungicidal sprays applied beginning when these trees bloom.
- Begin planting gladiolus bulbs as the ground warms. Continue at two-week intervals.
- Plant hardy water lilies in tubs or garden pools.
- Continue monitoring pines, especially Scotch and Mugo, for sawfly activity on new shoots.
- Don't remove spring bulb foliage prematurely or next year's flower production will decline.
- Canker worms (inch worms) rarely cause permanent damage to ornamentals. Use B.T. if control is deemed necessary.
- Begin planting warm-season annuals after danger of frost has past.
- Plant summer bulbs like caladiums, dahlias, cannas, and elephant ears.
- Scale crawlers are active in May or early June. Infested pines and euonymus should be treated at this time.
- Trees with a history of borer problems should receive their first spray now. Repeat twice at three-week intervals.
- Begin fertilizing annuals. Continue at regular intervals.
- Bulbs can be moved or divided as the foliage dies.
- Pinch back mums to promote bushy growth.

VEGETABLES

- Slugs will hide during the daytime beneath a board placed over damp ground. Check each morning and destroy any slugs that have gathered on the underside of the board.
- Growing lettuce under screening

materials will slow bolting and extend harvests into hot weather.

- Place cutworm collars around young transplants. Collars are easily made from cardboard strips.
- Set out tomato plants as soils warm. Place support stakes alongside at planting time.
- Isolate sweet, super sweet, and popcorn varieties to prevent crossing.
- Keep asparagus harvested for continued spear production. Control asparagus beetles as needed.
- Thin plantings of carrots and beets to avoid overcrowding.
- Control caterpillars on broccoli and cabbage plants by handpicking or use biological sprays such as B.T.
- Plant dill to use when making pickles.
- Remove rhubarb seeds stalks as they appear.
- Watch for striped and spotted cucumber beetles. Both may spread wilt and mosaic diseases to squash and cucumber plants.
- Set out peppers and eggplants after soils have warmed.
- Plant sweet potatoes.
- Make new sowings of warm-season vegetables after harvesting early crops.

FRUITS

- Mulch blueberries with pine needles or sawdust.
- Don't spray any fruits while in bloom. Refer to local Extension publications for fruit spray schedule.

TURFGRASS

- Keep bluegrass cut at 1.5 to 2.5 inch height.
- Mow tall fescues at 2 to 3.5 inch height.
- Apply post-emergence broadleaf weed controls now if needed.
- Watch for sod webworms emerging now.

-Missouri Botanical Garden-

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27: Garden N' Grow starts in Queen City. Garden N' Grow (formerly know as Jr. Master Gardeners) is a garden program open to youth ages 9-13. For more information contact the Schuyler County Extension Center at 660-457-3469.

June 2: Garden N' Grow starts in Kirksville. Contact the Adair County Extension Center at 660-665-9866.

June 22: Kirksville Area Master Gardener Club Garden Tour, Kirksville, MO. See the June issue for more information.

Check out these guidesheets at your local county university extension center.

G6010-Fruit Spray Schedule

G6020-Fire Blight

G6085-Home Fruit Production:

Grape Culture

G6400-Vegetable Gardening

Questions and Answers

G6620-Summer Flowering Bulbs:

Gladiolus

G6650-Flowering Perennials:

Characteristics and Culture

G6700-Cool-Season Grasses:

Lawn Establishment and Renovation

G6750-Home Lawn Weed Control

G6911-Gardening in the Shade

G7200-White Grubs in the Lawn

G7424-Carpenter Bees