

The Growing Scene Gazette

The Growing Scene, Inc. 17009 Harmony Rd, Marengo, Illinois 60152

Volume 12, Issue 3

September-October 2007

Big Ideas from the Big City!

By Kathleen Carr

During the past week, I had the opportunity to attend two green industry functions. The Independent Garden Center Symposium in Chicago and The Olsen's Product Showcase in Schaumburg. Both were phenomenal! The landscaping in Chicago is amazing in and of itself. When you put superb speakers with knowledgeable sales staff representing the best gardening products in the United States and literally thousands of garden center owners from across the country...it adds up to a very inspirational and mo-

tivational experience. We will be implementing many of the ideas and suggestions from the show over the next 6 months. Look for an explosion of color in our display beds next Spring!

Thank you to all who attended our Pond Building Seminar. It was a learning experience. Phase I of the pond is done. Three Koi fish are enjoying their new home. Our landscaping department is available to design and implement your own personal water garden.



After a long winter, color through Spring blooming bulbs is always a welcome site. We have a great selection of bulbs from Holland.

Check out our great selection of high quality spring blooming bulbs:

- Anemone
- Crocus
- Hyacinth
- Muscari
- Daffodils
- Tulips

Hyacinth are very fragrant! Daffodils are deer and rabbit resistant!

Join us for Customer
Appreciation Days
October 13 & 14!

Dates to Remember:

- September 16-October 29
*Our Fall Festival Hours-
Monday -Friday day 9-6,
Saturday 9-5, Sunday 10-5*
- October 13 & 14- *Cus-
tomer Appreciation Days*
- October 29 *Last Day Gar-
den Center is open for the
season.*

Protecting Your Investment

By Kathleen Carr

As we all know landscaping and gardening are huge investments. Unfortunately four legged creatures often view that investment as food for them, rather than beauty for us. I highly recommend that you protect your investment this fall and winter. Every Spring thousands of homeowners in our local area are bitterly

disappointed when they realize the severity of the damage that has occurred in their yard that has been caused by rabbits, deer and voles.

Rabbits and deer respond best to a multi-faceted approach. I recommend that you alternate animal repellent products that are sprayed directly onto the

leaves and stems with products that are raked into the mulch. You may also want to put up a physical barrier such as fencing.

Repels-All is a fantastic Animal Repellent Spray. Shake away is a granular mixtures that is put down around the base of the plants.

Garden-Net Fence is a fantastic, easy to use product that will assist you in putting up a physical border that deters rabbits and other small rabbits.

We have Repels-All, Shake Away and Garden-Net Fence in stock at our garden center.

Valley of the Illinois Amish

By Melissa Shippy

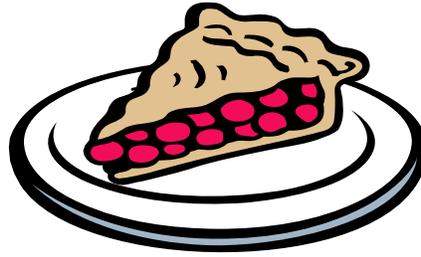


We hope that you are enjoying the new selection of homegrown, all natural products that we are carrying this year at the farm stand!

All of the Kaskaskia Valley Products are homemade by the Illinois Amish, known and respected for their excellence. The Illinois Amish still make their products the old fashioned way- in small batches.

Even though this process takes more time, it allows for every batch to be of the best quality and tastes the freshest!

We are proud to carry these all natural products for you and your family.



The Amish products also make great gifts for the natural food lover! Try one of the delicious Amish items listed below:

- Corn Relish
- Pickled Garlic
- Zesty Garlic Mushrooms
- Hickory BBQ Sauce
- Pineapple & Raspberry Salsa
- Horseradish Mustard
- Roasted Garlic Mustard

- Tangy Jalapeno Mustard
- Jalapeno Mayo Mustard
- Roasted Garlic Mayo Mustard
- Cherry, Raspberry & Peach Pie Filling

Mention this article and get 10% off your next purchase of any Amish item!

“So plant your own garden and decorate your own soul, instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers”

Act Now to Prevent Winter Damage to your shrubs & trees

By Kathleen Carr

There are 2 simple steps that should be taken now to prevent damage to young shade trees and evergreen trees and shrubs. Frost cracking is a huge problem among shade trees. It primarily occurs during the first 1-5 years after they have been planted. Maples are especially susceptible to this phenomena. Frost cracking



occurs on the south or west side of the bark of the tree. It is a vertical crack or line that occurs that is usually 6-12” long. It occurs in the winter. The sun shines the brightest on the south and west

sides of the tree. During a sunny winter day the bark along those sides of the tree heats up and expands. During the night the temperature drops and the tree bark contracts. The expanding and contracting processes leads to frost cracking. Wrapping the tree with a thick crepe paper product called “tree wrap” helps to insulate the tree. Tree wrap should be put on in late October and taken off in mid March.

Evergreen trees and shrubs continue to go through a process called transpiration during the winter. Transpiration is the loss of water through the needles of leaves of the evergreen tree or shrub. Evergreens can easily dry out over the winter if they do not have a sufficient supply of water. It is important to water

evergreens through early November. You may also need to put a couple buckets of water at the base of the plants if we have some warm weather in January or February. Anti-desiccant sprays are sometimes used to decrease the amount of transpiration that occurs in evergreens. The sprays are a wax based product that should be used to coat the needles of the leaves. Wilt-Pruf is the most popular anti-desiccant spray. It should be used if the evergreens are particularly susceptible to high winds (they often dry out evergreens).

We carry tree wrap and Wilt Pruf at our garden center. We are also available to come out and apply either of these products for you.

The Silver Lining to All These Rain clouds

By Kate Kelley

Well, we are finally starting to dry out from the last few weeks of heavy rainfall in the area. This comes as a big relief to many people battling water in their basements and flooding in the streets. I live in DeKalb, recently declared a disaster area, and while there was significant flooding that caused evacuations, severe flood damage, and the cancellation of the first day of the Corn Fest celebrations, I have to think that we were luckier than many other towns that suffered much more damage. Areas surrounding and including Chicago had severe wind damage, leaving cars and buildings smashed, pummeled, and broken by falling tree limbs and debris. Though we have had about 8 more inches of rain than what is normal for Illinois this time of year, I have to say that I would rather be living here than in Tennessee, which is

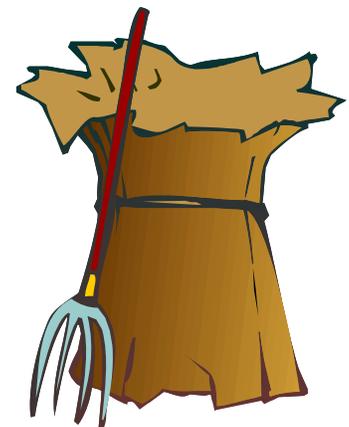
experiencing a severe heat wave and drought. Or in Texas, Jamaica, or any of the other places that had to deal with Dean and Erin and their subsequent flooding and damage.

What I find the most amazing is how, in times of crisis, everyone rises to the occasion and helps those in need. There were over 100 volunteers, just in DeKalb, who helped fill sandbags into the early



morning Friday, and the food that had been prepared for Cornfest on Friday was given to the evacuees staying in the NIU Rec Center. The Kishwaukee River has receded, and all the roads are open again in the DeKalb/Sycamore

area. People are getting back to their normal routines after having them significantly altered by all-night cleanups and travel delays. And yes, though many crops were destroyed by the heavy rains, many more plants are looking as lush and green as ever with the extra water they've had access to, putting the 10-15 inches of rain to use. The good news is that there's no rain the forecast for the next week or so, with temperatures in the upper 70s and lower 80s. I don't think we could have asked for more beautiful weather for Labor Day weekend. I think everyone will appreciate and enjoy this weather a little more now, perhaps spending more time outside in it, and that appreciation of nature is always a wonderful thing.

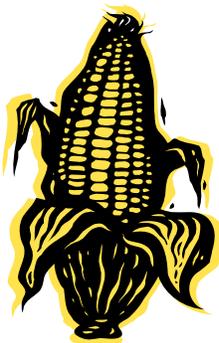


Grandma's Recipe Book

Special Guest Recipe By Shannon Whitt

Frozen Creamed Sweet Corn

18 cups raw corn (cut off cob)
1/2 cup sugar
1 T. Salt
1 lb. Oleo margarine
2 cups milk
Mix all ingredients up in large roaster; do NOT cover & bake for 1 hour @ 325 degrees in oven.



Stir once or twice-cool-& pack in containers; Freeze Quickly.
Enjoy!

Customer Appreciation Days 2007

JOIN US OCTOBER 13-14th!

Saturday, October 13 & Sunday, October 14 will be filled with fun, food, and friends at **The Growing Scene, Inc.** Customer Appreciation Days are being held to say "Thank you!" to those customers whose loyalty and trust have enabled us to successfully complete our 12th year!

Chris, Kathi, Mary, Sarah and Christopher invite you to stop by for hot apple cider, donuts and fresh apple desserts.

Take advantage of special sales on select remaining in stock items!

We look forward to celebrating the fall season with you. Our hours will be Monday-Saturday from 9:00-5:00 and Sunday 10:00-5:00.

Fall Decorations & Pumpkins Available September 14th!



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Hours:
Monday-Saturday 9-5
Sunday 10-5



*A Garden Center and
Landscaping Company*

Customer Appreciation Days October 13th & 14th! **End of the Season Sale!**

Our Fall Festival Starts September 14th!



Enjoy our Fall Festival-

- Apples, Pie and Eating
- Pumpkins of all sizes
- Delicious Squash
- Homegrown Tomatoes!
- Sweet Corn
- Corn Stalks
- Decorative Gourds
- Indian Corn
- Fall Blooming Mums and Asters
- Black Eyed Susans
- Straw Bales



The Growing Scene Gazette, is a publication of **The Growing Scene, Inc.** **The Growing Scene** is a garden center and landscaping company located at 17009 Harmony Road, Marengo. The phone number is 815-923-7322.

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