

The Growing Scene Gazette

The Growing Scene, Inc. 17015 Harmony Rd, Marengo, Illinois 60152 Volume 13, Issue 2

July-Aug 2008

Landscaping Secrets Shhhhhhhhhhhhh

By Kathleen Carr

On May 19th, I woke up with a terrible cold. I called my employees "You are on your own today", my husband called and re-scheduled all of my appointments "You really don't want her at your home today, she looks, sounds and feels awful" and I weakly blew kisses to the kids as they got on the bus to go to school.

I proceeded to spend the whole day in bed, some work, some feeling sorry for myself, much hope that I would be better for the chamber event we were hosting the following night. About mid day while looking through the on screen television guide, I discovered a program titled "Landscaping Secrets". Should I watch it? Will it just remind me that I can't do what I should be doing today? I decided to give it a try. At first I thought I had caught the pro-

gram during a commercial, then I realized that the commercial for this all in one tool was the program. Ugh! That prompted me to come up with my own version of "Landscaping Secrets" Please check out page 2 of this publication for those secrets. I won't even make you suffer through a cold to get them.

It is with great happiness, a little sadness and much trepidation that I announce that our Garden Center Manager Melissa Shippy will be going on maternity leave on July 21st. Melissa is the sole reason behind many of the improvements that have taken place at the garden over the past 4 years. She was instrumental in planning our move and expansion, developing a Pave loc Paver walkway and display area and purchasing and implementing our Point of Sale system. Please consider joining us on

Saturday, July 19th as we host a Baby Shower for Melissa and her husband Paul. I will be putting together a Scrap book for Melissa that will include notes of encouragement as well as pictures. We will have an area for small cash donations towards the purchase of a infant car seat. Cake, cookies, doughnuts, coffee and punch will be served from 9-6. If you can not make it, please consider mailing any words of advice or notes of encouragement by August 5th and I will include it in her scrap book.

Thank you for a great Open House 2008! We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We were able to make a generous donation to Animal House Shelter in Huntley.

Welcome Cindy & Dan!

By Melissa Shippy

It has been a pleasure working with you all the last 4 years. I am both sad and excited to let you all know that I will be leaving on Maternity Leave mid-July to stay home with my baby whom is due in early August. In preparation for my leaving, we have added two new members too the Garden Center Team, Dan & Cindy.

We are pleased to announce that Dan Delporte has joined the

Growing Scene's Team as a Garden Center Sales Person. Dan is a 6-year resident of Gilberts, where he lives with his wife Jennifer and dog, Boo-Bear. He brings a wide variety of experience from various trade fields to the Growing Scene. Dan has love of gardening and has decided to pursue a new career path with the Growing Scene. His interests include gardening and music.

We are pleased to announce that Cindy Treyner has also joined our team. Cindy is a 5 year resident of Marengo, where she resides with her husband and 2 children.

Cindy's many hobbies include stain glass, quilting, sewing cooking and of course gardening. Cindy's previous experiences include managing a Residential Remodeling Company and working in Retail.

Stop by and say hello to Cindy & Dan! They are eager to help and meet you all.

Farm Stand Opens Thursday, July 17

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Dates to Remember:

- July 17 Farm Stand Opens
- July 19 Melissa's Baby Shower
- August 1-3, Coon Creek Days, Hampshire

Landscaping Secrets Shhhhhh

By Kathleen Carr

Okay here they are...

1. Plan your garden on paper before you purchase anything. Get a general idea of what you want where.
2. Read everything that came with your plant(s) before you plant it. Look for specifically for hardiness, height and width information.
3. Set the plant(s) where you think you want them planted (and then as your spouse and find out where they really should be planted-just kidding). Measure from the center of one plant to the center of the next plant.
4. If a plant dies, it isn't your fault. If probably isn't from anything that you did or didn't do.
5. Watering correctly is the most important thing you can do to insure the success of you plantings.
6. Purchase the highest quality tools you can afford and take care of them! The reason our landscaping crew does what they do is those \$95 spades, \$165 wheel barrels and Stihl power tools (Plus 60 years of experience).

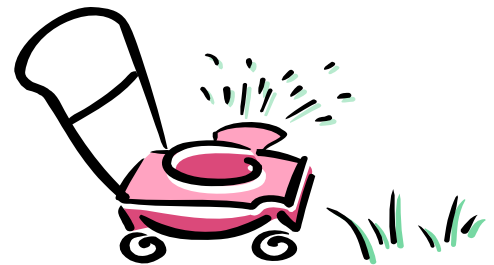
Measure also from the nearest structure to the center of the plant. Have you left enough room for future growth?

Customer Survey Winners Announced!

Thank you to all who filled out the Customer Surveys we mailed you in April. We appreciate you taking the time to help us make our company the best we can for you!

The three lucky winners of \$100.00 Gift Certificate to our Garden Center are:

1. The Huperts of Huntley
2. Nancy Deighton of Huntley
3. Becky Hill of Huntley



Love Your Lawn

By Pat Reinhart

Many of us take our lawns for granted. Turf grass is an extremely resilient plant. We mow it too short, water it too little, and basically ignore it until there is a problem. Grubs, weeds, and fungus, oh my! But, more often than not, grass struggles along and somehow survives in spite of us. There are simple things we can do to help our heroic grass plants in their struggle to survive. Keeping a healthy lawn is paramount to aiding in the fight against unwanted turf adversaries. •

Mowing: Ideally, Kentucky Bluegrass (the most common grass in Northern Illinois lawns) should be maintained at a height of 2 to 3 inches. For optimum health, only 1/3 of the grass blade should be removed with each mowing. So, to maintain a height of 2 inches, for example, the lawn should be mowed when it reaches

a height of 3 inches. Of course, it is not always possible to be this precise. But, consistent proper mowing is important to the health of your lawn. A lawn frequently cut too short will be more prone to weed invasion.

•**Watering:** Mother Nature has certainly taken care of this issue up to this point! But, we can be pretty sure we won't make it through the summer without some portion of hot and dry weather. When temperatures go up, and rainfall goes down, grass goes dormant ... unless we water. You can opt not to water, your lawn won't die. However, when the turf isn't growing, it leaves the area wide open for **WEED INVASION! YIKES!** If you choose to water, make sure you water properly ... water deeply, rather than often. If a lawn is regularly watered lightly, it causes the roots to come closer to the surface.

This can lead to a thatch problem as those surface roots are "cooked" by the hot summer sun and begin to die. Just 1 to 2 inches of water each week will do a lot to improve your lawn. Check your sprinkler output by placing a pan where the average amount of water is produced by your sprinkler. Water for 1 hour, and check to see how much water has collected in the pan. This will help you gauge how long you need to let your sprinkler run to ensure you are watering appropriately. Did you know that a 50 x 50 foot area of lawn provides enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four (Turf grass Science and Management)? Grass is an amazing, resilient plant. And, with just a bit of careful time and attention, we gain so much from it. So, take care of your lawn, and it will take care of you.

Caring for your herb garden in the Summer

By Maggi Becker

Summer is here at last, and with summer comes a world of plants in their prime. Gardens full of vegetables and herbs are flourishing. There is nothing better than cooking a dinner and being able to use your own homegrown herbs. Fresh oregano, basil, thyme, rosemary; the list goes on and on. In order to ensure that your herbs grow to their fullest potential though, special care should be taken.

When you plant your herbs, make sure that they are planted with plenty of room to grow. If there is no room for the roots, then the plant will have trouble maturing. The pots you choose should also have proper drainage; herbs do not like to be drowned. If you are planting the herbs in the ground, make sure they are in an area that will stay well drained. Moist soil is okay but do not plant them in a place where they will get run-off water or puddles will form after rain. Depending on the quality of the

soil in your area, a fertilizer can be infused with the soil to give your plants a little jump-start on their growth and help them to stay healthy as well. I personally like to use Miracle Gro's All Purpose Organic Plant Food with in-ground plants.

As your herbs grow, pruning them is essential to keeping them in good health. Any leaves that become discolored or eaten by insects should be pulled off to allow new, healthy growth. If you are growing herbs such as basil or oregano that will blossom, it is a good idea to prune off the blossoms. This way the plant can focus all of its energy on maintaining healthy leaves instead of flowers, thus improving the quality of your herbs.



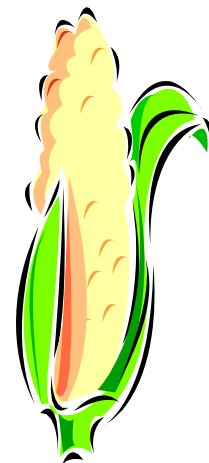
Farm Stand Delights-What's new for 2008?

By Melissa Shippy

Ready, Set, Start eating healthy! Homegrown, delicious and nutritious food will be available at our Farm Stand beginning July 17th. We will continue to have the best sweet corn in the county, vine ripened tomatoes, Southern Illinois peaches that are to die for and seedless watermelon. We will also have, green peppers, green beans, muskmelon, zucchini, potatoes, onions and much more. We will also have a complete selection of gourmet foods to compliment the fresh fruits and vegetables. Those will include jams, apple butter, maple syrup, on the cob pop corn, cobbler mixes, pickled vegetables to name just a few.

In the September and October we will have edible and decorative items such as squash, gourds, pumpkins, Indian corn, and corn stalks.

The Farm Stand will continue to be open until October 28th.



Grandma's Recipe Book

From Grandpa's Garden to Grandma's Kitchen

By Jean Britton

Crisp Cucumber

Pickles

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 c. cold water
- 1 1/2 c. cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. dried onion flakes
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. celery seeds
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. celery salt
- 4 medium cucumbers cut into 1/4-inch slices

Place all ingredients except cucumbers in 1/2-gallon jar with a cover. Cover and shake until sugar dissolves. Pack cucumbers into jar. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use. Best after marinating several days.

Container Trees

25% OFF

SELECT FROM FRUIT, SHADE AND ORNAMENTAL TREES, GO GREEN, PLANT A TREE!

Cash and Carry only, must have coupon present

Coupon Expires August 15, 2008



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Sunday 10-5



*A Garden Center and
 Landscaping Company*

Farm Stand opens July 17th!
**It offers a great selection of Fresh Fruits and
 Vegetables and Home Made Gourmet Foods!**

McHenry County Division of Transportation begins road improvements on Harmony Road, near Route 20

The McHenry County Division of Transportation in an effort to provide the safest driving environment for everyone has begun the improvement of Harmony Road near the intersection of Route 20. Unfortunately, this can be a dangerous intersection and we are thrilled that it is being improved.

We do apologize, though, for any inconvenience the closing of Harmony Road, east of Route 20 will cause you this summer.

Please don't let the road closure and detour stop you from visiting our Garden Center.

Just follow the posted detour signs. The detour is as follows. Marengo Road to Route 20, turn left to Harmony Road, turn right. Very simple and very little traffic. The sweet corn is worth the drive! You may follow the progress of this construction project at the following website:
www.harmonyroadproject.info

We look forward to the opening of the new and improved Harmony Road in late September.

The Growing Scene Gazette, is a publication of **The Growing Scene, Inc.** **The Growing Scene** is a garden center and landscaping company located at 17015 Harmony Road, Marengo. The phone number is 815-923-7322.

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