

The Growing Scene Gazette

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What is it about a packet of seeds that fascinates and excites children (and perhaps adults) so much? Inevitably, we have seed packets left over from year to year and they have become my children's treasured belongings. My daughters treat them like baseball cards, excitedly looking at the pictures and studying the instructions. Recently they traded white pumpkins for carrots.

As parents, my husband and I fall very short in the follow through with them. We don't have a huge garden and what

we did plant we don't take very good care of. Frankly after being outside all day, I just want to be inside in the evenings.

"If what I say resonates with you, it is merely because we are both branches on the same tree."

- W. B. Yeats

Fortunately my children still love those seed packets. They represent hope in the future. The vegetables also provide nourish-

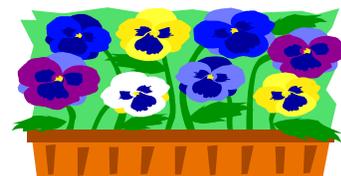
ment, time with family and just plain fun decorating and carving those pumpkins. Seed packets also tell the tale of what is possible with the proper care and nurturing. We don't nurture those seed packets very well, but we do a much better job with our own 3 growing seedlings.

We will be harvesting a few of our own home-grown vegetables and in combination with the produce from a local farmers will continue to have an outstanding Farm Stand this summer and fall. Please enjoy our home grown produce!

**Farm Stand Now Open!
Homegrown Sweet
Corn and more!**

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Welcome Melissa

I am honored to announce that Melissa Shippy has recently joined our staff as Garden Center Manager. Her duties include overseeing all aspects of sales through our garden center. Melissa is also responsible for plant ordering for the garden center and landscaping divisions of our company. Erica Larsen, the former garden center manager has accepted an

apprentice position into the Iron Worker's Union. We wish her well in this new and challenging position. Melissa's work experience includes working for a Nursery in Elk Grove Village and as an Account Manager for a magazine fulfillment company. Melissa obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree from Northern Illinois University.

She is excited to be working for Kathi again and is getting more hands on training on a daily basis. Melissa looks forward to helping our customers and enjoys working outside again!

Melissa and her husband Paul live in Pecatonica. Their weekends are filled with time with family and friends.

Dates to Remember:

- July 15—Farm Stand opens-Home grown Sweet Corn, cucumber, zucchini, peaches, muskmelon, peaches watermelon, green beans, green peppers, onions, potatoes and more!

Garden Center Summer Sales

Please visit our garden center to take advantage of these great sales! We are offering free set up and delivery on any fountain that

Advice on Pruning Shrubs

By Kate Borowicz

People will come and ask, “When is the best time to prune shrubs?” Most of the time the answer is “After they are finished blooming”. Is this always the correct answer? Some research done on the Better Homes and Gardens website shows that there are different suggestions and also provides additional tips to gardeners.

First off, timing is everything in pruning. If you prune too soon, the shrub will not flower, but the plant will still be alive and by learning proper pruning techniques, will flower next year for you. The best time to prune most shrubs is as soon as the bloom fades, this will allow for better growth next season. Also, you will want to cut away diseased or weak stems. Doing this will allow for the shrub to stay alive and build a stronger framework of branches.

A tip for pruning young and newly planted shrubs is that you’ll want to cut back before the bloom. This allows for the branching to become thicker and denser so it can support itself. The framework will be stronger and the blooming will be at it’s best later on.

Older shrubs can sometimes be neglected and start growing wildly. If there is a shrub in your yard that is growing wildly and you want to get it under control, cut back many of the older, woodier branches. This permits newer growth and blooms in the next season. Doing this does prevent blooming for that season, but it is worth the wait to see a nice, trim shrub completely blooming.

As with most rules, there are exceptions to pruning shrubs. Many times you won’t want to prune after the blooms fade on late summer and autumn blooming plants. Doing this makes them susceptible to frost damage and this could kill or seriously damage the growth on the plant.

With most tools, you want to make sure that they are clean. Most people might think that, “Well, it’s being used on shrubs and trees. Why does it have to be clean?” The pruning shears definitely have to be kept clean. This prevents the spread of diseases. To keep shears clean, it’s suggested that you use a solution with ten percent bleach. Hopefully you’ll have a happy healthy shrub in the following seasons.

Hummingbird Gardens

by Karen Wickboldt

One of the rare pleasures of having a flower garden is attracting a hummingbird to your yard. These tiny birds with long bills and constantly whirring wings love to feed on the sweet nectar found in flowers. They also eat a large number of insects. Hummingbirds have amazingly high metabolisms, and may consume as many as 12,000 calories in one day! So obviously, they love to be where food abounds! By planting the flowers that hummingbirds prefer, you can attract them to your yard. Some of a hummingbirds favorite flowers include:

Bee Balm	Lupine
Begonia	Nicotiana
Cardinal Flower	Petunia
Columbine	Red-Hot
Poker	
Coral Bells	Trumpet Vine

“I’d rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck.”

- Emma Goldman

Kids Corner

Find the hidden words

V	L	P	P	X	C	O	L	O	R	S	N
F	C	U	C	G	K	H	A	C	N	F	I
Y	H	M	Z	Y	U	B	T	J	N	O	A
I	X	W	X	G	B	S	U	P	I	U	R
S	T	A	T	U	E	S	S	F	F	N	S
S	O	S	A	Q	H	U	L	C	U	T	Z
P	R	R	Z	R	N	O	G	H	R	A	A
R	S	B	U	L	W	C	A	K	Q	I	R
I	N	B	I	E	X	G	R	Z	B	N	N
N	S	G	R	A	G	J	D	D	N	S	K
G	H	S	Y	L	F	R	E	T	T	U	B
T	U	S	B	H	B	U	N	L	J	P	P

Word List

BUTTERFLY

COLORS

FLOWERS

FOUNTAINS

GARDEN

RAIN

SHRUBS

SPRING

STATUES

SUNLIGHT

GRANDMA' RECIPE BOOK

From Grandpa's Garden to Grandma's Kitchen

By Jean Britton

Corn Pudding

Ingredients:

2 c. sweet corn (cooked) cut off the cob

3 eggs, slightly beaten

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1/4 tsp. dry mustard

1 Tablespoon sugar

1 tsp. grated onion

1/2 cup chopped green pepper

1 jar (2 oz.) pimentos, chopped

1-cup coarse saltine cracker

crumbs

1-cup milk

1/4-cup butter

Combine all ingredients except butter. Turn mixture into a buttered casserole dish. Dab with butter. Bake for one hour at 350 degrees, until custard is set.





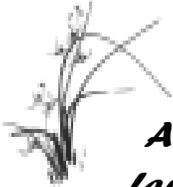
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***A Garden Center and
Landscaping Company***

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