What’s Inside

- The spring harvest
- Exhibit your flowers and produce at the county fair
- Essential growing conditions for roses
- Garden tips for June
- Upcoming events

"Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
But they don't get around
Like the dandelions do."
- Slim Acres

AROUND THE HOME & GARDEN

We are now in our fourth rainy season which means we may see disease on a lot of our plants this growing season. In May and June we typically see Peach Leaf Curl on peach trees. This is a fungal disease and is not treated at this time. A fungicide containing the active ingredient chlorothalonil or Bordeaux may be used in the fall after the leaves have fallen and again in late winter while the tree is still dormant.

Anthracnose may also appear later this spring. It is caused by a fungus and causes dark, brown, sunken lesions on the leaves of shade trees like sycamore, ash, oak, and elm trees. Tar Spot is often seen on Silver Maple trees. It is caused by a fungus and appears as black, tar-like spots on the leaves of the trees. It does not harm the tree.

You may notice yellow spots with dark centers on your crabapple and apple trees. This is Cedar-Apple rust, a fungal disease that may cause defoliation. Cedar trees infected with the cedar-apple rust fungus will develop bright orange, gelatinous galls about the size of a golf ball. Wind and rain carry spores from these galls to susceptible cultivars of apple and crabapple. The best way to avoid this disease is to plant disease resistant varieties. A product containing the active ingredient "myclobutanil" is a recommended spray. See MU guide 6010 for appropriate times to spray and for a list of brand names.

Tomato plants have been affected by Early Blight and Septoria Leaf Spot that past several years due to all the rain we have had. I love the taste of heirloom tomatoes and actually prefer them over hybrids for eating, but they seem to get disease a lot worse than hybrid tomato plants, and for this reason, I tend to grow more hybrids than heirlooms. Be sure to stake or cage your plants, take off lower leaves that touch the ground, put straw mulch around each plant, and if that still does not help, use a product containing the active ingredient ‘Chlorothalonil’.

I have had numerous people this spring ask me about making compost bins. I am glad to hear of all the interest in making them. They are really easy to make and the finished product (the compost) is great for your garden and raised beds.

With the rainy weather we are having, those with raised beds are happy they have them. Plants in raised beds seem to do so much better than plants planted directly in the ground.

If you had a lot of dandelions in your yard this spring, you may have acidic soil and need to add lime. Over the past few years, I have been liming my yard and I have indeed seen a decrease in the number of weeds, except for ground ivy (creeping Charlie). It is so hard to get rid of ground ivy, and I am learning to live with it. We have been mowing our lawn at three inches. By mowing high, we mow less often, it shades out most weeds, and we have a much healthier yard. The yard is so much thicker and nicer now and I have used no broadleaf weed killer at all. I want to encourage all of you to use lime and mow high, and see if you too, notice a difference and have a healthier yard.
THE SPRING HARVEST

Many of you have probably been enjoying harvesting and eating fresh greens and radishes from your garden this spring. I know I have. I plant the seed and can’t wait for the first spinach and lettuce leaves to appear. I also get excited to see the lamb’s-quarter pop up everywhere in the garden. Most people wouldn’t get excited over this, but a few of my gardener friends and my mom, love to pick and eat lamb’s-quarter. I picked enough to blanch and freeze 26 bags of it that we will eat during the winter months. I steam it and put a little butter and salt and pepper on it. It is really good this way.

My husband went mushroom hunting this spring and found a few morels, and a friend of his gave him half a sack full, so we ate morels for several meals. He has been fishing some, well, actually a lot lately and catching a lot of fish. There is a limit of 15 fish daily where he goes fishing at, so he has to fish a lot to get enough to stock up on it so we can enjoy it through the winter months. He’s probably already caught 200 fish in the past several weeks. I do not buy fish, except for occasional salmon filets-wild caught. I will not buy farm-raised Tilapia or any farm-raised seafood from other countries. A lot of women think how great Tilapia is, but if they only knew how filthy the water is and all the antibiotic that goes into that water to keep the fish alive, they would not eat it. I read about things like antibiotic that goes into that water to keep the fish alive, they would not eat it. I read about things like this in agriculture magazines and ag journals.

The other night I cooked a deer roast from a deer my dad shot last fall. I also cooked some fresh, home-grown asparagus with it, and some Idaho potatoes, at least they were U.S. grown. I ran out of garden potatoes back in January. My son eats deer better than any other meat I cook, and when I ask him what meat do you want for dinner, his response is usually always deer, the loins or roast.

My rhubarb is just about ready to pick. It has thinned out during the last year or two so I need to add some compost or figure out what I can do to help it. I have had several people mention how their rhubarb is thinning out. Just recently I talked to two gardeners, both of whom have been gardening for 40+ years. They told me that the four years of rainy weather we have had is affecting the rhubarb. Rhubarb likes well-drained soil, and since we have had so much rain the past several years, it is best to plant it in a raised bed with compost.

My snow peas look good now and I can hardly keep up with the harvest. They need picked just about every day. They are so good steamed with a little butter and salt and pepper on them. We also like to eat them fresh off the plants. We are waiting for the first ripe strawberries. They are getting so close to ripening. In about a week we’ll be picking gooseberries, and not too long after that toward the end of June, the blueberries will be ready for harvest. I, along with many others I know, are looking forward to going out to Lost Branch Blueberry farm east of Kirksville to pick blueberries.

I harvested radishes the other day. They look and taste great. They come up so fast, that I think I will make a second planting of them. I planted my tomatoes and peppers on April 29 in raised beds. They were not affected by the frost we had in May, but I know some people had plants that were frosted. I set some eggplant out, and I wish those darn flea beetles would stay off of them. Row cover will help keep the beetles away, or you could use a light colored sheer curtain. Insecticidal Soap seems to work also.

On May 9-10 we hatched some Cornish Cross chicks at the Adair County Extension Center, and I took them home to raise. In about five weeks they will be ready to process. I can’t believe how fast they grow. My two boys are fascinated with them. The oldest will sit for the longest time and just watch them. The youngest one, Jason, just wants to pound them cicadas and they go nuts over them. They grab one then run to the back of the pen to eat it, then run up to the front to get another one from us. I told my husband, I never thought our family would get such great entertainment from watching the chickens eat cicadas. My oldest son, Justin, does not want to have the chickens “cut up”. He wants us to keep them as pets. Teri told me she would give us some laying chicks to raise, so that will make Justin happy. He can name them and make pets out of them. She also said she would give us a Hereford hog to raise in the backyard for meat, but surely she was just kidding. As much as I want to raise a hog, I don’t want it in the backyard tearing up my lawn. But, I really wish I had a place to raise one, so Justin can show it and then we can sell it or process it. Right now I buy

(Continued on page 3)
pork from a local producer in Adair County.

I hope some of you tried wild greens this spring. There is still time to pick some if you haven’t already. I also hope you have a productive garden this summer, and continue to work on incorporating local foods into your diet. Stay tuned for more "local" food stories in upcoming issues.

### EXHIBIT YOUR FLOWERS AND PRODUCE AT THE COUNTY FAIR

In just a few weeks it will be fair time all across the country, and you know what that means... livestock shows, carnivals, concerts, and contests. County fairs are a great way to show off locally grown produce including fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Most county fairs have an “open” division in addition to a 4-H or youth division, which means anyone of any age can exhibit. Nearly every kind of fruit, vegetable or flower including flower arrangements and potted plants can be exhibited at most fairs. All you have to do is get it there. Fair books are available at most county extension centers and local businesses. I would love to see fairs all over Missouri have large numbers of produce and flowers exhibited. Pick your produce or flowers early in the morning on entry day at the fair. Make sure they do not have any disease or insects on them. Place flowers in a vase or bucket of warm water. Each flower must be exhibited individually. Plastic water bottles work great for this. Produce is usually exhibit on a white paper plate. Often these are provided by the fair. Remember if you have flowers in your yard, vegetables in your garden, and fruit on your trees, grapevines, or in your berry patch, then you can exhibit. **Support your local fair-exhibit your flowers and produce!**

### ESSENTIAL GROWING CONDITIONS FOR ROSES

Many people say how hard it is to grow roses, and now I believe them. I have a hard time getting hybrid teas to grow and be healthy. In fact, I have given up on hybrid teas and converted the raised bed they were in to vegetables. I dug the ‘Knockout’ roses up that were in that bed and transplanted them in front of the house and they are doing well there. If you are a person that enjoys growing roses, here are a few tips.

Roses grow best in full sunlight. If full sun is not possible, locate them where they get a minimum of six hours of bright sunlight each day. A location where they get only morning sun is to be preferred to one where they get only afternoon sun. Morning sun helps dry leaves quickly and reduces disease problems. Afternoon sun in midsummer fades and burns petals.

Roses will not tolerate soggy soil. If well-drained areas are not available, consider planting them in a raised bed or installing subsurface tile drainage.

The roots of most roses don’t compete well with those of trees and shrubs planted close by. Therefore, roses are generally most successful if grown in beds away from large plants. If this is not possible, extra fertilizer and water are necessary to make up for that taken away by other plants. Rose roots compete poorly with grass roots; therefore lawn grass must not be allowed to grow to the base of roses.

Roses are quite tolerant of many different soil types. However, they produce best growth in a relatively fertile soil high in organic matter. A soil that produces good vegetables will produce good roses. Heavy clay subsoil or sandy soil with low fertility must be improved if roses are to be grown successfully in them.

Where it is available, aged manure is one of the best soil additives in preparing for roses. Where not available, peat moss or leaf compost are beneficial. Add about one-half pound of superphosphate to each bushel of organic material applied to the soil.

Apply a layer of organic matter 2 to 4 inches thick on the surface of the area for a bed. Dig it into the soil as thoroughly as possible. It is best to dig up the area well in advance of planting. Many gardeners prefer to dig the area in fall and again in spring. When planting in individual holes, remove all the soil and thoroughly mix it with the organic matter. Use about one part organic material to two parts soil. Don’t work soil when it is excessively wet.

Good-luck growing hybrid tea roses in Missouri!

**SOURCE:** MU Guide 6600-Roses: Selecting and Planting

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**Memphis Farmers Market**

Open Thursdays 3-6 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn


New Vendors Welcome!! Call Jeanne @ 660-883-5614
GARDEN TIPS FOR JUNE

ORNAMENTALS
• Watch for bagworms feeding on plants, especially juniper and arborvitae.
• Deadhead bulbs and spring flowering perennials as blossoms fade.
• Thin seedlings to proper spacing before plants crowd each other.
• Apply organic mulches as the soil warms to conserve moisture, discourage weeds, and enrich the soil as they decay.
• Rhizomatous begonias are not just for shade. Many varieties, especially those with bronze foliage, do well in full sun if given plenty of water and a well-drained site.
• Apply a balanced rose fertilizer after the first show of blooms is past.
• Continue spraying roses with a fungicide to prevent black spot disease.
• When night temperatures stay above 50°, take houseplants outdoors for the summer. Most houseplants brought outside prefer a bright spot shaded from afternoon sun. Check soil moisture daily during hot weather.
• Apply a second spray for borer control on hardwood trees.
• Plant tropical water lilies when water temperatures rise above 70 degrees.
• Trees and shrubs may be fertilized before July 4th.
• Softwood cuttings can be taken and trees and shrubs as the spring flush of growth is beginning to mature.
• Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs after flowering.

VEGETABLES
• Repeat plantings of corn and beans to extend the harvest season. Control corn earworms. Apply several drops of mineral oil every 3 to 7 days once silks appear. Sprays of B.T. are also effective.
• As soon as cucumber and squash vines start to “run,” begin spray treatments to control cucumber beetles and squash vine borers.
• Early detection is essential for good control of vegetable pests. Learn to identify and distinguish between pests and beneficial predators.
• Stop harvesting asparagus when the spears become thin. To maximize top growth on asparagus, apply 2 pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer per 100 sq. feet, water well and renew mulches to conserve moisture.
• Start seedlings of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. These will provide transplants for the fall garden.
• To minimize diseases, water with overhead irrigation early enough in the day to allow the foliage to dry before the nightfall.
• Set out transplants of brussel sprouts started last month for a fall harvest.

FRUITS
• Oriental fruit moths emerge. Most serious on peaches where first generation attacks growing tips. Shoots will wilt. These should be pruned out.
• Thinning overloaded fruit trees will result in larger and healthier fruits at harvest time. Thinned fruits should be a hands width apart.
• Enjoy the strawberry harvest. Renovate strawberries after harvest. Mow the rows; thin out excess plants; remove weeds; fertilize, and apply mulch for weed control.
• Summer fruiting raspberries are ripening now.
• Begin control for apple maggot flies.
• Spray trunks of peach trees and other stone fruits for peach tree borers.
• Prune and train young fruit trees to eliminate poorly positioned branches and establish proper crotch angles.

-Missouri Botanical Garden-