



THE GARDEN SPADE



A monthly Gardening Publication of the University of Missouri Extension -- Southeast and East Central Regions

Training Vines for Arbors

by Sarah Denkler

When considering the installation of a cool, shady place to relax you can look beyond trees and think arbor. An arbor is a trellis or structure used to support plants. To get from trellis to arbor the plants are placed or trained to grow around the structure forming a shaded area.

While there are several ways to build the basic structure of an arbor what makes it unique is in the vine or plant that is formed around it.

There are many options that can be grown for this purpose but one must consider: sun and soil conditions, aggressive nature of the plant verses location, type of support, tolerance to pollinator insects and time of year you wish to see visual effect.

Vines climb in several ways; using small tendrils to wrap around stems or wire, by clinging to a surface or by wrapping their vines around a structure. The arbor will either be created or modified based on the type of vine used.

Vines should be pruned much like any woody plant. Prune to shape as they mature and fill in an

arbor and then prune to maintain shape or size, to thin out overlapping vines, to provide sunlight to the lower branches, to remove dead, damaged and diseased tissue, and prune to induce flowering, if needed. To induce flowering one-year old canes should be cut back yearly leaving a 6 to 12 inch spur in late February or March. This will reduce the amount of wood that must be fed and provide energy for new flowers.

Aggressive flowering vines that can grow 30 to 50 feet include: grape (Vitis), wisteria (Wisteria), trumpet creeper (Campsis), sweet autumn clematis (Clematis ternifolia), climbing hydrangea (Hydrangea anomala ssp



Coral Vine, also known as chain of love, confederate vine, love vine and Queen's wreath, can grow up to 10 feet in our area in one season. Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.

May 2011

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by Sarah Denkler

petiolaris) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera*). These are aggressive enough that they may grow quickly, providing a shaded arbor in a short time but will then need hard pruning each year. Grapes and clematis use tendrils to climb so will need string or wire to wrap around when climbing. Wisteria and honeysuckle wrap around a structure and may need training or a guide line to wrap in the correct direction. Trumpet creeper is a clinging vine that will attach itself to a structure.

Annual vines that could be used along the lower portion of an arbor include: morning glory or moon flower group (*Ipomoea*), hyacinth vine (*Lablab purpureus*), mandevilla (*mandevilla*), glory flower (*Eccremocarpus scaber*), sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), cup and saucer (*Cobaea scandens*), jasmine (*Jasminum*), bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea*) and black-eyed Susan (*Th*

unbergia alata). These annuals will not come back each year and may be used as accents to add color to an aggressive green arbor that is composed of wintercreeper (*Euonymus*), Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus*), or English ivy (*Hedera*).

Other perennial vines that might be used for an arbor include: roses (*Rosa*), cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*), hardy kiwi (*Actinidia arguta*), passion flower (*Passiflora*), bonnet bellflower (*Codonopsis lanceolata*), coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*), and Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*).



Photo courtesy of raindrip. www.raindrip.com

When planting vines for the purpose of growing up an arbor provide plenty of space for roots by placing plants at least 2 feet away from the structure. Lean plants into the structure so that they will not have to bend so far to begin their climb. Aggressive vines should be kept away from buildings as they can grow into siding, under shingles and into windows. Also, flowering plants will attract pollinators so plant in a location that suits your tolerance of these insects and birds.

During the first year or two check vines often to ensure they are growing as desired up and over the structure. Vines may have to be secured to posts or string to get them moving up the structure. Prune away lower branches to move energy to new shoots as they develop. Tip the terminal ends to promote multiple vines. Once the vine reaches the top of the arbor, move and secure side branches to desired locations. Any ties will need to be removed later to keep from strangling vines.

Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle - Pass It On

By Barb Gray

Before throwing away an old hose try cutting a slit lengthwise to use around wire bucket handles, paint can handles, sharp tools when not in use such as saws or chainsaws or around the chains on a bench swing to protect the chain from rust. Another great use, as long as one end is still good is to poke small holes down the length of the tube and attach to a water source for use as a soaker hose. The far end can be bent back (see picture left) and secured with a rubber band or metal clip to prevent water from escaping and help build pressure in the hose.

May Gardening Calendar

By Donna Aufdenberg

Ornamentals

- Begin planting warm season bulbs and tubers such as gladiolus, cannas, dahlias, caladiums and elephant ears.
- Do not remove spring bulb foliage too soon. The bulbs need to be recharged from the foliage photosynthesizing. Removing foliage too soon and diminish bloom production in following years.
- Prune spring blooming shrubs right after blooms fade.
- Prune out winter-killed wood on trees and shrubs by cutting back after new growth.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Begin planting sweet corn at two week intervals. Isolate sweet, supersweet and popcorn varieties to prevent crossing.
- Control caterpillars on broccoli and cabbage plants by handpicking or use biological sprays such as B.T. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)
- Plant multiple plantings of Cilantro or keep bloom heads cut off. It tends to go to seed quickly.
- Herbs planted in average soils need no extra fertilizer. Too much may reduce flavor and pungency at harvest.
- Remove rhubarb seed stalks as they appear.
- When tomato seedlings have five to seven leaves, they are ready to transplant into the garden.
- Remember to harden off vegetable transplants if they were grown in greenhouse conditions or in the basement under lights before planting them into the garden.



Fruits

- Mulch Blueberries and Bramble planting to keep weeds down and conserve moisture.
- Don't spray any fruit trees while in bloom. Refer to Extension publication for fruit tree spraying.
- Prune unwanted shoots as they appear on fruit trees.

Lawns

- Keep turf mowed— bluegrass at 1.5-2.5 inches; fescues at 2-3.5 inches.
- Apply post-emergence broadleaf weed controls now if needed.
- Avoid putting on heavy applications of fertilizer until fall.

Houseplants

- Take houseplants outdoors when nights will stay above 50 degrees.
- Prune back overgrown, leggy growth on houseplants to encourage new growth and a better shape.
- Start fertilizing houseplants at least once a month to promote nice looking, healthy plants.

Ways to Beat Weeds

1. Know Your Enemy!
2. Assault annual weeds when their dry.
3. Pull perennial weeds when the soil is wet.
4. Comb grass to eliminate roots under the soil as well as the plant.
5. Become a mulching maniac.
6. Cook them with a clear sheet of plastic covering them.
7. Plant lettuce among other plants - it crowds out weeds!
8. Use cover crops to crowd out weeds such as pigweed.



Designing A Children's Garden

By Jaime Willmann, Master Gardener

Lately, children spend more time playing inside than outside. I had enough video games, as most parents do and decided to make the kids spend more time outside. Once they had free reign of the yard, they found ways to entertain themselves. My oldest wandered around the yard tracking different animals (and just about had her finger bit off trying to be Dr. Doolittle with a snapping turtle). My son rode his bike all over the trails in the woods (until he left it and then couldn't find it until this winter when the leaves were gone). My five year old has taken up building "forts" and collecting acorns. My youngest, digs, digs, digs, digs, buries, buries, buries. She loves a shovel and bucket.

There are so many plans that I have for my yard, but my children are young and their interest in gardening and nature may not last forever. I have decided that the time to seize on their gardening passion is now. I have been planning a children's garden on paper. I have kept track of each of my children's interests and am trying to find ways to work those interests into the garden.

I am taking into consideration is my daughter's fort. It is her secret hideout. In the movie and book, "The Secret Garden", the garden is shielded with brick walls and has a keyed lock. Unless someone dumps a few tons of bricks in my yard, I won't be able to accomplish this, but I am hoping that by up-cycling a few items, I can make it more concealed. Hopefully no one will actually know that it is there.

The next thing I am taking into consideration is my daughter's love of playing in the dirt. I think in this garden, nothing would be more appropriate than a sand pit. At the bottom of the sand pit, I would like

to put castings of bones or fossils, or maybe some old "gold" treasures. This way when they are digging, they can take a paint brush and feel like a paleontologist, geologist, or a treasure hunter.

My children are ALWAYS picking my flowers. Usually it is just my mums so I don't mind. But what if they had their own special corner in the garden that was just for their picking? The flowers don't have to stay looking good in a vase but it should be a flower that will regenerate

quickly. Pick one that likes to be deadheaded. The kids will always have flowers.

For my son I have decided on a sweet pea teepee. With bamboo or branches, we will form a teepee, and let the kids plant the sweet pea pods or seeds in the

ground next to the polls. In the summer, they will have a hideout, within the hideout.

Tea time! My children are always setting up a picnic or having tea time. We have plenty of logs to cut to form great stools and a table (Perfect for setting up for their peppermint tea) While I'm at it, I might as well throw in some imagination and daydreaming, by putting in a fairies house made out of twigs. (Who knows...maybe the fairies will visit).

Along with everything else, the kids will need an ever bearing strawberry patch that they can tend to and eat on their own (without mom getting upset that I don't have enough for pie). A swing nearby to play, laugh, or meditate on, is needed. And....a lock and key so they can feel like it is all their own.



Pest of the Month: Easter Tent Caterpillar

by Katie Kammler

I have noticed lots of tent caterpillars in the last week. Eastern tent caterpillars construct thick silken “tents” in the crotches of branches or small limbs on the host tree. The larvae differ from fall webworm because they use the tent at night and feed on surrounding branches during the day. Fall webworms form a web around leaves and stay in the web to feed.

Full grown caterpillars are mottled with a long white stripe outlined by a narrow black line



and bordered by wavy orange lines. The sides of the body are covered with light brown hairs.

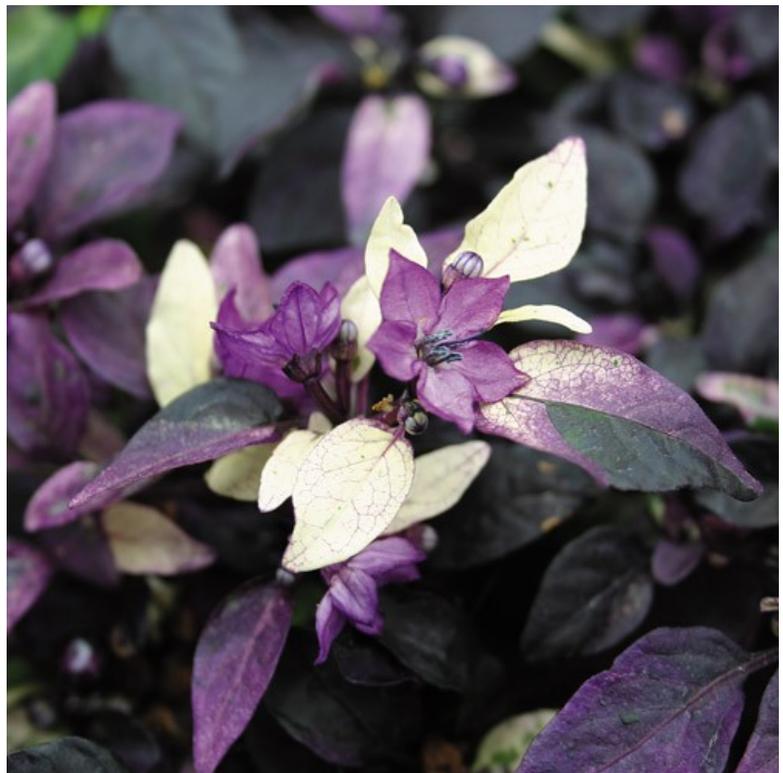
They are present from early spring to June and only produce one generation a year. Some of their favorite hosts include apple, cherry, peach and plum. I have been seeing them along the roadside on wild cherry. They will also attack hawthorn, box elder, elm, maple, birch, willow, poplar, and oak trees.

Plant of Merit - *Capsicum annuum* ‘Purple Flash’ Ornamental Pepper

by Sarah Denkler

Purple Flash pepper is an annual that blooms with purple flowers in early summer. The most striking feature of this 12 to 18 inch ornamental is the near black foliage that has patches of blue or white dispersed in the foliage. It prefers full sun and is tolerant of high heat, humidity and drought. It will produce small black fruit that add further to the ornamental interest of the plant. Although the fruit is edible it is extremely hot and may be more suited to saving for seeds to plant for ornamental value next season. Seeds can be sown indoors six weeks before planting outside. Use this plant in mass to add visual impact to a landscape.

Photo courtesy of Parks Seed. www.parkseed.com



Unusual Crop - Gooseberries

by Donna Aufdenberg

The gooseberry, though not especially popular, is worth considering because of the small amount of care and space required. They are hardy and easy to grow.

There are two type of gooseberries - American and European. The European berries are larger and better flavored, however, the American are more disease resistant and will be healthier and more productive. Improved cultivars produce berries twice the size of most native plants. Among the best are Welcome and Pixwell.

The fruit of gooseberry is often scalded badly in hot weather, especially when exposed to direct sun. Sometimes they thrive better with a bit of shade. Gooseberries are adapted to a wide range



of soils. When purchasing plants, well-rooted 1-year-old plants are best. Space 4-5 feet apart.

Fertilize by applying 1/4-1/3 pound of 10-10-10 or similar well balanced fertilizer per bush annually in late fall to early spring before growth begins. During the growing season, watch for signs of cane borers. Powdery mildew, Currant worms, and aphids can also be troublesome.

Harvest currants for jelly before the fruit is fully ripe (reddish brown). It is wise to wear gloves because the plants can have thorns.

Prune when the plants are dormant in the late winter or very early spring before growth begins.

Hot Topic - Caring for Hail Damaged Plants

by Donna Aufdenberg

Many of us were hit by hail in the last several weeks. Some plants may have faired well but others may have taken a real beating!

Hail damage can be a gardener's worst nightmare, especially when all the plants are up and looking their best. First aid for these plants depends on the type of plant, plant maturity, and recovery time based on the time of year.

We are still in Spring, so most vegetable crops can be replanted. Shrubs will most likely leaf out again after major damage to existing foliage. Most perennials with strong root systems will come right out of it even if cut back to the ground. If you have annual flowers that were



beaten pretty bad, you might need to replace them. Annuals have a harder time recuperating than perennials.

Here are some other tips:

- Keep as many remaining leaves as possible.

Some pruning can be done to tidy the plant up but try to keep over half of the leaves so the plant can create energy.

- Remove branches, leaves and stems that are broken or badly shredded.
- Fertilize with a liquid or granular fertilizer. A little goes a long way!
- Expect new growth in about 2 weeks.

Help Provide A Mineral Area Scholarship Just By Gardening

Modbury Farms Landscape Design LLC and the Parkland Master Gardeners have teamed together to raise money for a Mineral Area College Horticultural scholarship. We all know how expensive school is, and our passion for horticulture has lead us to help assist those in our community that are seeking a degree in this exciting, scientific field! We are working towards our goal by spreading the word about a fun and generous program called "Seed of the Month". Seed of the Month will not only help your garden grow, but it will also help to raise scholarship money. It's a wonderful program and will help you tremendously in your vegetable garden. Let's not forget how fun this is too!



Let me tell you a little more about it:

*You will be shipped seeds every month for one year, two years, three years, or up to a lifetime! Shipping is included.

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Don't forget this supports our local college and our future, brightest and best horticulture students! Plant a row for the hungry and donate to the food pantry! Let's go MAC! What a great way to give back! Seeds ship out the first of each month! It also makes a great gift! Your gardening friends will think of you every month they get their seeds in the mail!

How to order?

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Group News - What's Happening

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Parkland MG, 6:30pm @ Courthouse Annex (3rd floor)	3 Poplar Bluff MG, 6:30 pm @ PB Ext. Center	4	5	6 Tree ID - MG Adv. Training, Perryville Seminary (front of church) Perryville, MO; 4 - 6PM. Fee: \$10	7
8	9	10	11	12 Delta Area MG, 6 pm, Library, Sikeston	13	14 Ste. Genevieve Garden Walk May 14 & 15
15	16 Ste. Genevieve MG Meeting, 6:30pm, at the Ste. Genevieve Co. Ext. Center	17	18	19 Cape Girardeau Co. MG, 7 pm, Cape Co. Ext. Center	20	21
22	23 Perry Co. MG meeting, 6:30 pm, Perry Co. Ext. Center	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<p>Contact your local Extension Center if you have questions about any event on the calendar or if you have a horticultural event for the calendar.</p>			

Upcoming Events....

June

- 6 - Parkland MGs 1st Monday at 6:30pm, Farmington Courthouse Annex (3rd Floor)
- 7 - Culinary Herbs MG Advanced Training; United Methodist Church in Poplar Bluff (500 Main Street); 9a.m. to noon, taught by Vanessa Mathis. Fee: \$10
- 7 - Poplar Bluff MGs 1st Tuesday at 6:30pm, Butler County Ext. Center
- 9 - Delta Area MGs 2nd Thursday at 7:00pm, Medical Arts Building, Sikeston, MO
- 11 - Culinary Herbs MG Advanced Training; Cape Girardeau County Ext. Center in Jackson; 9a.m. until noon. Taught by Don, Carol, and Jaime Koehler. Fee: \$20
- 16 - Cape Girardeau County MGs 3rd Thursday at Cape County Ext. Center at 7pm.
- 20 - Ste. Genevieve MGs 3rd Monday, at Ste. Gen. County Ext. Center at 6:30pm.
- 27 - Perry County MGs 4th Monday at the Perry County Ext. Center at 6:30pm.
- 30 - Shade Garden Field Trip to Homestead Farms in Owensville, MO

July

- 4 - Parkland MGs 1st Monday at 6:30pm, Farmington Courthouse Annex (3rd Floor)
- 5 - Poplar Bluff MGs 1st Tuesday at 6:30pm, Butler County Ext. Center
- 14 - Delta Area MGs 2nd Thursday at 7:00pm, Medical Arts Building, Sikeston, MO
- 18 - Ste. Genevieve MGs 3rd Monday, at Ste. Gen. County Ext. Center at 6:30pm.
- 21 - Cape Girardeau County MGs 3rd Thursday at Cape County Ext. Center at 7pm.
- 22 - Butterfly Gardening; Mo Dept Conservation Nature Center in Cape Girardeau from 9a.m. until noon. Taught by Bob Galespie, Natural History Biologist. Registration Fee: \$15
- 27 - Perry County MGs 4th Monday at the Perry County Ext. Center at 6:30pm.

Editor's Corner

The Monthly Spade is published monthly by University of Missouri Extension staff for individuals and families living in Southeast and East Central Missouri. This newsletter is provided by your local extension council.

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We welcome and encourage Master Gardener groups and individuals to submit items to the newsletter. We encourage the submission of any news such as upcoming volunteer opportunities, community events related to gardening, warm wishes or congratulations to fellow gardeners. We also encourage Master Gardeners sharing experiences and writing articles on timely topics.

All entries into the group news sections must be received by 4:30 on the 15th of each month for the following months news.

Email News to: kammlerk@missouri.edu,
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