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Maintaining the Perennial Garden in Summer

— by Melodie Likel, Perennial Specialist

*"P*erennial gardens require no more work once planted!!" This widely held belief, or ill-conceived hope, is one that must be shattered. Perennial gardens need not be replanted each year and this fact alone ensures that there will always be plants to divide, prune, deadhead, water, inspect for disease and insect damage, stake, mulch and fertilize. Daunting as this may sound, the good news is that not all of these perennial projects need to be done in one season.

With the onset of summer, the perennial garden requires less strenuous work than it did in spring. Summer maintenance includes watering when required, staking, deadheading and the controlling of insects and diseases. The goal is to keep the garden in healthy condition and attractive throughout the season.

These need not be labor-intensive projects. Each time you tour the garden to enjoy the plants, take along clippers or scissors for deadheading (removing spent flowers). If you hide a few small buckets in the foliage, you can snip off faded blooms and drop them in. When the buckets are full, make one trip to the compost pile or bin.

Methods and timing of deadheading vary from plant to plant, but a season or two of observation will make the process obvious and simple. (Or you can consult *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*, by Tracy DiSabato-Aust, an excellent reference for the perennial gardener.)

First, any remaining flower stems of spring-bloomers should be cut back. Leave attractive foliage but do not be afraid to cut back established, spring-blooming plants that have lost their appeal or that look untidy. In most cases, the plant will oblige with fresh, new growth.

When cutting back columbine, collect the mature, black seeds and sow them in the garden for next spring.

A quick shearing will benefit moss phlox and

Please turn to page 2

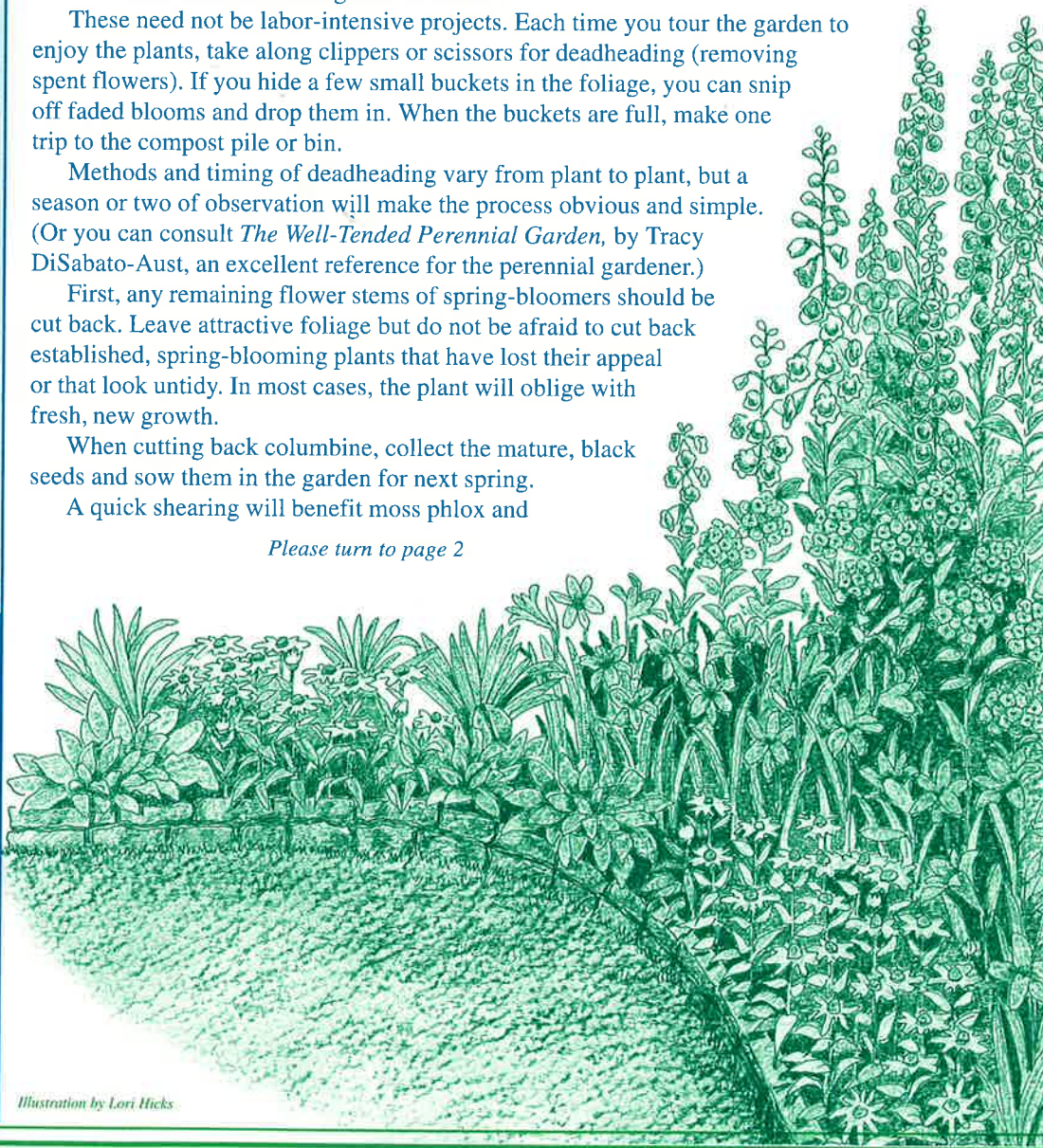


Illustration by Lori Hicks

**Don't Miss Behnke's
4th Annual
Tomato Taste-Off**

*Saturday and Sunday,
August 21 and 22, 1999
at our
Beltsville Garden Center.*

See page six for details,
and for a complete list of
all the summer gardening
activities planned for all
three Behnke Garden
Center locations.



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Open Daily 8 to 8

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Closed Monday, July 5th

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11300 Baltimore Avenue,
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Exit 25, Capital Beltway)

301-937-1100

Florist: 301-937-4032

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700 Watkins Park Drive
Largo, MD 20772

(Between Central Avenue
and Route 202)

301-249-2492

POTOMAC GARDEN CENTER

9545 River Road

(Two miles north of the
Capital Beltway on River Road)

Potomac, MD 20854

301-983-9200

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"Perennial Garden" from page 1

candytuft, and thicker, denser foliage will result. Large scissors or small hedge shears make this job quick and easy.

Tall flower stalks of spring and summer bloomers, such as Siberian iris, should be cut back to the ground when flowers are spent. No more flowers will be produced, but the foliage will remain attractive all summer. Tall bearded iris can be treated in the same way, and many varieties will bloom again in late summer or early fall.

Flowers with branched stems should be cut back to the next branch point — new flowers often arise. Look carefully to see where small buds are forming before deadheading. Baby's breath responds to cutting with the double bonus of a much longer bloom time in the garden and delicate airy flowers for fresh or dried arrangements.

Spike flowers, such as foxglove and ladybells, can be cut back to just below the spent flowers and will produce flowering side-shoots. These secondary flower spikes are somewhat shorter than the first but prolong bloom for several weeks.

"The bloom time of a surprising number of perennial plants can be prolonged by simply snipping off the faded blooms regularly."

Perennial salvia and yarrow can be cut nearly to the ground after the first flush of spring bloom is finished. The plant will be back in a few weeks and ready to bloom again. *Scabiosa* 'Butterfly Blue' and 'Pink Mist' will happily bloom all summer if deadheaded routinely.

The bloom time of a surprising number of perennials can be prolonged by simply snipping off the faded flowers regularly. Continue to deadhead as the summer progresses.


Watering is often required to keep the garden thriving and healthy in the frequently dry summers of our region. Water established plantings only when the soil is dry 1-2 inches down and then water deeply. Plants benefit most from water in the root zone. Hand watering of individual plants is ideal but time-consuming. Buried watering systems make the job as easy as turning on a faucet. Overhead watering with sprinklers is less desirable. It is best done in the early hours of the day, leaving the plants time to dry before evening. This will reduce the risk of foliar disease, and discourage nocturnal pests, such as slugs.

Staking is most often done in spring or early summer when plants are growing rapidly. Notoriously floppy or weak-stemmed specimens, such as double peonies and *Veronica* 'Crater Lake Blue', should be grown through wire hoops or surrounded with twiggy branches that will provide support. The support system is hidden by foliage as the plant grows.

Staking in summer often becomes necessary when new plants are grown for the first time. (Until you have experienced a seven-foot tall lily, it is hard to imagine.) Simple bamboo stakes with green garden twine or plastic-coated metal loop-stakes make quick supports for towering perennials. Weather damage to plants may also necessitate staking. Cut back any broken portion and secure the plant to a sturdy support. Once again, experience will teach you which plants need staking.

Weeding is never out of season and there will always be something to rogue out no matter how good a job you might think you did last time. Putting down a 2-inch layer of mulch after fertilizing in the spring will deter most weeds but there are always a few despite your best efforts. Pulling these weeds and clipping grass at the edge of the bed is not too big a job if done routinely.

Keeping the garden pest- and disease-free starts with looking at the plants, carefully and often, to detect damage, the presence of pests or loss of vigor. A problem caught in the early stages is easier to control and less likely to result in the loss of the plant.

For help in the identification and treatment of pest and disease problems consult with a technical advisor at Behnke Nurseries, or Maryland residents may call the Cooperative Extension Service Home and Garden Information Center at 1 800-342-2507. Gardening is pleasurable work. A garden cannot be ignored and remain in good condition. Luckily, the job of caring for a garden is an enjoyable one. Taken in small, manageable parts even a large garden can be maintained in blooming style. Spading the soil, planting, and observing the growth and development of a garden are both the toil and the reward that gardeners treasure and look forward to season after season. 

Helmut's New Woody Plant Recommendations

— by Helmut Jaehnigen, Woody Plants Specialist

You can always count on Behnke's to offer you the best new plant introductions. Here are a few you may want to try in your garden this year:


Hydrangeas have always been a favorite among flower lovers. They are so versatile and there are so many varieties, forms and colors to choose from. While most bloom from May to June and like filtered sunlight, there are others that bloom in late summer and thrive in full sun. From Monrovia Nursery comes 'Buttons 'n Bows'. This new, compact variety has sensational deep pink flowers with each petal edged in white. We showed a slide of this variety at our hydrangea seminar last February — the gardening audience overwhelmingly chose 'Buttons 'n Bows' as their favorite. 'Lemon Wave' is a newcomer from New Zealand. Not only does it have superb lacecap flowers but the green leaves are beautifully variegated with yellow. 'Lanarth White' is a pseudo-mophead type which has tiny, dark blue center flowers with large pure white petals surrounding them. *Hydrangea serrata* 'Blue Billow' is a large light-blue lacecap.

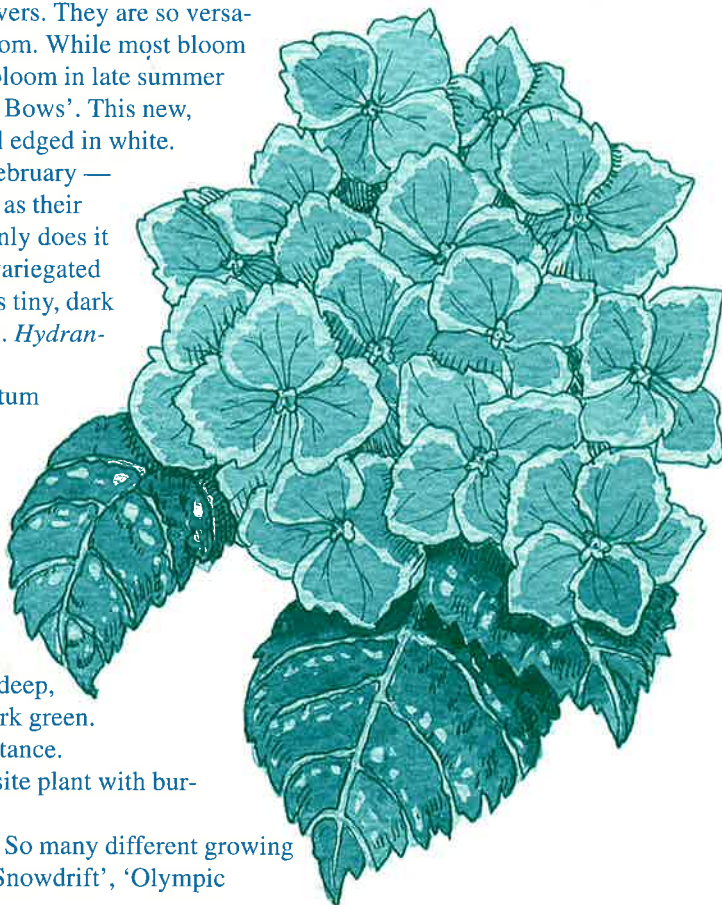
By now, most gardeners are familiar with the National Arboretum hybrid **crape myrtles**. These plants are known for their superior cold-hardiness, disease resistance and beautiful bark. New for 1999 are two miniature varieties developed by Dr. Margret Pooler at the Arboretum. They are so slow-growing and compact that they could be planted in a border or rock garden, or used as a container plant on your patio or deck. 'Chickasaw' has striking clusters of glossy, dark-red buds that open to lavender flowers in midsummer and continue to bloom for two months. This small, dense plant is the answer to a gardener's prayer. 'Pocomoke' has deep, rose-pink flowers. The new growth is maroon and matures to a dark green. Both varieties tested superior for cold-hardiness and disease-resistance.

Also new this summer is **Weigela** 'Wine and Roses', an exquisite plant with burgundy-brown leaves and rose-pink flowers.

Just now coming into bloom are our native **mountain laurels**. So many different growing habits, flower colors and color combinations... My favorites are 'Snowdrift', 'Olympic Wedding', 'Freckles', 'Elf', and 'Sarah'.

Japanese maples are not brand-new, but many varieties are little known, but ah, so beautiful. 'Golden Full Moon' has the most beautiful, lemon-yellow leaves. It's compact and slow-growing and a real gem! 'Orangeola' is a superb, laceleaf variety with beautiful, orange-red leaves. Everybody that saw it here last year loved it. 'Red Filigree Lace' has leaves that are so finely cut they look like expensive artwork. 'Shishi Gashira' is a slow, upright grower with exquisite green leaves and a most picturesque growing habit.

Is anybody getting tired of Leyland cypress? You now have a choice of a fast-growing evergreen plant for a screen or windbreak that is much more cold-hardy, has stronger roots and is sturdier than the Leyland cypress! It is called 'Green Giant' **arborvitae**. You can admire some semi-mature specimens at the National Arboretum. 



Editor's Note: As we go to press, all of these varieties are in stock at all stores. Since we are such a seasonal business, however, we regret that we cannot guarantee constant availability of these items.

Visit our website at
www.behnke.com
 for timely gardening
 advice — we'll respond to
 weather and other
 growing conditions
 specific to area gardeners.
 Updated daily!

Tip: Cycle Pruning for More Blooms

Here is a tip from Helmut to lengthen the blooming season of a few summer-blooming shrubs that flower on new wood, such as summer blooming spireas, weigelas, and some hydrangeas. It's called cycle-pruning. As soon as the first flowers are finished, cut the shrub back fairly hard and you will get new flowers next month. Professionals use this technique to be able to offer plants in bud and bloom from spring to the late summer. Try it, and enjoy a second flush of flowers!

Pondering Aquatic

*H*aving a pond in your garden is satisfying to the soul, and it is very easy to install and maintain. In fact, the longer you have it, the easier the installation will seem to have been! I will describe the process for you here, but keep in mind that it is much less difficult than it sounds.

Locating the Pond

Consider where you want to place your pond. The best plant growth and blooming will occur in the sun, with at least five or six hours being optimum. I, however, have had a pond for ten years in an area that gets only an hour or two of sun, and with proper selection of plants, I have enjoyed much success. You should avoid areas directly under trees, as you will encounter difficulty digging and will damage the tree's root system. Also, the continual pitter-patter of tiny leaves falling into your pond will create additional maintenance headaches. Note: if you intend to stock your pond with koi (a Japanese word meaning "pretty but fussy carp"), requirements for light exposure, pond depth, etc. vary from the suggestions given in this article, and you need to do some additional research. Make sure to avoid underground utility, sewer, or water lines.

Determining Depth

In the Washington, D. C. area, the deepest part of the pond should be at least 16 inches below ground level in order to have your water lilies and goldfish survive the winter. For koi, you will need a deeper pond. But be advised, once part of the pond is more than 18 inches deep, you may be required to fence your yard to avoid presenting a hazard to children. Laws regarding at what point your pond is deep enough to be a pool and at what point fencing is required varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, so be sure to check with your local government before you dig.

You will want to have a properly installed electrical line to the vicinity of the pond, so that you can run water features such as fountains, waterfalls, and filters. This requires a buried line and ground-fault circuit interrupters. Not only does having a fountain or other feature add to the aesthetic nature of the pond, but it helps to freshen and aerate the water.

Size Matters

Make the pond bigger than you think you need. It is likely that after a year or two you will want to expand a small pond, and it is easier and ultimately less expensive to start out big. I personally prefer to use a flexible pond liner, rather than a pre-formed pond. The installation is easier, and you can have a larger pond at a lower cost.

Defining the Shape

This part is sort of like trying to tell "I Love Lucy" how to land an airplane, but bear with me. It really is easier than it sounds. Take a garden hose and lay it on the ground in the shape of the pond. When satisfied, spray around the hose with marking paint to define the shape. Before you dig, measure the design to make sure a liner is available in the size you need. The liner should be 4 to 5 feet longer than the longest part of the pond, and 4 to 5 feet wider. This is because you need to allow for the depth of the pond (assuming a 16-inch depth on both sides) and enough excess material to cover the ground around the pond, extending out about a foot. The liner will be rectangular when you buy it, so an unconventional shape may result in a lot of wasted liner.

Dig it

Dig the hole. Make sure that you have shallow areas for the "marginal plants." These are plants that do well in water that is 2 to 8 inches deep. It's easier to make the shallow area the same depth (say 8

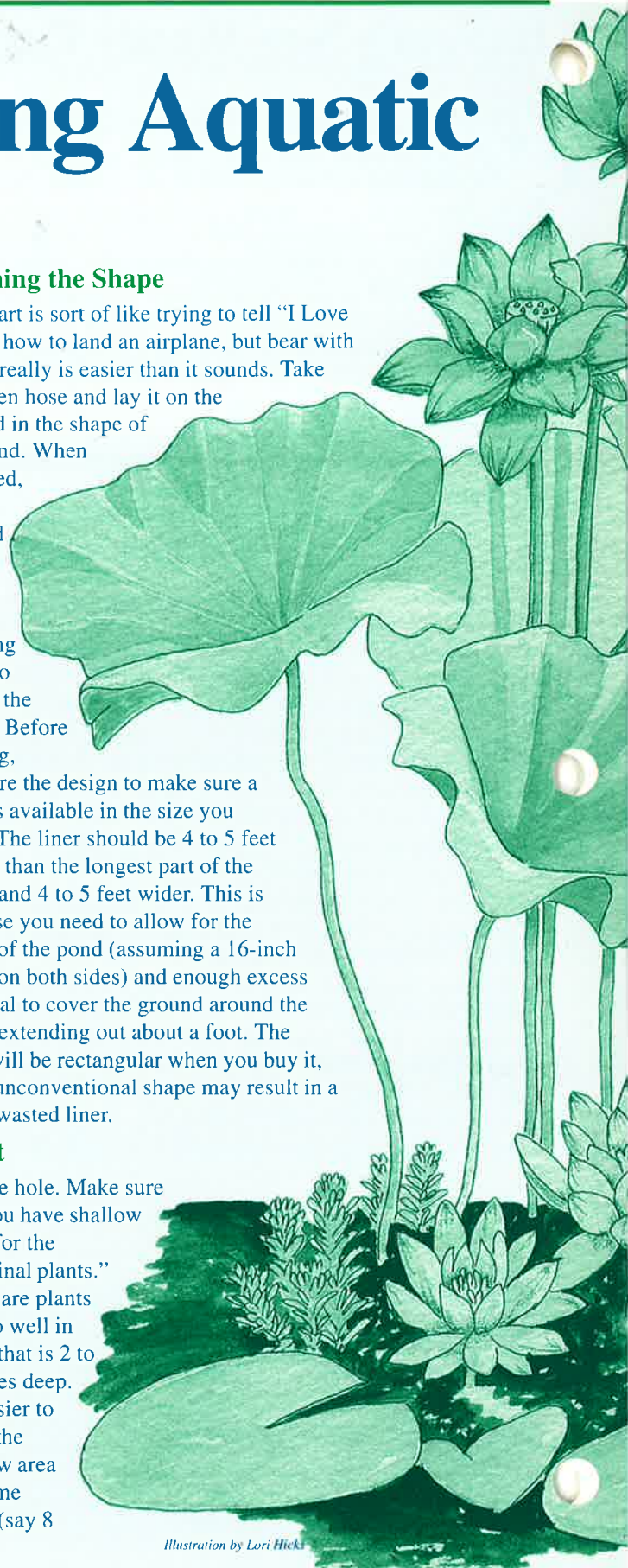


Illustration by Lori Hicks



Gardening

— by Larry Hurley, Perennial Plant Specialist

inches) and adjust the height of the plants which need a more shallow location with bricks placed under the pots. Water lilies will go in the deeper part of the pond, so make sure to leave enough space. Many people will dig such that there is a ledge along the outside edge of the pond on which to set the marginals. Make sure it is at least a foot wide.

The bottom of the hole does not have to be level, but life will be easier if it is. The upper edge *must* be level — or the liner will show on the higher edge of the pond.

Water will always be level, because that's its job!

If the land is sloping, you can prevent muddy water washing into the pond during a rainstorm by building a lip at least 2 inches high around the pond. To level the top, take a straight 2x4 board and lay it across the hole. Place a level on the board and raise and lower the edge of the pond with soil until it reads level at all points. Make sure that you whack the soil along the edge with a mallet or shovel to tamp it solid.

Remove any sharp rocks in the hole which could puncture the liner. Line the bottom and sides (as well as you can) with an inch of moist sand. This helps to protect the liner from puncture.

Place the liner in the hole and allow it to overlap on all sides. (If you are not careful in placement at this point, you may have a problem.

Fill 'Er Up

Once the liner is in position, fill the pond. The weight of the water will pull the pond liner down and tight against the sides. (The only way you will be able to move or adjust the liner at this point will be to pump the water back out.) If the edge is level, you should be able to fill the pond just about up to the edge. Filling deeply protects the liner, which will eventually photodegrade if exposed to sunlight.


When the pond is full, cut the surplus liner away with a razor knife. Make sure to leave at least a foot on the edge on all sides. Consider edging the pond with flat bluestone, or river rock. Ideally the edging stone should be cemented into place to reduce the risk of visitors becoming water features.

Regarding Pumps

Pond pumps are recirculating pumps — that is, the pump (which is usually submerged in the pond) takes water from the pond and promptly returns it through a fountain, waterfall, or piped statue. Often times this will be combined with a filter. You might wish to have a second pump to run the filter, as the filter's drag will reduce the amount of water that your pump can handle — reducing the flow from your water feature.

First, a pump for the filter. A rule of thumb is that the filter should at minimum recirculate the volume of water in the pond every two hours. So, how much water is in your pond? The water volume in the pond is: (Average length in feet) x (Average width in feet) x (Average depth in feet) x 7.48 = Volume in gallons.

If your pond volume is, say 1000 gallons, you would want a pump that is rated for at least 500 gallons per hour (gph). If the pond is shallow, or in full sun, it would not hurt to move the water faster, with say a 750 gph pump.

For water features, such as waterfalls or fountains, the size of the pump depends on the volume of water moved, the height to which it is lifted, and the length and width of hoses that the water must run through to get from the pump to the feature. 

For more information, pick up our free brochure, *Aquatic Gardening*, the next time you visit Behnke's. Also, plan to attend our free and informative **Water Gardening Weekends**, at all Behnke locations in June. See page 6 for times and dates.

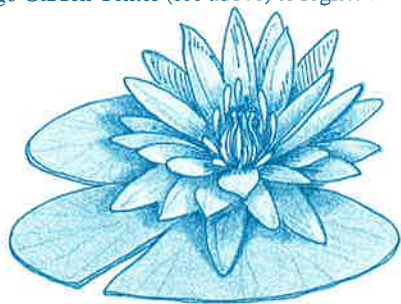
Summer Gardening Activities

TOUR OF LARGO PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Sat, June 5, 10AM, 1 PM and 3PM

Largo Garden Center 301-249-2492

We grow millions of quality plants each year in Largo. Tour our production beds and greenhouses—where great gardens begin! The tour is free but please call our Largo Garden Center (see above) to register.



WATER GARDENING WEEKENDS

June 12 & 13 at Largo

June 19 & 20 at Beltsville

June 26 & 27 at Potomac

We'll have two topics each weekend — on Saturday from 9 to 11AM, and on Sunday from 1 to 3PM. Saturday topics will include Installing a Pond; Pond Landscaping. Sunday topics will include Plants for the Pond; A Naturally Clean and Clear Pond.

BEARDLESS IRIS SHOW

Saturday, June 19, 1 to 4:30PM

Beltsville Garden Center

Sponsored by local Iris Societies. Society members enter their most beautiful irises into the competition. Compare the flowers and decide for yourself which ones could most enhance your garden.

DAYLILY WALK: TRIAL GARDENS

Saturday, June 26, 9AM to 12 noon

Largo Garden Center

Join us for our 4th Annual Daylily Walk. These plants, now in their third season, should be very showy this year.

TWILIGHT GARDEN TOURS

Thursday evenings at 6PM

July 1 at Potomac

July 8 at Largo

July 15 at Beltsville

Join our new Garden Designer, Steve Mott, on an informal tour of the display gardens at each Behnke location. See the underlying structure in garden design as you view the maturing plantings in our gardens.

CONTAINER GARDENING

Saturday, July 10, 10AM to noon

All Behnke Garden Center locations

Our container gardening experts demonstrate the finer points of planning and planting container gardens. You'll see examples of mature plantings, and learn about soils, fertilizers, proper watering and more.

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

Saturday, July 17, 10AM to noon

All Behnke Garden Center locations

Let Behnke Nurseries' experts help you diagnose your garden problems and find solutions. Whether it's an insect, disease, or something else, we'll do our best to get your garden back on track. Our special guest at Beltsville will be county extension agent Bob Stewart.

BASIL FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 7, 10AM to noon

Potomac Garden Center

Basil is easy to grow and is one of the joys of summer gardening. Join our gardening gourmets as they introduce you to some of the many varieties of basil.

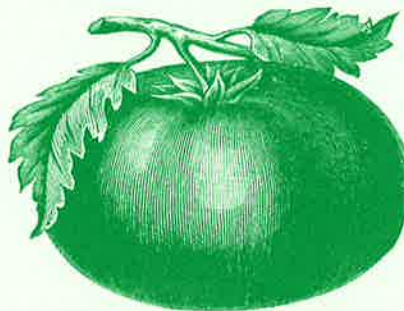
PEPPER TASTE-OFF

Saturday, August 14, 10AM to noon

Largo Garden Center

Ok—we admit it. We love to garden, we love to cook, and we love to eat! We'll have a generous sampling of a wide variety of pepper types - from sweet to saucy to downright HOT! Come to sample and learn what types you'll want to grow next year.

Our Signature Summer Event!



FOURTH ANNUAL TOMATO TASTE-OFF

Saturday & Sunday, August 21st and 22nd

Beltsville Garden Center

This is your once-a-year chance to taste and compare a wide variety of freshly-picked, organically-grown tomatoes. We'll have a bounty of labeled varieties to taste and a few salads and other dishes to sample.

This year the Taste-Off will be held in our air-conditioned Assembly Room above the Florist Shop.

LAWN CARE WEEKEND

Sat, August 28th, 10AM to noon

All Behnke Garden Center locations

Fall is the best time to renovate your lawn, and we have the expertise to help. Behnke experts will show you the best ways to pep up a tired lawn, or to completely redo a 'disaster lawn.' We'll answer questions about your particular situation and suggest the proper products for success with your lawn.

Meet: Joseph Ennis



Joseph is a consulting rosarian, recognized by the American Rose Society. He began his Behnke career at the request of Albert Behnke in the spring of 1991. He and other *Potomac Rose Society* members would visit Behnke's on busy spring weekends to solicit new members. They would interact with our customers, sharing information on rose selection and culture. This informal arrangement with the *Rose Society* worked well, and gave us the opportunity to see what a wonderful rosarian and instructor Joe is. Albert asked Joe to join Behnke's as a member of our sales team, and he agreed. We are delighted to have Joe on our staff during the spring season at our Beltsville location.

Joe taught school in Prince George's county for 33 years and has now retired to raise roses, his favorite hobby. Joe had to learn rose gardening by a crash course when he bought a home in Washington that came with a rose garden of nearly a hundred bushes. He read books and attended lectures and demonstrations and soon, he was hooked!

In his spare time, Joe also cares for 85 rose bushes at his church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, in Washington, D.C.

Sweet, Spicy Basil in the Summertime

— by Eric Morrison, Horticultural Technical Advisor


Basil is by far the most popular herb here at Behnke's, and for good reason. Not only is this herb delicious, with a special affinity for tomatoes, but it is attractive and easy to grow.

All basil varieties thrive in full sun, do best in soil which is high in organic matter, and prefer to be planted about 12 inches apart. When harvesting a small amount for cooking, simply dash out to the garden and pick a few leaves. When harvesting larger amounts, however, for preserving or making a large batch of

pesto, choose a time when the herbs are at peak flavor and the plants are growing well enough to renew themselves. With basil, as with most herbs, the peak flavor occurs just before flowering. Water the plants well (and wash them in the process) early in the morning and harvest as soon as they are dry, by mid-morning for best results.

An easy and very flavorful way to use basil is an olive oil packed full of slices of garlic and fresh basil leaves. When a little of this oil is added to an omelet or a soup, the dish explodes with flavor. Used in place of butter, this concoction can dramatically cut down the amount of cholesterol in a dish. It's great on baked potatoes, in a salad, or on green beans and zucchini. Drizzle some on a fresh tomato sandwich for a pure taste of summer.

Basil can be dried quite simply in the microwave. Wash sprigs, and pat them dry with paper towels. Remove leaves from their stems and measure two cups of foliage. Spread the basil leaves evenly on a double thickness of paper towels. Heat on "high" for four to six minutes. Stir several times during drying. When fully dried, the leaves will be brittle and will rattle when stirred. Store in a fruit jar or airtight container in a cool, dry place. Another easy way to dry basil is to use the refrigerator. Just lay a handful of leaves on a plate lined with paper towels and place them in the fridge for a few days, until they are dry. Stir them gently every day until they feel dry and brittle. Crumble them into a jar and begin the process again. For long term storage, you may want to store the dried basil in the freezer.

Visit Behnke's soon and discover our impressive selection of basil. (You will also find a list on our web page at www.behnke.com.) Try a couple of new varieties — you just may find a secret ingredient you won't be able to do without! 

Garlic-Basil Olive Oil

In a small jar, place a cup of washed, dried, and sliced basil leaves, layered with 8 to 10 cloves of garlic, sliced. Pour in extra-virgin olive oil to cover. Let the flavors mingle for about a week. Keep the mixture refrigerated and discard any unused oil after three weeks.

For an interesting variation, try a flavored basil, such as lemon or cinnamon basil.

Pick a Basil

Here is a sampling of the variety of basil you'll find at Behnke Nurseries. Although we cannot guarantee the availability of any specific variety on a given day, you're sure to find a tempting selection whenever you come.

'Cinnamon' - A wonderful novelty basil with a sharp, cinnamon scent, narrow leaves, and attractive, violet stems. Grows to about 18 inches. Appealing anywhere a hint of cinnamon is desirable. Sprinkle a few leaves over baking apples for a delicious, unusual treat. A great addition to potpourri or tea.

'Genovese' - An intensely-scented strain of sweet large-leaf basil that is becoming very popular in the gourmet vegetable trade. Uniform, 24-inch plants are slow to bolt. One of the most full-flavored basil, with a rich aroma to match.

'Cuban' - The most popular basil variety from Cuba has a strong, spicy flavor! A small-leaved variety that is a vigorous garden performer. It grows about 20 inches tall. Once established it will tolerate frequent harvesting.

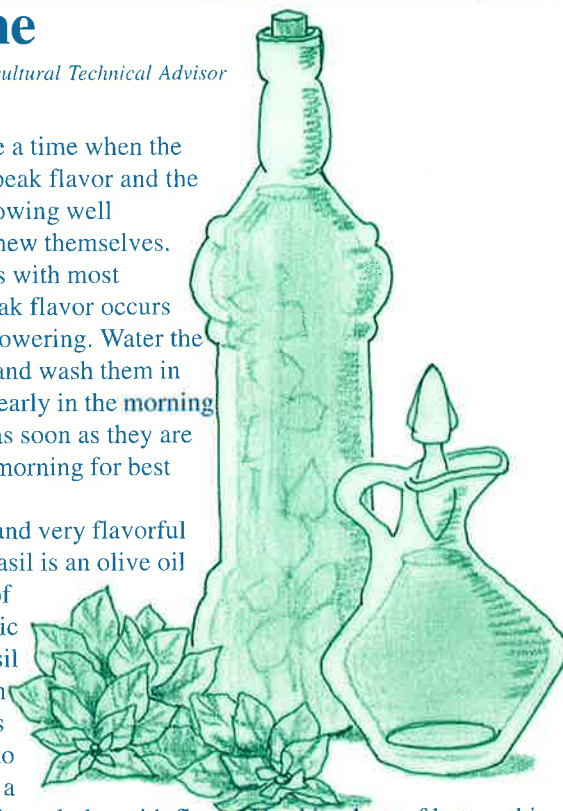
'Valentino' - This variety produces richly fragrant, large leaves full of flavor. A vigorous producer of verdant, crinkled leaves. Grows about 15 inches tall on strong, sturdy stems.

'Greek Columnar' - A spicy Greek variety with a narrow, upright growth habit (to about 36 inches) — for small spaces. Fast-growing and high-yielding.

'Napoletano' - The preferred basil of the Naples region of Italy. A large-leaved variety that grows about 20 inches tall with exceptional flavor.

'Red Rubin' - Sweet, spicy flavor and mahogany-red foliage make a pesto that is dark and flavorful. A desirable ornamental for its striking foliage and beautiful pink flowers that are ideal as cut flowers. It grows about 20 inches tall.

'Thai Siam Queen' - The 1997 All American Selection with a fragrance and flavor all its own — sweet and spicy, with anise overtones. This variety is extremely ornamental — large, lush, tropical leaves (up to 4 inches across) spring from sturdy stems. The harvesting period is longer than that of most other basil.



The Science of Proper Watering in the Summer Garden

— by Gene Sumi, Technical Horticultural Advisor

To water or not to water, that is the question. Or simply put, "How much water is enough?" Normally, nature provides adequate sources of water for plants from fall through spring. Seasonal rainfall and snowfall, coupled with cool weather, keep ground moisture fairly constant. Plants are either dormant or semi-dormant during this time, so their water requirements are minimal. However, plant water-needs start to change in late spring, when outside temperatures rise and plant growth activity increases. Regular rainfall tapers off in June and most rainfall occurs as rapid thunderstorms, during which much of the water runs off without soaking in.

Watering is really a science. To be successful, you have to understand the dynamics of how water behaves in different types of soil. In our area's largely clay soil, the downward-moving water is absorbed slowly (you must water longer to get the water down deeper). Clay soil also has a higher water-holding capacity than sand or loam and retains more water for longer periods of time. With this in mind, it's clear to see how the gardener may over-water by watering too frequently. (Continually saturated soil does not provide enough oxygen for the roots to survive — all air spaces are filled with water.)

Here are some tips for summer watering in the garden:

- Early morning (before 10AM) is the best time of the day to water.
- Shallow rooted plants, including many perennials, annuals and vegetables, should be watered for about 20 to 30 minutes twice a week. (check every other day during periods of drought or extended high heat waves).
- Lawns require about 1 inch of water once a week.
- Shrubs and trees should be deep-watered for 20 minutes twice a week. (Plants growing in the shade may not require water as frequently as those growing in the sun.)
- When planting, build a wall of soil several inches high around shrubs and trees to capture water within the plant's drip line.
- Maintain a 2-inch thick layer of mulch around plants. The mulch reduces water evaporation from the soil and keeps the soil around the roots cool.

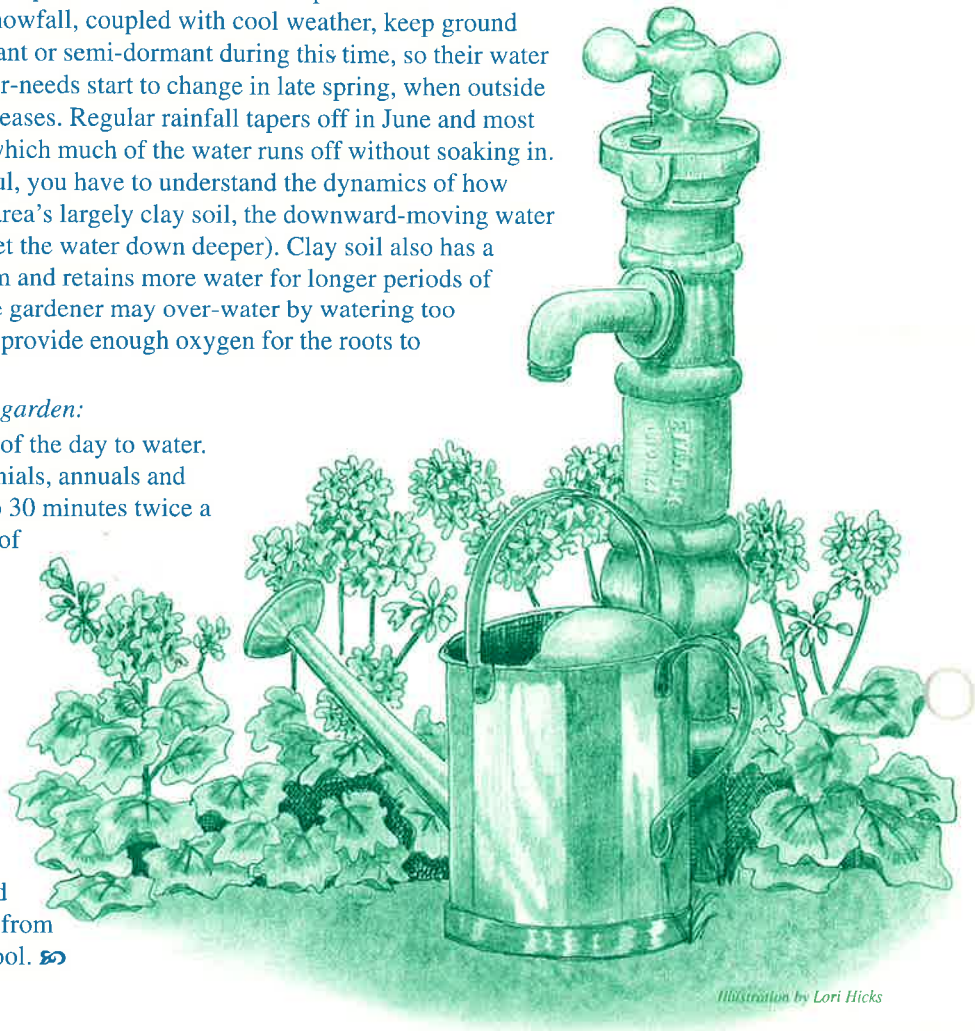


Illustration by Lori Hicks

Do Not Forward or Return — Address Cor.

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