

JUNE'S GARDEN

Earlier this spring as I was looking through the jars of seed I'd stored, I found a container of seeds I'd forgotten about. Fortunately I had labeled them Beach pea (*Lathyrus Maritimus*). I then remembered that last summer I had found several dried-up plants that had been pulled up and thrown near a half-burned log amid left-over evidence of a picnic. I picked up the picnic litter to discard and rescued the dried up plants which had many mature seed-pods. This April I sowed the seeds back along the banks of the shoreline. They have now sprouted next to the more mature plants that are blooming their lovely lavender-blue tinted flowers. Why do people violate the natural beauty they came to enjoy? I wish I had the answer.

The month of June, the half-way month of the year here on the coast, means to me the flowering of the beach pea, the banks along the highway turning pink and white with stands of foxglove, and the fruiting of the wild strawberries. One June day a few years ago, friends and I decided to harvest the wild strawberries. After searching for those tiny berries in among the tall grass and weeds on our hands and knees a full day's search only filled a quart-size pail, but the pint or so of jam made from those berries was the truest flavor of strawberry jam I've ever tasted.

During the month of June, I'll spend most of my time weeding, fertilizing, watering and thinning the new seedlings and dead-heading the earlier blooming plants for continued bloom. In my garden, the annuals have been planted, the seedlings are turning into plants, roses have their first blooms and I have three or more months ahead to look forward to enjoying every aspect of my garden. I wish I'd asked my parents why they called me "June". I wasn't born in June; maybe it was my mother's favorite month of the year. It surely is mine as I am happiest when I can spend my day in my garden.

This year I planted more edibles and herbs among the flowers. In a strawberry jardiniere, I mixed strawberry plants with seeds of knee-high sweet peas to trail down over the pot and white, fleshy-leaved sedum in the smaller openings. In a larger pot, I've seeded lemon cucumbers to grow with 12" dahlias, lettuce among the lilies, and parsley, chives, and lavender next to the daisies. Mustard greens have sprouted alongside hydrangeas, roses, and Welsh poppies. Seeds from last year's borage, feverfew, and allisum have filled bare areas to reseed and grow. I now have Spanish, French and curly-leaved lavender and a huge purple-leaved fennel plant, whose feathery stems add height and an interesting pattern, along with oregano, marjoram, and rosemary that I've tucked in among the flowers. I sowed dill with the cosmos and planted mints separately in tubs as most mint can become invasive in open flower beds. One my favorite plants is Pineapple Sage which grows to about 3 feet high and has bright red flowers. I planted it in a special pot as it is not hardy and I will place it in my winter plant room to save for next summer. There are many edible flowers such as nasturtiums, calendula, viola, pansies, borage, fennel and chives for use in salads or decoration for food, but my greatest pleasure in planting herbs is to walk through the garden plucking the leaves and rubbing them between my fingers to release the different aromas.

This year may not be a good year to try tomatoes as we have had so many overcast skies, but I did plant a cherry tomato and seeded the base with basil in a large whiskey barrel. In the middle of the barrel, I sank a gallon paper milk carton, with punctured holes in the sides and bottom. I left about 2" above ground. When I fertilize and water, I fill the milk carton with the solution. The planted milk carton is a more effective way to release the fertilizer to the deep roots of the plant.

If you are planting a large container, like a whiskey barrel, and do not have enough soil to fill it, place crumpled newspapers, cut up branches, torn cardboard boxes or large bark chips in the bottom to raise the planting area and add about 12" or more of soil. In time, the filler will break down just like it does when you compost.

Compost bins can create their own additions to the garden. Last year my compost pile grew a surprise of potato plants. I left the plants to mature and by fall when the vines had dried, to my surprise, I unearthed a good sized basket of new potatoes. This year, I purposely planted in the compost bin my favorite potato, "Yellow Finn". Hopefully, the seedlings will produce another basket of potatoes in the fall. The year before, my compost bin grew a large, green-skinned squash. It looked similar to an acorn squash and when cooked, the flesh was dark orange and very sweet. In areas that I've added compost to the garden, seeds of apple and peach have grown small trees. One peach tree grew so tall and fully branched, I gave it to Joe Baldwin to plant on city property. Joe reported to me, unhappily, that the elk liked it so much last winter, they ate the peach tree clear to the ground.

Who creates the landscape -- the plants or me?

Lady and sword ferns have sprouted in the soil at the base of the wooden sides of the raised flower beds. I never planted them, but have left them to grow and make a beautiful border for the tall perennials in the raised beds. Wild foxglove, the tiny single flowers of blue and yellow-eyed grass, and feather foamflower (*Safrage* family) grow along with magenta colored flowers on the tall stems of gray foliage of *Lychnis* beside a small plant that I believe is Oregon sunshine. A few plants of columbine, thistle, and pink-bloomed wood violets all are scattered throughout my graveled garden paths. Even *Stachys* lamb's ear have jumped their enclosure and seem to grow better in the gravel than in rich soil that I originally planted them in. The wild flower I try to control, as it is very invasive, is wild lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum bifolium*). However, its heart-shaped leaf and small, upright white flowers, which later turn into small reddish berries, have taken a foothold under my snowball tree and hardy fuchsias. Invasive as it may be, it does make a beautiful textured carpet under the taller plants.

Years ago, the garden writer Kosah said, "The meadow was a sea of 'Queen Anne's Lace', until the town ruled it had to be mowed."

The town's ruling attempted to prevent weed seeds from contaminating the lawns of the new housing development across the road.

Pray, this will never happen to our town with all of its natural beauty.

The following are a few tips I've gathered.

An interesting method used to plant in a problem area like a slope, or when adding spring bulbs in established lawns or pocket planting in graveled or rocky areas is to use brown paper grocery bags as planting containers. Dig a hole in the area you want to plant and place doubled brown grocery bags in the hole, turing the tops down to form a cuff. Fill the bags with rich soil and whatever plants you want to add. Water thoroughly with a weak solution of fertilizer and water. The cuffs offer shelter from wind and the bags keep out the unwanted bordering weeds until the plant can make it on its own. The bag will break down in a few months -- at least the cuffs fall apart by then -- and by next year, the plant's roots will be well established and will have gained footing deep in the area and the bags will be completely decomposed.

Some of these tips sound ridiculous, yet have proven helpful in controlling invasive pests in one's garden:

Coast Moles: Chew up a whole package of tootie-fruity bubble gum and insert the chewed-up and down a mole hole. Supposedly, the mole will try to eat it and the gum will bother his digestive tract. Sounds cruel, even if moles do destroy one's yard. I haven't tried it; I think I'd choke on a whole wad of bubble gum!

Deer: It's said they don't like peonies or iris -- but I think elk like

Hansen Stained Glass

ORIGINAL WINDOWS, LAMPS, AND SPECIALTY PIECES

CUSTOM WORK FOR HOME OR BUSINESS

(503) 436-2761

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT P.O. BOX 30 CANNON BEACH, OR 97110

Wes Lawson

Organic Gardening & Maintenance

438-0568

P.O. Box 800 Tolovana Park, OR 97145 Licensed & Bonded #89168

Icefire

GLASSWORKS

JIM KINGWELL

POST OFFICE BOX 382 CANNON BEACH, OR 97110 PHONE 503-436-2359

PAVILION

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FINE ART

(503) 436-2910

263 N. Hemlock P.O. Box 1208 Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Christen Allsop Linda Kinhan

URSULA WILKIE

RELIEF TILES AND STEPPING STONES

P.O. Box 667 Cannon Beach, OR 97110 503-436-0737

Original handmade cement casts in different colours, for interior and exterior decoration of home, business, and public sites

Wholesale, retail, commission jobs, one of a kind, co-work with architects and builders

WILDLIFE ON THE EDGE

JUNE '95

A lovely flower blooming profusely in our wooded areas this spring is the Fringecup. Its petals - white on the new buds at the top of the stem, and darkening to pinks lower down - have a sweet and subtly rich scent, and the stalks sometimes grow as high as 4 feet.

The Chickaree, or Douglas Squirrel, spends its days fussing about the many injustices it perceives directed at its life-style. It lets its displeasure be known by sounding off shrill electric chirps, and is often annoyingly long-winded.

The Ladybirds have made their way home and are hard at work ridding the plant world of evil aphids.

Lately, a common sight around town has been that of unkempt, spoiled babies stepping on their parents' toes and whining for food. One example is the Starling.

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the former.

Albert Einstein

White Bird GALLERY

Box 302, N. Hemlock St. Cannon Beach, Oregon 97110 503-436-2081

4TH STREET STUDIO & Gallery

Basket making workshops.

Featuring handmade baskets crafted by Kathleen Kanas from regional plant fibers. Also exhibiting clothing, jewelry and other original work by local artists.

(503) 368-6449
125 N. 4th Street • Manzanita, OR 97130

Milano™

Birkenstock

The original comfort shoe.™

1892 *Gimre's SHOES* SINCE 1892 1994

102 YEARS

239 14th Street Astoria, OR 97103 600 Broadway Seaside, OR 97138 256 E. Main Hillsboro, OR 97123

CHANGE YOUR SOCKS FOREVER

Acorn's wildly unique Polartec® constructed socks maximize foot comfort in a broad range of elements and climates for which traditional socks were never designed. They flatter feet anytime, anywhere with high-performance, durability and uncommon style. For use with sandals, wear, leisure shoes, technical sport shoes and boots, AcornSocks™ will indeed change your socks forever. Experience the difference with pleasure.

ACORN SOCKS™

Foot comfort through performance fabrics™

Made with pride in Maine, USA by Acorn Products Co., Inc., the company that warms the feet of astronauts on shuttle missions into outer space.

Available at:

SHEARWATER AND PACIFIC COAST CLOTHING IN ECOLA SQUARE

10% OFF Reg. Retail for local residents
FREE Espresso drink with \$50+ purchase
123 S. Hemlock 436-2473

Edible Food Affordable Prices

TRILLIUM NATURAL FOODS

Lincoln City

everything. I recently received a long list of plants that these animals do not eat. Time will tell, as a couple who own a home on Ecola Park Road are going to replant using this list. If it is successful, I'll report the progress in a later column.

Beneficial insects feed on pollen and nectar as well as pest insects. To encourage the "good insects", plant dill, fennel, yellow marigolds, daisies, spearmint and nasturtiums.

Slugs: Instead of placing alcoholic beer in containers in your garden, try non-alcoholic beer. It seems as though slugs prefer the more sugared, non-alcoholic beer. Maybe one slug said to another slug, "Never again, I don't want a hangover like last Saturday night; I barely slid home!"

Please send your gardening experiences, comments or questions about coastal gardening to:

June's Garden
PO Box 74
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Mother Nature's
Natural Foods • Juice Bar

298 Laneda Avenue
P.O. Box 737
Manzanita, Oregon 97130
503 • 368 • 5316

Mon - Sat 10 - 5:30 Closed Sunday