

I saw a swallow sitting on a wire twirling its head looking for its mate or a likely place to build its nest under the eves of my porch, I presume

The willow's catkins are turning to furry-like caterpillars along with new sprouts of beach pea growing in the rocks along the shore

As children we danced around a Maypole dressed in white, with garlands of flowers woven through our hair

Remembering the year I placed a red rose in my mother's lap thinking "Happy Mother's Day forever, " as I knelt beside her chair

The red rose still blooms, some children, somewhere, gather ribbons

Only this, I know

J.G.K.

Question: When do you plant your annual seeds and plants?

Answer: American folklore tells us to plant tender annuals like petunias, begonias, impatiens, etc., after the apple blossoms drop, cherry trees bloom, and deciduous tree leaves are fully sprouted. However, to really be safe, wait until around Mother's Day to plant tender annuals. The sun is higher in the sky, and it's very unlikely that we'd have really cold nights that would retard their growth.

When buying new plants, keep the following tips in mind to have greater success:

1. Tall, spindly plants may be pot-bound, with roots too small to sustain more top growth.

2. Look for compact plants with a full crown of leaves. Avoid plants with brown leaves or in full bloom.

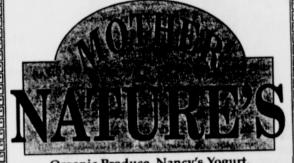
3. Check for insects on the tops and bottoms of leaves and along the stems. Chewed leaves or underleaf discoloration like yellowed or browned spots might indicate a diseased plant.

4. Beware of six-packs of bedding plants that contain only four plants. What happened to the other two? It's possible that they were diseased; you could introduce disease into your garden through the remaining plants.

5. Before buying new perennials, trees or shrubs, check gardening books or your local county extension office to see if it is hardy in your area. Also, learn the plant's requirements, like how much Faithful readers will perhaps notice that this WILD2 FE on the EDESE column is much like last month's, only smaller and darker. Our ink had failed us, and left the column faded and illegible. This month features a revamped version.

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Being powerful is like being

a lady. If you have to tell

people you are, you aren't.

Margaret Thatcher



Fine Coffee

Tempting Sweets

drainage it needs and the amount of sun and shade it will tolerate.

6. When transplanting container-grown plants, prepare the new hole by digging it a bit deeper and wider than the root ball, mixing humus (like compost or peat moss) and fertilizer with the soil. Before taking the plant out of its container, water thoroughly; this will make it easier to lift out.

7. To help the plant establish quickly, carefully loosen the sides and base of the root ball, particularly if root-bound, by teasing out the roots with your fingers or hand rake.

8. Place plant in the appropriate depth of prepared hole, backfill with soil and water it in. If the water has caused the plant to sink in farther than the appropriate depth, gently raise the plant to add more soil around its root system. Continue watering daily until the plant has had time to become established in its new location.

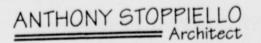
9. If you are not going to plant immediately, keep containers well watered. If the plants are left too long in containers that are too small, they will soon become root-bound.

When I planted my sweet peas and edible peas, I'd been advised that using Garden Inoculant would ensure bigger yield and better quality of these crops. Inoculant is cultures of nitrogen-fixing nodule bacteria. It aids the plant by supplying more nitrogen to its root system. To hasten germination, soak the seeds for 24 hours or more, then dust with inoculant before planting.

Look out, World! After using Garden Inoculant, I'm planning on having vases full of sweet pea blooms and bowls of fresh beans to feed my family and friends.

Happy planting!

I'd like to hear from you if you, too enjoy gardening. Please write to June's Garden, P.O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110



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