

JUNE'S GARDEN

One evening in May as my dog Barker and I walked down the path near our house to the beach, I said to Barker (yes, Barker and I have long conversations), "Look how many buds are almost ready to bloom on the wild roses, and the berry vines are filled with blossoms. There should be enough berries this year for everyone to have cobbles and the willow is thick enough for the birds to nest in." Just then we were rewarded with a song from a sparrow perched on a willow branch.

Barker seemed to nod in agreement and every once in a while chewed on the bright green grass that grows alongside the path. Along the edges of the sand at the base of the path, beach peas' purplish blue flowers sparkled with their first blooms.

A stream trickles through the foliage and spills out on the beach where at times swallows and crows gather to drink its waters. That evening there were many birds; some scattered and others seemed unafraid as we strolled close by.

The next evening the scene changed. The leaves of the roses, berries and willows were tightly curled; their stems were limp and bent over. The air by the path was permeated with a strong foreign smell. It was obvious someone had sprayed the entire area. Even part of the hedges on the private property that borders the path had also been affected.

One can only assume that whoever did this destruction did it for the sake of their view; however, this property is the City's right-of-way and the City has an unwritten policy forbidding the use of herbicides or pesticides on any city property.

There is an ordinance that nothing can be removed or added to city property, but that the city will provide a permit through the Public Works Department to cut back foliage for various reasons. There is a penalty for not observing this ordinance.

It's an unknown factor who did this or what chemical was used or its lasting effects of poisoning the soil and the stream of water that eventually flows into the ocean. Now the path's foliage that was so beautiful is destroyed. The stems and leaves of all the plants have turned black. A few rose and berry bushes have survived, but how much of the unknown chemical would be left in the surviving fruit of the berries people and birds might later gather is not known. Also, in the summer I've seen many children play in this stream that flows through this destruction.

It's impossible to know what effect this will have on people, animals and birds. I now lead Barker away from the surrounding grass that he loves to chew on and sadly watch the birds drink from that stream. My hope is that others will be aware and use caution.

When you use any chemicals in your garden, be sure to read the labels thoroughly. Be aware that they can cause sickness and death. I have been told about the loss of beloved pets where slug bait was used without caution. Also, rat poison caused the death of a friend's small dog. Children and pets don't read labels.

Here in Cannon Beach we have two stores that are great fun to shop in for your garden.

Osburn's Grocery Store has an array of unusual plants for sale. This spring I bought a Lew's Monarch Rhododendron to add to my garden. These rhododendrons have grown on the north side of Osburn's Grocery Store for many years, so take a look to see the full growth and beauty of these plants.

Cottage Flowers, the florist shop owned by Heather Webb, is located at 263 N. Hemlock. She has an outstanding collection of garden pots and floral displays. Her small courtyard is filled with various sized containers displayed with a variety of plants.

Please send your comments or questions on coastal gardening to June's Garden, P.O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.



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Believe It or Not!



THERE IS A SPRUCE TREE
 BY THE CANNON BEACH JUNCTION WHERE SEAGULLS HABITUALLY ROOST EVEN THOUGH GULLS ARE NOT BUILT TO PERCH - THEIR FEET ARE WEBBED FOR SWIMMING



TROUT IN OREGON
 STREAMS HAVE STRANGE EATING HABITS - THEY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED TO JUMP OUT OF THE WATER TO CATCH LITTLE BROWN BATS AS THEY SAHOOP DOWN AFTER INSECTS

THE TAIL OF AN UNKNOWN AMPHIBIAN, FOUND BENEATH A WOOD PILE, HAD THE ABILITY TO WRIGGLE & MOVE OF ITS OWN ACCORD - EVEN THOUGH IT WAS COMPLETELY DISEMBODED

REMEMBERED BRUTALITY!
 SEALS AND SEALIONS, WHILE TOLERANT OF MOTORIZED BOATS IN THEIR WATERS, ARE MUCH MORE WARY OF MANUALLY ROWED BOATS - HARKENING BACK THROUGH GENERATIONS OF MEMORY TO THE DAYS WHEN ESKIMOS IN CANOES ROUTINELY HUNTED AND KILLED THEM BY BASHING THEM ON THEIR HEADS

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