

JUNE'S GARDEN

Dear Readers,

Thank you for the letters you have sent to "June's Garden" last year.

Answering the many inquiries for lists of plants that grow best on the North Coast and the most helpful gardening books to buy has led me to further research and continually learn even more about gardening.

I've tried to answer to the best of my ability mostly gained from green thumb experience of trial and error rather than scientific know-how. The greatest lesson I've learned is, "The more you think you know, the more you realize how little you know."

I received these two letters in December and wanted to share them with you:

December 12, 1996
Rita Frailey
Cannon Beach Landscaping Service

Dormant Spray

What is dormant spray? Even say the word "spray" to the Cannon Beach crowd and you have 50 people screaming at you with their blood pressure boiling.

But what is dormant spray anyway? It's using organic compounds on plant material while the plants are dormant to kill overwintering insects and help prevent fungus and bacteria.

Traditionally, I think that all of us gardeners think that dormant spray is for roses and fruit trees. Which is true, but it could also be used on any deciduous plant material or evergreens with a specific problem. Nothing bothers me more than a rose that is full of black spot, this is a prime candidate for dormant spray.

Also, flowering cherry owners - did you notice in the late summer/early fall, little round BB-like holes in the leaves but no evidence of bugs? That's shot hole fungus and should also go on the dormant spray list.

All right, maybe you are saying, "I don't have roses, fruit trees or flowering trees." Dormant spray can also kill moss on trees and shrubs. With last season's and this season's wet weather, I have noticed an outbreak of Red band disease on pines, mainly two or three needled pines (*P. contorta*, *P. sylvetris*, *P. nigra* and even *P. thunbergi*). Red band disease causes chlorotic spots on the branches on needles and those spots eventually defoliate. If you have a young pine that doesn't look healthy, it could have it.

What goes into dormant spray? There are a few different mixtures. Dormant oil and lime sulphur is a standard spray mix and can be found at any garden center. Never use dormant oil on an evergreen.

An old remedy is a Bordeaux mixture. This is a mixture used by many certified organic gardeners and this is what I am using this year. The Bordeaux mixture of hydrated lime and copper originated in the Bordeaux region of France and has been used for centuries. You can buy pre-mixed Bordeaux, but it is not as effective.

I am using Bordeaux for a couple of reasons, mainly because I have a lot of infected pines. I've spoken with a nurseryman and he told me that it is very effective against that pesty spruce bud worm and also I kinda like the French folklore behind it.

I also feel that using these organic compounds will reduce or prevent the use of insecticides/fungicides in the spring. When to dormant spray? Well, when things are dormant, of course, RIGHT NOW! It's rough on the north coast. The hardest part is to find a dry day between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day when temperatures are above freezing.

If you do decide to dormant spray, be careful, read the label carefully. Lime sulphur can stain concrete and wood surfaces. Dress accordingly, organic compounds can still burn your eyes and lungs.

(Signed) R. M. Frailey

Letter from T.C. Wood, Coast of Washington:

I recently read an article that mentioned origins of a few plants that we grow here in the Northwest. Do you know of a book that might give me more information on this subject?

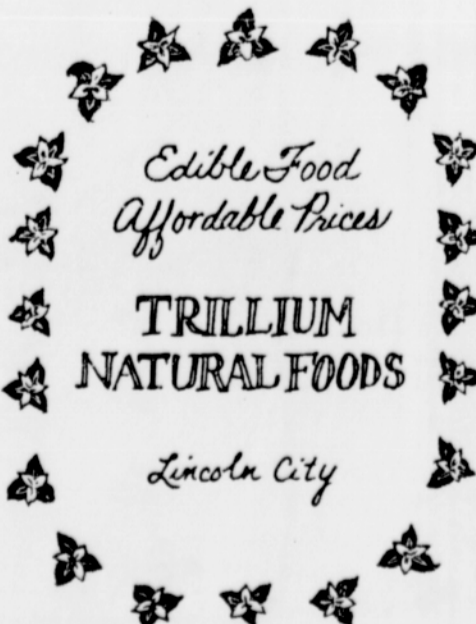
Answer: I'm not aware of a book that would give a complete list of origins of all plants. If any of our readers know of one, please write and let me know.

A book titled, "Gardener's Latin," published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill lists in alphabetical order the Latin names used to describe plants. Some of these words stand for different countries and regions such as: *armuren'sis*: of or from the Amur River region, the border of Manchuria and Siberia. This book might be helpful as to discovering the origins, lore and meanings of botanical names.


In the November '96 issue of *House Beautiful* Magazine, an article by Allen Lacy mentioned that early Spanish missionaries brought back nasturtiums from Argentina and four-o'clocks from Peru. Begonias and fuchsias were discovered by Father Charles Plumier in Santa Domingo and European botanists brought scarlet sage from Mexico and Victoria water lilies from Bolivia.

Best luck and happiness for the New Year, and great success for a beautiful garden of your own in 1997.

Please send your comments, questions and suggestions to June's Garden, P. O. Box 74, Cannon Beach, OR 97110.


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