

JUNE'S GARDEN



4 Legged Gardeners

One morning in May I noticed a chipmunk scurry through the many wall planters and pots on my deck. I had just filled all the the containers with fresh soil and new plants. Each morning for about a week the chipmunk continued the same activity. I later found a pansy plant had been uprooted. When I dug into the soil to replant it I found a handfull of sunflower seeds.

Mentioning this to my neighbors they said they had wondered where a chipmunk had taken all the seed. They said they had to keep refilling their birdfeeders as a chipmunk kept stuffing its cheeks with all the seeds then scampering off to unknown territory.



I didn't find any more uprooted plants nor other containers disturbed and only saw the chipmunk a few more times, and thought he had only hidden a few seeds. Much to my surprise by the end of June sunflower plants had sprouted in every single wall planter and pot. I weeded out a few of the plants but left some to grow. Through the summer the bright yellow sunflowers added color with all the other varieties of annuals I had planted. Some of the sunflower plants grew to 3' tall.

By October many of the flower heads had begun to form seeds. A wind and rainstorm knocked a few of the taller plants down. I left the filled seed heads to lay on the deck in hopes the chipmunk would find them and harvest its crop. Instead a Douglas squirrel now visits my deck each morning, stuffs its cheeks with seed, then scampers off to unknown territory.



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