

Warm weather season begins for vegetables

May is the beginning of warm crop planting season.

Warm season crops such as tomato and pepper plants can go into the ground any time during May. It's often easier to grow tomatoes and peppers from transplant stock because propagating these warm weather vegetables takes five to eight weeks.

Tomato and pepper transplants are available at most garden stores.

Gardeners should pick varieties best suited to the growing conditions of their area and ones that are disease resistant.

Before planting pepper transplants, prepare the soil by applying four cups of a 16-16-16 fertilizer evenly over the area to be planted. Rototill or spade the soil six to eight inches deep to break it up and then rake to smooth the surface.

Individual pepper plants should be spaced one foot apart if planted in a row. The holes for the plants should be two to three inches deep. Fill them with water just before planting and let the water soak in. Then place the transplants in the holes, taking care not to disturb the soil-ball around the plant roots.

Pack the soil firmly around the plant roots, but not tightly, and water im-

mediately. To avoid drying the plants out, they should be put in the ground on a cloudy day or in the evening.

Tomato plants should be set one to three feet apart in the garden, depending on available space and should be planted to the depth of the first leaves on the transplant.

The roots should be disturbed as little as possible during planting.

A handful of 4-12-4, 5-10-5 or 5-10-10 complete fertilizer placed in a circle three inches away from the plant and three or four inches deep will give the young plants a good start. An additional feeding, about fruit-set time, should be placed in a circle one foot away from the plant to help sustain production.

Both peppers and tomatoes need protection from wind and, in some areas, late frost. Protect tomato plants with polyethylene plastic tents, old tire casings or hot caps, available at garden stores. Hot caps can also be used to protect pepper plants.

Pepper and tomato plants should be thoroughly watered once a week. If possible, irrigate young transplants with water that has been warmed to room temperature.



With landscaping

Yards a haven for wildlife

Landscaping with the right trees and shrubs can turn almost any backyard into a haven for birds and other small mammals.

A surprising range of small wildlife will seek cover in appropriate landscape plants.

Just a few plants are not generally enough to attract a variety of wildlife. The best way to attract a wide species into the yard is to include an assortment of plants offering different growth forms, heights, flowering times, leaf types and foods in the landscape plan.

For the many types of wildlife that live on or near the ground, shrubs provide the best cover. They may be preferred by the landscaper because they are less fussy than trees about surrounding growing conditions and they grow faster.

However, even though they take longer to reach maturity, trees are also essential in providing cover for many types of wildlife, particularly birds. In addition to providing nesting sites for songbirds, trees provide shelter for squirrels and raccoons.

The following are a plants favored by many types of small wildlife:

Common snowberry - a low plant, 1 1/2 to 3 feet high which tolerates sun, shade or

partial shade.

Elderberry - a large shrub, five to eight feet high, which tolerates sun or partial shade.

Laland firethorn - a shrubby tree, eight to 20 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade and is one of the hardest broadleaf evergreens. It has orange-berried berries.

Flowering dogwood - a round to oval tree, 10 to 20 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade. It is deciduous and does well with summer irrigation and acidic soil.

Arnold crabapple - a rounded tree, 10 to 20 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade. It is deciduous.

Washington hawthorne - a

round tree, 20 to 30 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade. It has a brilliant red fruit in late fall and winter.

European mountain ash - oval to round tree, 20 to 30 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade.

The above plants are adapted to most of Oregon. The following are adapted west of the Cascades only:

Bearberry cotoneaster - a small plant, 18 inches high, which tolerates sun and partial shade. It is a slow-growing cover, useful on small banks, among rocks or on masonry walls.

Rockspray cotoneaster - a low plant, 1 1/2 to 3 feet high, which tolerates sun and partial shade.

What's cooking?

Turkey good in casserole

by SARA SEWELL

Turkey legs or breasts are a good buy these days. Serve them as roast turkey and dressing for the first meal and use this great recipe for the leftovers. It is a very attractive dish and good enough for a company dinner.

Turkey and Corn Bread Casserole

1 can (11 ounce) cream of mushroom soup
1 can cooked mixed vegetables, drained
1/2 to 2 cups cooked chopped turkey
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup water
1/2 tsp. salt
1 package (6 1/2 ounces) corn bread mix
Heat oven to 450 degrees. Stir in all ingredients except corn bread and mix together. Pour into 10-inch casserole and level.
Prepare corn bread mixture according to package directions. Pour over turkey mix. Bake 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cut into squares and serve immediately.

Serves 4 to 6.

The dish, served with a good green salad and a dessert makes a complete and very satisfying meal.

Sherry Cake

1 package yellow cake mix
4 eggs
1 package (3 or 4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
three-fourths cup sherry
three-fourths cup cooking oil
1 tsp. nutmeg
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and lightly flour tube or Bundt cake pan. Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Beat together with an electric mixer for five minutes. Pour into cake pan and bake for 50 minutes.
Cool for 30 minutes. Invert onto serving plate. Dust with confectioner's sugar or with glaze of confectioner's sugar and sherry.
Serves 12 to 15. Given to me by Lani Staab of Boring. A very moist and delicious cake.

The Post wants recipes, tips for the home

If you've got any old family recipes or good gardening tips, we'd like to hear them. The Sandy Post frequently prints recipes, gardening advice, nutritional guides and tips for the household in the Home and Garden section of the paper.

If you would like to share any tips, send them to Home and Garden, The Sandy Post, P.O. Box 68, Sandy, OR, 97055.

The Post will also be sponsoring a recipe contest later in the year. An earlier contest drew several varied entries and netted the winner a \$25 prize.

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