

Summer brings changes to each garden

by Bill Hansen

Now that summer is finally upon us, you can observe changes in the garden each day. Beans are especially fun to watch with their new green leaves catching the morning sun in perfect rows, like soldiers in a parade. Beans like a fairly rich soil, especially during the early part of their growing season. Make sure they maintain that healthy green color and side dress with a garden fertilizer if indicated.

Side dressing (or manure tea if you prefer) may be necessary for several other vegetables, like corn, cucumbers and tomatoes. Use it sparingly, according to directions, and you will be amazed at the results. Later on, when root systems are better established, the addition of fertilizer probably won't be

necessary.

It has been my experience that peas and potatoes need very little fertilizer during the growing season. In the case of peas, they actually leave more nitrogen than they take. Since this "free" nitrogen is stored in the form of nodes on the roots, don't pull the pea vines up by their roots when they are through producing. Use a pair of shears or a sharp knife to cut the vines away from the roots. After tilling you may then plant another crop in the same space and take advantage of the nitrogen left by the peas.

Some gardeners prefer to till pea vines back into the soil. This is a good practice for soil improvement, but I quit doing it because the vines got all wound up in my tiller resulting in a time consuming job of cleaning it out. I found it much easier to throw the

whole works on the compost pile. I understand some folks run a rotary lawn mower right down the row to chop up the vines. This practice can be very dangerous, resulting in injury to the operator as well as the mower. I wouldn't recommend it.

Last week, I noticed one or two cabbage plants that were obviously in trouble. They were keeled over and wilted almost as if they hadn't gotten enough water. The other plants looked healthy. After attempting to save them for a day or two, I pulled them up, along with the soil around them, and threw the whole mess into the trash. Better to get them out and away from other plants than to have the whole row infected. I don't have any idea what got into them, but by acting quickly, I hope I saved the rest of the crop.

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WISHIN' FOR FISHIN'

by Wally Noakes

I'd like to go fishin', but I don't know when or where,
The way the laws are written, seems a bit unfair.
The words in the law book sound a little quaint,
One page says the river's open, the next one says it ain't.

I've got my tackle ready, sinkers, line and hook,
But some how or other I just don't trust that book.
It's sure a might confusin' and I'm not the only one,
That can't understand the things our fish commission's done.

It's a hundred feet from this point, five hundred from that,
Before you make your cast, better make sure where you're at.
I'm not much on geography, I don't know every brook,
Seems like I'm supposed to before I bait my hook.

I know there's a reason these laws have to be,
Why can't they make them simple for dumb guys like me?
I hate to think about it, I sure don't like to fail,
But I'd rather give up fishin' than spend a night in jail.



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