

Growing a Garden Basics: Tips for Growing an Abundance of Food & Flowers

by Martha Cox, ACCNP, Certified Arborist

- First, choose a sunny site with available water and build a fence around it to keep critters and deer out.
- Second, amend the soil with compost, homemade or bought. The healthier your soil, the better chances for success. Mound up the soil to create paths in between. That way no one will walk through your beds (hopefully). If you have raised beds, fill it with planting mix or amended soil. Raised beds warm up faster and drain better than gardens in the ground.
- Timing is crucial when planting. Plant crops that do well in your area at the right time. If you want to start earlier than what is recommended, protect your plants with Remay (a frost cloth sold at the Nursery) or see the article on page 4 about building a cold frame.
- For a more successful crop, plant vigorous, disease-resistant varieties. The VFN label on tomatoes means that the variety is resistant to verticillium wilt, fusarium wilt, and nematodes.
- Plant flowers along with your veggies to attract beneficial insects and provide nectar to nourish them.
- Be observant and check your garden daily. Pull weeds and check your crops for soil moisture. Irrigate thoroughly when the top 2-3" begin to dry. Water more often when plants are newly planted or when starting from seed. As the plants roots grow larger and longer, you can water less frequently.



- Remember, it is easier to prevent pest and disease problems than to cure them, but we can't stop them all. Early detection is the key. When you encounter a problem in the garden and don't know what it is, bring a sample in a zip lock bag into the Nursery or go to our website under "Links" where you will find sites that can help you identify the problem. One website is UC Davis' IPM Program. IPM stands for

Integrated Pest Management. It is a system to solve pest or disease problems using effective and environmentally sensitive methods.

Come into the Nursery and see our raised bed demonstration garden at the entrance. We also have plenty of helpful handouts. And don't forget our Veggie Gardening Seminar, April 18 and 19, 24 and 26 at 10:00 a.m. Most importantly, have fun gardening this Spring!

2010 Tomato Giveaway!

'Giant Belgium' is this year's giveaway seedling tomato. It is a popular indeterminate heirloom with huge fruit from 1-2 lbs. Dark pink flesh with sweet, mild flavor. The seedlings will be available after April 15th. Let us know how it works for you.

Congratulations to Lori Lane

& Kathy Gramsgibbs

Lori won our gift card drawing and
Kathy is our newsletter raffle winner.

They each won \$100 gift cards!
Thanks to everyone who entered.



EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT Spring 2010

Richard Hosking is in our spotlight this season. He is one of the owners of the Nursery and our resident biologist. He has a passion for



unusual conifers, dogwoods, and Japanese maples. He can often be found behind the irrigation counter helping customers with their irrigation systems, testing soil, and generally complaining about everything. When he isn't at

the Nursery he enjoys smoking cigars, making wine, and fishing. Richard is a Placerville native, born and raised here.

Although he can be a curmudgeon, Richard is helpful, quick to give advice, and a generous boss. Thanks, Richard! The Nursery wouldn't be the same without you here.

"We Make Your Garden Smile"