



Shaler Garden Club Horticultural Hints

July 2017

- 1) Flowers from Queen Anne's Lace can be cut, placed in a jar of water with a heavy concentration of food coloring (McCormick, Easter egg dye, etc.). The stem will absorb the dye in the water and color the flower.
- 2) A deer resistant variety of arborvitae is the Giant Western Occidentalis. Start large with a 6-8 foot high tree.
- 3) If you see chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) setting sky-blue flowers, it's time to inspect the undersides of squash and pumpkin leaves and at the base of stems for rust-brown eggs of squash vine borer. Crush the egg clusters with your fingers or spray them with insecticidal soap.
- 4) Drill small holes in your fence and replace them with marbles for interest.
- 5) DEET is considered the "gold standard" of mosquito repellents. A product containing 10% DEET can protect you for up to 90 minutes. Lemon-eucalyptus oil has also been proven effective and recommended by the CDC.
- 6) When using a shovel, lift the shovel and then turn your feet -- do not twist your body. This also applies when shoveling snow. Get your hands close to the shovel and use your whole body, not just your arms.

There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling.

~ ~ *Mirabel Osler*

Farmers Markets

Here are just a few of the local farmers markets.

Wednesdays 2:30pm - 6:30pm	Green Market at Phipps Phipps Conservatory lawn at Schenley Drive
Wednesdays 3pm - 7 pm	Bellevue Farmers Market Bayne Library & Park corner of Teece & Balph Avenues
Thursdays 3pm - 6:30pm	Etna Farmers Market Across from the borough building at 437 Butler Street
Fridays Noon - 5 pm	Hampton: St. Ursula Church Farmers Market Duncan Avenue at Kirk Avenue parking lot
Fridays 3pm - 7pm	North Side (Citiparks) Farmers Market in East Park East Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue (across from Allegheny General Hospital)

Here's a nifty idea I saw at the Shaler Plant Sale this year. A woman took an ordinary laundry basket, wrapped a cloth belt around the handle, and used it to pull her plants. This idea should work great in our own gardens.



To-Do List for Zone 6

- 1) Water early in the day so the leaves will be dry by evening.
- 2) Spend a few minutes every morning deadheading -- pinching off spent flowers of plants.
- 3) Keep your eyes open for insects and disease problems. Early detection is important.

Hummingbird Food

Make your own food for your feeders. Remember: Do Not Use Red Dye nor Honey. It can be toxic to the hummers. Hummingbirds are attracted to red, so if your feeder is not red, apply a little red nail polish on the feeder and the birds will see it.

1 part granulated white sugar to 4 parts water

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar:1 cup water or 1 cup sugar:4 cups water

- ♦ Boil water and sugar
- ♦ Stir until sugar is dissolved
- ♦ Cool
- ♦ Pour sugar water mixture into the hummingbird feeder
- ♦ Store any leftover in the refrigerator