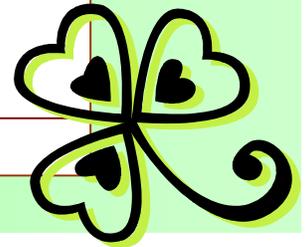


Garden Tales



Atlantic County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

Spring has Sprung!

Our Community Outreach Committee is in full swing, with a full palette of planting and community activities. See page three for an update on our current projects, including

- Adopt A Road
- BayFest
- Demo Garden
- Estell Manor Park
- Forsythe Refuge
- Ocean Life
- Peace Pilgrim Park
- Pleasantville School
- Port Republic School
- Tomato and Pepper Planting for Fairs/Events

Congratulations New Certified Master Gardeners!

Grace Wagner,
Janet D'Allesandro,
Claire Quigley,
and Estelle Berkowitz!

Shamrock Trivia

The shamrock that St. Patrick was said to pick was probably white clover (*trifolium repens*) and is difficult to grow indoors. Most commercially available "shamrock plants" are oxalis or wood sorrel. Give them bright sun, barely moist soil, and cooler temperatures.

HOT Happenings

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| March 24 | Rutgers Home Gardeners School |
| March 27 | MG Class: Flowers / Garden |
| April 3 | MG Class: Insects |
| April 10 | MG Class: Landscape Design |
| April 11 - 13 | MG Plant Sale |
| April 17 | MG Class: HelpLine |
| April 20 | MG Association Meeting |
| April 22 | Earth Day (note corrected date) |
| April 28 | BayFest: Somers Point |
| May 18 | MG Yard Sale, Linwood |
| May 20 | Spring Fling, 4H Fairgrounds |
| June 5 | MG 2007 Graduation |

Online extras!

The email edition of *Garden Tales* features two additional pages of stories and info from Bunny Mason, Bob Kruk, Janet D'Allesandro, Michelle Brunetti Post, Kim Hesse, and Deb Sandler.



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Information and Sources

Green Thumbs Articles

These weekly articles in *The Press of Atlantic City*, written by Mona Bawgus, cover current lawn and garden issues. Browse the archive binder in the HelpLine office, and check out the newest articles:

- **Brown Rot fungus on stone fruit trees**, 3/16
- **Rhubarb**, 3/9
- **Full sun, part shade, full shade**, etc., 3/2
- **Viability of last year's seeds**, 2/23

USFS "Weeds of the Week"

Find out more about these weeds, which are listed as invasive in NJ – and how to get rid of them – at http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants

- **Sweet Cherry** (*Prunus avium*), a.k.a. sweet cherry, bird cherry. Escaping intentional plantings thanks to birds eating the fruit, these trees shade out understory forests and displace native plants.
- **Cutleaf Blackberry** (*Rubus laciniatus* Willd.) a.k.a. evergreen blackberry, cutleaf ramble, parsley leaf bramble. Aggressive, prickly brambles are a serious problem in sunny areas.
- **Spiny plumeless thistle** (*Carduus acanthoides* L.) a.k.a. Invading fields and pastures, this plant competes with native species and forage crops. Can form dense colonies.



Coordinator's Comments

by Mona Bawgus

Pesticides: Determining status for home use

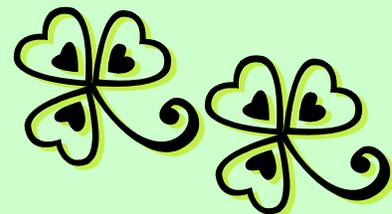
Have you ever had a homeowner call in with a problem and been unsure of status of the recommended pesticide? Pesticide registration changes so frequently that it is important to know how to quickly check its status. The next time you have this situation the following website and clicks will prove extremely helpful.

1. Website address – www.pcpnj.org
2. Click on Kelly Registration Systems in the boxes in the middle of the page under Pesticide Product Searches
3. Click Pesticide Registration Search
4. Next Search by Active Ingredient
5. Enter the chemical name in the box as requested
6. Click on the name under the heading Chemical Names
7. Click on a product name
8. The next page that comes up will have a listing of restricted use followed by a yes or no. If **yes** only registered pesticide applicators can use it. If **no**, then homeowners should be able to find the product at a local garden center. Good luck!

What HelpLine callers want to know

The call volume is picking up and questions are coming in from folks eager to get started. This time of year, you can expect calls on the topics below. Check the fact sheets and *Green Thumb* archives to be ready:

- Early lawn maintenance, weed prevention, moss, soil tests.
- Needle cast / fir trees
- Pruning shrubs, caring for early bloomers like Rhododendron and Azaleas.
- Planning spring gardens
- Pests: Clover mite, canker worm, sawbugs, lilac borers, white pine weevils, ticks, and voles.



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

New Name: "NJAES"

The newly redesigned New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station web site (www.njaes.rutgers.edu) is up and running. The new web site **replaces the old RCRE site** and access to research, extension, county offices, publications, and more is available and easy to find right from the homepage. Also on the homepage is a spotlight space (it currently describes the new web site), which will highlight exciting research or extension developments.

Committee News & Updates

Community Outreach Committee: *Kathy Olsen:* This committee coordinates a wide range of community engagement projects. See the project details on page 3

Communications Committee: *Mary McDermott:*

- Green Thumb Archive: Two years of articles are archived and indexed in a binder in the HL office. All MGs are encouraged to review the articles, and use them as an info source to share with clients.
- Recognition: "100 Hours" pins have been ordered to recognize MGs hours. We'll select garden-themed pins to represent achievements of 200 or more hours.

Hospitality Committee: *Carol Strahlendorf:* We'll need two volunteers for each month's Association Meeting dessert.

Finance & Fund-Raising Committee: *Michelle Brunetti Post:* The MG Yard Sale is scheduled for May 18. Start collecting your yard sale materials – but please hold them until the week before the sale.

HelpLine Committee: *Grace Wagner:*

- Sandy McAfee has developed a monthly list of questions / issues based on previous years' helpline calls.
- Phone calls are picking up on the HelpLine.
- Gypsy Moths: Callers are asking about spraying programs. Refer all questions about spraying to local city/county offices.

Trips, Tours, and Education Committee: *Vin Thoms:* Several options for an early June trip were identified at the recent committee meeting and will be proposed to the Association in April.

Perennial Plant Sale Committee:

Ann Cinquina and Gloria Perakovich

Our annual Perennial (got that?) Plant Sale is in full swing, with web sites, flyers, press releases, and word of mouth generating calls and orders from across Atlantic County. Here are the logistics – and many volunteers are needed:

When:

- Tuesday, April 3: Order deadline
- Wednesday, April 11: Room set up (organizing tables and signs); then offload, label, and sort plants. Volunteers needed for two-hour shifts between noon and 6 pm.
- Thursday, April 12: In the morning: Organize all the plants into specific orders by customer. From 3 to 7, work with customers. Volunteers needed for two-hour shifts between 9 am and 7 pm.
- Friday, April 13: Help customers picking up orders. Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts between 9 am and 3 pm.

Where: 4H building on Route 50, near Egg Harbor.

Keep getting the word out: Keep posting flyers in public places where permitted; please let Mary McDermott know where they've been posted for the record. You can download flyers and the plant list/order form from www.aclink.org/rce-atlantic to send to friends, family and colleagues. You can also get paper copies of the flyer at the HelpLine office.

Volunteers Needed

- **Tomato and pepper planting:** March 27, MG offices. 9 a.m.
- **Pleasantville School:** Speak to classes about seed starting/help students plant seeds at the end of March.
- **Plant Sale:** Wed, Thurs and Fri, April 11, 12 and 13.
- **Port Republic School:** April 18 and 25; and May 2, 9, and 23. 2:30 - 4:00.
- **Peace Pilgrim Park:** 3/20: class discussion and hands-on project; 4/3: Tree planting; 5/8: wild flower planting, weeding, and mulching.

Next Committee Meetings

- **Tomato & Pepper Planting:** March 27, MG offices. 9 am.
- **Plant Sale:** March 27, 12:30, MG offices
- **Demo Garden:** Friday, March 30, at 1:00, MG offices
- **Communications:** Tuesday, April 17, 12:30, MG meeting room
- **Estell Manor Gardens:** Tentative first work date: Friday, April 27, for clean up and prep.

Outreach Committee Projects

Adopt A Road: *Grace Wagner, Kathy Olsen:* NJ's Landscape Beautification Program contract to be reviewed by Mona and Rutgers. The two-year contract has very specific requirements and limitations that we need to determine if we want to commit to. Consider using the Spring/early summer months to evaluate and review the contract and what our options/preferences might be -- and to visit / evaluate the proposed sites. If we go ahead with the program, we might want to start in the fall.

Bayfest: *Michelle Brunetti Post:* April 28, Somers Point. We are investigating having a display table there. Audience for this event is expected to be less gardening-savvy than those at 4H and Earth Day. It could be a good opportunity to raise awareness in a new "market". Nancy Jansen will design the display table and propose a theme; volunteers are welcome to assist.

Demo Garden: *Judith Ryan-Heitz & Evonne Kaminski:*

- Vegetable raised beds: Some minor cleanup will be needed in spring.
- New landscape/flower gardens: The team will meet Friday, March 30, at 1:00 to determine which plants from the plant sale will be purchased, and to finalize which types of gardens we'll offer (e.g. drought-resistant, shade, etc.).

Estell Manor Park: *Kathy Olsen:* The team developed a plan, which next needs to be reviewed by Mona, and then presented to Park personnel for approval. The first work date is planned for Friday, April 27 (to be confirmed). Subsequent work dates will be each Friday, usually from 9 to 11 am.

Ocean Life: *Michelle Brunetti Post:* Michelle will contact OL in the next few weeks, and report the next steps at April meeting.

Peace Pilgrim Park: *Kim Hesse & Estelle Berkowitz:* Dates are set to work with students: 3/20: class discussion and hands-on project; 4/3: Tree planting; 5/8: wild flower planting, weeding, and mulching. In the fall, may hold a Community Day at the Park, where we will plant plants contributed from the community.

Pleasantville School: *Mona Bawgus:* Looking for MGs to speak to classes about seed starting and to help them start seeds. Classroom sessions will be Wednesdays at 3:30, starting at the end of March.

Port Republic School: *Janet Longo:* Janet, Bob K, Glenn P, and Deb Sandler met with the school re: the existing two gardens and a possible new garden. For now, we'll focus on the two existing gardens -- a woodland garden, and a perennial and annual garden. Volunteers are needed/welcome: There are five dates scheduled to work with the students: April 18 and 25; and May 2, 9, and 23. These will be in the classroom/in the garden, from 2:30 to 4:00. It's a lot of fun with the kids, and there's good support.

Tomato and Pepper Planting for Fairs/Events: *Bob Kruk:* March 27, MG offices for seed starting -- 9 am; volunteers welcome. (Tomatoes: Fourth of July, Rutgers, and Super Steak; peppers: bell and fryers).

- We will grow out the seedlings at the ACUA heated greenhouse.
- We have 3" plastic and Styrofoam pots for these.
- Plants are for Spring Fling, Bayfest, and Earth Day.

Want to contribute to Garden Tales?

Garden Tales is produced by Mary McDermott, following each Association meeting. Send topic ideas, photos, or material to Mary at mmcddmcn@comcast.net



People Page

Everybody has a story!

Our new *Garden Tales* feature introduces two Master Gardeners each issue. Make a point to say hello to these MGs at the next Association or Committee meeting, and introduce yourself!

Rita Wenig, 2006, Linwood

- Committees: Communications, Plant Sale, Finance, Community Outreach
- Favorite plant: Butterfly bushes
- Least favorite plant: Wisteria
- Critters I don't mind: squirrels
- On a desert island, the plant I'd want is a daylily – they multiply fast and are edible.
- My favorite time of year: Fall -- I love the late summer flowers and planning for next year.
- My favorite MG volunteer activity: Working with the children at Peace Pilgrim Park.
- My favorite garden tool: A shovel; I feel I really accomplish something when I dig deep.
- My Favorite MG class was Backyard Habitats.
- If I had my own farm, I'd probably grow organic vegetables and herbs.
- Most MGs don't know I'm a vegetarian and I love birdwatching.



Estelle Berkowitz, 2005, Absecon

- Committees: Plant Sale; Trips, Tours & Education; Community Outreach; Communications
- Favorite plant: Columbine
- Least favorite plant: Prickly pear cactus
- Most unusual HelpLine call: A gentleman brought in carpet beetles from under his couch.
- My favorite season: Spring with its renewal of life.
- My favorite garden tool: The "three prong."
- My favorite MG class: Houseplants.
- My favorite drink in the garden: Water: a sip for my plants, and a sip for me.
- Favorite garden-related film: "The Constant Gardener."
- If I had a farm, I'd probably grow wildflowers.
- My favorite critter is a "squabbit" – a tailless squirrel who's visited my garden for three years now.
- Most MGs don't know that I was a garden slave when I was ten years old.



THANK YOU

- To **Vin Thoms** for donating a homemade hypertufa (faux stone) planting trough that was raffled at our March meeting
- To **Anita Wagner** for correcting the Plant Sale plant list so quickly both in hard copy and online.
- To **Michelle Brunetti Post** and **Kathy Olsen** for desserts at the Association Meeting.

In the MG Mailbox

- The Linwood Parent Teacher Organization sent a letter thanking **Nancy Jansen** and **Kathy Olsen** for their volunteer work on Make A Difference Day.
- **Debi Capille** sent a card thanking the MG community for the orchid, cards, and thoughts as she recuperates.

Happy Birthday!

- 3/16 Bev Albertson
- 3/21 Cindy Krzyzaniak
- 4/1 Virginia Mason
- 4/20 Kathleen Olsen
- 4/24 Nancy Amrhein



Garden Memories, by Grace Wagner

When I got home from Friday's MG Association Meeting with my new "Certified Master Gardener" certificate, I realized I had received it on my mother's heavenly birthday. She was the person who encouraged me and my siblings to garden, because she loved to do it in her spare moments (she worked full time). During the 1940's many people had victory gardens (raised their own vegetables, etc.). So the first things I ever planted were carrots. I was so excited when they grew and I pulled them out of the ground. But I have to tell you I have never been successful with them since! Beginner's luck? Who knows. Maybe I'll give carrots another try.

Education Opportunities

2007 MG Class Schedule

Classes are Tuesdays, from nine to noon, at the MG classroom. Certified MGs can earn three continuing education credits for attending classes that weren't offered or were missed in previous years. If you decide to attend a class, let Anita Wagner know the week before.

Date	Class
3/20/07	Weed Identification
3/27/07	Flowers for the Garden
4/3/07	Insects
4/10/07	Landscape Design
4/17/07	HelpLine
4/24/05	Vegetables I
5/1/07	Vegetables II
5/8/07	Small Fruits I
5/15/07	Small Fruits II
5/22/07	Tour of Triple Oaks Nursery

Rutgers 2007 Garden Series Classes

- Beginner Topiaries and Spring Centerpieces - March 22
 - Bamboo Lectures and Sales - March 31
 - Care of the Garden in the Spring - April 14
 - Woodland and Shade Gardening - April 14
 - Vegetable Gardening - April 21
 - Garden Design for the Homeowners - April 21
- <http://www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu/classes.html>

Rutgers Classes and Programs

- **31st Annual Home Gardener's School, March 24.** This class offers "expert instruction in the most innovative gardening and landscaping subjects available," at the Rutgers Campus in New Brunswick. See <http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ah0201cb.html>
- **Rutgers Bee-ginner's Beekeeping.** This three-day course starts Friday, April 13, in Bordentown, NJ. Learn the basics of bee biology, hive management, honey extracting, hive assembly, etc. See <http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu/courses/current/AE0401CC.HTML> .

Longwood Gardens Conifers Class

by Michelle Brunetti Post

I just finished my six-week conifers course at Longwood Gardens, and loved every minute. We learned to identify about 70 species and cultivars of conifers by foliage and cones, and managed the Latin names as well.

I was introduced to trees I wasn't familiar with, like Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) and European Larch (*Larix decidua*), but the most surprising thing I learned was new appreciation for the old standbys in our landscape – Thuja (*Arborvitae*) and *Chamaecyparis*.



These two types of conifers we see used as shrubs and small trees around suburban properties, and I've always thought of them as boring. But many species are large, impressive and important trees in nature.

The two Thujas (*occidentalis* and *plicata*) are native to the U.S. -- *T. occidentalis* to the Northeast and *T. plicata* to the West and Northwest. Locals call both "cedar," but just like our red cedar is a juniper, the Thujas aren't true cedars either. *T. plicata* can grow to 200 feet and live 800 years in the wild, and was extremely important to Northwest Indians like the Haida, who used them for building everything from homes and boats to totem poles.

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis is also a large, impressive tree in the Northwest U.S. The natives call it Nootka Cypress. Again, it's not a true cypress. You can see why it's so important to use Latin names, as common names are so misleading. (Our Eastern White Cedar is actually a *chamaecyparis*.) It seems that people will call any tree with fragrant bark and insect resistance "cedar," because to them it means a tree you can build with and not worry about pests.

To learn more, do a Google search for "Thuja cedar extension" and you'll find a wealth of information.

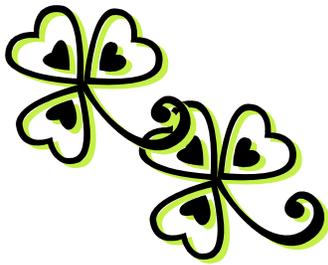
Perspectives



“Cool NJ” Program by Michelle Bellinger

The Cool Cities program has signed on nearly 400 large and small cities and towns to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Each has pledged to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to prevent global warming.

Learn how to work with your community leaders to join other cities which have taken the first steps to begin reducing harmful emissions and enact climate-friendly practices. The Atlantic County group will meet March 24 at the ACUA Recycling Center; www.coolnewjersey.org



Are Toads the New Canaries?

Years ago, canaries alerted coal miners to lethal levels of carbon monoxide gas. Today, many scientists believe that the disappearance and malformed young of many species of toads and frogs is also an early warning.

Amphibians have porous skin that makes them especially sensitive to environment changes. As their life cycle requires both aquatic and terrestrial habitats, they are among the first to suffer the consequences of environmental threats. Over 200 amphibian species have experienced recent significant population declines. As an indicator of greater ecosystem health, this marked decline raises many concerns.



Pesticides are getting more attention. In fact, glyphosate, more commonly known as Roundup®, has recently come under criticism from studies that suggest that it could be linked to one of the possible causes of the world-wide amphibian decline. Though Roundup® is conventionally thought to be nonlethal to amphibians, recent studies from the University of Pittsburgh suggest that Roundup can cause extremely high rates of amphibian mortality. If you use glyphosate, follow the label, do not apply directly to water and do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash water. (Source: <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/news/default.aspx?county=Vermillion&type=1&archive=true>)



Garden Alley was contributed by Dennis Hyer, a friend of MGs from the Estell Manor Park Greenhouse. See more of Dennis's comics at www.mullein-fields.com.

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Edited by:



Mona Bawgus
Program Associate - Agriculture

Web Sites of Interest

- www.compostguide.com As a follow-up to Barbara Fiedler's composting presentation, this is an excellent web site. It tells you why you should make compost, explains the decomposition process, what materials to use, a schedule for composting, troubleshooting, etc. (If you decide to order one of the featured composters, check with Nancy – she has experience to share.) – *Nancy Jansen*
- www.avantgardening.com focuses on sustainable organic gardening, from the basics through landscaping and design.
- Farmers Market Online connects consumers directly to growers and artisans;
<http://www.farmersmarketonline.com>

Rembrandt Tulips

A virus makes colors appear in tulip petal patterns and stripes. The infected – yet beautiful -- tulips have flowers with uneven color patterns and are known as Rembrandt or “broken” tulips.



Official Business

Atlantic County Master Gardener Program Newsletter



NJ AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
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COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

On-line Extras

Snapshots from the 2007 Philadelphia Flower Show

- **Wintergreen**, *Janet D'Allesandro*: While everyone at the Flower Show holds cameras at arm's length and snaps photos of the beautiful displays, I almost ignore the big picture. Bowing down, I read the signs of groundcovers at the base of these exhibits. This year several caught my eye, including wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens* L.). This small plant is native to the northeastern US. It thrives in acid (but will be fine in sandy) soil and spreads with underground or creeping stems over time. (slowly) Leathery evergreen leaves are on 6" erect branches, so it's sometimes listed as a shrub. It produces white flowers in summer followed by red berries that persist into the winter. For more info, see <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/herbhunters/wintergreen.html> or <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/imp/modzz/00002411.html>.
- **Pressed Flower Art**, *Michelle Brunetti Post*: My favorite part of the Flower Show was the pressed flower art. The artists -- mainly Asian women, judging by the name plates -- make incredible "paintings" out of pressed flower petals and other plant parts. The detail and sophisticated color achieved by these artists is amazing. Their work looks a combination of painting, quilting and collage. You can find some examples at: www.artbyshelleyxie.com (the photo is one of Shelley's exhibits); and www.theartistandthegardener.com
- **Questions from Attendees**, *Debra Sandler*: I helped at the show's Horticultural Information Booth and was asked many questions that I thought may be of interest to our group. Take a look, and see how many questions you'd be ready to answer -- it's a good prep for working other community events, like 4H and Earth Day:
 - How can I create differences in height, color, and texture in potted plants?
 - What can I do about groundhogs and deer?
 - Invasives: How can I limit the spread of ivy? My tree roots are pushing up the sidewalk.
 - What is gray on the bottom of leaves? What are aphids?
 - How can I identify kalanchoe? How can I make my orchids bloom?
 - What kind of dirt to use? What kind of mixture? Can I use the same dirt from last year?
 - How often should I water my plants? What should I feed them?
 - How often -- and when -- can my Christmas cactus bloom?
 - How do I get rid of pests and insects? What kind of pesticides are best to use?
 - Can I use Roundup without hurting my plants?
 - I want to learn more about rock gardens.
 - What are the best perennial plants for the sun and shade?
 - When is the best time to prune? Where should I prune? How do I shape my forsythias?
 - Can I force my plants to bloom more quickly?



Signs of Spring

By Kim Hesse

The Hyacinths I received from our MG Holiday Exchange are up and filling my kitchen with spring fragrance (see photo on left). The Forsythia on the right are thanks to one of the MG classes, which inspired me to start an end-of-February tradition of bringing spring into my kitchen. Along with the Philly Flower show, this helps remind me that spring is just around the corner.



On-line Extras

Vanilla and Orchidaceae by Bunny Mason

Did you know that the original source of natural vanilla (the vanilla bean plant) is a monopodial orchid? The Vanilla Orchid, also known as *Vanilla Planifolia* or *Vanilla Franrans*, is a type of vine native to Mexico. Hernán Cortés was the first to bring the vanilla plant to Europe in the 16th century (the Aztecs used vanilla to flavor a chocolate drink).

Vanilla is the only orchid that can produce edible fruits. The flower lasts about a day, and develops into a “bean” which is used as a spice. Pollination is done manually, and the pods have to be blanched before drying. Edmund Albius, a slave, was the first to manually pollinate the vanilla flower on Reunion Island near Madagascar. The seeds from the seed pod will not germinate in normal soil – they need a certain symbiotic mushroom. That might explain why vanilla is one of the world’s most expensive spices.

The vanilla orchid itself is relatively easy to grow and thrives as an indoor plant. As an epiphytic orchid, it requires good drainage and aeration of its roots. Coarse media such as tree bark or moss mounted on tree bark must be well drained and regularly moistened. Mineral or rainwater is suggested, as well as a humid environment. Orchids like a steady supply of diluted nutrients. Place the orchid near a window away from direct sunlight and protect it from frost exposure.



Vanilla planifolia Jacks.
Image processed by Thomas Schoepke
www.plant-pictures.de

The vanilla plant can be reproduced by cuttings. Let the plant rest in a shady area for a week or two before potting. A cutting should be tied to a stake with its lower part just touching the planting medium; two or three cuttings can go in one pot. Living stakes are best (i.e. *Dracaena*), but an artificial one will do. Lower roots should grow around the stake to give the plant added support before eventually working into the soil. With good conditions, growth can be rapid.

Growing Cucumbers by Bob Kruk

I have a great way to make everybody grow cucumbers – that is, “pickling cukes.” If you like dill pickles, I have the recipe you will love (I promise!). I made three gallons in July – and here we are in March and I’m still enjoying them. Truthfully, I think they’re even better now!

Growing tips:

- Grow your own dill, and wait for it to go to seed -- use both plant and seed.
- Never over-grow pickles. If you don’t have enough pickles for a batch, keep them in the fridge until you have a full gallon.

Recipe:

Use a one-gallon jar or crock

1 gallon of pickling cucumbers

¼ cup Kosher salt (not more)

1 cup white vinegar

2 Tbsp pickling spice

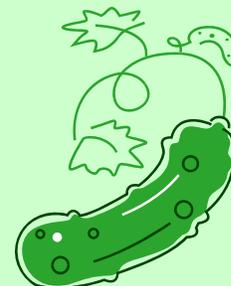
2 to 4 dill weed (use both plant and seed)

8 cups water

2 to 4 bay leaves

3 to 6 crushed garlic cloves

1. Put bay leaves, pickling spice, garlic, and dill pickles into the one-gallon crock.
2. Boil water, vinegar, and salt; then cool to room temperature. Pour over pickles and make sure all pickles are under the brine. Refrigerate.
3. After a week, start to enjoy. You can separate them into smaller jars if desired.



For more information about recommended varieties of cucumbers for pickling, growing and harvesting tips, and more see the Univ. of Illinois fact page at <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/veggies/cucumber1.html>