



“Dibbles and Buds”



Fort DuPont Garden Newsletter

August 2011

Fungus among Us

Are there brown spots on your tomato leaves? Are they starting to turn yellow from the bottom up? If it's not a deficiency of nutrients or a moisture imbalance in the soil, chances are your plants are suffering from a fungal infection commonly known as "early blight." This tomato killer is more prevalent in wet weather, a definite hindrance to a plant requiring full sun. The ailment becomes more of a problem as planting seasons pass and tomato plants are transplanted in the same location every year. A partial solution to early blight is to cut the infected leaves and plant in a different space next season. Others include adding

corn meal to the soil or using Serenade Garden and Lawn Disease Control spray, an organic fungicide containing special bacteria which break down the fungus.

Winter Planting!

With the drastic change of climate headed our way through the rest of the summer, it's time for mid-Atlantic farmers and gardeners to start planning their winter plots. As with any season, it is important to keep the soil temperature and soil exhaustion in time; it doesn't do any good to have a warm vegetable bed with overworked earth. Planting legumes is a good way to ensure that nutrients return to the soil, and many bean plants are hardy enough to withstand the cooler weather. Other good

winter vegetables include onions, green vegetables like kale and spinach, and root vegetables such as carrots, beets, and turnips. Remember, the Fort Dupont gardening season ends in December; don't make your harvest wait!

Regrading Reminder

This is a reminder that the Fort Dupont staff will be re-tilling and regrading the gardening area after the planting season ends this December. It's important to make sure that all of your crops, fences, stakes and beds have been removed to reduce risk of property damage and equipment destruction. We hope to see you again next year with a flatter grade to reduce erosion, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.



In This Issue

Winter Planting Tips

Garden Re-grading Plan

"DAB" (Dibbles and Buds) needs

Today's Organic and Turf Tidbits



"My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view." - H. Fred Dale

Words Among the Weeds

Dibble- a stick or tool that makes planting holes in the soil or media, and... **Bud**- a dormant growth point that is usually covered by scales.

Black-Eyed Susan- the Black-Eyed Susan is the state flower of Maryland. It is a type of sunflower that is yellow with a black center and is a good pollinator flower

Pollinator flowers- flowers, generally native to a specific area, which tend to attract pollinators. They are good for helping grow healthy gardens. Look for these kinds of flowers to begin growing around the edge of our garden in the near future

Important Phone Numbers to PLANT in your head:

Park Police Emergency: 202-610-7500

Park Police Non-Emergency: 202-610-7505

Fort Dupont Activity Center: 202-426-7723

DAB still needs enthusiastic folks to help us "cultivate" the following areas of the newsletter:

- Gardener harvests
- Pest remedies
- Pictures!

Corn-y Garden Humor



Bulletin Board:

Remember that the gardening season ends in December! Make sure all of your equipment, fences and plants have been cleared out by that time!

Fort Dupont Web Page

<http://www.nps.gov/fodu/index.htm>

TODAY's Organic and Turf Tidbits:

As you all know, the garden has gone completely organic. Since synthetic pesticides are no longer allowed, here are a couple suggestions for protecting your plants:

- *Garlic spray.* Most bugs and animals find it distasteful, so spraying infested plants with this will help deter pests.
- *Fences.* Nothing serves as a better barrier for animals than a physical barrier. These fences should be about 6' tall and sturdy, preferably metal.



They may be only chuckle-worthy, but these jokes could bring a smile to your face when you're knee-deep in okra...

*Why do potatoes make great Detectives?
Because they keep their eyes peeled!*

*Why are husbands like lawnmowers?
Because they emit foul odors, don't work half the time,
and they take forever to get started.*

*What do you call a stolen yam?
A hot potato!*

*What vegetable can tie your stomach in knots?
String beans!*

- *Planting flowers.* These pollinators attract predatory insects which will help you get rid of the smaller, more harmful bugs like aphids and borers.



Pest-Control Pest-Control



Holistic Gardens

Hi! This is SCA intern Magalee, and in this issue of Dibbles and Buds I would like to introduce some basic herbs and spices commonly used as home remedies as an alternative to over-the-counter medicine. For example, ginger root, commonly used as a digestive aid, it can also be consumed as a tea to reduce the bacterial spread and irritation caused by sinus infections, though due to its reduction of stickiness on blood platelets it should not be consumed in the days preceding a surgical operation. Ginger can also be used as a temporary pain reliever and anti-inflammatory agent for chronic pain and rheumatoid arthritis.

Booze up to Bug out

With a lack of chemical pesticides, it's easier for plants in Fort Dupont to get bug problems. Reports of record stink-bug populations were reported for this region. A stronger way than peppermint oil to be rid of these foul-smelling creatures is to mix a 1:1 solution of isopropyl alcohol and water and spray it on the bugs. The alcohol poisons the insects, and it evaporates quickly enough that no damage is done to the plant.



On The Table for Discussion!

This is a "guest" we had that got tangled up in some garden fence equipment left in the woods. One of the reasons we have regulatory measures on storage is so that critters like our comrade here can be out monitoring rodents and invasive grasshoppers, so that our plants can thrive.

