

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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## Hydrangea 'Vanilla Strawberry'

*By Eva Soud*

When you see the 3-colored flowers on this ultra-hardy New Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry, your mouth will drop open!

Giant 10" blooms appear in mid summer and begin a pristine white. Two weeks later they turn a blush pink before changing to a dark rose color!

AND more flowers are continually produced giving a tri-colored appearance that is totally captivating in your garden.

Another benefit is that you'll get armfuls of beautiful cut-flower bouquets.

Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry flowers will last over 12 days after cutting!



### *In this issue*

Page 1-----Vanilla Strawberry

Page 2--3-----Mums & Asters

Page 4-----From the Garden of Eva

Page 5-----Living with Nature

Page 6-7-----What's that weed?

Page 8-----It's a bug eat bug world

Page 9-10-----Top Trees & Shrubs

For Fall

This must have Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry is ultra cold hardy and thrives from northern Minnesota to Florida. Plants vigorously grow to 6' tall & boast dozens of giant 10" flowers held atop strong, non-flopping, flower stems!

Vanilla Strawberry Hydrangea makes the perfect long-blooming Hedge Plant for driveways or fencelines.

Hardy zone 4-9

Summer/Fall blooms

Heat/humidity tolerant

Soil Clay, Normal, loamy

Full sun/part shade



# Chrysanthemums, Mums &

## Asters

“Imagine the possibilities!”

*Don't plant your plants too close together. Chrysanthemums need good circulation.*

Chrysanthemum is native to eastern Europe and Asia. The flower was named by Greeks, combining the words chrysos (golden) and anthemion (flower/blossom) and arrived to the word chrysanthemum, named so of the original flower's golden color.

Chrysanthemum is called "the flower of Royalty" in Asia, or "mums/mum" for short in the western world.



Today, there are about 30 species with a total of 15 types of bloom. Popular mum colors are bronze/orange, yellow, pink, red, lavender, blue, and white. Many are hybrids that have been cross-bred with roses and lilies. Some chrysanthemum are annual and others perennial. The annual kind which blooms in late summer to fall is easy to grow. The perennial kinds bloom in magnificent colors after other plants have been killed by Winter.

Place the plants in full sun to add longevity to the life of your mums, whether planting them in the ground or keeping them in a container. Water thoroughly 3x a week if they are planted in a garden. If they are kept in a planter, then you'll have to water more frequently by watering every other day. To prevent shortening your mum's life span, try to avoid wilting of the plant.

The majority of mum varieties are considered delicate perennials and depending on the severity of the winter, they may not come back. Plant your mums in early fall to try and over-winter your mums so that their roots have time to grow and create a stable root base. Keep watering your mums up until the first frost. After the first frost, apply a layer of mulch or straw around the base of plant to insulate for the winter. Remove the dead mum pieces and replace the old mulch in the spring once the mum begins growing. If you want your mum to bloom again in the fall, then continuously prune the mum growth throughout the summer to prevent buds from forming until late in the summer.



*Asters, September's flowers, were once burned to ward off serpents.*

Asters are daisy-like perennials with starry-shaped flower heads. They bring delightful color to the garden in late summer and autumn when many of your other summer blooms may be fading.

The plant's height ranges from 8 inches to 8 feet, depending on the type. You can find an aster for almost any garden and they have many uses, such as in borders, rock gardens, or wildflower gardens. Asters also attract butterflies to your garden!

#### Planting

Asters prefer climates with cool, moist summers, especially cool night temperatures.

Select a site with full sun to partial sun.

Soil should be moist, well-drained, and average to humus-rich.

While the plant can be grown from seed, germination can be uneven. You can start the seeds indoors during the winter by sowing seeds in pots or flats and keeping them in the refrigerator for 4 to 6 weeks.

After 4 to 6 weeks, put the seeds in a sunny spot.

Many gardeners purchase a potted plant from the nursery and plant in the spring or fall.

Space asters 1 to 3 feet apart, depending on the type.

Remember to stake the taller varieties.

If you're replanting shoots, use vigorous, young shoots to ensure best growth.



# From the garden of Eva

## Baked Apples

### Ingredients

- 2 large Braeburn or Jonagold apples, cut in half
- 2 tablespoons dried cranberries
- 2 tablespoons chopped walnuts
- 2 tablespoons firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter or spread
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon



### Directions

1. Spray 8x8-inch glass baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Remove core from apples; place cut-side up in dish.
2. Combine cranberries, walnuts, brown sugar, Parkay and cinnamon in small bowl. Place 1 tablespoon mixture in center of each apple half.
3. Cover dish with plastic wrap, turning back 1 corner to vent. Microwave on HIGH 4 minutes or until apples are tender. Serve with Reddi-wip® Dairy Whipped Topping, if desired.



### Ingredients

- 3 medium Granny Smith or Braeburn apples, peeled, diced (3 med = about 3 cups)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup granola cereal without dried fruit
- 3 tablespoons firmly packed light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter or spread

## Easy Apple Crisp

### Directions

Reddi-wip® Original Dairy Whipped Topping

1. Spray inside of 4 medium microwave-safe mugs with cooking spray; set aside. Combine apples and cinnamon in small bowl; divide evenly between mugs.
2. In same bowl, stir together granola, brown sugar and Parkay. Spoon evenly over apples in mugs.
3. Microwave all mugs on HIGH 8 minutes or until apples are tender. Top each with a serving of Reddi-Whip just before serving.

# Living with Nature

Groundhogs or woodchucks are the major hole-digging mammal of eastern North America. The average groundhog excavates over 700 pounds of dirt digging just one den, and a single groundhog may have four or five dens scattered across its territory, moving in and out of them as crops and weather change.

Groundhog burrows are important shelter resources for red fox, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, and skunk, most of whom do not dig

their own burrows, but simply occupy those of groundhogs. All of these animals are classified as "edge" creatures that thrive on multiple food sources found where forests meet field and yard. The most common locations of permanent groundhog dens are fence lines and thickets bordering hay and corn fields, vegetable farms, and fruit orchards. Here tangles of multiflora rose, kudzu, honeysuckle and small trees provide the kind of cover that enable a groundhog to enter and leave its den, shielded from the rushing attack of farm dogs, coyotes, and fox.

Drainage is a critical issue for groundhogs. Dens are never dug in damp or swampy areas, and stony ground is avoided as well. Loose soil is a sign of an active den, as is the slightly musty smell of urine-soaked soil pushed out of the main entrance. The average groundhog sette will have three or four holes, though some very old settes may have as many as six or seven, and some newer settes may have only one eye. The den pipe of a groundhog den may plunge straight down as much as two or three feet. It is very common for a groundhog pipe to have at least one or two right angles in it -- locations from which the groundhog can slash at foxes and dogs that might try to pursue them underground. Den pipes may be anywhere from 15 to 50 feet long, and will typically contain one more underground chambers 2 to 6 feet underground. These den chambers are lined with dried grass for winter warmth, padding, and to form nests in which the young are whelped in early Spring. Groundhogs are vegetarians, eating leaves, flowers and soft stems of various grasses, and field crops such as clover and alfalfa. Certain garden crops like peas, beans and carrots are favorites. Groundhogs occasionally climb trees to obtain apples and pears -- one reason they are disliked by many orchard owners. Groundhogs are capable of consuming as much as three-fourths of a pound of vegetable matter a day -- the equivalent of a 175-pound person eating 15 pounds of salad a day. In order to maximize food intake, groundhogs will often dig summer burrows in the middle of pastures or meadows, so that that they do not have to go far to go to get to the "salad bar."



# *Whats that weed?*

## Ground Cherries

Learn how to grow ground cherries, then use them in delicious recipes.

### Growing Guide

Ground cherries (*Physalis* spp.) are native in many parts of the United States and often grow alongside roads.

The plants have large, deep green leaves and tons of pale yellow flowers that develop into cherry-sized fruits. Start seeds of this frost-sensitive plant indoors six to eight weeks before your average last-frost date.

Be sure to harden off seedlings before transplanting them outdoors.

### Planting

Transplant ground cherries after all danger of frost has passed and the soil is thoroughly warm. Raised beds are best for growing ground cherries, especially in heavy clay soils, because the plants need good drainage. Work a couple inches of compost into the soil before planting. Like tomatoes, ground cherries sprout roots along their stems, so plant seedlings deeply, leaving three sets of leaves above the soil line. Set the plants 3 feet apart in rows 3 to 4 feet apart.

Ground cherries produce up to 300 fruits per plant and bear nonstop until frost. Four to six plants are sufficient for the average-sized family.

### Growing Ground Cherries

Mulch lightly to suppress weeds and conserve soil moisture. Ground cherries thrive best with 2'' of water per week. Spray the plants with diluted fish fertilizer when they set flowers and again two weeks later.

### Harvesting

Ground cherries typically bear fruit about 70 days from transplant (late July to August in most regions) and continue until frost. The fruits have the peculiar characteristic of falling to the ground before they are ripe. Simply gather them up after they drop and keep them at room temperature in a basket without removing their husks



## Homemade flavor

The distinctive, sweet-tart taste of ground cherries lends itself to wildly diverse recipes. Remove the husks and rinse the fruits before preparing. Husked fruits keep in the refrigerator for five to seven days . To freeze

ground cherries, simply spread the husked, washed fruits on a rimmed cookie sheet and place them in the

freezer. Once they're hard, package them in plastic bags. The simplest way to eat ground cherries is to remove the husk and pop the fruit into your mouth. Raw, chopped ground cherries also taste delicious dropped into pancakes or mixed into salsa. Try this pair of easy-to-prepare recipes. They celebrate the signature flavor of this unique fruit and are sure to satisfy the sweet tooth in your family.



## Recipe: Ground Cherry-Pineapple Crumble

- Combine 3 cups halved ground cherries and 3 cups fresh pineapple chunks with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar.
- Spread in a baking pan.
- In a food processor, pulse  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup blanched almonds until coarsely chopped, and then add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup unsalted butter,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup flour, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar.
- Pulse until roughly blended; then spread over the fruit.
- Bake at 375°F or 30 to 40 minutes, or until bubbling and golden.
- Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

## Newbie hint

Prevent sprawl: The undersized cages sold for tomatoes work perfectly for supporting lightweight ground cherry plants.

## Master's tip

Reduce work: Suppress weeds and make harvesting easier by growing ground cherries on landscape fabric.

Before planting, spread the cloth over the bed and secure with landscaping pins. Then cut holes into the fabric and plant seedlings.

# It's a bug eat bug world

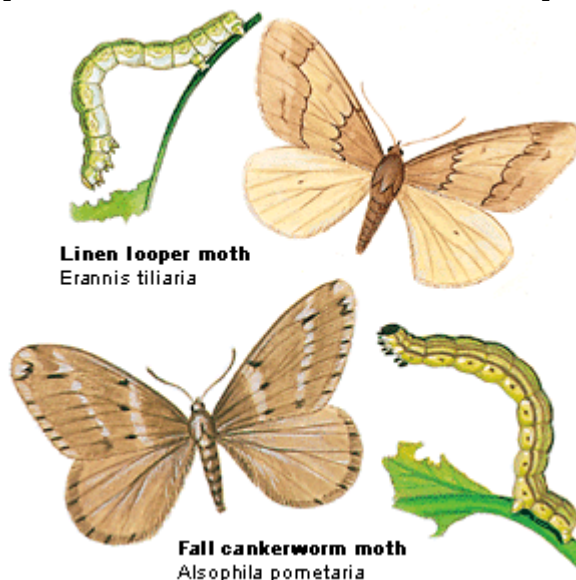


They may be small but [inchworms](#) have the appetite of a creature much bigger than them and will eat a variety of fruit, vegetables and the foliage from shrubs and trees. They are hydrated from the natural moisture in what they eat. Their diet can include celery, cabbage, cauliflower, radishes, beans, parsley, broccoli, potatoes, tomatoes, peas and apples. Even though this list is extensive (and only a selection of what inchworms will eat), they tend to stick to what they have hatched onto - moving them and giving them something else could make them die.

There are more than 1,200 different types of inchworms in North America alone, including the canker worm and the cabbage looper. When it comes to crops, the canker worm is probably the most destructive, though it is particularly beautiful. It has long horizontal stripes and drops from trees with long silken threads to evade predators.

Once inchworms have hatched, they spend up to four weeks munching through whatever it is they have been laid on. After this, they spin cocoons and eventually emerge from their chrysalis as beautiful moths.

Although there are so many different types of inch worms, they do have many common characteristics. They have smooth, hairless bodies and will typically grow to an inch long. Their colors vary from dull brown and black to vivid greens and yellows. They have three pairs of legs at the front of their bodies and two to three more pairs of pro-legs, or larval abdominal appendages at the rear. They move by drawing their back end forward and gripping the earth with their pro-legs. If they feel threatened or intimidated they will stand up straight and motionless until whatever is threatening them has gone away. Many inchworms have the ability to produce delicate threads, like spiders, but in one instance the thread is pure silk.



**Linen looper moth**  
*Erannis tiliaria*

**Fall cankerworm moth**  
*Alsophila pometaria*



Chews small holes between veins at first, later chewing leaf tissue except for major veins, and eventually chewing all of leaves except midvein



# Top Trees & Shrubs for Fall Color

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## Sugar Maple

A great, extra-reliable tree that makes a big statement in fall, sugar maple offers gorgeous red, orange, or yellow end-of-the-season leaves

## Dogwood

Dogwoods look great just about any time of year. They're most loved for their white or pink springtime flowers, but don't overlook the gorgeous purple-red tones they'll bring to your fall landscape.



## Chokeberry

A wonderful shrub in several seasons, chokeberry offers white flowers that look like apple blossoms in spring; rich red fruits in late summer and autumn; and brilliant orange-red fall foliage



## Stewartia

This top-notch tree looks beautiful throughout the year. Its dark green leaves make a nice foil for the late-summer, white camellia-shape flowers. In fall, the leaves turn festive shades of orange, yellow, and red.



## Ginkgo

Slow-growing ginkgo adds grace to the landscape; its fan-shaped leaves are among the most elegant of any tree. In autumn, they show breathtaking shades of luminous, golden-yellow. After the leaves drop, you'll be waiting for next fall.



### Viburnum

This rounded shrub offers beautiful clusters of white flowers in spring, then bright foliage in warm shades of red come autumn.

Those eye-catching leaves are accented by ruby-red fruits.



### Serviceberry

A plant for season-long beauty, we adore serviceberry for its display of white springtime flowers, delicious summer fruits, and amazing orange and red fall foliage.



### Fothergilla

A wonderful but underused shade-loving shrub, fothergilla offers blue-green foliage in spring and summer. Its leaves reveal warm shades of gold and orange in fall. And fothergilla has honey-scented springtime flowers to boot.



### Virginia Sweetspire

Enjoy this great shrub for months. In summer, it offers fragrant white flowers. Then in autumn, it develops rich purple-red leaf color. Plus, it's very easy to grow.



### Burning Bush

This tough shrub earned its common name because of its autumn hues: In fall, the foliage turns glowing shades of red and pink. It's a knock-your-socks-off plant!

**Add an explosion of fiery hues to your Yard this fall with these trees & shrubs....**