

# Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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*By Eva Souded*



Magnolia,

A member of the "Little Girl" group of hybrid magnolias developed in the mid-fifties at the U.S. National Arboretum. Hardy shrub or small tree. Impressive reddish purple flowers outside, white inside opening late in spring to avoid frost damage. Flowers are a gorgeous tulip-shape with a lightly scented fragrance. Leaves are dark green and somewhat leathery in appearance. Great choice for any accent, specimen, or border use. Grows 10'-15' high. Grows best in full morning sun and partially shaded afternoons. Prefers rich, moist, and well-drained soils.

**Jane Magnolia x 'Jane'** "Jane" magnolia's short stature makes it a suitable small tree for growing

## *In this issue*

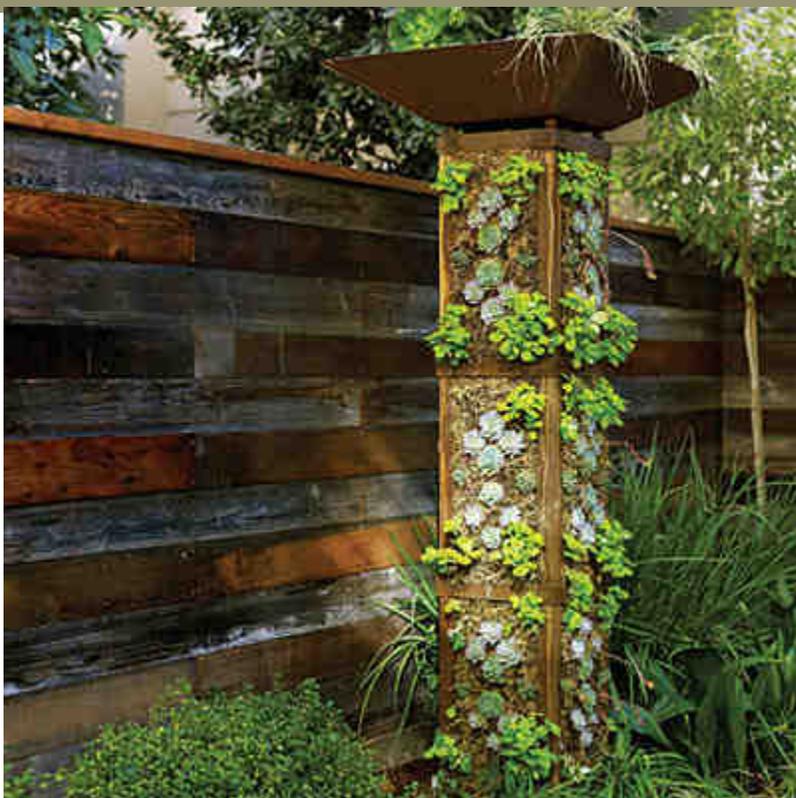
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under power lines or other areas where space is limited. You can easily prune it when young into a more shrub-like habit, making it suitable as a foundation or border shrub. You can also leave it to its own devices to form an informal hedge. The early spring flowers are practically impervious to frost and offer long lasting ornamental value to the garden.



Sometimes gardening isn't limited by space, but by time and interest. If you love the idea of being surrounded by a garden, but you can't see yourself spending countless hours with a pruner in your hands, a wonderful option is to create a garden paradise on your patio or terrace. You could still incorporate beds and containers, but you have the added element of hardscaping. They haven't invented a stone yet that doesn't look even better next to a plant. Even concrete looks chic

## Gardening in small spaces



A vertical garden tower will give you plenty of space for edibles, and takes up very little room.



On the patio

Having fresh greens at your fingertips is one of the best parts of the growing season. And with a raised planter on the back patio, you can have a continual supply of salad greens nearly year-round.



In an ornament

This tiny terrarium would make a great gift. The 5-inch globe contains its own little garden, which your special someone can marvel over (while thinking of you) every day.

The main purpose of a patio or terrace is to have a place to relax and entertain. Surrounding yourself with the beauty of plants will make it that much easier. Even non-gardeners now consider their patios an extension of their homes - a room without walls. Rather than just providing a view, interior design is carried from the inside out.

## Be creative!



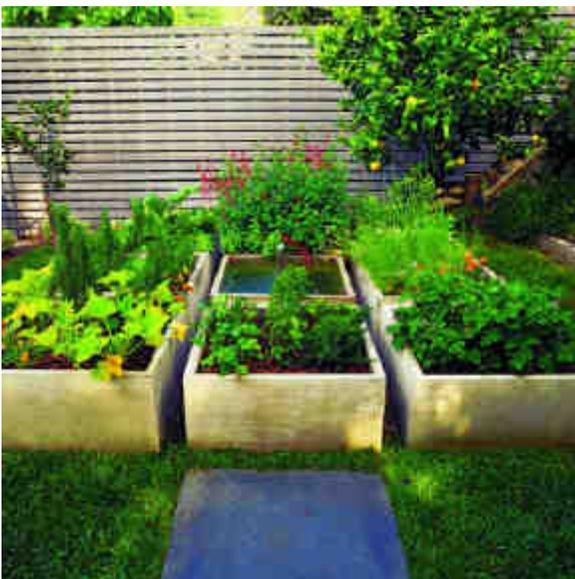
In an umbrella stand

Strong wind is no friend to most patio umbrellas, but it would take a hurricane to budge this setup.

The umbrella rises from a sleeve centered in a flowerpot that's filled with three layers of material: a bottom layer of lava rock to hold the sleeve in place, a center layer of concrete for extra rigidity, and a top layer of planting mix. When there's no need for shade, just lift out the umbrella -- the plants should mask the sleeve.

Tiered look

Plant herbs in a tiered raised bed for a great look and easy access



Geometric look

Arranged in neat squares around a center fountain, raised planting boxes frame herbs and veggies and complement a contemporary kitchen garden

# From the garden of Eva

## Dark Chocolate Zucchini Cake

Dark chocolate zucchini cake topped with dark chocolate cream cheese frosting



### Ingredients

#### FOR THE CAKE BATTER:

2-½ cups All-purpose Flour

2-½ teaspoons Baking Powder

1-½ teaspoon Baking Soda

½ cups Dark Cocoa

½ teaspoons Salt

1 teaspoon Cinnamon

1 teaspoon Nutmeg

12 Tablespoons Butter

1-½ cup Granulated Sugar

3 whole Eggs, Lightly Beaten

1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract

¼ teaspoons Lemon Extract

2 cups Zucchini, Shredded

½ cups Buttermilk

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#### FOR THE DARK CHOCOLATE

#### FROSTING

8 ounces, weight Cream Cheese

¼ cups Butter

1-? cup Powdered Sugar

1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract

¼ cups Dark Cocoa

### Preparation Instructions

NOTE: All the ingredients below the zucchini are for the dark chocolate cream cheese frosting.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, dark cocoa, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg.

In a different bowl, cream the butter and sugar. The mixture will be crumbly. Add in the eggs one at a time, mixing after each addition. Stir in the vanilla extract, lemon extract, and zucchini.

Mix the dry ingredients and buttermilk in with the zucchini mix, and stir until well-combined.

Grease a 9×13? cake pan, and then pour in the batter. Bake for 40-50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

In the meantime, make the frosting. In a medium bowl, cream the butter and cream cheese. Add in the powdered sugar, and then the vanilla and dark cocoa. Beat well.

Frost the cake once it has cooled completely. Store leftovers covered in the refrigerator.

# Basil

ease breathing  
fever  
earache  
insomnia  
insect bites  
sore muscles  
and joints

Basil

Basil, or Sweet Basil, is a common name for the culinary herb

*Ocimum basilicum*, of the family Lamiaceae, sometimes known as

Saint Joseph's Wort in some English-speaking countries.

Scientific name: *Ocimum basilicum*

Rank: Species

Higher classification: *Ocimum*

Basil leaves have an amazing flavor when combined with tomato pasta, yet the essential oil provides wonderful soothing and calming properties. It is most commonly used for relieving sore joints and muscles.

Oil Properties: anti-infectious, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, antioxidant, antiviral, diuretic, decongestants, disinfectant, anticatarrhal, energizing, stimulant, antidepressant, uplifting, and restorative.

Historical Uses: Basil was used historically for digestive and kidney ailments, respiratory problems, epilepsy, fevers, malaria, epidemics and poisonous insect and snake bites

Possible Oil Uses: alertness, chills, anxiety bronchitis, chronic colds, nervous depression, concentration, earache, digestion, fainting, headaches, mental fatigue, soothing insect bites, insomnia, insect repellent, intestinal problems, chronic mucus, poor memory, muscle spasms, prostate problems, ovarian cysts, loss of smell, vomiting, snake bites, wasp stings and whooping-cough.

Application:

! Topically – Basil can be used directly on the skin and problematic areas.

! Internally – Can be added to food and drink.

! Aromatically – Diffusing can open the mind and increase clarity.

If you do any Italian cooking at all, you'll want to include basil in the herb garden. Basil can't be planted until after the last frost date, but in the heat of summer it will produce abundantly.



# Patio Pod

Introducing Novelty's  
NEW Patio Pod planter.



A generous-sized self-watering planter at 23.5" x 18" x 7", this large container is perfect for flowers, herbs, small vegetables and Fairy Garden fantasy. Patio Pod has a deep water-minder reservoir which provides for less watering, helping plants stay vibrant and healthy.

No tools required, just pop two drain holes in the bottom of the inverted planter where indicated (if using outdoors), water from the top and watch your garden grow. Easy to use, allowing more time for FUN!

## [Tips and Installation](#)

For best results in potting and sustaining healthy plants:

### [In an outdoor environment:](#)

- Invert container and drill or strong punch holes in the bottom of the planter where indicated.
- Add enough medium density potting soil to cover the bottom and up to 1/3 of the container.
- Add plants allowing enough space for them to grow, leaving a considerable amount of room between each plant.
- Add soil to remaining empty pockets and fill the container, not quite to the rim, leaving about 1" free space from the top.
- Water accordingly from the top. The water-minder reservoir holds up to 1.1 gallons on water. Plants will pull hydration from the reservoir as needed. Water more frequently in the warmer summer months.

### [In an indoor environment:](#)

- Add enough medium density potting soil to cover the bottom and up to 1/3 of the container.
- Add plants allowing enough space for them to grow, leaving a considerable amount of room between each plant.
- Add soil to remaining empty pockets and fill the container, not quite to the rim, leaving about 1" free space from the top.
- Water accordingly from the top. The water-minder reservoir holds up to 1.1 gallons on water. Plants will pull hydration from the reservoir as needed.



# *It's a bug eat bug world!*

## Paper Wasps

In North America alone, there are over 22 species of paper wasps, in the US the Paper Wasps belong to the genus *Polistes*.

Worldwide, there are over 1,000 species, dispersed throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and South America. These wasps measure

approximately one inch in length. Their narrow bodies are most commonly dark brown in color, with black wings and yellow markings. Australian paper wasps are made distinguishable by their black and reddish-brown coloration. They appear similar to yellow jackets.

These insects are called paper wasps due to the construction of their nests. Paper wasp nests are made from small wood or plant fibers combined with saliva and appear to be made from paper. Their nests include numerous compartments within which wasps lay their eggs and rear their young. These nests are frequently found in sheltered areas, such as tree branches and the eaves of houses.

A female wasp first establishes nests. Each nest is comprised of compartments, which house wasp eggs until they mature into adults. Paper wasps feed on nectar and pollen, although they also scavenge for caterpillars with which to nourish their colonies' larvae. As larvae develop into adults, they assist in expanding the nest and nurturing future generations.

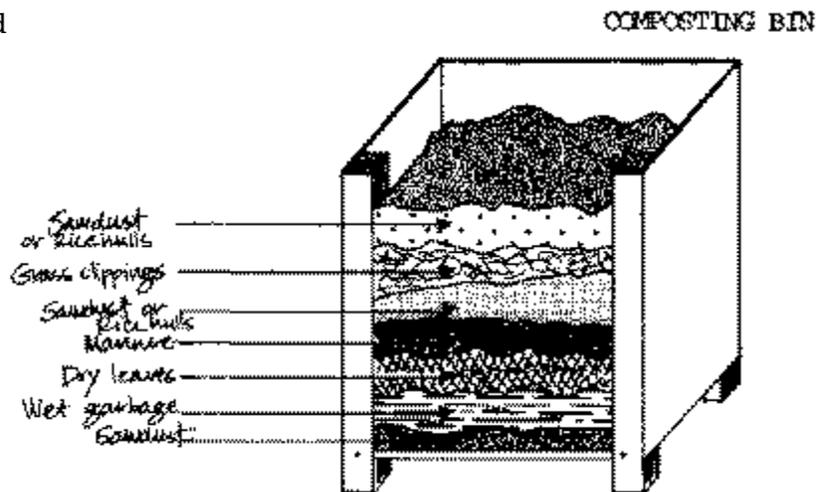
Paper wasps are considered beneficial because they assist in pollination by feeding on nectar and they control pest insect populations by feeding them to their larvae. However, despite their ecological benefits, paper wasp nests should not be permitted to develop in or near the home. Stings from paper wasps are extremely painful and may produce allergic reactions.



## Greens for Your Compost Bin

"Greens" are the nitrogen-rich additions to your compost pile. These tend to have lots of moisture, break down quickly, and provide a quick burst of heat to your pile. While we call them "greens," technically any plant matter will work here: coffee grounds, for example, are brown in color, but they're rich in nitrogen, hence, they're a "green." Here are some ideas of greens for your pile:

1. Fruit and vegetable peels
2. Citrus rinds
3. Melon rinds
4. Coffee grounds
5. Tea leaves/tea bags
6. Old vegetables from the crisper
7. Houseplant trimmings
8. Weeds that haven't gone to seed
9. Grass clippings
10. Fresh leaves
11. Deadheads from flowers
12. Dead plants (as long as they aren't diseased)
13. Seaweed
14. Cooked plain rice
15. Cooked plain pasta
16. Stale bread
17. Corn husks
18. Corn cobs
19. Broccoli stalks
20. Sod that you've removed to make new garden beds
21. Thinnings from the vegetable garden
22. Spent bulbs that you used for forcing indoors
23. Holiday greenery (from wreaths and swags, for example) -- just be sure to cut the stems off of the wreath form or wires first)
24. Old, less flavorful packaged herbs and spices
25. Egg shells



## What to Compost

### Browns for Your Compost Bin

"Browns" are the carbon-rich materials in your compost that add aeration to the pile and structure to your compost. They break down more slowly, so it's a good idea to chop them up fairly small if you're able to.

Here are some browns to put in your compost pile:

26. Shredded newspaper
27. Shredded office paper/school papers
28. Shredded, non-glossy junk mail
29. Torn up plain corrugated cardboard boxes (not with glossy coatings)
30. Straw
31. Bedding from hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits
32. Fall leaves
33. Chopped up twigs and small branches
34. Pine cones
35. Nut shells (avoid walnut shells as they can inhibit plant growth)
36. Excelsior
37. Raffia
38. Used napkins
39. Toilet paper, paper towel, or wrapping paper tubes (cardboard)
40. Fallen bird's nests
41. Pine needles/pine straw
42. Paper coffee filters (used)
43. Pressed paper egg cartons, torn into small pieces
44. Sawdust (only from untreated wood)
45. Brown paper shopping bags, shredded/torn
46. Brown paper lunch bags, shredded/torn
47. Leftover peat or coir from seed starting
48. Coir liners for hanging baskets
49. Wood chips
50. Bedding from chickens



# Thyme in the Garden

Fish and Seaweed Fertilizer 2 - 3 - 1

*Neptune's Harvest*

Organic Fish/Seaweed Blend Fertilizer gives you the best of both products with a perfect blend of fish hydrolysate and seaweed, ensuring a complete fertilization program.

Growers using our fish/seaweed blend fertilizer on a regular basis have reported increased marketable yields and improved shelf life on fruits and vegetables.

Fish and Seaweed are known to build the natural sugar in plants. Flowers and foliage will be stronger and more colorful. Blooms will be more plentiful, fragrant and longer lasting.



Benefits *Soil Moist Mycorrhiza*

- Improves soil and plant ecosystem
- Increases plant growth and establishment
- Reduces transplanting stress and plant loss
- Increases nutrient and water uptake
- Improves soil structure and porosity
- Reduces fertilizer

Soil Moist Transplant is formulated to inoculate transplanted trees, shrubs and plants during planting time.

## Chameleon Adaptable Hose End Sprayer

The faster, easier, cleaner sprayer. The Chameleon® keeps your hand chemical free.

Three steps with no pouring, measuring or mixing:

1. Attach Chameleon® to hose and adapt to fit desired bottle or canister. Use yellow adapter ring for smaller mouth bottles, or remove entirely for large bottles. Fits Bayer®, Spectracide® and Ortho® bottles.
2. Adjust dial concentration. Adjust spray head for flow--shower, flat fan, stream
3. Point, squeeze and hold trigger, and spray with sweeping motion.



# Fairy Gardens

Before you build your fairy garden give some thought to what kind of fairy garden you would like to build. One popular idea is to build a woodland fairy garden. These miniature gardens are normally installed at the foot of a tree in a shaded part of the garden and incorporate forest themed items like small leafed groundcover, dwarf plants and a door tucked between trees roots. Building a fairy garden right into your existing garden allows for the feeling that your miniature fairy garden is the genuine thing, a place where actual fairies live.



Other fairy garden ideas include a flower fairy garden. In a flower fairy garden, you can expect to find a small cottage surrounded by flowers and grass with perhaps other miniature fairy garden decor added. One other fairy garden idea is to construct a fairy dock on the edge of a pond. A small boat or raft tacked into a water



feature with a shelter and other “clues” to indicate that the wee folk live there.

However you decide to build your miniature fairy garden, whether it is a woodland fairy garden or a container fairy garden of your own imagination, the important thing to remember is that fairy gardens are all about having fun. Get crazy, get silly, and to be sure the fairies will appreciate (and reward) your efforts. You don't need to believe in fairies to have a fairy garden on your deck or patio — although it couldn't hurt. Children and adults alike will delight in planting and caring for these miniature gardens brimming with charm and intrigue.

Even broken pots can be used





New Plants and materials arriving daily!



& flower seeds



Fruit trees are in

Fairy Garden Classes @

The Garden Center

Reserve your space and

garden supplies, April 13 or

April 20, 10-12pm

(pre-payment required please call

For details)



The newest Hellebores

