

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

ISSUE 42 August 2013

The Skinny on Chaste Tree. Here are some different ways to use the chaste tree in the landscape:

1. As a single specimen in the lawn
2. In a row along a property line or a driveway
3. Limbed-up in a border with lower plants growing beneath it
4. As a small patio tree

Few trees are as easy to grow. Here's the low-down:

Light: Full sun Soil: Well-drained

Water; Regular moisture at first — very drought tolerant once established

Pests: None serious

Pruning: Not the tidiest plant in the world. Needs regular pruning to produce an attractive multi-trunked tree. Prune in winter. Clean

out the entire center of the tree, removing all side branches from main 4 to 5 trunks. Also remove messy, twiggy growth that tends to crowd the ends of the branches. As an option, cut entire plant to ground in winter. It will sprout in spring and bloom in summer, although later than chaste trees not pruned so severely. You can also force a second bloom in summer by removing the first flush of blooms as soon as they fade.

Salt & wind tolerance: Good Cold-hardiness: Winter-hardy through Zone 6; in Zone 5, may be killed to the ground in winter, but will sprout and bloom the following summer. Bee alert:

Bumblebees love this plant above all others and will even spend the night on the flowers.

By Eva Souded



In this issue

Page 1-----Chaste Tree

Page 2-3-----Red Hot Poker

Page 4-5-----From the Garden
of Eva

Page 6-----Got Shade?

Page 7--It's a bug eat bug world

Page 8-----Hops

Page 9--Little Lamb Hydrangea

Page 10-----Living with Nature

Page 11-----Endless Summer
Hydrangea

Page 12--Color your Hydrangea

Native to southern Europe and central Asia, chaste tree quickly grows into a multi-trunked tree about 10 to 20 feet tall and wide with a broad, spreading habit. It gets its name from the erroneous medieval belief that a potion made from it could curb the libido.



Red Hot Poker

Fire Dance

Common Name: "Red Hot Poker"

(Red Hot Poker) Kniphofia 'Fire Dance' you will create a glow that will last from early through late summer with this variety developed by Jelitto Seeds. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the coral-red and yellow flower spikes that grow atop a thick clump of narrow, arching, blue-green foliage. 'Fire Dance' is only 20 inches tall and wide, making it the perfect size for small spaces and containers.



Fire Dance



Fire Dance

Looking for something with an exotic air?

The name is a tongue twister (pronounced nee-FOF-ee-a)

But these plants are easy to grow - many even say tough to kill and deliver colorful, spiky, wand-like flowers that humming birds Love.

Once established, these Red Hot Poker plants can also manage drought, although they tend to bloom more profusely with supplemental water.



Flamenco

New improvement to an old garden favorite. Kniphofia Flamenco flowers its first year with bottlebrush spikes of firey red, orange, and yellow tones.

(Like a Tequila Sunrise upside down). Good for smaller gardens.

Kniphofia



Border Ballet

Kniphofia 'Border Ballet' full sun

Like many of the best ballet dancers, this cultivar is tall, elegant and full of stamina.

Soft and dusty coral color of the flowers, which continue blooming throughout the summer.

For a contrast of color and texture, plant this near *Thalictrum rochebrunianum*.

Blooms June–August. Size: 4-1/2' high x 2' wide; hardy to zone 6.

“Red Hot Poker” is the local nickname for these bold, handsome natives of Madagascar and tropical South Africa. Brought to England in 1707, they were kept as greenhouse treasures until 1848, when someone had the bright idea of planting them outdoors, and their abiding hardiness was discovered.

The old-fashioned orange and yellow form has survived years of neglect in abandoned gardens. But the new hybrids and species offer, versatile creamy yellows, chartreuses, soft melons and bolder colors, are more suitable to modern schemes, but are just as hardy and reliable.

The thick, almost succulent leaf blades are evergreen, and of interest even when the cylindrical flower spikes are absent.

Heat and drought tolerant.



For a contrast of color and texture, plant

Red Hot Pokers near.

Thalictrum rochebrunianum

“Lavender Mist Meadow Rue”



From the garden of Eva

Peaches & Cream Jello (with Schnapps)

- 2 (3 oz) packages of peach flavored gelatin
- 3 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1 1/4 cups cold water
- 3/4 cup peach schnapps
- (or substitute cold water for non-alcoholic version)
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (15 oz) can sliced peaches
- 2 envelopes Knox unflavored gelatin



In a medium bowl, stir 2 cups boiling water into both packages of peach gelatin for 2 minutes until the gelatin is fully dissolved. Stir in 3/4 cups cold water and 3/4 cup peach schnapps. Refrigerate until gelatin thickens to the consistency of raw eggs. Drain peaches well and arrange them in a formation in the bottom of the mold. Reserve the syrup from the can. Spoon the thickened peach gelatin into the mold over the arranged peach slices. Refrigerate until the gelatin is set but not firm (gelatin should stick the fingers when touched).

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, sprinkle 2 packages of unflavored gelatin (Knox) over 1/2 cup cold water and allow the gelatin to absorb the water. Stir in 1 1/2 cups boiling water for 2 minutes until gelatin is fully dissolved. Stir in sweetened condensed milk and peach syrup until the mixture is smooth. Refrigerate mixture until slightly thicken then gently spoon into the mold over the peach gelatin layer. Refrigerate overnight or until firm. To unmold your Jell-O mold, fill a sink or basin with warm water. Dip the mold just to the rim in the warm water for about 10 seconds. Lift from water, hold upright, and shake slightly to loosen the gelatin from mold. Place a cold, moistened plate over the top of the mold and invert the plate and mold together. Carefully lift the mold, if gelatin does not release dip the mold in warm water and try again.



Carolina Peach Sangria

This delicious peach sangria calls for fresh peach slices, fresh raspberries, and peach nectar for its fantastic flavor. Be sure to use rosé, not white Zinfandel, in this cool sangria.

Ingredients

- 1 (750-milliliter) bottle rosé wine
- 3/4 cup vodka*
- 1/2 cup peach nectar
- 6 tablespoons thawed frozen lemonade concentrate
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 pound ripe peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1 (6-oz.) package fresh raspberries
- 2 cups club soda, chilled

Preparation

1. Combine first 5 ingredients in a pitcher; stir until sugar is dissolved. Stir in peaches and raspberries. Cover and chill 8 hours.
2. Stir in chilled club soda just before serving.

*Peach-flavored vodka may be substituted. Omit peach nectar.

**1 cup frozen raspberries may be substituted.

Makes 18-22 popsicles

- 1 cup ripe peaches, crushed
- 1/4 cup bourbon
- 1/2 cup simple syrup, cooled
- 2 cups plain yogurt

Instructions:

1. Peel and slice peaches. Use a potato masher to crush the peaches. Combine crushed peaches and bourbon in a bowl, mix to combine. Add the simple syrup in slowly and taste to preference. Add yogurt to bourbon peach mixture and combine.
2. Score top edge of Dixie cup with scissors for easy peeling. Pour mixture into Dixie cups. Freeze for two hours or until mixture starts to solidify enough to hold a popsicle stick upright. Continue to freeze until mixture is completely frozen into a popsicle, about 5-6 hours. Peel off Dixie cups.

Simple Syrup

- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 sugar

Instructions: Place water and sugar in a sauce pan over medium heat. Heat and stir until sugar dissolves.



Bourbon Peaches And Cream Popsicles

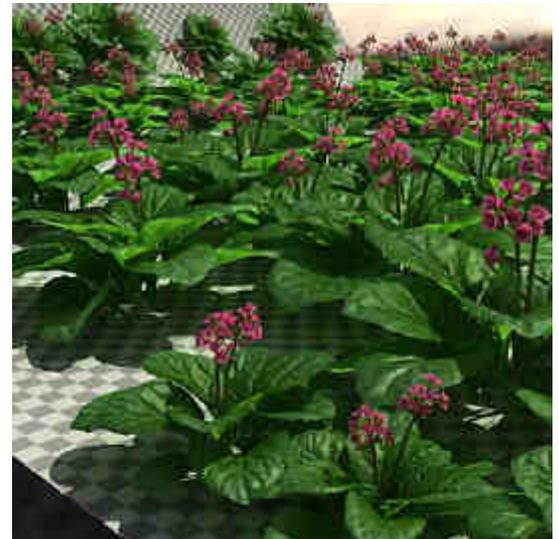


Got Shade?

Pigsqueak Winter Glow (Bergenia)

Elephant's Ears

This evergreen is sure to be noticed with its shiny, cabbage-like leaves that have an unusually thick rubbery feel that makes a 'pig squeak' sound when rubbed between your fingers. Bergenia 'Winter Glow' has clusters of bright red flowers from early to late spring that will provide long lasting cut blooms for bouquets. During the fall and winter months the leaves of 'Winter Glow' turn a reddish-bronze hue and return to green in the spring. A versatile plant for use as a groundcover, edging, or container gardening.



Bergenia cordifolia 'Rotblum'

(Elephant's Ears 'Rotblum')

is a fully hardy perennial evergreen plant with dark pink flowers in late Spring and mid Spring. It grows well in semi-shade and direct sun, and prefers medium levels of water. The flowers are trumpet shaped arranged in a racemose corymb inflorescence. It looks best in Spring.

Soil

Bergenia cordifolia 'Rotblum' grows in soils ranging from a pH of 5.5 (very acidic ranges from 5.2 to 5.5) to 8 (slightly alkaline ranges from 7.6 to 8). It is adapted to chalk, clay, clay loam, loam, loamy sand, peat, sand, sandy clay, sandy clay loam, sandy loam, silt loam and silty clay loam soils, and prefers high fertility.

Growth

This is a plant has a clump forming growth form, and has an ultimate height of 0.5m / 1.6ft and spread of 1m / 3.3ft. It can take 2-3 years to reach its ultimate height.

Leaves

It has green leaves, but the new growth is red. They are obtuse in shape.

Uses

Bank and slope, city courtyard garden, coastal/seaside suitable, flower border and bed, garden edging, ground cover, low maintenance and under shrubs.

Proagation

Propagation techniques include division and rhizomes.

It's a bug eat

Plestiodon fasciatus

(Common Five-lined Skink)

(formerly Eumeces fasciatus)

Bug world

Or in this case lizard eats bugs

* All lizards native to Virginia in the genus Plestiodon have bright blue tails as juveniles/subadults.

The Five-lined Skink is our most common lizard. They grow up to eight inches long, with males growing slightly larger than females.

They are usually black or dark brown, with five light stripes down their backs. Stripes fade as the skink gets older, so adults may look all brown.

Male adult Five-lined Skinks often have bright orange jaws during the breeding season.

Young skinks have very clear stripes and a bright blue tail. Females may keep a very full bluish-gray tail as they age, but males' tails will turn brown.



Five-lined Skinks mate in the Spring and females will dig a nest under a log, stump, or rock. She will lay up to a dozen eggs, which will hatch between June and August, depending on when they were laid. Females will stay with their eggs until they hatch. She will also eat any unhatched eggs.

Young Five-lined Skinks are about two inches long when born.

These lizards are found in moist woods where there are a lot of logs, stumps, and rockpiles to go along with leaf litter.



Five-lined Skinks are diurnal, so they are active during the day. They like to crawl out on rocks or logs to bask (soak up heat from the sun) during the day.

They are also always looking for a meal. Five-lined Skinks eat mostly insects, including: crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, and caterpillars. They also eat spiders, earthworms, snails, slugs, isopods, other lizards, and small mice.

Five-lined Skinks will often climb dead trees where there are a lot of insects.

Predators of these lizards include Raccoons, Red Foxes, Virginia Opossums, snakes, and hawks.



Hops

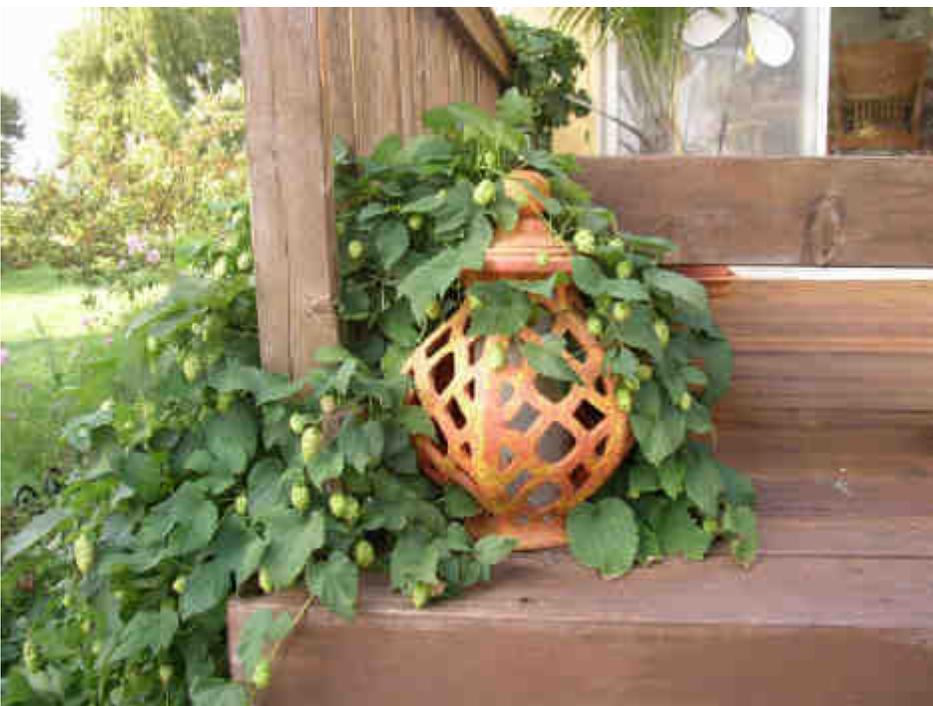


The hop (*Humulus Lupulus*) is a hardy, perennial plant which produces annual vines from a permanent root stock (crown). Vines may grow up to 25 feet in a single season but will die back to the crown each fall. In addition to the true roots and aerial vine, the crown also produces underground stems called rhizomes. Rhizomes resemble roots but possess numerous buds and are used for vegetative propagation. Thus propagated, all plants of a given variety are genetically identical.

Hops are dioecious, which means they have separate male and female plants. Only the female produces the flowers that are used for brewing or medicinal purposes. Male plants have no commercial value, but are used to pollinate females. Pollination stimulates higher yields by increasing cone size and seed set, but because brewers prefer seedless hops, males are only grown with other wise poor yielding female varieties. Hop seed from a pollinated female is only planted when a cross between the male and female is desired to obtain a new variety.

Hops are native to the temperate zones of the northern hemisphere. They are found wild in western Europe, Asia and certain parts of North America. Commercial hops are generally grown between the 30th and 50th parallel north or south latitude and at various altitudes. Therefore the ability to grow hops is usually not limited by your location on earth. The health of the vine is more dependent on the growers ability to provide proper growing conditions and care. Under good conditions, hops are a prolific vine, will produce from 1/2 to 2 pounds of dried flowers per plant, and will be a joy to grow and utilize.

To start with, hops take up very little space. A hop vine grows best when it grows upwards. They crawl up just about anything you set before them. This manner of growth means two things. First, they can be planted fairly densely. They also create shade. You could then also conclude that very little water would be wasted in the watering process. There isn't much room for evaporation and runoff doesn't have to be a problem because you can surround hop plants with natural grasses – or better yet, grains to be grown and put in the beer as well!



Little Lamb Hydrangea

Common Name: panicle hydrangea

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Hydrangeaceae

Zone: 3 to 8

Height: 6 to 8 feet Spread: 4 to 6 feet

Bloom Time: July to September Bloom Color: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium Maintenance: Medium

Culture



Best grown in organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. This is one of the most winter hardy of the hydrangeas. It thrives in urban conditions. Bloom occurs on current season's growth, so prune as needed in late winter to early spring.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Panicle hydrangea is a vigorous, upright, rapidly growing, somewhat coarsely textured, deciduous shrub that is native to China and Japan. It typically grows to 8-15' (less frequently to 25') tall, and features oval to ovate dark green leaves and upright, sharply-pointed, pyramidal terminal panicles (to 8" long) containing both fertile and sterile white flowers that bloom late summer to early fall. 'Little Lamb' is a compact cultivar that typically grows to 6-8' tall and to 6' wide. It is noted for producing dense, cone-shaped panicles of mostly sterile, small white flowers. Each panicle purportedly resembles a little lamb on the foliage. Panicles appear on upright to outward-arching, stiff stems. The much smaller, fluffy, fertile flowers are partially visible beneath the showier, sterile ones. Oval to ovate, serrate, dark green leaves (to 6" long) produce undistinguished, yellow to purple-tinged fall color. Panicles may be cut for fresh arrangements or for drying, or may be left on the plant where they will persist well into winter.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Some susceptibility to bud blight, bacterial wilt, leaf spot, rust and mildew. Aphids, scale and mites are occasional visitors.

Garden Uses

Mass or group in the mixed shrub border or open woodland garden. Also effective as a lawn specimen, accent or hedge. Provides late summer bloom when few other shrubs are in flower. Some nurseries describe 'Little Lamb' as a downsized version of *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora' (Pee Gee) which is a larger plant with much larger flower panicles.



Eastern Worm Snake

Living with Nature

Carphophis amoenus amoenus

Eastern Worm Snakes are small snakes, only growing up to 15 inches long. Their color can vary from pinkish-brown to dark-brown. They closely resemble earthworms, which is how they get their name.

This snake also has a sharp tip on its tail, though it is not dangerous. The tip is used to help the snake dig.

Eastern Worm Snakes are found where there is damp soil, especially in forests. They also live in meadows and backyards.

Worm snakes are mostly active during crepuscular (evening and early morning) times and at night.

Worm snakes are burrowers and spend most of their time in soil or under logs and rocks. They also dig into rotten logs and stumps (especially pines), and under dead leaves and bark. In times of very dry weather, these snakes dig deep into the earth.

Eastern Worm Snakes breed in Spring and Fall. After mating, female worm snakes lay 1 to 8 eggs in a rotted log, or under a log or rock. Young snakes are about 4 inches long when they hatch. They are full grown in 3 years.

Worm snakes hibernate underground during Winter.



Eastern Worm Snakes eat more earthworms than anything else. Other foods include slugs, snails, small salamanders, and soft-bodied insect larvae (like grubs and caterpillars).

Predators of worm snakes include opossum, skunk, fox, Blue Jay, crows, other large birds, larger snakes, toads, large salamanders, and cats.

Eastern Worm Snakes are often found in soil where termites live because termites provide soil that is easy to burrow in. Worm snakes and other ground-burrowing animals help each other by loosening soil and making it easier to Dig.

If disturbed worm snakes can release a foul odor.

Eastern Worm Snakes are sometimes found in the open on cloudy, rainy days.



Endless Summer Hydrangeas

- Grows In: Zone 4A · -30° to -25° F through Zone 9B · 25° to 30° F
- Sun Exposure: Full / Mostly Shade, Morning Sun / Evening Shade, Dappled Light / Filtered Sun
- Soil Drainage: Well Drained, Moderately Drained
- Resistant To: Deer Resistant, Insect
- Flower Color: Pink, Blue
- Blooms: Spring Blooms, Summer Blooms, Fall Blooms
- Foliage Color: Medium Green
- Average Height: 3' to 4'
- Average Width: 3' to 4'
- Attracts: Visual Attention
- Fragrances: None



Hydrangea Macrophylla 'Endless Summer' is a fast and moderate growing shrub that can be grown in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4A through 9B.

It matures to an average height of 3 feet to 4 feet and an average width of 3 feet to 4 feet, depending on climate and other environmental factors.

It prefers growing in a location that provides shade, morning sun with afternoon shade or filtered sun and grows best when planted in sand, loam, clay or silt soil that is well drained or moderately drained. In the spring, summer and fall Endless Summer Hydrangea produces pink and blue flowers. The foliage is medium green in color. It attracts visual attention and is resistant to deer and insects.

Endless Summer Hydrangea can be useful in the landscape along woodland borders, in mass plantings, in foundation plantings, in containers or planters, in shrub borders, around decks, swimming pools, and other outdoor living areas, as an accent, under a shade tree, as a focal point or in landscape beds or islands and also in cottage gardens, perennial gardens or shade gardens.

Endless Summer is a "mop-head" hydrangea with the unique ability to bloom consistently on both old and new wood. The result is a plant that provides beautiful flowers all summer long and deep into fall. It is equally hardy as it is beautiful. We have yet to find a mophead hydrangea that



stands up to the heat as well as the Endless Summer. The magnificent flowers, held on sturdy upright stems, grow up to 8 inches in diameter. Flower color is up to you. If you want blue flowers provide an acidic soil. If you want pink flowers provide an alkaline soil. Alkaline soil can be made acidic by adding Aluminum Sulphate or Soil Sulfur. Acidic soil can be made alkaline by adding lime. It's that easy!

It's no secret that many bigleaf hydrangeas have the unique ability to change flower color from spectacular pink to beautiful blue depending on soil pH. But for some gardeners, the best way to accomplish the task still remains a mystery. Color Me Pink and Color Me Blue make color changing easier and safer.

Color Me Pink features pelletized Garden Lime and Color Me Blue is pelletized Soil Sulfur – both formulations are safer alternatives to other color changing methods. Both products feature a pre-measured scoop and easy-to-understand directions printed right on the waterproof container.



Changing the Color of your Hydrangea is so Easy with Color Me Pink™ and Color Me Blue™

Color Me Pink™

Color Me Pink™ offers the perfect solution for changing your hydrangea flowers from blue to pink. Using garden lime, Color Me Pink™ safely and effectively changes acidic soils to alkaline for fantastic pink blossoms. Color Me Pink has a suggested retail price of \$9.95.

Color Me Blue™

Color Me Blue™ takes your hydrangea blooms from pink to blue. Using Soil Sulfur, Color Me Blue™ lowers the pH of your soil allowing hydrangea varieties such as Endless Summer® The Original to produce glorious blue blossoms. Color Me Blue has a suggested retail price of \$12.95.

Be sure to read and follow the package directions. Remember, more is not better when it comes to soil additives.