

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

ISSUE 40 June 2013



Dwarf Spike Speedwell *By Eva Soud*

This is a terrific compact selection of Spike Speedwell. It forms a low bushy mound of dark green leaves, bearing short spikes of bright blue flowers in early summer for several weeks. Versatile in the garden, at home as an edging plant, in the rock garden or in tubs and containers. Shear lightly after blooming to encourage fresh foliage, and possible repeat flowering in the fall. Shows good promise for massing in large landscape situations.



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Easy and undemanding, veronicas catch the eye in sunny gardens over many months. Some have mats with loose clusters of saucer-shaped flowers, while others group their star or tubular flowers into erect tight spikes. A few veronicas bring elusive blue to the garden, but more often the flowers are purplish or violet blue, rosy pink, or white. Provide full sun and average well-drained soil. Regular deadheading extends bloom time.

Best long-blooming

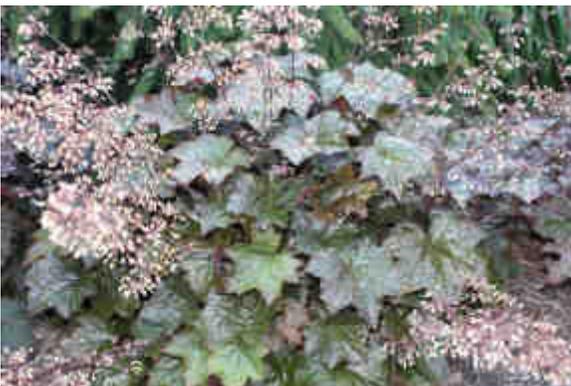
“Imagine the possibilities!”

Perennials play such an important role in adding lasting beauty to the landscape and there are so many wonderful long-blooming perennials



First there is Gaillardia 'Goblin', or Blanket Flower, which produces red to yellow bi-color blooms throughout June to August on 12" stems. It is hardy in zones 4-8 and repeats its performance year after year if grown in full sunlight. Gaillardia prefers well-drained soil, is considered drought tolerant and does not require abundant watering once established.

Liriope muscari 'Variegata' is popular for its grass-like, cream or yellow-margined leaves. Liriope can be grown in sun or shade and produces small purple blooms in August to September followed by round, dark purple berries. Liriope is very versatile as it can be planted just about anywhere in the garden as a complement to other plantings.



One of my favorite perennials for shade is Heuchera. From experience I find Heuchera 'Palace Purple' to be the most hardy with beautiful burgundy foliage. The delicate white flowers produced on 12 inch stems in August to September that resemble baby's breath are just an added bonus. Heuchera can be grown in partial sun to shade and prefers a moderately moist organic soil.

Coreopsis 'Zagreb' is a popular favorite for areas of full sun and produces yellow daisy-like blooms from June to July that last throughout August on 12-18 inch fern-like stalks. Coreopsis is deer resistant, prefers a well-drained soil and can withstand drought like conditions once established.



What are your Favorites?

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Some of my all time favorite perennials for overall performance, hardiness, excellent foliage and long lasting blooms.

Salvia 'Maynight' displays beautiful deep purple flowers on 12-18 inch stalks from the end of May through July. To extend the bloom time of your salvia all the way into fall simply prune off spent flower stalks as new ones arise and the plant will continue to produce more blooms!

Salvia prefers to be grown in full sun.



The next selection for shady areas is Astilbe 'Sprite'. This perennial displays bronze foliage with pale pink flowers in late July to August on dwarf 12 -14 inch plants. There are several other wonderful varieties of astilbe but in my opinion this variety has the nicest foliage and the most delicate blooms. Astilbe 'Sprite' prefers to be grown in partial sun to shade in an organic, moderately moist soil.

There are two more of my of my all time personal favorites that cannot go by without being mentioned. The first is Daylily 'Stella D'Oro'. There are many varieties of daylily but this semi-fragrant, golden yellow repeat bloomer will continue to produce blooms on 12-18 inch stalks from June until fall with some pruning. This perennial prefers to be grown in full sun and complements many other perennials such as heuchera, liriope, salvia and nepeta.



The second is Nepeta 'Walkers Low', a dwarf form of nepeta with gray-green aromatic foliage and large violet-blue flowers that bloom all summer long. Nepeta 'Walkers Low' is drought tolerant and deer resistant. It can be grown in full sun to partial shade and forms round compact mounds. This perennial goes well with coreopsis, daylily and heuchera.

From the garden of Eva

Easy Strawberry Cream Pie

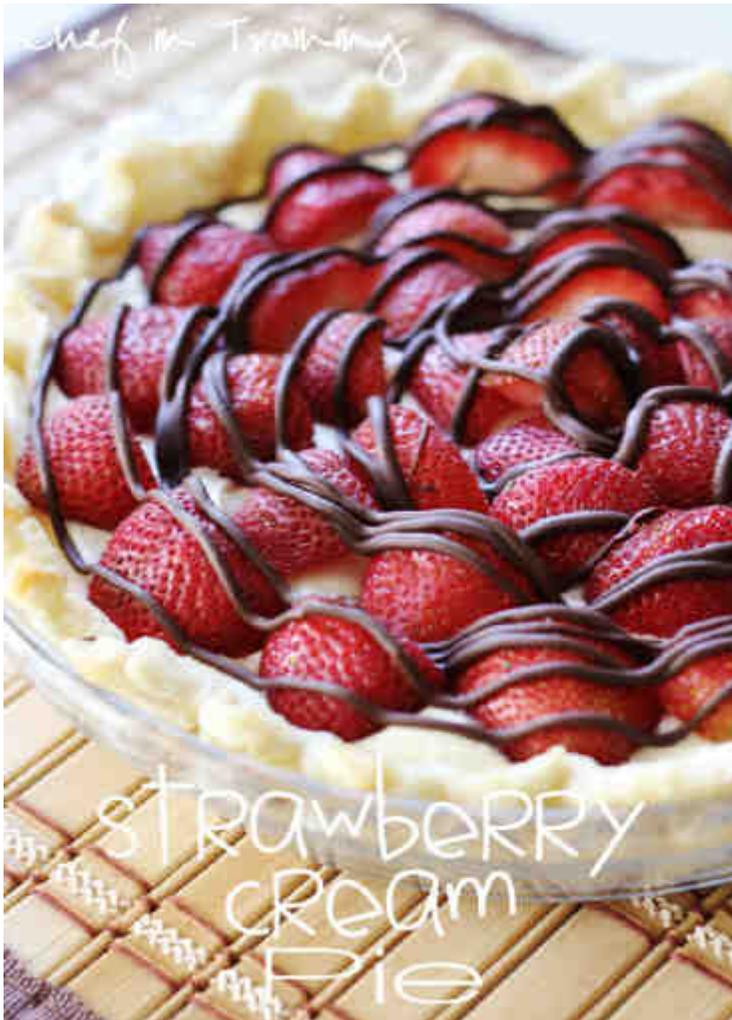
Easy and delicious! This pie will be a hit at any event!

Ingredients

- 1 cooked pie crust

Cook according to pie crust directions. My favorite is Pillsbury brand

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 8 oz cream cheese softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla or almond extract
- 18-20 strawberries cut in halves
- 1 Tbsp. shortening or oil
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips



Instructions

1. Cook your pie crust according to package or your favorite recipes directions. Let cool.
2. Beat heavy whipping cream until stiff peaks form.
3. In a separate bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually add in sugar and vanilla.
4. Fold cream cheese mixture into the beaten heavy whipped cream. until evenly combined.
5. Spoon into cooled pie crust.
6. Arrange strawberries over the top of filling.
7. Melt 1 Tbsp shortening or oil and 1/2 cup chocolate chips in microwave, stirring every 30 seconds until smooth.

Drizzle over strawberries.

8. Refrigerate.

Enjoy!

Got Shade?

Jack Frost Brunnera Siberian Bugloss Plant

One of the most exciting Brunneras to come along in years, 'Jack Frost' adds hard-to-find color and dramatic texture to the shade garden with bright silver leaves veined in deep green.

These rounded leaves are perfectly formed, facing up and out for maximum show, and offer a brilliant backdrop to the small clusters of bright blue flowers that appear in earliest spring.

'Jack Frost' grows 12 to 15 inches tall (up to 18 inches when the slender bloomstalks sway above the foliage) and 18 inches wide in the partially shaded garden. It prefers acidic soil, but is generally not fussy about conditions, withstanding cold snaps admirably and tolerating soil of poor fertility. The clumps are very dense and plump in appearance, so if you are

planting more than one together, space the plants 18 to 24 inches wide to give them space to show off their nicely rounded form.

Brunnera is a superb companion to mainstays of the shade garden such as Hostas, Ferns, Pulmonarias, and particularly Hellebores, which often bloom at the same time as 'Jack Frost.' Try a combination planting of 'Jack Frost' and the Royal Heritage Hellebores -- the Brunnera's silvery leaves will highlight the unusual colors of the Hellebore blooms, and the frosty foliage pairs nicely with the deep green, slightly toothed leaves of the Hellebores. Or, for an entirely different look in the shade garden, consider a planting of 'Jack Frost' and the phantom-white fern Athyrium 'Ghost'.

The silver and white foliage will lighten the shade and offer superb contrast to the surrounding greens.



Lungwort

In early spring, the brilliant blue, pink, or white flowers of lungwort bloom despite the coldest chill. The rough basal leaves, spotted or plain, always please and continue to be handsome through the season and into winter. Planted close as a weed-discouraging groundcover, or in borders as edgings or bright accent plants, lungworts are workhorses and retain their good looks. Provide high-humus soil that retains moisture.

Although lungwort tolerates dry conditions, be alert for mildew.

Cinnamon Fern

Cinnamon Ferns are large, with fronds (leaves) growing up to six feet long and a foot wide. They grow in large clumps in moist woods, marshes, wet ditches, and streambanks.

Then cinnamon-colored ones have sori on them. Sori make spores, which are like seeds for other plants. Fern spores are how the fern can make new ferns.



It's a bug eat bug world



The white grub worm is the larval or immature stage of the adult June Beetle.

(also known as the June bug).



(June Bug)

June beetle, also called May beetle or June bug, any insect of the genus *Phyllophaga*, belonging to the widely distributed, plant-feeding subfamily Melolonthinae (family Scarabaeidae, order Coleoptera). These red-brown beetles commonly appear in the Northern Hemisphere during warm spring evenings and are attracted to lights. The heavy-bodied June beetles vary from 12 to 25 mm (0.5 to 1 inch) and have shiny wing covers (elytra). They feed on foliage and flowers at night, sometimes causing considerable damage. June beetle larvae, called white grubs, are about 25 mm long and live in the soil. They can destroy crops (e.g., corn [maize], small grains, potatoes, strawberries), and they can kill lawns and pastures by severing the grasses from the roots.

Each female buries between 50 and 200 small, pearlike eggs in the soil. After three years of feeding on plant roots, the larvae pupate, emerging as adults in August or September, then burying themselves again for the winter. In the spring the adults emerge once more and feed on available foliage. Adults live less than one year.

A natural enemy of the June beetle is the pyrgota fly larva (*Pyrgota undata*), which feeds on the beetle, eventually killing it. June beetle larvae are considered excellent fish bait.

Parastic Fly (*Pyrgota undata*)

This amazing looking creature is a large member of the fly family, but with a unusual life cycle.

Flying mostly at night, they will chase June beetles in the air and while in flight, lay a single egg on the beetle.

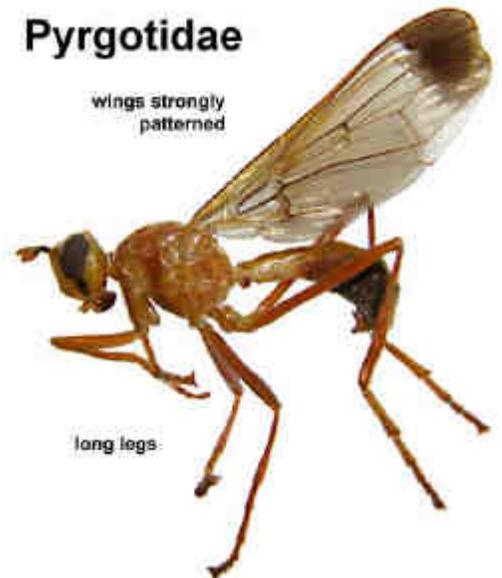
The egg will shortly hatch and the larva will drill into the beetle. Once inside they begin to feast until the beetle is dead.



Pyrgotidae

wings strongly patterned

long legs



Double Weeping Cherry Tree

Flowering cherries are the plant that signals the arrival of spring in the traditional Japanese tea garden. Their flowering is a much celebrated event.

Large magenta buds along the graceful weeping boughs open to double pink flowers. New bronze leaves appear after blooms and mature to green. Plant as a focal point or use pairs to call attention to entries. Essential for Japanese gardens. Deciduous.

Design Ideas :Plant as a high profile focal point at short or long range. Use pairs to call attention

to entries and gateways. Essential material for Japanese style gardens but is also at home in a semiformal cottage or country garden setting.

Particularly striking when set against dark evergreen background.

Companion Plants: For a cottage garden look, combine this gorgeous cherry with Raspberry Sunday Peony, and Flower Carpet Scarlet Groundcover Rose, In a Asian garden celebrate cherry blossom time with Coral Bells Azalea, and Burgundy Lace Japanese Maple.

History: The weeping cherry was not introduced to Europe until 1894. It was first introduced in Japan by Yoshio Tanaka who sent samples to the Russian Maximowicz at the St. Petersburg Botanical Garden. From there it reached Miquel of Holland, and then onward to England. There is a good chance that these trees existed in California early on, brought by immigrants across the Pacific to ports such as San Francisco.



Snow Fountains

Weeping Cherry



The snow fountain weeping cherry tree is a beautiful tree.

It has weeping branches that cascade down. In the spring, this tree is covered in white flowers.

A flowery focal point. The graceful, drooping branches of this dwarf tree make it a standout in any space. Each branch

is cloaked in gorgeous white blossoms in spring. Disease- and insect-resistant. Cold-tolerant. Matures to be 12-15' tall and 6-8' wide.

Bloom starts in late April and extends for 3 weeks. The flowers are small, white and 5-petaled. Occasionally small red, later turning to black, fruit form as the flowers fade. Fruit are not edible.

Butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to the bloom.

Adaptation:

It is best to plant this cultivar in full sun with a site that gets plenty of air circulation to ensure disease free growth. Otherwise, brown rot and bacterial canker can be a significant problem. Set out new plants on medium moisture sites. Avoid sites that are not well drained.



Thyme in the Garden



*Heavy rains encourage slug problems. Check for slugs during rainy periods and hand pick the pests.

*For hanging baskets in cool, shady locations, use tuberous begonias, ferns, impatiens or fibrous rooted begonias in combination with trailing plants, such as English ivy.

*Remove old flower heads from annual bedding plants to keep them blooming.

*Disbud chrysanthemum flowers to secure large, beautiful blooms on straight, strong stems. To disbud, remove the small side buds along the stems which form in the angles of the leaves. This will allow all of the food reserves to be used for one large flower rather than many smaller ones.

*Plant annual flowers in tubs or large containers for the porch or terrace. Make sure there are holes in the container's bottom to provide good drainage.

*Remove foliage from spring bulbs after it turns yellow and begins to dry. Set out bedding plants to cover the bare spots using care not to damage the bulbs.

*Watch for and control blackspot and powdery mildew on rose foliage.

*Use bark mulch around young trees to protect them from lawn mower damage.

*Spring flowering shrubs such as spirea, viburnum, lilac and forsythia should be pruned as soon as they are done blooming.

*Mid to late June is an excellent time to take softwood cuttings of shrubs to start new plants. Some shrubs which can be propagated in this way are spirea, lilac and viburnum.

*When you buy nursery stock that is container grown, check the root ball and make sure it is not bound too tightly. A mass of circling roots will stay that way even after it is planted in the ground.

*If you do not have much room to landscape, consider using some of the many dwarf varieties available. These are plants that have slow growth and stay small, so there is little pruning maintenance. There are numerous dwarf evergreens, flowering trees and shrubs from which to choose.

*After your vegetable garden is well established, it is best to water it thoroughly once a week rather than giving it a light watering everyday. That way, a deeper root system is encouraged to develop, which will later help the plants tolerate dry weather.

*Keep a close eye on the quality of your spring crops. Hot weather causes lettuce to bolt and become bitter. Plant a warm season crop as soon as the spring vegetables are harvested.

*In most cases, blossom-end rot on tomatoes, peppers, squash and watermelons can be prevented. Do this by maintaining uniform soil moisture by Mulching and watering correctly, planting in well drained soil and not cultivating deeper than one inch within one foot of the plant. Also avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilizers.





*Continue planting warm season vegetable crops such as beans, squash and cucumbers.

* The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering, when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.

*Before pouring gasoline into the fuel tank of your lawn mower, garden tiller or other garden equipment, be sure to turn off the engine and allow it to cool for at least five minutes.

*Identify garden pests before you attempt to control them. If you decide to use chemical control, read the label carefully.

*Bats can be an effective way to control insects. One big brown bat can eat 3,000 to 7,000 insects each night. Attract bats by building and placing bat houses in your yard.

*Leftover vegetable and flower seeds may be stored in a cool dry location to be saved for planting next year.

*Start a gardening notebook. Pay special attention to those plants which withstand drought conditions.

*During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. For vegetable gardens, shredded leaves or grass clippings are good mulch material. For ornamentals, pine needles or wood bark do the best job. Or if you haven't planted yet. * Four or five layers of newspaper will serve as an effective mulch in the garden. Cover it with grass clippings or straw to prevent it from blowing away.

*Weed removal is important for a number of reasons. It conserves moisture, conserves nutrients in the soil and helps prevent the spread of disease and insects.

*Put tools away at the end of the day. Clean them and hang them up so they are ready to use and easy to find when you need them.

*To better evaluate your gardening successes, keep weather records along with garden records. The most important items to report are daily minimum and maximum temperatures, precipitation, cloud cover and frost occurrences.

So remember by the month of June, all northern hemisphere gardens are in full throttle. Garden chores are almost equalized across zones.

Warmer climates are still ahead of the game, shifting into a transition period northern gardeners don't experience. But crops are still growing, insects are still feasting and, despite the heat and humidity, this is not the time to rest. So start (or refuel) your gardening engines and choose a few tasks from above and get going!

A potting bench can be as simple as a old piece of furniture--be creative and enjoy...



*Just having fun...
with unusual planters*

