

Dream Gardens

Landscape & Design Management



Something Bugging Ya?



Feeling Antsy?

There are many species of ants which occur in lawns. Most are considered beneficial and do not require control. However, ants may become a nuisance by constructing mounds or small hills in the lawn, or by invading the home from the yard in search of food. Eliminating some of the worst ant hill activity may be possible by raking flat, on a regular and frequent basis, ant hills that appear above the grass tops during periods of ant nesting activity. For the worst cases it is possible to spot treat the ant hills with insecticide. Ants begone!

Agitate Your Aphids!

A strong blast of water dislodges aphids and breaks off their sucking mouth parts. Did you know they are irresistibly drawn to the color yellow? Set a shallow yellow pan of soapy water by your infested plants and the aphids will plunge to a watery end.

Wanna Slug Your Slugs?

Scatter pine needles, coffee grounds, crushed egg shells, or diatomaceous earth to provide a scratch barrier around plants you want to protect. Reapply after a rain.

"Know thine enemies"

is especially important in the garden!

By understanding pests a gardener can remain a few strides ahead of them.



Home Remedies Garden Tips

- Epsom salts provide a quick shot of magnesium and promote growth of flowers and foliage. When tomatoes, eggplants and peppers begin to bloom, mix up a batch of this potion to encourage prolific, healthy fruiting. The magnesium and sulfur in the salts are macronutrients that foster fruiting. 2 Tablespoons of epsom salts, 1 gallon of water. Pour onto the soil surrounding your plants.

- Share your tea with your green friends. Chamomile tea is antibacterial and fungicidal and will aid plants suffering from fungus and mildew. Add leftover tea (or use tea bags) to your watering can.

- Stubborn grass growing in the cement cracks or brick patio? Use equal parts of vinegar and water or substitute vinegar with isopropyl alcohol (70% solution) but be careful not to spray any plants.

- Zap young dandelions, thistle, and other broad-leaf weeds with a direct stream of household vinegar (5% acidity) and a few drops of liquid soap for coverage. This is a spot solution to be applied in the heat of the day.

- Sprinkle baby powder on seedlings to deter rabbits.

- Rose Tonic. This blend for roses, with powdery mildew or black spots, will remain effective for months. 2 teaspoons baking soda. 2 quarts of water. 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap or Murphy's oil soap. Keep a spray bottle filled and ready to do battle. Shake well before each use. Soap increases the moisture on plant leaves so spores are unable to germinate.



Dream Gardens Landscape & Design Management

Dream Garden specializes in:

- Yard Clean-Up
- Landscape Design and Project Coordination
- Installation of Trees, Shrubs, Perennials and Annuals
- Lawn Maintenance, Mowing & Fertilizing
- Grading for New Grasses, Seeding and Sod
- Monthly Yard and Bed Maintenance
- Trimming, Pruning, Weeding and Mulching
- Planting Containers, Flower Boxes and Outdoor Living Spaces
- Hardscapes such as Patios, Sidewalks, Retaining Walls & Ponds
- Snow Removal

Book early for special events such as graduations, weddings, parties!

Call Jean for your free estimate or to schedule an appointment! 815-459-2414

*"Did you ever think how a bit
of land shows the character of
the owner?"*

— *Laura Ingalls Wilder*

I Can't Contain Myself!

Jean's Latest Container Creation!

Every great planter needs three things. A thriller, a filler & a spiller.
This urn features the following:

The Thrillers

- Graceful Grass-Blue Mohawk
- Gaura-Karalee Petite Pink
- Gomphrena-Fireworks

The Fillers

- Geranium-Hot Pink
- Coleous-Peter Wonder
- Angelonia-Angel Face
- Ogon-Golden Variegated Grass

The Spillers

- Sweet Potato Vine-Bright Green
- Calibrachoa-Painted Coral
- Variegated Ivy
- Sutura-White Snowflake
- Swedish Ivy

Don't forget my special soil mix of

- "Metromix" Potting Soil
- "Osmacot" Slow Release Fertilizer
- "Soil Moist" Crystals

Water regularly and you will have beautiful containers all season!



Attracting Butterflies

Butterflies flit from flower to flower looking for nectar. When they land on a leaf or flower, they can actually taste it...with their FEET! If you enjoy watching your winged friends, provide more sources of nectar. Butterflies also like rotting fruit, so before you throw away that over-ripe banana, peel it and set it out as a dessert.

10 plants that butterflies love:

- Butterfly Weed
- Zinnia (Monarchs love Zinnias!)
- Verbena
- Butterfly Bush
- Starflower
- New England Aster
- Lantana
- Mexican Sunflower
- Marigold
- Stokes-Aster

Flowers are the best way to attract these colorful insects!



MCC and Master Gardeners' Gardenwalk 2011

Saturday, July 9, 2011

McHenry County College • Crystal Lake, IL 60012

- Tour the McHenry County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden at MCC.
- View eight other unique, private gardens clustered in Southern McHenry County.
- Ask Master Gardeners your specific gardening questions.
- Enjoy the gardens at your own pace on this self-guided tour.
- Purchase plants from the Master Gardeners' own gardens at MCC's Demo Garden (as long as supplies last).
- All gardens will be open for viewing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**For information, call (815) 479-7570
or email conferencecenter@mchenry.edu.
<http://www.mchenry.edu/gardenwalk>**



Water Wise!

- **Mulch is a great way to conserve water** by reducing evaporation with the added benefit of weed control without chemicals.

- **Water late in the day** during the summertime, and never on dry or windy days to minimize the water lost through evaporation.
- **Water deeply every few days instead of lightly every day.** This encourages the roots of plants to grow deeper, and allows them to obtain more moisture from the soil. Break down the single watering into several short sessions separated by several minutes, to enable the water to permeate the soil deeper with minimal run-off.
- **Drip Irrigation.** There is no better way to water efficiently than with drip irrigation. To save even more water, get a programmable timer.



Note from Jean

If you ever have the chance to attend the Tulip Time Festival in Holland, Michigan, do it! Since, 1929, the small city of Holland, Michigan blossoms with literally hundreds of thousands of tulips. It is a beautiful celebration of Dutch heritage and culture with a SPECTACULAR display of tulips. In May, I spent my birthday weekend at the festival. I can't think of a better treat! For more information, visit tuliptime.com.