


JERRY BAKER'S
Garden Line Series

BAKER'S DOZEN

Tips, tricks
and
good advice
from

Jerry Baker
America's Master Gardener®

Table of Contents

	PAGE
 LAWNS	3
 TREES: SHADE AND FLOWERING	7
 TREES: FRUIT AND NUT	9
 SHRUBS AND HEDGES	11
 EVERGREENS	12
 GROUND COVERS	14
 FLOWER GARDENS	15
 BULBS AND TUBERS	17
 ROSES	18
 VEGETABLE GARDENS	20
 SMALL FRUIT	22
 HOUSE PLANTS	24
 INSECTS AND DISEASES	28

Introduction

This book is not meant to be a comprehensive lawn, garden, and plant guide, it is merely a quick reference for time and money saving ways to head off, stop, or correct garden growing pains for both you and your garden.

The tips, tricks, and tonics are the same ones that you hear me recommend on my weekly radio broadcast "**On The Garden Line**" or watch me demonstrate in my personal appearances and on TV shows.

They may seem strange to those who have never needed to improve because of lack of time and money or to those who feel that the use of non-branded materials is hocus-pocus and all organic gardeners are "kooks," but seeing is believing.

If you have a plant or garden question, call me on my radio show "**On The Garden Line**." You can call toll-free Saturday mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. EST, on your local Mutual Broadcasting Station.

The toll-free number is **1-800-634-3881**.

For a more comprehensive guide, refer to one of my other books:

The Impatient Gardener

Fast, Easy Vegetable Garden

Jerry Baker's Lawn Book

Happy, Healthy House Plants



LAWNS

A well dressed home begins with a healthy and attractive lawn. If the grass is scruffy, it can make the most expensive home and landscape appear shoddy, so put your home's best foot forward with a shiny, clean, neat, green lawn. The following are my recommendations of the proper materials, time, and special formulas needed to shine up your lawn.

PRE-MERGE WEED CONTROLS:

If crabgrass or other weeds that sprout from last fall's seeds are a problem, then apply any pre-merge and water in with this mixture as early in the spring as possible.

*1 cup liquid soap
(removes seed shell protection)*

1 cup hydrogen peroxide

2 tablespoons instant tea

Apply with a hose-end sprayer over 2,500 square feet of lawn, before noon.

LAWN PREPARATION:

In every area of the country, we are plagued by acid rain of varying degrees of pollutants, which is delivered by rain, snow, and wind. If you are to have a healthy, happy lawn, you must give your grass and plants some relief. To do this, simply apply the lime, gypsum, and epsom salts mixture to 2,500 square feet of lawn as early in the early spring as possible. This applies in the North, South, East, or West. I suggest you use only a broadcast-type spreader and add an Ortho whirley spreader to your tool collection. *Do not apply lawn preparation any sooner than two weeks before the fertilizer step.*

*50# lime
(pelletized if possible)*

*50# gypsum
(pelletized if possible)*

2# Epsom salts

LAWNS

FERTILIZING:

Apply your favorite brand of dry lawn food in both the spring and fall at half the recommended rate called for on the bag. Apply Epsom salts (use the Ortho whirley spreader set on #2) in both the spring and fall.

*Epsom salts
at a rate of 2#
per 2,500 square feet*

SPRING/FALL TONIC:

All of the dry materials that I recommend take time to turn into a form of material that your grass can eat. This liquid formula is an instant snack that gets your lawn off and growing in both the spring and fall when it is necessary for aggressive growing action of roots and a breakdown of thatch.

*1 can of beer
1 pint of ammonia
1 cup of liquid soap*

Mix ingredients into a 15-20 gallon hose-end lawn sprayer and apply over your first application of lawn fertilizer in the spring and over your last application in the fall no matter where you live. This mixture covers 2,500 square feet.

INSECT PREVENTION & CONTROL:

All lawns are bugged. To debug and disease-proof your lawn, apply the following with a hose-end sprayer to cover 2,500 square feet. Follow with the normally recommended amount of Dursban or Diazinon within an hour.

*1 cup Listerine
(if nematodes are a problem,
use Listermint)
1 cup chewing tobacco juice*
1 cup liquid soap*

**To make chewing tobacco juice, place 1/4 package of "Red Man" chewing tobacco into the toe of an old nylon stocking and soak for 3 hours in a quart of hot water.*



INSECT CONTROL:

Before you apply any chemical insect controls to the turf, apply this tonic through a hose-end lawn sprayer to 2,500 square feet. Always apply insect and disease controls after 7 p.m.

*1 cup liquid dish soap
2 tablespoons alum
(dissolve a small amount in
boiling water)
4 tablespoons instant tea
1 ounce clear corn syrup*

WEED CONTROL:

To really zing weeds, apply this through a 15-20 gallon hose-end sprayer to 2,500 square feet and only between 1 and 3 p.m. on a bright sunny day, then follow with either a liquid or dry weed control.

*1 cup household ammonia
1 cup liquid soap
4 tablespoons instant tea*

I would love to tell you that lawn care is a favorite and popular pastime for all homeowners, but the fact is, it's a necessary, time-consuming, high-priced, tiring, and never-ending chore. Most of you probably can't wait to get rich enough to hire someone else to do it. In the meantime, my tips, tricks, and tonics will ease the pains for both you and your lawn.

What each of these unusual materials do is irrelevant, only the results count.

I have only 8 rules, the rest are all steps:

JERRY'S 8 RULES

1. Always wear golf spikes when working on the turf area.
2. Water before 2 p.m., anytime between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. is best.
3. Pick up all grass clippings. (Use as a vegetable garden mulch.)
4. Apply weed control anytime between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; disease controls after 7 p.m.
5. Mow after 7 p.m.
6. Apply weed killers only between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on a bright, sunny day.
7. Mow only with a sharp, sharp blade (buy extras).
8. Hose down mower after each use.

LAWNS

MOSS, MOLD & SLIME:

These untidy garden culprits give folks the impression that we are not tidy lawnkeepers, when in fact, shade is the culprit. Apply this recipe, mixed in a 6 gallon hose-end sprayer followed by an application of Shoot Out or Kleen Up to moss only. Remember that Shoot Out and Kleen Up kill all that they touch.

1 cup liquid soap
1 cup Listerine

GOPHERS, MOLES, SHREWS AND VOLES:

What a destructive group these make. To rid your lawn of the mole and gopher, spray your lawn with this mixture in a hose-end sprayer to 2,500 square feet, and follow with Diazinon to destroy insects that attract these varmints. For shrews and voles, place several mouse or rat bait stations under low-dense foilage where they nest.

1 cup liquid soap
2 tablespoons alum
(dissolved in hot water)

To destroy the gopher and mole, place a mixture of human hair, and paradichlorobenzene in small quantities several places along their runs. Next, cut sticks of Juicy Fruit gum into 4 small pieces and place in different places along their runs. Besides destroying their food source, you also wreak havoc on their health and comfort and they soon disappear. The best mechanical mole trap is a **Nash Mole Trap**; the **Dexol Gopher Gassers** only work when applied into the nest area.

TREES



Shade and Flowering

If I half tried, I could probably come up with something very profound to say about trees, but I prefer to simply remind you that the air you breathe, the value of your property, and the comfort from its shade are reasons enough to keep your trees happy, healthy, and attractive.

PLANTING:

As a rule, trees can be planted any time you can get a shovel into the ground. Although they must be in a burlap ball or plantable container, must not have been in a greenhouse, and must have soft growth. Always wrap the trunk, spray the bark and foliage with Envy, and sprinkle this mixture into and on the sides of a 2' x 2' x 1' planting hole. The bigger the hole, the more you mix. Container-grown trees can be planted as long as the temperature is above freezing. Mulch with shredded bark to protect them.

1 cup Epsom salt
3 cups bone meal
½ teaspoon of Diaparene
baby powder

PRUNING:

There are three things that prevent most of you from pruning trees: *fright, ambition, and knowledge*. You're scared you will do it at the wrong time and wrong way. Next, it's too much work. Finally, you don't even know where to begin. Shade trees are pruned in early spring before the buds pop open. Flowering trees are trimmed while they are flowering. Seal all wounds with latex paint that has a small amount of Liquid Sevin added.

FEEDING:

Trees don't live on rain alone, you must give them a snack. In the early spring, with a tree auger that fits my electric drill, I drill holes in 3 circles under the tree. The first is under the weep line,

 **TREES**

18 inches deep, 24 inches apart, the next circle is on the inside 24 inches and the third is 24 inches to the outside. Break tree spikes in half and drop them down the hole. Sprinkle ½ pound of Epsom salts over the top of the holes for a mature tree and water in with this tonic.

INSECT CONTROL AND DISEASE CONTROL:

These two "P's" always travel hand-in-hand. Pests and Problems — where one appears, the other will soon follow if you don't take action, either preventative or control. In the late fall before the temperature goes below freezing and in the spring after the temperature stays above freezing, spray all trees with this formula. Apply from a hose-end spray attachment and follow within an hour with an application of **Dormant Spray** to the tree and **Diazinon** to the soil beneath.

FALL TONIC AND TREAT:

Where the temperature drops below freezing, never feed trees after August 15. However, we do want root development in the fall, so I want you to apply this tonic under each tree from the trunk out to the weep line.

TREE MASSAGE:

Plants are like people and tend to tire more easily as they get older. Take a few moments in the fall and early spring to massage the trunks of all trees by rolling up a newspaper and smashing it against the trunk from the ground up to the first branch. This will get the sap moving sooner, and keep it moving longer.

1 cup beer
2 tablespoons instant tea
2 ounces liquid soap
1 ounce of fish fertilizer
In 2 gallons of warm water

1 cup liquid soap
1 cup Listerine mouthwash

½ pound of Epsom salts
1 cup of Paradichlorobenzene crystals

TREES
Fruit and Nut

With what the plant science people have done over the past few years in reducing the size and increasing the productivity of these groups of trees, you have no excuse for not including one or two in your yard.

I cover this subject in great detail, including illustrations, in my book **The Impatient Gardener**, which is published by Ballantine Books and available in all book stores. For the present, here are a couple of tips to keep them **bearing**—or should I say, coping?!

PLANTING:

You should plant all fruit and nut trees at the light of the moon (check your calendar) in the early spring or fall. Dig a hole twice as wide and two inches deeper than the hole it was growing in when you purchased it. Use the following recipe in the bottom and sides of the hole, and on top of the soil after planting.

1 part Epsom salts
2 parts gypsum
5 parts bone meal

After you have finished, give each new tree a quart of **Plant & Transplant Food** found under house plants but **without estrogen**.

PRUNING:

Prune only when dormant or only when in full fruit, and sterilize with this tonic. Sterilize the cut with this mixture and then seal with latex paint.

1 quart of warm water
½ teaspoon of instant tea
2 teaspoons of ammonia
2 teaspoons of liquid soap

STIMULATING GROWTH:

Sit down before you read this! In the spring of each year, beat the trunk of all trees with a rolled up newspaper (*called a stimulator*) from the ground up to the first branch. I guess until you see the results you might want to do this at night the first time. Quit laughing, and do it!

TREES

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL:

If you wash the trees in the late fall and early spring, use this formula applied through a hose-end sprayer.

Next, dormant spray in late fall and early spring before buds swell with Dexol's Scale & Dormant Spray. Spray trees every other week with the following recipe, applied through your hose-end spray attachment for trees and shrubs.

*1 cup of liquid dish soap
or, better yet,
1 cup of real dense Fels Naptha
soap water*

*1 cup of liquid soap
1 cup of tobacco juice
2 tablespoons of Listerine
mouthwash*



DEER & RABBIT REPELLENT FOR TREES:

Mix these ingredients well and paint trunk. Bone Tar Oil, from Plantabs, will also do the trick.

*1 gallon of water
1 well beaten egg
½ teaspoon of Tabasco juice*

SPECIAL TONIC:

This tonic is applied from a sprinkle can after you have root pruned your fruit or nut trees and after you have sprinkled 1# Epsom salts in the cut. One of these apples a day will certainly keep the tree doctor away, but not the nuts.

*2 gallons of warm water
1 can of beer
1 tablespoon of 15-30-15
1 ounce of whiskey
1 ounce of liquid soap
4 teaspoons of instant tea
(apply about a quart)*

SHRUBS & Hedges



This group of landscape plants does more than any other plant material you have in your home garden and it gets the least attention and care.

PLANTING:

Anytime you can get a shovel in the ground, sprinkle this mixture into and onto the sides of the planting hole. The bigger the hole, the more you mix (won't burn). Then mulch with a heavy layer of bark mulch (shredded).

*1 cup Epsom salts
3 cups bone meal
½ teaspoon of Diaperene
baby powder*

TOP PRUNING:

Whenever you plant a shrub, cut back one third of the top and seal the cut with lipstick, nail polish, tree paint or latex paint (my favorite). Mature shrubs are pruned when you get the ambition.

ROOT PRUNING:

This is a must in late fall or early spring. You simply push a shovel into the ground as deep as it will go, all the way around the shrub out to the farthest branch. Then sprinkle this mixture into the spade cuts.

*¼ pound of Epsom salts in
the cut
followed with a mixture of:
4 tablespoons instant tea
2 ounces of bourbon or
½ can of beer
1 ounce liquid soap*

FEEDING:

In the spring, sprinkle the Epsom salts as above and feed with a Ross Root Feeder. For older or sickly shrubs, add 1 ounce liquid fish fertilizer to the mixture above.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL:

The same as recommended for trees. You must keep your shrubs clean, neat, and thinned out to allow for good thick foliage and abundant flowers.



EVERGREENS

Most of you never joined the hippie movement, and in most cases you were not too kind in your remarks as to the long-haired, shaggy look of those you encountered. Yet, you encourage your evergreens to look like hippies and take no steps to prevent it. Evergreens are the mainstay of most landscapes and should be kept clean and neat to prevent problems.

PLANTING:

The same as trees and shrubs.

PRUNING:

In the south, prune in the fall. In the north, prune in the spring. Then, wash with this tonic, applied from a 12 gallon hose-end sprayer. Follow with an application of Envy and Liquid Sevin, also from a hose-end sprayer.

FEEDING:

Sometimes I wonder if I am beating my head against a tree trunk when I give you information because it seems to go in one ear and out the other. If you want them to grow, you have to feed them in the spring and early summer, but not after August 15 in areas where it freezes. Use the Ross Root Feeder and alternate between the evergreen tablets and the fruit tree tablets. On the upper soil (beneath the foliage and beyond), mix this tonic into two gallons of warm water—each plant gets a quart, and then water well.

- 1 cup liquid soap*
- 1 cup chewing tobacco*
- 1 cup Listerine mouthwash*

- ¼ pound of Epsom salts*
- 1 pound gypsum*
- over top sprinkle a solution of*
- 1 cup liquid soap*
- 1 cup chewing tobacco*
- 1 ounce bourbon*
- 1 ounce liquid fish fertilizer*
- 4 tablespoons instant tea*



INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL:

Wash in fall and spring with a cloudy solution of Fels Naptha soapy water (wash your hands in real warm water until the water turns a deep gray or white), strain through a cloth while adding these ingredients. Apply from a hose-end sprayer and follow with an application of Envy and Liquid Sevin.

- 4 tablespoons instant tea*
- ½ cup Listerine*
- Fels Naptha soapy water solution*

For insects, use this recipe, and apply from a hose-end sprayer.

- 1 cup liquid soap*
- 1 cup tobacco juice*
- add Diazinon*



GROUND COVER

This group of plants can hide a multitude of mistakes, sore spots, and problems. Plant them thick, feed them after planting, and keep them clean.

PLANTING:

Like any other plant, they need stability. Apply this mixture and apply to planting hole as well as to surface.

1 part Epsom salt

1 part gypsum

3 parts bone meal

FEEDING:

Feed once a month, from early spring until July 15, but not after. Apply Epsom salts dry in both April and October all over the country. Refer to rose food tonic.

INSECT SPRAY AND DISEASE CONTROL:

This will be the same as for evergreens. Sprinkle paradichlorobenzene moth crystals in the spring and fall.

REPELLENTS:

This will be the same as for fruit trees with the exception of egg batter, which is not used. For ants, snails, and slugs, see small fruits (*insects*).

WINTER PROTECTION:

In early spring, early summer, and late fall, apply Envy from a tree and shrub sprayer.

TOP DRESSING:

As a rule, this group of greenery and my favorite, myrtle, are often neglected because they never make a fuss—unless one of the winter diseases sneaks in. But I have found that this top dressing, watered in with a can of beer and 4 teaspoons of instant tea, makes ground cover thick enough to stop a rabbit.

10 parts of worm castings

5 parts ground apple

20 parts milorganite

½ bushel of peat moss



FLOWER GARDENS

You are either into flower growing, or you are not. Now that's not to say you don't add a variety of annuals or perennials to your landscape plans. You may, but what you end up doing is planting for looks, not for the comfort and health of your flowers. If you will just try these few tonics and tricks, you might surprise yourself and your flowers with a yard full of flowers.

PLANTING:

Both annuals and perennials can be planted from seed or seedlings. If you are using seed, let it soak overnight in a solution of weak tea, air dry, and plant.

4 cups bone meal

2 cups gypsum

2 cups Epsom salts

1 cup wood ashes

1 cup lime

1 tablespoon baking powder

4 tablespoons Diaperene baby powder

Seedlings should be planted after the last frost. Here is a great flower planter mixture. Mix all ingredients into a bucket full of dry peat moss, then, put into the rows to be planted.



FLOWER GARDENS

FEEDING:

I can't remind you enough about adding dry garden food at $\frac{1}{3}$ the recommended rate in the fall and again in the spring, before you spade. During the season I feed with 15-30-15 Super K-Gro All/Purpose Water Soluble at $\frac{1}{2}$ the recommended rate, along with 1 tablespoon liquid dish soap per quart and a cup of beer per gallon. I rotate that mixture with the fish fertilizer, bourbon and tea recipe mixed into two gallons of water, and applied it from a sprinkling can.

INSECT CONTROL:

Bugs won't be too happy with this mixture. Add it to a quart of water, and spray it onto the foliage.

DISEASE CONTROL:

If you will just wash your flowering plants once a week with this mild solution, you will seldom see mildew or black spots.

1 ounce liquid fish fertilizer

1 ounce bourbon

2 tablespoons instant tea

5 drops liquid dish soap

5 drops chewing tobacco juice

2 drops Listerine mouthwash

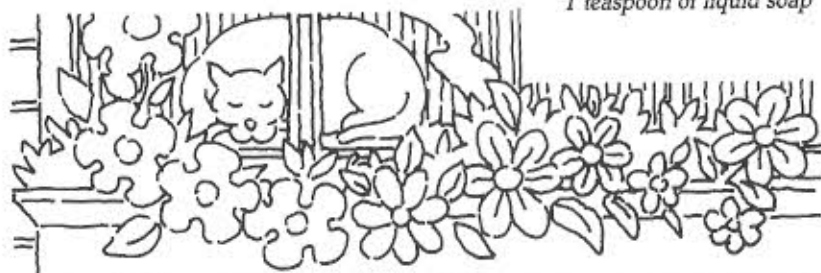
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of methoxychlor

*2 teaspoons of rose dust
(dissolved in hot water)*

1 teaspoon instant tea

1 teaspoon ammonia

1 teaspoon of liquid soap



BULBS & Tubers

Bulbs, tubers, and corms are without a doubt the most deceptive plant producing vehicles you can possibly think of. As a matter of fact, they are downright ugly, but wow! What a beautiful surprise when Mother Nature kisses these ugly little tykes on the cheek and they unfold with bursts of color and beauty. They will last a whole season if you begin by treating them as stars of the garden and not afterthoughts. Don't say, "Not me!" With few exceptions this group of flowers is an add on, not one of the pre-plans like annuals and perennials. In most cases, it's merely because you must buy them as ones and twos, and they cost more. But they do so much more. They reproduce both above and below ground, above with flowers and below with more bulbs.

PLANTING: As a rule we can say that this whole group of flowers can take care of itself when it comes to being improperly planted; in heavy, wet soil; too deep, too much shade or too much sun. If you had as many jokes made about how ugly you were you would be tough too. Use the same planting mixture as recommended for roses.

FEEDING: Here again, refer to the recommendations I outlined for their sister, the Rose. Notice, I did not say their more beautiful sister, because nothing beats the looks of a well dressed-up bulb stock.

INSECT CONTROL: Here we go to the other sister, the flower spray.

DISEASE CONTROL: When you remove your bulb, tuber, or corm stock in the fall, I want you to wash them clean in a good heavy solution of warm Fels Naptha soap water. Let them almost dry, then place in a double thick grocery bag with an ample supply of Diaparene baby powder added and shake well. Let dry and store.

For disease control on flowers and foliage during the growing season, use the disease control spray outlined for flowers.

Bulbs, corms, and tubers should be an important part of your overall garden plan. You will be glad you included them . . . if you do!



ROSES

Everybody wants the end results from a rose bush, but most of you aren't willing to put the effort into her needs. No, you do not have to become a slave to your roses.

The secret to rose care is dependent upon everyday care during the growing season, that is to say, use common sense. Keep your roses clean, well-trimmed, and fed regularly.

PLANTING:

Purchase only healthy looking rose bushes. If it's **packaged rose bushes** make sure the buds are not dried out, the sprouts aren't long and yellow, and the top wood isn't black or brown.

Pre-Planted Roses should have fat, healthy buds, or deep green young growth.

Potted Roses should look just like they were growing in the garden: clean, healthy, without insects, and disease-free foliage. The center should be open with the foliage growing to the outside to let sunlight in.

When you select a location for a rose, it must be in a bright, sunny spot; soil should be light, crumbly and rich with leaves, peat moss, cow manure, and other organic matter.

Dig a hole twice as wide as is necessary and deep enough to fill with the above if your garden is in a hard soil area or clay. All roses must have 2 cups of Epsom salts sprinkled dry on the soil each spring. Into the bottom of each hole, add a handful of Epsom salts and bone meal whenever you plant a rose.

In clay or hard soils, 3 to 4 handfuls of gypsum must be added to the sides and bottom of each hole.

Plant roses as per instructions, water well, then follow with this mixture. I call this my "start-up meal."

Start Up Meal

- 1/2 gallon of warm tea*
- 1 teaspoon of whiskey*
- 1 tablespoon liquid soap*
- 1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide*
- 1 teaspoon vitamin B-1*



FEEDING:

Roses more than any other flowering plant must be fed on a regular basis (*every 3 weeks*) because they work so hard to continuously produce the heavy stems and foliage needed to support the abundant flowers. I alternate their diet starting with the start-up meal. Next, I use the 15-30-15 Super K-Gro All/Purpose Water Soluble mixed in a weak solution of "instant tea" and 1 ounce of liquid soap per gallon added.

The third mixture consists of the following, all added to a gallon of warm water. Each rose gets a quart.

- 1/2 ounce liquid fish fertilizer*
- 2 tablespoons instant tea*
- 1 teaspoon Salt Peter*
- 1 teaspoon baking powder (Dissolved)*
- 1 teaspoon iron*
- 1 ounce dry red wine*



INSECT CONTROL:

See Flower section.

PRUNING:

Roses are never cut back in the fall. In areas where the temperatures go below freezing, it is absolutely necessary to cover with a thick layer of leaves, straw, and soil. In the spring, cut your roses back to just above the lowest outside foliage break, and seal the cut with latex paint. Now . . . *stop and smell your roses.*



VEGETABLE Gardens

It is said there are over 63 million vegetable gardeners in this country. I'd say it's more like 80 million because nearly everyone who has a yard wants to have a go at a tomato, pepper, or cucumber plant for the simple reason that everyone loves the taste of fresh and flavorful salads . . . even the bugs.

The growing of vegetables need not be expensive, time-consuming, or discouraging if you will again simply use common sense and a few household items.

PLANTING:

A productive garden does not have to be a large patch of ground dug up in the middle of the yard. It can be bushel baskets filled with a blend of good, rich peat moss, leaves, light soil, and a little light gravel. Or, you can use planters, plastic garbage cans—anything that will hold soil and let excess water out.

If you have the space for a garden, it must be in a bright location, with light, flexible soil. If clay or hard-pan is your lot in garden life, remove it from the spot and use it as a raised wall and fill the hole with the same material as above. Also add 50# gypsum, all of the table scraps you can find, and 50# of cow manure.

Don't plant more than you can use because you waste space in the garden as well as the refrigerator. If you are going to use containers, make every inch count and remember, there is nothing you can't grow in a container.

FEEDING:

When you are first preparing your garden in spring, add lime as you spade. Do not use fertilizer for two weeks after you have used lime. When you are tilling your garden to plant or filling your planter, add 2# of Epsom salts per 100-150 square feet of garden or ½ cup per bushel basket.



I alternate my vegetable garden diet starting with a mixture of:

Number One:

Mix ingredients into a 15-20-gallon hose-end sprayer.

1 can of beer

1 cup of ammonia

1 ounce of liquid dish soap

3 tablespoons instant tea

Number Two:

Also use the hose-end jar. To fill the jar, add water before spraying.

2 ounces liquid fish food

2 ounces whiskey

1 tablespoon instant tea

1 ounce liquid soap

Number Three:

Always feed in the morning, the earlier the better.

apply 15-30-15 water soluble

2 ounces liquid soap

apply through the hose-end sprayer

INSECT CONTROL:

If you want to make bugs and disease wish they never visited your garden, try this spray. Apply with a mist sprayer after 7 p.m.

into one quart of warm tea water add

5 drops liquid soap

5 drops chewing tobacco

2 drops Listerine mouthwash

¼ teaspoon methoxychlor



SMALL FRUIT

What we are talking about are berry bushes, vines, and berry patches, and my concern in this brief booklet of *Tips and Tricks* is merely a reference for you to have on hand in an emergency. If you will refer to my book **The Impatient Gardener**, published by Ballantine Books, you will have a more thorough understanding of the care and needs of the fruit and berry patch. Always remember, "Ignorance is not bliss."

PLANTING:

All plants, especially woody-caned fruit producing plants need and want great feeling and tasting soil (*for them not you*). Continue to add, year in and year out, all of the organic material you can find in your garden beds. Grass clippings, fresh and dry, mild leaves, table scraps, peat, sawdust, hair, shredded wool clothing, fine shredded newsprint, bone meal, and ashes. In the spring of each year, also add 1 pound of Epsom salts per 100 square feet of berry patch. When adding new plants, mix these ingredients into a bushel of peat moss and add to plant hole and top.

FEEDING:

Berry plants, like any other producing plant, cannot live on water alone, and 10# of limestone in the fall will put the juice in any berry. During the growing season, this mixture, applied from a 6 gallon hose-end sprayer every 3 weeks will keep those berries coming.

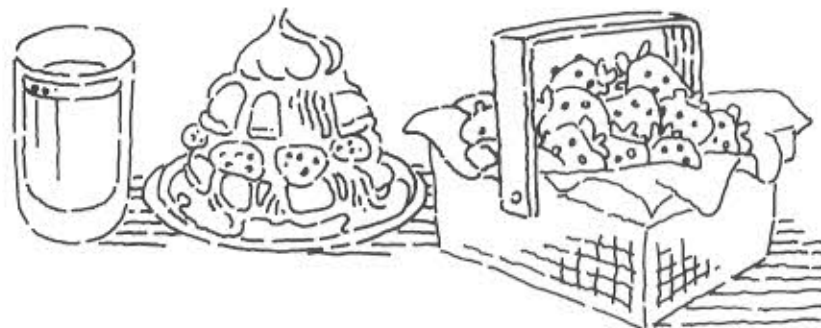
*1 part Epsom salts
3 parts bone meal
½ cup of corn meal
1 tablespoon of instant tea*

*1 ounce liquid fish fertilizer
1 can of beer
2 teaspoons of instant tea*



Dried blood in early spring, mixed with a soft sawdust, like pine or maple, give a slow feed and fast ripe. In between feeds add this tonic to 15 gallons of water, and apply from a hose-end sprayer.

*15-30-15 at ¼ teaspoon
per gallon
1 ounce bourbon
1 ounce liquid soap*



PRUNING:

I am a firm believer of sterilizing wounds and sealing them off. Always seal fresh cuts, with either lipstick or latex paint.

*Into a quart of water add:
6 drops of Listerine mouthwash
6 drops of liquid soap
6 drops of ammonia
¼ teaspoon of instant tea*

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL:

You cannot allow either bugs or sickness to enter the berry patch. For **ants, snails, and slugs** apply this mixture to soil beneath liberally.

Spray the upper foliage with this tonic. Mix with 10 gallons of water and apply with hose-end sprayer. If your disease continues, use any multi (*combination*) fruit and vegetable spray like Bonide.

*5 parts bone meal
5 parts sharp sand
5 parts diatomaceous earth
1 cup liquid soap
1 cup tobacco juice
Liquid Sevin—as recommended
Captan—as recommended*



HOUSE PLANTS

House plants are the most taken for granted class of plant citizens in the entire plant kingdom. Well, trees don't fare much better!

Did you know that the more house plants you have in your home or work place, the better you will be, both physically and mentally? In addition, the larger the plant collection in your home, the better your respiratory system, complexion and hair will be. Your furniture, wall coverings and tapestries will last longer too, and your sex life might even improve! Now, if that doesn't convince you to take care of your plants and add to them, nothing I say or demonstrate for you will. These few brief house plant tips and tricks will help you and your plants become better friends. For complete information, refer to my current book **Happy, Healthy House Plants**, published by Ballantine Books.

CONTAINERS:

I prefer that all house plants grow in clay pots and then are inserted in decorative plastic, glass, metal, ceramic, or wood containers to match your decor.



Both old and new clay pots should be washed in your dishwasher or in this solution.

All decorative containers that can be, should be washed in your dishwasher at least once a month. Wash others in the above solution.

- ½ ounce bleach
- 1 tablespoon instant tea
- 1 ounce liquid soap
- ½ ounce Listerine mouthwash
- ½ ounce hydrogen peroxide

SOIL:

There are several different soil formulas and mixtures in both of my books: **Happy, Healthy House Plants** and **The Impatient Gardener**. However, for a general purpose formula, mix the following ingredients.

- ½ hyponex professional mix*
- ½ hyponex potting soil*
- ¼ cup Epsom salts
- ¼ cup bone meal
- 1 teaspoon instant tea
- *per quart of soil, blend

PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING:

If you're not a professional, I prefer you do either job after 7 p.m. Use the formula in the above paragraph unless you are specialty planting, then refer to **Happy, Healthy Houseplants**.



- Plant & Transplant Food**
- 1 quart warm water
- 10 drops tea
- 1 drop liquid fish fertilizer
- 5 drops ammonia
- 5 drops whiskey
- 5 drops liquid soap
- 4 drops hydrogen peroxide
- 1 drop estrogen water
(1 estrogen pill dissolved in a quart of water—
DO NOT USE ON FOOD PLANTS!)

FEEDING:

What a confusing and misunderstood chore for most of you. First, you feed every time you water. That's what I said, every time. Always feed before 12 o'clock noon, never at night. Plants only ingest and digest during daylight hours.

Always label your mixes. Add a ½ cup per quart of water and feed transplants individually after transplanting.





HOUSE PLANTS

GENERAL FOLIAGE HOUSE PLANT FOOD

1 gallon warm water
 4 teaspoons instant tea
 1 tablespoon ammonia
 1 tablespoon Epsom salts
 1 tablespoon baking powder
 1 tablespoon potassium nitrate (Salt Peter)
(If you can, get the above, if not, forget it.)
 1 tablespoon hydrogen peroxide
 1 vitamin tablet with iron
 1 ounce bourbon
 5 drops yellow food color
 Label it!

NATURAL PLANT FOOD

1 gallon warm water
 5 drops liquid fish fertilizer
 4 teaspoons of instant tea
 1/2 teaspoon of liquid soap
 Label it!

BALANCED CHEMICAL PLANT FOOD

1 gallon warm water
 4 teaspoons of instant tea
 1/10 teaspoon of 15-30-15
 1/2 teaspoon of ammonia
 1/2 teaspoon of liquid soap
 Label it!

A. For **flowering house plants** use vodka instead of bourbon.

B. For **vegetables** use a 1/2 can of beer in place of bourbon.

C. For **roses, perennials, bulbs, and annuals** use 1 ounce of dry red wine as well as the bourbon.

One cup of any of the above is added to each gallon of water needed to feed your plants. This plant food is not a substitute for other regular feedings.

Use at full strength, do the same with Natural, Alternate General, Natural, and Balanced Plant Food.



LIGHT:

Nothing but nothing beats natural sunlight. However, you can and should use a 60 watt GE or Westinghouse grow light. Use the ones that look like a regular light bulb, in any and all lamps and overhead light fixtures when plant health is a concern.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL:

At the first sign of bug action, mix up the following recipe. Cover plants to be sprayed with a brown craft grocery bag. Tear a small door on the side at the top and spray into bag. Leave covered one hour.

1 quart of warm water
 5 drops of liquid soap
 5 drops of ammonia
 1 drop of Listerine mouthwash
 add methoxychlor (Marlate)
 as recommended

HUMIDITY:

Buy a humidifier for your own health and comfort. The humidity in your home should be over 50%. In the meantime, mist spray the foliage twice a day with a weak solution of tea.

Foliage Humidity Spray
 1 quart of warm water
 1/2 teaspoon of instant tea
 5 drops of liquid soap
 5 drops of ammonia
 1 drop of Listerine mouthwash

I highly suggest that you cover the top 1/2 inch of your house plant pots with plant charcoal for the looks, health, and odor of the plant and pot.

Name all of your plants and say "Hi!" for me.



INSECT & Disease Control

When it comes to recommending insect and disease controls, it seems that no matter which way you go (*natural, organic, or chemical*) you step on someone's toes. Since this booklet is a chronicle of my methods, I guess I can't worry too much about my critics.

NATURAL METHOD

Fels Naptha

Any liquid dish soap

Safers Insecticidal soaps

(any soap or insect soaps are my first choice)

CHEWING TOBACCO

Make into a juice. (I use these in the mixes, even when chemical sprays are used.)

Leaf

Plug

Snuff (in pouches)

*Brown non-sweet
(5 drops per quart)*

*Green sweet for
aggravating Nematodes
(1 ounce per gallon
or 1 cup per 10/15 gallons)*

bone meal

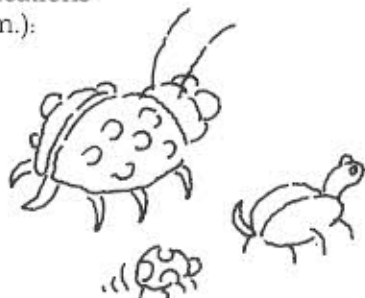
blood dry

sharp sand

ash

diatomaceous earth

For dry soil applications
(apply after 7 p.m.):



OTHER NATURAL SPRAYS (apply before noon):

- buttermilk* mites & aphids
- skim milk* tomato blight
- sugar* nematodes
- sweet pepper juice* blights on many vine crops
- onion juice* aphids
- garlic juice* aphids, borer eggs
- tobacco* deer and animal repellent
- tobacco juice* many garden insects
- tomato foliage (juice)* earworm, maggots
- unmolested weeds (juice)* repel the insects that are eating the plants growing around



CHEMICAL SPRAYS

(apply after 7 p.m.)

Rotenone

Sevin

Nicotine

Pyrethrum

BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS

Bacillus Thuringcensis caterpillars

Bacillus Poppillae Japanese beetles

Grubs (known as milky spore disease)

FUNGICIDES (ORGANIC)

(Apply after 7 p.m.)

Maneb

Captan

Zineb

INSECT & DISEASE CONTROL

The use of insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides are controversial to say the least! In their defense, however, they were the greatest discovery in this century and have saved millions upon millions of lives. Their being blamed for the demise of our environment would be like blaming the apple for our expulsion from the Garden of Eden, when in fact it was the same pear (*pair*) underneath who violated the instructions.

Use all of the natural formulas first, if they fail, use plant medications as recommended, in both time and strength, and all will be safe.

LIQUID MEASURES

1 ounce	.....	28.3 grams
3 teaspoons	.....	1 tablespoon
2 tablespoons	.....	1 fluid ounce
8 fluid ounces	.....	1 cup
2 cups	.....	1 pint
2 pints	.....	1 quart
4 quarts	.....	1 gallon
100 gallons per acre	2½ gallons per 100 sq. ft.

TURF MEASUREMENT

1 acre	43,560 sq. ft.
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NOTES