



March 2010 Prevention

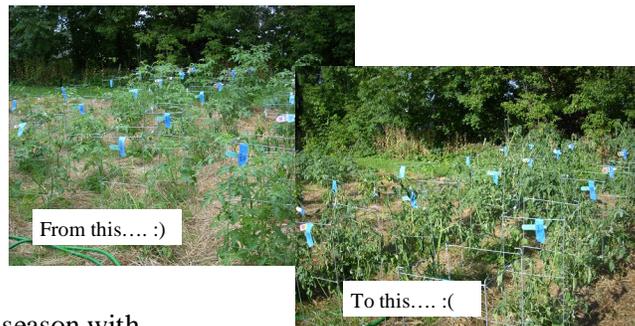


Black Walnuts & Tomato Blight Will Not Win This Year!

As hard as it is to believe even I had gardening issues last year. Black Walnuts killed 24 of my heirloom tomatoes in my test garden. I was so excited to receive a large piece of land behind my shop free of charge that I didn't look up to see what was growing around it. That's not going to happen this year, one problem solved! Never, Never, Never use hay as a mulch (even if it is free). It has too many weed seeds in it and it just starts growing, I knew this too, but it was free! Second problem taken care of. Now, let's see what's next. Oh, the lovely late blight on my tomatoes. I promised myself I'm going to protect them better this year. I almost made it though the season without it. I stopped caring for them (to many

mosquitoes in my yard) and I had already canned 20 jars of salsa. I'm going to fix that too! Then there's the Japanese Beetles. They hatched out later and stayed longer. My mission this year is clear. Pay more attention to my vegetable and flower garden. In this newsletter I will tell you how I plan on achieving this goal.

Patty



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Tip from OG:

Protect your onion seedlings from fungal disease by presoaking the seeds, sets, or roots in compost tea before planting.

If you don't make your own, we do carry compost tea....

Have Black Walnuts? Try Raised Beds

Love homegrown tomatoes? Can't grow them because of your Black Walnuts? Yes you can.... with raised beds! Raised beds do have many advantages. One would be that it brings your garden closer to you. No bending, kneeling. No more aching back! A raised bed can be a size just right for your needs. Place it in an area where you want it as long as it will have 5-6 hours of sun. You will know

exactly what you're putting in it as far as a soil goes. Use a good quality organic soil and compost mix in it. With an excellent soil base your plants will be healthier and happier right from the beginning. Raised beds can also extend your gardening season. They tend to warm up a little sooner in the spring and be more productive later in the fall. Continue on to building a raised bed.

Building A Raised Bed

Before constructing a raised bed, think about the area you want to put it in. Make sure you have at least 5-6 hours of sun. Construct the frame with a nontoxic building material, such as stone, cinder blocks, bricks, untreated wood, cedar is a good choice. Make sure the frame is at least 12 and 16 inches high and is sturdy enough to hold together when filled with soil. If you use boards, they must be secured at the corners with metal braces or

screws, or nailed to a reinforcing block of wood inside the corners (if you nail into the ends of boards, they may split). Fill the frame with a good-quality organic soil mix and add a generous amount of compost. Avoid using soil straight from the garden. It usually is too heavy and



doesn't allow for proper drainage. A well-constructed raised bed should last for years and soil fertility can be maintained by adding organic matter every year as needed. Raised beds have been used for centuries and with good reason – they're better for many plants and they're easier on gardeners.

Sources: Penn State, Agricultural Information Services

Picture provided by: chiotsrun.com (Wonderful Organic Garden Blog Site)

" Feed The Soil & The Soil Will Feed Your Plants"

Patty's Products will do just that!

Happy Frog Soil Conditioner gets your plants off to a good start and keep them healthy.

It is hand-blended in small batches,

Happy Frog Soil Conditioner con-

tains forest humus, bat guano, and earthworm castings. For an added boost to plant development, it also contains beneficial microbes and humic acid, both of which strengthen roots while aiding nutrient absorption. You can work it in your soil and **use it as a fine conditioning mulch.**

Comes in three cubic feet bales for \$21.99

FoxFarm's Multi-Purpose Planting Mix is a concentrated



blend of organic peat, composted forest humus, earthworm castings, Norwegian kelp meal and bat guano: nature's finest soil amendments. The best medium for lush flower and vegetable gardens, pH-balanced Planting Mix is ready to use right from the bag.

16.99 -1 cu

Black Gold Garden Compost

can be used to amend soil in containers as well as outdoor gardens. Listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), Black Gold Garden Compost contains Canadian



Sphagnum peat moss, compost and forest humus. This mix improves soil texture and moisture retention, encourages beneficial microorganisms and contributes important micronutrients. \$10.99-1 cu

Coming New this Spring

Organic Mechanics Blend

Potting Soil

OMRI listed.

Contains compost, pine bark, coir, worm castings, and perlite.

Ideal for growing veggies in containers, adding to raised beds, seed starting, transplanting, and indoor plants.

Compost-based mix retains moisture: cut your watering needs in half. Contains more worm castings and compost than the Container Blend.

16.99-1 cu



Black Walnut Tolerant Vegetables

The vegetables that I list here are tolerant of black walnut trees. I will plant them in my experimental garden to see how they do. I did grow potatoes, onions, peppers, pumpkins and squash in the same garden as my tomatoes but I believe they were that much farther away that they did pretty well.

Tolerant Veggies

Corn, lima and snap beans, onions, beets, melons, pumpkins, squash and carrots are tolerant of juglone and can be planted closer to walnut trees provided the area receives sufficient sunlight.

Walnut trees that are 75 to 100

feet from the garden shouldn't be a big threat to tomatoes and other juglone-sensitive vegetables.



Keeping the Weeds Out

Controlling Weeds

What is a weed? It's just a plant growing where it is not wanted. Dandelions can be good or bad. If you use the young leaves in salads or make dandelion wine it is a good thing. If you just don't like them, well I guess they are bad. There are a number of different methods that organic gardeners can choose. The one I like the best is mulching. I don't have time to keep weeding. You can use straw, dried grass clipping (untreated), fine shredded cedar bark, compost or even newspapers.

I will use this product in part of my garden this year:

Weed Guard Plus, the natural choice. It's an excellent weed preventer giving your vegetables and flowers an earlier, healthier start. Weed Guard Plus is a porous and 100% opaque cellulose fiber paper weed barrier product designed to help you in your gardening. Weed Guard Plus will provide



you with a more enjoyable and successful gardening experience. Who wants to spend all their time weeding? Unlike plastic weed barriers it is made

from eco effective renewable resources.

Mulch protects the plants from drying out on hot days. It helps to keep your plants clean from muddy splash-ups during watering or rainy days. Mulch can protect plants from any soil-borne diseases that could also splash up on the leaves. Mulch helps prevent soil compaction by providing a cushion to walk on. Walking on bare soil will compact it reducing its aeration and ability to drain well. Mulch enriches the soil as it breaks down and releases nutrients back into the ground. Decomposed mulch will encourage microbial organisms which are beneficial to healthy plants. It also makes things look tidier.

I also plan on using this product!

Corn Gluten Meal is a powder created as a by-product during a milling process of corn. It is used in farm animal feed, dog foods and fish food. It contains 60% protein and 10% nitrogen. Corn Gluten is also used as a pre-emergent weed control. The nitrogen in it provides a small amount of fertilizer which helps to green up the lawn. It must be applied before the weed seeds germinate to work. It only prevents seeds from germinating so it does not work on perennial weeds that return from their root system. You

can not use it in the garden unless your vegetable or flower seeds have already sprouted. You can spread corn gluten on your lawn 4-6 weeks before weeds sprout so that means very early spring. You can also reapply it again later in the season to prevent any late season weeds from germinating.



Boiling Water Use boiling water to control weeds. It will kill any plant growth it touches. It is great for killing annual weed and can control perennial weeds. It is a popular non-toxic way to kill weeds growing in cracks and in driveways. Just simply boil in a tea pot pour on weeds. Please be careful not to burn yourself.

Hand Pulling & Hoeing is the most common and time consuming if you haven't used any mulch.

I still hand weed a few areas but it doesn't take as long and can actually be relaxing for me with the hummingbirds, butterflies and bees all around me to watch.

www.pattysplants.com

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Garden Supply**

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at : www.pattysplants.com



Patty's
Plants

Visit: www.pattysplants.com for these archived newsletters:

June 08 Growing Healthy Vegetables
May 09 An Entire Newsletter on Japanese Beetles
June 09 Gardening Folklore and More

Japanese Beetle Controls

Milky Spore Powder

With the active ingredient *Bacillus popilliae*, Milky Spore Powder is a natural treatment that kills Japanese Beetles in the larval (grub) stage. Once grubs ingest Milky Spore, they die within 7 to 21 days and the *Bacillus popilliae* spores continue to reproduce and spread naturally to control larvae in the area for up to 20 years. It does take a couple of years for the spore to spread. A ten-ounce canister treats 2500



square feet and can be used any time the ground is not frozen. Because Japanese beetle grubs are a preferred food source for moles, Milky Spore is also an effective method of mole control. It can be put right in the vegetable garden.

Veggie Pharm- I have used this product and it really does kill the beetle on contact. However the beetle will keep coming from other areas while they are still mating and eating. Veggie Pharm is an effective and essential part of an environmentally-conscious gardener's pest control arsenal!

Made with a mix of natural ingredients like cottonseed oil, garlic and peppermint, Veggie Pharm protects fruit and vegetables from powdery mildew, fungus and garden insects like adult Japanese beetles, thrips, aphids, spider mites, whiteflies and scales, but won't hurt the environment or food.



I have also hand picked them dropping them into a bucket of soapy water. I must wear gloves though, just can't touch the little critters yet!

Serenade Garden Disease Control Controls Tomato Late & Early Blight, Powdery Mildew, Rust, Leaf Spots and More.

Serenade is a naturally occurring microorganism that preys on disease-causing bacteria. You can spray OMRI-Listed Serenade Garden Disease Control on any part of a diseased plant without worrying about deleterious effects on fruit and foliage or putting harsh chemicals into the environment.



I will definitely use Serenade again this year as soon as I my tomato and squash plants start to grow.