

# The Garden Patch

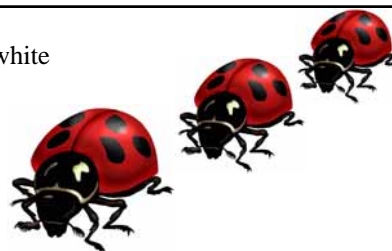
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Salt Lake Master Gardener Association

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## Ladybug Lure

By Kathy Lillywhite



**Aphids munching your rose buds?** Of all the insects in the garden, the ladybug is the friendliest. They not only feed on insect pests, mealybugs, spider mites, and especially aphids, but they add a bit of cheer with their bright coloring to the garden as well! I was excited to bring a container of 300+ home from the garden shop and determined that I would do everything I could to get them to stay because I certainly had enough aphids for their Thanksgiving Feast. These are the tips I was given to ensure that they stay where I wanted them:

1. Only release ladybugs after sundown or before sunup. Ladybugs navigate by the sun, and in the evenings and early mornings they eat.
2. Pre-water the area where you are releasing them. Not only will the ladybugs appreciate the drink, free-moisture on the leaves helps the ladybugs to "stick" to plants.
3. When the weather is warm, chill the ladybugs in the fridge before releasing them. Ladybugs tend to crawl more than fly in colder temperatures and the overnight stay in the fridge won't harm them.
4. On severely infested plants like roses, drape a floating row cover or thin sheet over the plant and release the ladybugs underneath. Within a day, the ladybugs will have found the aphids and will be happily lunching away.

Because ladybugs can eat 5,000 aphids in its lifetime and because within a year there can be as many as five or six generations of ladybugs, I am anxious to establish a nice ladybug population. Both the larvae and adults feed on many different soft-bodied insects. In the fall, adults hibernate in plant refuse and crevices. They often gather en masse at the base of a tree or under a rock. Be careful not to squish the yellow eggs or the larvae (they look like six-legged, blue-black alligators that eat voraciously for 2-3 weeks before becoming adults).

Ladybugs also require a source of pollen for food and are attracted to umbels, the flowers that look like umbrellas such as yarrow, dill, fennel, bee balm, and such. Other flowers that attract them are cosmos, coreopsis, and scented geraniums. Besides planting attractive plants in the garden, you can promote ladybug populations by cutting back on insecticides. Insecticides not only harm the beneficial ladybugs, but you take away their food source by killing the aphids and other pests.

Attracting ladybugs into the garden requires some planning. If you don't have room to plant the types of plants that ladybugs like, buying commercially grown ladybugs can help with your pest control if you follow the above steps to keep them from flying off to the neighbors. However you go about establishing a ladybug colony is up to you. The benefits will be worth the efforts when it comes to help with pest control.

\* I was told at a Garden Center to release the bugs on the west side of the property, as they tend to migrate to the east. Editor

## FERTILIZING DRIP IRRIGATED GARDENS USING A FERTILIZER INJECTOR

By Sherm Fox

This set of instructions explains methods to apply 50 pounds of nitrogen plus phosphate and potash per acre as pre-plant application plus 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre during the growing season. These amounts will grow a good crop of vegetables.

1. Apply dry general purpose fertilizer pre-plant or side-dressed along with planting or transplanting. For 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre apply:

1 1/2 cups of 16-16-8 per 100 square feet of garden, or

2 1/4 cups of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet of garden

or through your fertilizer injector:

1 1/4 cups of completely soluble 20-20-20 per 100 square feet of garden (This type of fertilizer is made by Miracle Grow, Peters Professional, or Western Gardens and is more costly than the non-soluble dry formulations)

2. Apply the following amounts of soluble fertilizer through your fertilizer injector during the growing season to apply 12 1/2 pounds of nitrogen per acre per application:

June 15 - 1/4 cup ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 100 square feet of garden

July 1 - 1/4 cup ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 100 square feet of garden

July 15 - 1/4 cup ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 100 square feet of garden

Aug. 1 - 1/4 cup ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) per 100 square feet of garden

Note: FOR BEST RESULTS:

1. Put the soluble fertilizer into the injector container halfway through the irrigation.

2. Leave the fertilizer injector in the system during the next irrigation after fertilizer is injected. There may still be fertilizer in the container.

3. Before adding fertilizer to the injector, check the container for inert grains. Dump out any you find.

4. Support the fertilizer injector in an upright position during the irrigation.

5. Do not attempt to inject any fertilizer that you have not tested and found to be completely soluble.

6. Empty or remove the fertilizer injector during freezing weather to avoid bursting.

7. These instructions work with the "Miracle Grow" No Clog 4-in-1 or Garden Feeder.

8. A good source of economical bulk fertilizer is Steve Regan Farm Supply at about 4200 South on 500 West. Tell them you are a Master Gardener and you may get a discount.

## From the Past: An Article Reprinted from a 1995 issue of The Garden Patch

Cooking with flowers brings bright color and aroma from the garden to your table. With the vast choice of delectable delicacies we have to choose from, it is easy to overlook such obvious wholesome ingredients as flowers. They appeal both to the eye and the taste buds. Edible blossoms are a fresh cooking ingredient found just a short walk down a country lane or garden path.

Always use clean organically grown flowers and only ones you are certain are edible. If you are unsure about a flower or part of a flower, don't use it!

**GOOD:** There are edible blooms nearly all year; here are just a few found in spring and summer - carnation, chrysanthemum, hibiscus, red clover, scented geranium, tulip, lavender, rose, apple, chervil, English daisy, Ox-eye daisy, daylily, calendula, elderberry, lilac, nasturtium, orange, garden pea, plum, rosemary, sage, squash, violets Johnny-jump-up, pansy, grape hyacinth, and honeysuckle.

**BAD:** Some flowers, however delicious looking, are toxic. Garden flowers such as African marigold, American cowslip, American daisy, anemone, azalea, buttercup, horse chestnut, calla lily, Christmas rose, cyclamen, daffodil, foxglove, hyacinth, hydrangea, iris, lily of the valley, lobelia, lupine, Marsh marigold, morning glory, poppy, potato, rhododendron, snowdrop, and wisteria are all poisonous and should be avoided. (Text from *Cooking with Edible Flowers* by Yvonne Cuthbertson. Author of Article: Gerri Blair)

The frost of early June has given way to the heat, or "dog days" of summer. What a great change! Now plants are burning up from the heat instead of turning black from the frost.

My cucumbers have really rebounded. Now they want to take over the garden! The frost delayed my first cucumber harvest for almost a month. Now I may have trouble keeping up the production.

My tomatoes are really producing well. I only have a few varieties that have not had ripe tomatoes on them. This is the latter end of July, and a lot of gardeners are having problems getting tomatoes to set fruit. Those days of over 100 degree temperatures really caused blossom drop.

I picked my beans Saturday and after filling two five-gallon buckets, I finally ran out of rows to pick. I added another drip tube down the center of my beds, which has taken away a lot of the problem I was having in other years. I was able to freeze six gallon bags of beans plus have plenty to eat fresh.

\*The June drop on my apple trees was not enough to thin them properly. I spent some time thinning and ended up with two five gallon buckets to put in the compost area. In looking at the trees, I see that I may not have thinned them enough.

\*Like most of you, I have a lawn with dry spots in several areas. The sprinkler system installed fifteen years ago with good water pressure is not doing the

## Golden's Garden

By Wm. Golden Reeves

same job because of all the building that has taken place in the city. The daylilies have shown a lot of stress from the heat. With moderating weather conditions and increased humidity, they are looking better.

My second crop of corn is well on its way. The first crop was frozen, so I hope to get some production from the second crop. The garlic has finished growing, and the tops have fallen over. I need to harvest it and start the drying process.

With my father-in-law passing away in June, I have not been taking care of my garden as well as I should. I have been taking care of his lot for the last ten years, and now it needs a good cleaning and trimming to get it in shape. There are old bushes that need to be taken out, and trees that need to be trimmed. In general, a good overhaul should take care of it. There is not a sprinkler system installed, so the old dragging hose method will continue for now.

\*My pea patch turned out to be a bust this year. With the damage the birds did to it early on and then the heat, I only picked a few to eat in the garden. Next year I will try something new. I want to cover the bed with Remay@ or bird netting to keep them out.

\*Summer is great when you have tomato sandwiches!!!!

## Grandma Brough's Chili Sauce



3 quarts peeled and chopped tomatoes	2 cups sugar
3 cups chopped celery	1/4 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped onion	1 1/2 tsp. pepper
1 cup chopped green peppers	1 1/2 tsp. mixed pickling spices
1/4 cup salt	1 cup white vinegar

Combine tomatoes, celery, onion, green pepper, and salt. Let stand overnight in refrigerator.

Drain in colander, but do not press vegetables. Place vegetable mixture in a large kettle. Add sugar, pepper, spices (tied in a cheese cloth bag), and vinegar.

Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes. Puree in blender. Ladle into jars and seal. Process in a boiling water bath for 15 minutes. Makes 5 1/2 pints.



## Gilgal Garden Tour a Huge Success

Beth Price, Project Manager

A huge round of applause goes out to all the Gilgal Master Gardeners who donated time, energy and/or their gardens to support the fundraising efforts for Gilgal Garden. The tour took place on Saturday, June 29, 2002 based out of Gilgal Garden and encompassing a dozen fantastic gardens in the area. Approximately 600 patrons paid for the privilege of participating and the Friends of Gilgal Garden (FOGG) cleared more than \$7000.00 to fund renovation.

All day at Gilgal Garden refreshments were served, guided tours were led, live music was performed, and our own Dave Kempff and David Quist manned a Master Gardener Diagnostic Table. The patrons were able to make their own schedules and tour up to 12 wonderful private gardens in the area, each manned by one of our own Master Gardeners. Special thanks to Don and Bev Sudbury for securing these splendid gardens for us and coordinating the Master Gardener assignments. Also thanks to the Sudburys for coordinating a complete tour for all the volunteers the Saturday prior to the fundraising event. Volunteers were able to see all the gardens that way, and not just the one they were assigned to on the big day. They also received their complementary garden hats.

Over and over again, I have heard members of FOGG express how NONE of this would have been possible without the work that the Master Gardeners have done in the garden over the last few months. By the time of the fundraiser, Master Gardeners had logged in over 600 hours of volunteer work in 3 short months to turn an overgrown garden into a thing of beauty that all were proud to show off to the public. Sterling Poulson from Channel Two even did a remote broadcast from Gilgal Garden the day before. He repeatedly commented, as did Ron Bird and Mary Nichols from the news desk, how tremendous a difference the Master Gardeners had made in this historic garden.

Everyone who participated in any way deserves to feel pleased and proud. As a Master Gardener and a member of FOGG, I say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for making this miracle happen! YOU DID IT!

We will be taking a small rest from our Tuesday weekly work parties at Gilgal Garden during the heat of the summer. Please come anytime you wish to keep up with the weeding. Traci Dahle and/or I will usually be there on Tuesdays at 4:00 PM. We hope to see you back in full force in the fall starting September 10th as we prepare the garden for winter and the next spring planting (which will be historically accurate, based on photos of the plantings). See you then!



### *July*

*The preying mantis plays hide and seek with me,*

*Emerging in the yarrow or black-eyed susans*

*As early morning sunshine reaches over the garage -- Re-treating into invisibility for the heat of day*

*Until the late afternoon glare recedes and*

*Early evening entices us both out onto the patio once again.*

*Catherine New*