



The Glenwild Gardener



Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2001

*"A garden is a lovesome
thing, God wot!
Rose plot,
Fringed pool,
Ferned grot—
The veriest school
Of peace; and yet the
fool
Contends that Got is
not—
Not God! In gardens!
When the eve is cool?"*

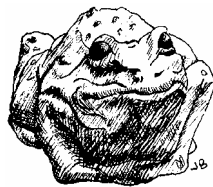
*Nay, but I have a sign;
'Tis very sure God walks
in mine."*

Thomas Edward Brown

*"...Childhood is a toad
in a garden,
A happy toad.
All toads are happy
and belong in gardens.
A toad to Diana!..."*

*William
Carlos Williams
Sour Grapes*

As I write this, I'm watching icicles form outside my window—and I'm supposed to be writing about spring! Isn't it amazing that it really comes every year? With another baby coming this summer, when will gardening be a part of my life again, I ask? I'll be learning how to be more efficient and less particular I hope. Discovering ways to make my gardening life easier, and sharing them with all of you. Any hints? One of these days I'll actually get our web site up and we'll have a place to exchange ideas. For now, come down and chat and see what's new for 2001!



Jedie MacKenzie Brooks

Perennial of the Year 2001

Calamagrostis xacutiflora 'Karl Foerster'

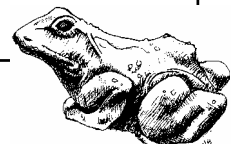
The graceful movement of this ornamental grass in the slightest breeze makes it a beautiful choice for any garden. However, the good attributes of Karl Foerster are so numerous that its no wonder the Perennial Plant Association awarded it the title of perennial of the year.

I absolutely love that it's low-maintenance. It grows in 18" clumps that never become invasive and is usually free of serious disease or insect problems. It only needs to be trimmed to about 6" once in the late winter or early spring, and fertilizing isn't really necessary, although you will get a taller plant with fertilizer.

It of course grows well in our zone (6), and has deep green, shiny foliage throughout its long season. It gets loose, fluffy flower heads in June that tighten up into seed heads later on. The foliage tuft grows to about 3' and the seed heads to about 5'. As with most grasses, it likes full sun to partial shade. It likes well-drained fertile soil and needs a decent amount of moisture, but it will tolerate more difficult areas like clay soil or dryness. We will probably have this plant in 1-3 gallon pots this year. Come and see!



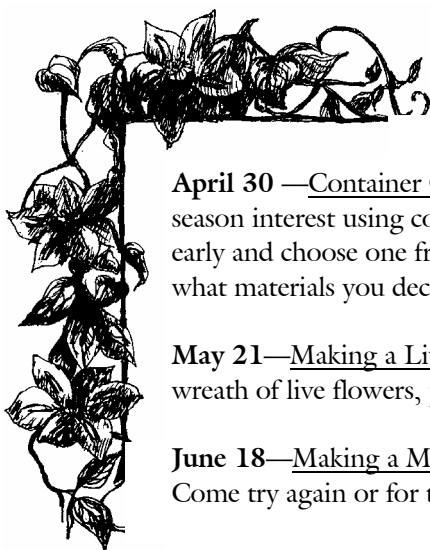
A very exciting note:
*This grass looks great in containers.
(Does well over-wintering in pots
too!) Try it mixed with annuals
and flowering perennials on your
deck or patio.*



New Products on the 'Definitely Try' list:

- **Dark Harbor Blend—Very Old Dark Bark Mulch**—Is an exceptionally rich, fine-textured blend of naturally composted 50 year old tree barks. It helps retain moisture without robbing your soil of nitrogen, so it's ideal for perennial & annual beds. It also is approved for growing organically certified crops by the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association. Its from the Coast of Maine, the company that makes Penobscot Blend, the wonderful organic compost/soil mix. You've got to see this stuff!
- **Etera Perennials**—Have you seen the ads for this perennial grower? The root systems are unbelievable. Its like getting a gallon plant in a quart pot. We'll have at the very least a nice selection of their Clematis.
- **Working Women's Gloves**—A new line of gloves made especially for women. A little more money, but WOW, what a glove.
- **The Pruning Stik**—by Fiskar's. Effortlessly prune practically anything. It's 62" long and is adjustable. Its really comfortable to handle too.

See the new beautiful hand-made candles from **Cosmi*Cass Creations**. Made by local artist DeAnna Clark. Gorgeous colors & scents!



Class Schedule 2001

April 30 —Container Gardening with Perennials. Learn how to combine perennials for multi-season interest using color, shape, texture and bloom-times as your guide. Bring a pot or come early and choose one from our selection. Demonstration is free, but total cost will depend on what materials you decide to use to make your container garden.

May 21—Making a Living Wreath. \$45. \$20 if you have your own form. Plant an English wreath of live flowers, plants and moss. We will have plenty of moss & plenty of room this year!

June 18—Making a Mosaic Stepping Stone. \$14. This very popular class will be repeated. Come try again or for the first time. Another night will be added if needed.

October 22—Birds in your Backyard. FREE. Learn about what to feed which birds and what plants benefit them all year long. Come share your experiences too!

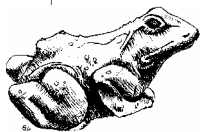
November 26— Making a Holiday Wreath. 16\$. Create a stunning wreath made from balsam, lemon leaves, berried juniper and fragrant cedar among other greens. Nicer than the catalogues!

All classes are held Monday evenings at 6 PM and usually last about an hour and a half.

Class sizes are limited, so call as early as possible to sign up.

You may pay when you arrive for the class, but please register ahead of time!

Get a 10% discount on any purchases the night of the class.





Organic Gardening, Bit By Bit

By Jodie

Meaning, that unless you're one of those people who really like to do things in an all-or-nothing, jump-in-feet-first kind of way, the method of converting to organic gardening is over time—little-by-little. My reason for suggesting this is that this is the way to make it stick. Kind of like dieting. Its just too hard to change habits over night. If you do, you're more likely to give up in frustration and go back to your bad ways.

Try a new thing each season. Give up pesticides for lent instead of chocolate. (Ooh, I *really* like that)! Maybe the way to start is to begin adjusting your expectations. By watching all the commercials, we're trained to think that we should have an emerald green, blemish free lawn. This year, try to relax about a few weeds poking through. Welcome them, learn about them—a bit of clover can be a beautiful thing. I am not saying that by going organic you must give up a vision of a smooth grassy lawn completely though. As a matter of fact, after a few years of organic treatments, your lawn (& everything else, of course), will be healthier, stronger, and more resistant to the stresses from weather, insects, disease, & use.

Learn about IPM (integrated pest management). It involves *only* applying chemicals when and if they are needed to manage disease, weeds, and insect problems. From there, I believe, the minimizing of chemical intervention leads naturally to increasing organic methods.

For a lot of people, composting is at the center of organic gardening. If this seems intimidating, take it slowly. Don't worry about kitchen scraps in the beginning. Start with fallen leaves and grass clippings. When you see how simple the process is, I'm sure you'll be hooked. When you see the gorgeous stuff you end up with, you won't want to contaminate it with anything unnatural. Organic Gardening magazine is a great resource to learn about composting, (check out their website at organicgardening.com).

Unless you're selling your produce as organic, don't worry about just easing into this lifestyle—just do it!



Even roses can be easily grown organically.

What To Do For Your Lawn In Spring

Start this process as early as you can get out there—best is in March. (Obviously this year will be a bit late)

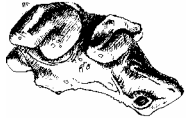
- Thatch (Raking the lawn free of old dead grass)
 - Lime
 - Fertilize
 - Overseed/ reseed
- Lime, fertilizer & seed can all be applied together.
- If you know weeds exist in your lawn, use a pre-emergent (such as Preen). Apply ideally the last week of April to the first week in May, although if you've put down seed, wait at least 6 weeks. Pre-emergents will only prevent new weeds from sprouting.
 - If you notice a Grub problem, apply grub-control late April to mid June. Organic grub control is applied at the same time.

Always water your lawn deeply & less frequently for a stronger root system.

The Organic Way

Thatch first, as always. Then spread a thin layer of compost over your lawn. Use just enough so that the rain will wash it in. If weeds are a problem, (and after a few years of composting, it should cease to be), sprinkle some corn gluten (organic weed preventer) by the beginning of May. Most organic gardeners live with a few weeds here and there—just part of the philosophy!

Open House Weekend is April 21st & 22nd. Look inside for a special coupon!



"In the spring,
 at the end of the day,
 you should
 smell like dirt."
 Margaret
 Atwood

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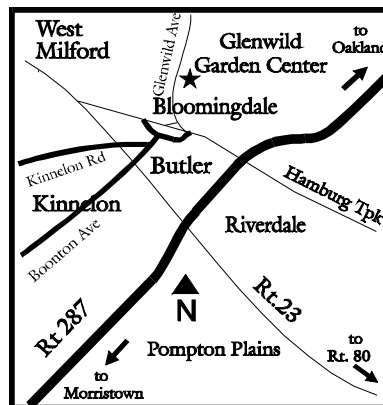


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