

Horticulture

1999 Perennial Plant of the Year

The garden corner

Is there a difference between flat and curled leafed parsley?

Flat-leafed parsley is called Italian parsley, and curled leaf parsley is sometimes called French parsley. Flat-leafed parsley tends to be more aromatic than the curled leaf. Curled leaf parsley is used more frequently as a garnish since it is more attractive than the flat-leafed kind. Parsley is a biennial that is grown as an annual because the leaves become bitter after the plant flowers. Parsley seed is slow to germinate. Some gardeners speed germination by soaking seeds in warm water for 24 hours prior to sowing. Parsley likes a well-drained, loamy soil and partial shade.

How do you grow onions from seed?

Gardeners can grow their own onion seedlings for transplanting by sowing seeds indoors around February 15. Seedlings can be as close as four to five per inch. Clip the tops when seedlings reach four inches to keep plants from falling over and becoming crooked. Set plants outdoors around May 1 after danger of heavy frost is past. Place plants three to four inches apart and leave no more than 18 to 24 inches between rows. Commercial growers commonly space onions at 12 inches between rows, which is great for limited space gardeners. (DJ)

Using garden catalogs

By now you have received your garden and flower catalogs from the different mail order companies. This would be a good time to go through the catalogs and choose what you are going to raise this year. As you are paging through, make special notes of new varieties you might try, days to maturity, size, adaptability to your location and other special characteristics of the variety to avoid surprises or disappointments later on.

If you have a small garden plot you may need to think about crop rotation. This is very important to the home gardener for several reasons, such as reduction in weed, insect and disease problems. These problems may increase if proper rotations are not followed in your garden program.

Check the catalogs for guarantees, special package deals, charts and information about disease tolerance and susceptibility. All of these things can help prevent disappointment as your garden matures. While you are making out your list, take an extra minute to check the tool and equipment pages. Are your tools in good condition and proper working order?

Keep a copy of your order and the catalog you ordered from. This will be a good reference for you to use during the growing season. Catalog shopping can save time as well as provide you with the latest garden information available. (MJM)

Rudbeckia fulgida var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' has been selected by the Perennial Plant Association as the 1999 Perennial Plant of the Year. A member of the Asteraceae (Compositae) family, orange coneflower or black-eyed Susan has a native range from New Jersey west to Illinois. 'Goldsturm' orange coneflower is significant in its compact habit and one to two inch golden-yellow petals which encircle a nearly black cone of disk flowers. The leaves are coarse, dark green lanceolate to ovate, three to six inches long; stem leaves are smaller, almost bract-like. The "gold storm" blankets the tops of 18 to 30 inch tall plants from mid-July to October. Plant width is 24 inches.

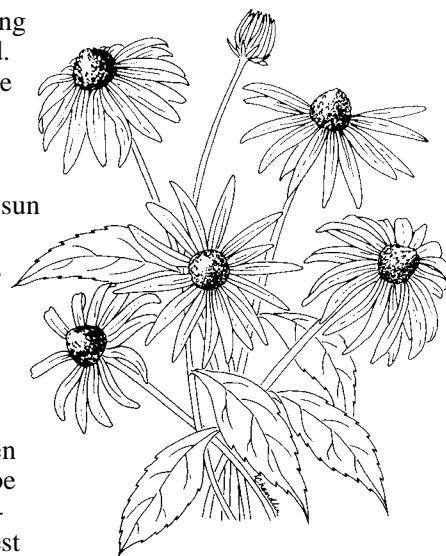
This excellent plant can be propagated by seed, division, or stem cuttings. Height and color uniformity can vary in plants grown from seed. Clump

division is done in early spring or fall, with spring preferred. Stem cuttings are taken as the stem tissue begins to harden.

'Goldsturm' is a long-blooming, low maintenance, long-lived perennial for full sun to partial shade. It tolerates clay soils and mild droughts, but grows best in well-drained, consistently moist soil. Plant bare-root or container-grown plants anytime during the growing season, 18 inches apart. When establishing a new planting be sure to mulch to retain moisture. 'Goldsturm' has few pest or disease problems.

Rudbeckia fulgida var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' works exceptionally well in landscapes because of

its durability and dramatic visual impact. Stiff stems eliminate any need for staking. As a mid-border perennial, 'Goldsturm' adds a brilliant



splash of late summer color. Abundant flowering, low maintenance requirements, and proven reliability has earned *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' distinction as an award-winning perennial. (MJM)

February/March Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Check houseplants for insects	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Do a germination test on saved seeds	11	12	13
14	15 Air layer leggy houseplants, like rubber plant	16	17 Cut flowering shrub branches for forcing	18 Check bird feeders	19	20
21	22 Order seeds	23	24	25	26 Prune fruit trees	27
28	1 Start perennial flower seeds indoors	2	3 Put up bird houses	4 Prune grape vines	5	6
7	8 Start a garden journal	9 Prune deciduous trees	10 Prune deciduous, non-spring flowering shrubs	11	12 Make a garden plan	13
14	15	16	17 Service Lawn mower & garden equipment	18	19	20
21	22 Start seeds indoors for transplants	23	24	25 Watch for spring bulb growth	26	27
28	29	30 Inventory garden tools and supplies	31 Turn compost pile			

Many of us need reminders. That is the purpose of this calendar. Check the calendar each month and follow the recommendations if they are necessary in your landscape situation. (MJM)

A spoonful a day keeps the mole away

Forget chewing gum, marigolds, electronic gadgets and other alleged remedies for mole problems. A newly registered mole repellent is now on the market that research has shown to be safe, reliable and easy to use.

It's called Mole-Med and the active ingredient is castor oil. It's been known for a long time that planting castor bean plants around your garden would discourage shallow tunneling into the garden during the growing season. This product takes the next logical step: it puts castor oil into the soil

where the moles tunnel and feed.

Whether it's the odor of the stuff or the bad taste it gives the grubs and other soil invertebrates that the moles feed on or something else about it that repels the animals is unclear. But it will repel eastern moles from treated to untreated areas after one or at most two applications according to label directions. It may not be effective against star-nosed moles, which tunnel deeper than eastern moles. Burrowing by eastern moles creates the familiar meandering ridges in home lawns and gardens; star-nosed moles

occasionally push up volcano-shaped mounds of soil like a pocket gopher.

Mole-Med can be applied anytime the ground is not frozen. Effectiveness may range from 30 to 75 days or longer, depending on soil type, precipitation, the size of the mole population and the amount of food available.

Mole-Med will work under the snow if the ground isn't frozen or if the ice layer is thin and moles are active near the surface. (DJ)

Horticulture information center

—24 hours a day—
Check it out!

The Lancaster County Horticulture Web Page

<http://www.ianr.unl.edu/ianr/lanco/hort/>
New feature: Youth Garden Page



NUFACTS

NUFACTS offers fast, convenient information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the Lincoln area call 441-7188; for the rest of Nebraska call 1-800-832-5441. When directed, enter the 3-digit number of the message you wish to hear. (MJM)

- 117 Tree Snow Damage
- 124 Wood for Fireplace
- 137 Deicing Salt Injury
- 214 Houseplant Insects
- 217 Boston Fern
- 218 African Violet Care
- 222 Winter Houseplant Care