



## Horticulture

### Walnut Caterpillar

Walnut caterpillar is primarily found on black walnut but can be found on pecan and hickory.

They overwinter as pupae in ground beneath host trees. In late spring, moths emerge and deposit egg masses on lower leaf surfaces. By the end of June,



Walnut caterpillar

newly emerged and gregarious larvae feed on leaves. Larger, hairy larvae consume greater amounts of leaf tissues and nearly matured gray colored larvae devour entire leaves

including petioles.

When disturbed, larvae will arch both ends of their bodies in what looks like a defensive move. Larvae will crowd together on the lower parts of trees to molt and leave an ugly patch of hairy cast skins. Mature larvae, which are two inches in length, descend or drop to the ground where they enter the soil to pupate. A second generation occurs soon thereafter giving rise to the overwintering pupae.

Bands of tree tanglefoot could be used to ensnare larvae as they migrate to main branches or the tree trunk to molt. Chemical controls may provide the most practical means of control. Products like Dipel, Sevin or Eight would be effective chemical controls. (MJF)

### Basil for Your Garden

Basil is one of the most popular herbs grown in the world. It is native to Asia and can be found growing wild in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Basil has many uses, the most common of which is its culinary use. As a fresh herb, it is used to flavor foods such as vegetables, poultry, and fish. Basil can also be used dried. The flowers of basil are also edible and can be an attractive addition to salads and other dishes. Besides its edibility, basil is an aromatic herb and is often used in potpourri and sachets. As an ornamental in the flower garden, basil has attractive foliage and flowers.

Basil is a tender perennial grown as an annual. It can be grown easily from seed. Start seed indoors four or five weeks before the last frost date. It likes warm temperatures (about 75° F) for germination. Seed can also be sown directly in the ground outdoors after it has warmed in the spring. Plant basil outdoors after all danger of frost is past. Basil does not tolerate cold temperatures. Plant in full sun. Water regularly with an inch of water a week. Basil can be propagated vegetatively through tip cuttings. Root cuttings in moist potting soil.

To harvest, remove terminal growth whenever four sets of true leaves can be left on the plant. This encourages bushier growth and increased yield. For

best foliage flavor, cut before flowering. After cutting, wash and pat leaves dry. Use immediately or store in perforated plastic bags in the refrigerator. When drying the leaves, harvest early in the day but after dew has dried. Spread leaves on screens or loosely bundle and air dry.

Basil is a member of the mint family which is characterized by square stems. They belong in the genus *Ocimum*. Over 150 different species and varieties are available. These are some of the more common types of basil.

#### SWEET BASIL

Most common type grown. White flowers. Bright green leaves, 2 to 3 inches long. Upright habit. Clove like scent.

#### PURPLE BASIL

Grown for its ornamental foliage as well as culinary use. Light lavender flowers. Same size leaf as sweet basil. 'Opal,' 'Red Rubin' and 'Purple Ruffles' are excellent selections.

#### LETTUCE LEAF BASIL

Large, wide leaves. Flavor is less pronounced than other green basil. Common varieties include 'Mammoth' and 'Green Ruffles.'

#### LEMON BASIL

Lemon scent. White flowers and small green leaves. Great for tea and potpourri.

#### CINNAMON BASIL

Cinnamon scent. Pink flowers, green leaves with purple stem. (MJF)



### 2002 All-America Rose Selections

These All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winners were evaluated for 15 traits including disease resistance, hardiness, color and novelty in gardens across the United States for two years. Only truly exceptional roses are awarded AARS honors. The two winners for 2002 were judged to be the best overall.

#### Love & Peace

This rose will mesmerize garden enthusiasts with its fruity scent and looks. The high center, spiral formed blooms of Love & Peace open to reveal five inch, breath taking flowers of golden yellow edged with pink. Each flower has a minimum petal count of 40, surrounded by dark green glossy foliage.

This classic upright,



Love & Peace



Starry Night

disease resistant, hybrid tea grows to 4 to 5 feet by 3 feet. Love & Peace is perfect for framing a formal rose garden or

creating a striking feature within a landscape. Bring a cut flower indoors to sweeten any room.

#### Starry Night

Taking top honors with its large clusters of pure white flowers, Starry Night, a landscape shrub, has you seeing stars all day and into the night. The medium green, glossy foliage enhances the five petal flower, which is 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

Growing 3 feet by 3 feet in cool climates, this spreading disease-resistant landscape shrub is perfect for large plantings, borders and ground cover. Its pure white sparkling flowers, which resemble a dogwood flower, provide you with a constellation of blooms throughout the season. (MJF)

### Annual Vines in the Landscape

Annual flowering vines are useful for many locations around the home landscape. They add new interest to the yard area when grown on a fence, lattice, arbor or trellis. Annual vines climb by twining around a support or by clinging with tendrils. They grow rapidly to

form an attractive mass of foliage and flowers.

**Morning glory** is one of the most colorful vines you can plant. Brilliant flowers are available in white and shades of blue, pink, purple and red. The flowers are four inches across and are borne freely on vines

which may grow to a height of 12 to 15 feet tall. Morning glories grow best on a well drained soil in a warm sunny location.

**Trailing nasturtiums** grow four or five feet tall. They bloom profusely and produce fragrant

see ANNUAL VINES on page 11

### 2002 May/June Garden Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Check pines for sawfly	2 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	3	4
5	6 Control billbugs in bluegrass	7 Put out rain gauge	8 Apply fungicide to pines for needle blight	9 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	10 Average date of last frost	11
12	13 Plant wildflower seeds	14	15 Plant gladiolus bulbs	16 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	17 Plant cannas	18 Plant buffalograss
19	20	21	22 Plant warm season transplants	23 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	24	25
26	27	28	29 Fertilize zoysiagrass	30 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	31	1
2	3 Plug Zoysiagrass	4	5 Watch for cabbage worms	6 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	7 Power rake zoysiagrass	8
9	10 Control apple maggot	11	12 Apply fungicide to pines for needle blight	13 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	14	15 Check bluegrass for sod web worm
16	17 Control bagworms	18 Prune spring flowering shrubs	19 Watch for bean leaf beetle	20 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	21 Take softwood cuttings	22
23 30	24 Watch for squash vine borer	25	26 Check roses for black spot	27 Backyard Farmer 7 p.m. NETV	28	29

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. (MJF)