



Home, Health & Garden Line®

Greetings!

It's finally spring! That means it's time for your lawn to rise and shine, and for you to get growin' in the garden. Wake up your turf by treating it to a tonic that'll make it grow green and gorgeous, then set out a tea-time treat for hungry backyard birds to enjoy. It's also spring-cleaning season, so why not get started...in your bedroom?

Jerry Baker

In the News...

As you get ready to till the soil in your garden this spring, you'll be happy to hear that you're not alone. In fact, it seems that the biggest backyard trend in 2011 is gardening "with a purpose." Whether it's creating a lush green sanctuary, growing more veggies, or transforming your lawn into a sustainable landscape filled with native plants and drought-tolerant grasses, here's to greener surroundings!

www.gardendesignonline.com/gardendesignonline/2010/09/garden-trends-2011.html

This Season's Hot Topic:

Spring Has Sprung—So Wake Up Your Lawn!

Spring is the best time to aerate your lawn. For best results, aerate the morning after you water the grass, or else after a heavy rain—the soil will be easier to penetrate then. And, you can save yourself time and money by strapping on a pair of my Aerating Lawn Sandals (check out the DIY video at www.jerrybaker.com/how-to-videos). Then take a nice leisurely stroll across your lawn.

After you've poked holes in the soil, put some sifted peat moss, dried manure, or compost in a broadcast spreader, and apply a layer about ¼ inch thick to the whole area. Your grass will love it—it's the lawn food equivalent to a hot fudge sundae.

Spring Wake-Up Tonic

Spring is also the right time to get your lawn off on the right foot, er, root. And there's no better way to do it than with this tonic.

50 pounds of pelletized gypsum

50 pounds of pelletized lime

5 pounds of bonemeal

2 pounds of Epsom salts

Mix the ingredients in a wheelbarrow, and apply to your lawn with a broadcast spreader no more than two weeks before your regular fertilizing.

Superb Spring Flowers!

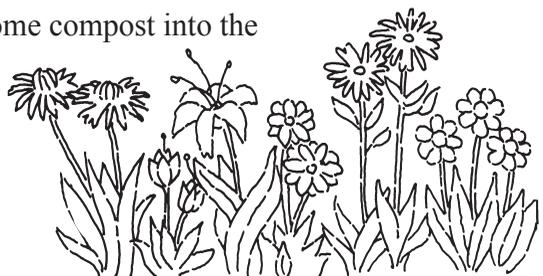
Most perennials need to be dug up and divided every few years to stay healthy and hearty. So if you're ready to divide and conquer, here's what to do:

Step 1. Use a spade or shovel to cut a circle around the outside of the clump, about 2 or 3 inches from the outermost stems. As you circle again, pull the handle toward you to help pry up the clump.

Step 2. Set the cut-out clump on a tarp.

Step 3. Gently break the divisions apart with your hands. Make sure every new division has at least one bud or stem and some roots.

Step 4. Before replacing the original plant, work some compost into the planting hole and set one of the divisions in that spot. Move the remaining divisions to other parts of your garden, pot them up, or wrap them in damp newspaper to share with friends.



(cont.)



Check out our gallery of DIY videos at www.jerrybaker.com/how-to-videos to get the most out of your hose-end sprayers, aerating lawn sandals, and more!

It's That Time of Year—So Let the Sneezing Begin!

Of course, every season gives us something to sneeze at—in summer, it's the growing grass; in fall, it's leaf molds. But in spring, the airborne pollens pounce, and make us ahhh-choo! Here's a handful of home remedies with no side effects—that won't break the bank:

- Horseradish perks up the senses and clears air passages from the nose right up into the sinuses. Just grate some into a glass of tomato juice, and sip away.
- Wild herbs, like nettle, eyebright, and elderflowers make perfect potions for allergy relief. Steep ¼ cup of fresh herbs in 1 quart of water overnight. Strain out the solids, then drink the liquid throughout the day.
- Steam your stuffy sniffer with a washcloth soaked in the hottest water you can stand. Lay it across your nose and sinuses for a while. It'll loosen things up so you can breathe freely.

Tea for Two—Birdy and You

Make a springtime treat for your own backyard and invite your feathered friends to tea with this eye-catching teacup birdfeeder. You will need:

Old teacup and saucer

Glue (make sure it's an adhesive that works on any surface)

2 to 4 foot wooden dowel

Paint and Polyurethane



Paint the dowel with your choice of paint color, and then give it a good coat of polyurethane. Once the dowel is dry, glue it to the bottom of the saucer. Allow plenty of drying time, then glue the cup onto the top of the saucer. After the glue dries, push the end of the dowel into the ground and fill the teacup with birdseed. The birds will appreciate your efforts!

From Trash to Treasure

As you sort through the bedroom during your spring-cleaning spree, don't just put everything you want to get rid of in the "Trash" pile without giving it a second thought. Here are some terrific tips for giving new life to stuff you'd otherwise toss out:

- ✓ Turn a clothes hanger into a dust-bunny grabber by bending the hanger into a long loop, and tying strips of old pantyhose onto the wire. Then get down on your hands and knees, and go for it!
- ✓ Pull the backs off of discarded earrings and use them as pushpins in a bulletin board.
- ✓ Hang a shoe bag in the hall closet to hold gloves, scarves, earmuffs, and other small outdoor gear.
- ✓ Move an old handbag to your craft room and use it to hold yarn, quilt templates, and other stuff.

That's not all, folks!

Check out www.jerrybaker.com for fantastic features like:

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with what's new in gardening, home care, and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and critters in your home and garden.
- ▶ How-to videos to guide you through the growing season.
- ▶ Jerry's favorite tips and tonics—you're just a click away from a super solution.