



# Home, Health & Garden Line®

## Greetings!

The hallelujah chorus has begun because spring has officially sprung in all its green and sunny glory! Birds are celebrating, buds are blooming, and we're all rushing to get growing. So open up your windows and let the fresh, clean breezes energize you. Then grab your sunglasses and start dusting off your garden tools to get ready for a spring tune-up in your yard and garden.

*Jerry Baker*

## In the News...

### Grow Beautiful Edibles in Containers

Container gardening is nothing new, but for far too long, gardeners have grown only annuals in pots. These days, containers don't have to be just "pots," but anything laying around the house that holds dirt. And growing permanent plants (like trees, shrubs and perennials) in containers is becoming popular. But the hottest potted plants for 2013 are edibles. You can enjoy the beauty and convenience of growing healthy eats right outside your back door. So go on, explore creative ways to grow vegetables, herbs, berries and more in your own containers this year.

<http://www.ediblecontainergardening.com>

***"I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden."***

—John Erskine

*This Season's Hot Topic:*

### Springtime Shrubs

Now is the perfect time to take a long, hard look at your shrubs and give 'em a little TLC. Here's all you need for shrub success:

#### Prudent Pruning

Here's my pruning rule for flowering shrubs: Shrubs that bloom in spring should only be pruned right after they bloom. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned in early spring.

When pruning, always cut just above a bud or branch that is growing to the outside, or in the direction you want the new growth to follow. Always use sharp, clean tools and seal any cut larger than your little finger with a mixture of antiseptic mouthwash and latex paint.

#### Shrub Grub

Shrubs aren't big eaters, so don't go hog-wild with the fertilizer. Give 'em a dose of my **Super Shrub Tonic** every three weeks throughout the growing season.

#### Tender Loving Care

If you haven't already, give your shrubs a shower of liquid dish soap and water (1 cup of soap in your 20 gallon hose-end sprayer, filling the balance of the sprayer jar with warm water). Spray 'em thoroughly to the point of run-off.

Sprinkle the ground under the plant with 5 lbs. of gypsum to loosen and condition soil for better fertilizer action. Then mulch soil beneath the shrubs with 2" of shredded bark or wood chips.

### Super Shrub Tonic

1 can of beer

1 cup of fish emulsion

1 cup of ammonia

1/2 cup of Plant Shampoo

2 tbsp. of hydrogen peroxide

Mix the ingredients in a large bucket and pour into your 20 gallon hose-end sprayer. Spray your shrubs to the point of run-off.



Of 10,000 products sold in a typical supermarket, at least 2,500 use corn in some form during production or processing. So do more than 85 different types of antibiotics.





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

## An Ounce of Pest Prevention is...

Creepy-crawlies start to wake up and look for new hangouts this time of year. So don't wait for trouble to start before you take action. Keep your pest problems to a minimum with these tips for season-long control:

- Keep the areas around your home debris-free. Bugs will flee when food and shelter are scarce.
- Keep your plants trimmed. Large amounts of foliage near your home serve as a convenient walkway for insects to enter your house.
- Seal off all access points. Caulk common pest "entrances" like door and window frames, and cracks in the foundation and siding.
- Use downspout hoses to drain water away from your house. Efficient downspouts that keep the area dry help discourage insect infestations because bugs need water to survive.
- Remove any garbage around the foundation of your home quickly. Insects forage through garbage looking for food, and they'll eventually go inside your home with the same intent.
- Then, to really send the bugs packing, treat their favorite areas with my **Squeaky Clean Tonic**. Spray the ground around your house and around door and window frames, and all other entry points. This'll build a barrier that will stop pests dead in their tracks.

### Squeaky Clean Tonic

- 1 cup of antiseptic mouthwash
- 1 cup of chamomile tea
- 1 cup of urine
- ½ cup of Murphy Oil Soap
- ½ cup of lemon-scented liquid dish soap

Mix the ingredients in a large bucket, and pour into a 20 gallon hose-end sprayer.



## ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!

BABY THE BUILDUP

**Keep your shower doors as clean as a whistle by applying a thin coat of baby oil to them once a month or so. The oil will keep dirt, soap, and hard water from building up.**

## 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.

*That's not all, folks!*

**Check out [www.jerrybaker.com](http://www.jerrybaker.com) for fantastic features like:**

- ▶ Jerry's Blog with what's new in gardening, health care, and household hints.
- ▶ Critter Control solutions for battling bugs and thugs 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.