



Greetings!

Ahhh...It's my favorite time of the year. The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, the grass is green, and the sun is shining. So it's time to get the garden party started. And if you don't already have roses enhancing your landscape, why not? It's easier than you think, and you'll be rewarded with beautiful blooms for years to come. On the other hand, if springtime has you sneezing your head off, look to Mother Nature herself for a garden-fresh cure.

Jerry Baker

In the News...

The Garden Media Group has unveiled its annual Garden Trends Report, and this year, the focus is on the idea that "nature is the best medicine" in achieving better mental and spiritual health. The Report introduces seven trends that encourage us to disconnect from social media and the daily stresses that wear us out, while promoting a cleaner, calmer state of mind through imperfection and relaxation. <http://bit.ly/2Hvo3SC>

“If your knees aren't green by the end of the day, you ought to seriously re-examine your life.”

—Bill Watterson, “Calvin and Hobbes”

This Season's Hot Topic:

Everything's Coming Up Roses!

Sure, roses like a little pampering, but considering the fantastic flowers you get in return, they're well worth the effort! Simply follow my easy, step-by-step system and you'll have bloomin' beauties all summer long.

Step 1: Dig a hole that's at least 16 inches wide and 16 inches deep.

Step 2: Mix about one-third of the excavated soil with a 3-inch layer of well-composted manure.

Step 3: Shovel half of this mixture into the hole, and mound it into a cone. Set the plant in place with its roots arranged around the cone, and gently cover the roots with more soil mix. Continue filling the hole with alternating shovelfuls of soil and the soil-manure mixture.

Step 4: Sprinkle a tablespoon of Epsom salts over the soil's surface—it's a powerful source of magnesium, which roses crave. Then water slowly and deeply. Follow up with a drink of my Rose Start-Up Tonic to get your roses off to a healthy start, then top it off with a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch.

Rose Start-Up Tonic

Keep your green friends looking their very best with this old-time chow:

- 1 tbsp. of dishwashing liquid
- 1 tbsp. of hydrogen peroxide
- 1 tsp. of whiskey
- 1 tsp. of vitamin B₁ plant starter
- ½ gal. of warm water

Mix the ingredients in a watering can, then pour the solution all around the root zone of each newly planted rose.



Your Garden Will Gobble Up These Old-Fashioned Edibles

Gardeners didn't always have all the fancy chemical fertilizers that we tend to rely on these days. So they used these good old time-tested, stick-to-your-roots plant foods. Go ahead and give 'em a try!

Eggshells. Crush them, soak them in water for 24 hours, then use the water for your plants.

Hair. It's full of iron, manganese, and sulfur. Work it into the soil or toss it onto the compost pile.

Seaweed. Before you dig it into the soil, rinse it in fresh water and dry it out to get rid of most of the salt.

Fish. Any fish parts will make your plants take off like a buffalo stampede. Just make sure you bury the stuff deep in the garden. If tossed onto the compost pile or dug in too close to the soil surface, it'll create quite an odor and attract unwanted wildlife.

Sawdust. Mixed into the compost pile, it's a great source of carbon, which all plants need. But don't use sawdust from pressure-treated lumber. It contains toxic chemicals that you don't want in your yard.

(cont.)

Check out
our gallery of
DIY videos at

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

Discover 5 Ways to Use Petroleum Jelly Around the House

You can always spend big bucks on the latest gadget to help you get things done around the house. But honestly? You can't beat good old tried-and-true petroleum jelly to keep your home in fine fettle. Here's how:

- Keep **patent leather** smooth and shiny by rubbing it down with petroleum jelly on a soft cloth.
- Take a fingertip-full of petroleum jelly, and rub it into a **squeaky door hinge**. Open and close the door a few times to work the jelly in, then wipe off the excess with a cloth. That squeak will squawk no more.
- Coat **candlesticks** with petroleum jelly before inserting the candles. Melted wax will slide right off.
- Use petroleum jelly to remove **stains, minor scratches, and water rings** from wooden furniture. Simply smear on a coat, let it sit for 24 hours, and rub it in. Wipe away the excess, and polish the wood as usual.
- Quiet a **screeching faucet** with petroleum jelly. Just remove the handle and stem, coat the metal threads, and screw the pieces back together.



ANOTHER GREAT IDEA! To remove a really stubborn mystery stain on an old white tablecloth, put the cloth into an extra-large cooking pot, pour in 4 tablespoons of dishwasher detergent (liquid or powder), and add enough water to cover the fabric. Heat the mixture to a boil, then let it simmer for about 20 minutes, stirring the mix occasionally. Carefully lift the steaming tablecloth out with a pair of tongs, put it in a bucket, and then run it through a washing machine cycle.

Springtime Allergies Are Nothing to Sneeze At!

If you're sneezy in springtime, you might want to take a moment to blame Grandpa Kerchooey for giving you his genes. Seasonal allergies are usually at their worst in spring and summer, but pollen's only part of the reason. A lot of the pesky symptoms crop up more often in folks with a family history of allergies.

But Mother Nature is one smart cookie; she provides her own solutions just as allergy season rolls around. A handful of greens and flowers make the best remedy for allergy relief:

Steep ¼ cup each of fresh cleavers, elderflowers, eyebright, and nettles in a quart of water overnight. Strain, and then drink the tea throughout the day. (Caution: Use gloves when handling fresh nettles to avoid being stung. Steeping them will remove their sting.)

Here's another quick way to ease your allergy symptoms: Try placing a dab of soothing salve (available at health food stores) on your temples. Choose one that contains an herbal oil, such as lavender, eucalyptus, or peppermint. The scent will soothe and relax you while the oil opens your respiratory passages and eases congestion.

*That's not
all, folks!*

Check out 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!