



Home, Health & Garden Line®

Greetings!

The good ol' summer sun is finally heating things up. And boy, oh boy do we deserve a little sunshine after the winter we weathered—so I don't want to hear anyone complaining about how hot it is! Of course, the harsh winter affected more than our moods. The nation's fruit and veggie crops suffered a blow, and commercial flower growers, too. All of which means that this summer it's more important than ever to treat your garden-grown goodies and flowers with care. Water 'em well and wipe out weeds the minute you see them. And enjoy the sunshine!

Jerry Baker

In the News...

You've probably noticed that the price of fresh produce has sky-rocketed—again. But have you also noticed how much more expensive it is to buy a flat of annuals at the nursery this summer? As is the case with the pricy produce, we can thank the long, cold winter for the more expensive flowers. Some varieties of flowers need exposure to warm weather before they can be shipped to retailers, and some plants were just too small to survive the cold and snow. One of Central America's biggest producers of petunias has been infected by tobacco mosaic virus, so we may also see fewer of those garden-bed favorites at the nursery.

“If dandelions were hard to grow, they'd be most welcome on any lawn.”
—Andrew Mason

This Season's Hot Topic:

Good Riddance to Bad Weeds!

In nature's grand scheme of things, all plants are created equal. But that doesn't mean you need to stand by while an unruly mob of weeds robs nourishment from your pretty flowers. This 4-step good-riddance method is the fastest way I know of to get rid of weeds in your flower beds without harming your plants:

STEP 1: Cut each weed right down to ground level.

STEP 2: Slice the bottom off a 1-quart plastic bottle that has a screw-on top. Then set the bottle over the weed, and push it into the ground about 2 inches.

STEP 3: Mix up a batch of my **Weed Wipeout Tonic**, stick your sprayer head into the top of the bottle, and pull the trigger. Drench that weed until the potion is running off in streams. Then screw the top on the bottle. (This ensures that the tonic won't be diluted if it rains or when you water your plants.)

STEP 4: Leave the bottle in place for a couple of weeks, then inspect your handiwork. Chances are, your weed woes will be history. But if any extra-tough guys are still showing signs of life, give them another dose of the tonic. Before long, they'll go belly-up, too!

Weed Wipeout Tonic

- 1 tbsp. of dishwashing liquid
- 1 tbsp. of gin or vodka
- 1 tbsp. of white vinegar
- 1 qt. of hot water

Mix all of the ingredients together, and pour the solution into a handheld sprayer bottle. Then drench the weeds, taking care not to get any of the tonic on nearby plants.



Plant viruses are spread by sap-sucking insects like aphids, thrips, and flea beetles. There is no cure, but some everyday kitchen trash can help prevent an outbreak: Every time you empty a carton of milk, cream, or buttermilk, fill the container with water, shake it, and pour the contents onto one of your plants.

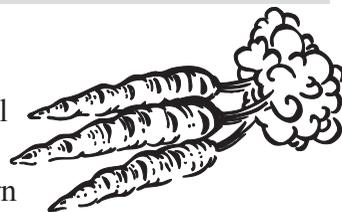




Check out our gallery of DIY videos at www.jerrybaker.com/how-to-videos to get the most out of your hose-end sprayers, aerating lawn sandals, and more!

Say “So Long” to Sunburns!

You say you sat in the sun too long and now you’re fried to a crisp? Cool the burn quickly—with carrots! Carrots and their juice are packed with germ-killing chemicals that make them just the ticket for treating sunburn and other minor burns. To put that soothing power to work, first sponge the afflicted skin with ice water. Then dip a piece of gauze in 100 percent carrot juice, and squeeze it out so that it’s wet, but not dripping. Put this dressing over the affected area, and secure it lightly with more gauze or lightweight fabric. Repeat several times a day until the pain and swelling are gone.



What else can carrots cure? Plenty! It seems that every day we learn more about the truly astounding feats these tasty roots and their juices can perform—everything from softening your skin and moisturizing your hair to dramatically reducing your risk for cancer, stroke, and heart disease. In fact, Bugs Bunny’s® favorite snack now ranks high on nutritionists’ superfood lists. And *that’s* what’s up, Doc.

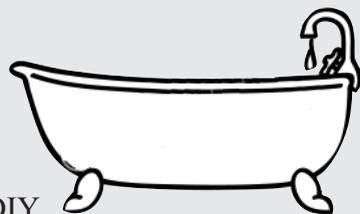


ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!

Worried about who’s got your back when you’re at the beach solo? Don’t let yourself suffer with a nasty sunburn—rig up your very own sunscreen applicator instead. Just wrap a soft cotton rag or T-shirt around the end of a back scratcher or ruler and secure it with a rubber band. Then squeeze a generous dollop of SPF 30 or higher sunscreen on the rag, and rub the lotion onto all of your hard-to-reach spots. Relax, and enjoy your time in the sun!

The Sweet Smell of Clean

Summer can really do a number on your bathroom. The kids aren’t in school, so sandy footprints, muddy handprints, and globs of toothpaste seem to multiply overnight. But don’t stress about the mess—give your kids a hug and use a sweet smellin’ DIY cleaner to add a pleasant scent to your scrubbin’ and sanitizin’!



Mix 1 cup of baking soda with 20 drops of your favorite essential oil. Let the mixture sit for about 24 hours, then sprinkle a little into the sink, the bathtub, the toilet, or wherever you want to clean. Your surfaces will sparkle and smell oh-so fresh...for a few minutes anyway!

That’s not all, folks!

Check out 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!