

Around The Garden On March 1st



More From Around The Garden



Gophers and Squirrels, Oh My!

No solutions work 100 percent. But they can make this problem manageable.

Every gardener sooner or later, crosses paths with gophers and squirrels. Sometimes losing a bean plant, a few tomatoes or cucumbers, or having them dig up seedlings.

Repellants for Gophers and Squirrels

- **Cayenne Powder.** This very hot pepper will deter a lot of animals from your garden. You can sprinkle it directly into gopher holes.
- **Peppermint Oil.** Gophers and squirrels do not like the smell of peppermint. Using gloves, put a few drops of peppermint oil on cotton balls, and drop inside tunnel entrances. Replace every 10 days.
- **Castor oil.** Mix 3 parts castor oil with 1 part dawn dish soap. Take 3 to 5 Tablespoons of this mixture and add it to a gallon of water. Spray or pour it around and in gophers holes and areas where there is gopher or squirrel activity. One application you may need to repeat this treatment once a week until they are gone.
- ✓ Concentrate on areas with high pest activity. This targeted approach maximizes the effectiveness of castor oil while minimizing its impact on beneficial insects.
- **Gopher Baskets.** For a few special plants you may wish to invest in wire gopher baskets. Otherwise unless wiring underneath an entire bed, in would be too expensive to place every plant in a gopher basket.

SEE MORE ON REPELLANTS ON NEXT PAGE



Physical Barriers for Gophers and Squirrels

- ❑ The physical barrier is the best solution. Where able, place bird netting, or lightweight wire (with small holes) over the garden plants, or bed sections.
- ❑ Openly woven plastic baskets can be placed over smaller plants. Secure in place with long landscape fabric staples. Even ears of corn can be covered with netting...or socks...yes this is true. After all the pollination has completed (silks are starting to dry) slip a sock over each ear of corn.

Trapping for Gophers and Squirrels

- ➡ **GOPHERS.** There are various types of gophers traps one can purchase. Choose a type you feel comfortable setting up. Dispose of the gopher ASAP—do not leave lying in the garden.
- ➡ **SQUIRRELS.** There are live traps for squirrels one can purchase. Once caught, the squirrels MUST BE taken at least one mile away before releasing! Otherwise they find their way home again. Important to check traps daily, so the animal does not suffer from lack of water/food. You may wish to work with a partner. Be sure to label the trap with your name.



Society Garlic As A Repellant

Despite the name, society garlic isn't true garlic, but it has a similar odor that gophers dislike. Society garlic has pretty lavender-colored flowers that make it both functional and decorative in your garden. The pungent smell can help to keep gophers away, while also attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Society garlic does not attract pests or pathogens that spread disease. It thrives in bright sunlight and hot weather. And get this: it won't give you bad breath when you eat it, like garlic will. Even though it loves summer, it's winter hardy, meaning a long growing season is at hand.

The flowers and leaves are edible raw, no debate there. The peppery leaves can be used like garlic in salads and other dishes. The flowers are on the peppery sweet side, and a bit onion-like.

These aromatic molecules are believed to exude an odor that repels certain pests, sending a clear "no trespassing" signal to potential garden intruders like gophers.



Mature size is 12 to 18 inches tall and wide. Plants can be propagated by division. Best done during cooler months.

Again, no solution works 100 percent. But here is a plant that can be helpful.



Cayenne Pepper Powder Insect Repellant.

- ✱ Recipe: 2 Tablespoons of cayenne pepper powder to a gallon of water.
- ✱ Mix or shake well.
- ✱ Then add a tablespoon of Dawn dish soap and mix gently.
- ✱ Fill your sprayer and you are ready to go.

BEE THE CHANGE



Planting For Pollinators

But why care about pollinators?

Pollinators are responsible for a third of what we eat every day! Pollinators bring life through their crucial role in food production. Plant flowers and herbs that bring benefical and pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Invite them into the garden.



Here Are A Few Suggested Plantings To Attract Pollinators



Echinacea

Perennial workhorse with beautiful blooms and medicinal purposes.



Borage

These pollinator-attracting plants will be buzzing with bees all summer.



Cosmos

Provides masses of colour over a long season requiring little maintenance.



Sunflower

Sunflowers are the ultimate pollinator-attracting flower for the garden or field.



Zinnia

Grow for their intense colours and extravagant, rounded flowers.



Wildflowers

Select wildflowers best suited to your region of residence.

March & April Are Busy Months In The Garden!

Start Making Your Task Lists



- ❁ **Planting spring and summer vegetables.** As the threat of frost moves past us, gardeners can plant begin to warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and squash.
- ❁ **Sowing flower seeds:** This is also an ideal time to sow seeds for annual flowers blooming in the summer. Direct sowing into garden beds or starting seeds in pots can begin for flowers like marigolds, zinnias, and sunflowers.
- ❁ **Begin to applying mulch to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.**
- ❁ **Don't forget to fertilize.** In early spring, gardeners apply organic fertilizer to give plants a boost of nutrients as they start their rapid growth phase.
- ❁ **Weed management:** As temperatures rise, weeds begin to grow more aggressively. Early control is crucial!
- ❁ **Repair border edges and beds as needed.**



Controlling Powdery Mildew



It's that time of year when zucchini and cucumber leaves get coated in the fungus known as powdery mildew. The most common treatments are sulfur or neem oil. There is another treatment that gardeners may wish to consider: biological fungicides. The bacteria in these products are effective at combating various types of fungus and are harmless to people and beneficial insects. They can be found at garden supply stores or online. Monterey Complete Disease Control, Garden Friendly Fungicide, Serenade are among the popular brands. The main disadvantage is that the bacteria can be short-lived when exposed to the sun so they may need to be reapplied every 3 to 5 days. They are compatible with other fungicides unlike sulfur and neem oil.

Something you probably have right in your pantry is baking soda. J. Howard Garrett—a well-known horticultural columnist and radio personality in Dallas, Texas, recommends baking soda sprays at a concentration of 4 teaspoons (1.3 tablespoons) per gallon of water for control of powdery mildew, blackspot, brown patch, and other fungal diseases. *You can also add in 1/2 teaspoon dish soap to the mix.*

Cultivating Facts On Peas

- 🥄 Clarence Birdseye was the first person to freeze peas – he invented the “plate froster”, which was a machine that froze food between two refrigerated metal plates, freezing meat or vegetables in 30 to 90 minutes, and could get down to -45° F.
- 🥄 Peas are very light – it would take about 200-500 peas to weigh as much as one potato.
- 🥄 Roughly 13,900,000 tons of dry peas are produced worldwide per year.
- 🥄 Peas are one of the oldest cultivated crops, first cultivated around 10,000 BC in central Asia.
- 🥄 The shoots of pea plants, which are the tender tips of the vines, including leaves, stems, flower blossoms, and tendrils, are also edible and can be used to make salads.
- 🥄 Peas contain starch in the form of amylose, which slows digestion and studies support that they may help balance blood sugar.
- 🥄 The Portage la Prairie plant is the world’s largest pea protein plant, processing up to 125,000 tons of yellow peas per year.
- 🥄 The largest pea pod was grown in 2009 in Norfolk, England. It measured 6.49 inches (165mm), which is double the size of the average mangetout pea pod.
- 🥄 In 1984, Janet Harris of Sussex ate 7,175 peas in one hour using chopsticks, setting the world record for eating peas.
- 🥄 Teardrop peas, a delicacy in Basque cuisine, are the world’s most expensive peas, with one pound costing up to \$330.



Spring Arugula and Pea Shoot Salad

A fresh and tangy salad



Ingredients— Makes 4-6 servings

- 4 cups baby arugula
- 2 cups pea shoots, washed well and loosely packed
- 1 cup cooked farro* (or another whole grain such as wheat, barley, wild or brown rice, etc.)
- 3/4 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 1/2 cup shelled peas
- 1/2 cup toasted sliced or slivered almonds
- 1/2 - 3/4 cup fresh mint, torn
- 5-6 green onions, thinly sliced
- Zest and juice of 2 medium lemons
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- Sea salt and black pepper, to taste

Directions

- Place arugula, pea shoots, farro, feta, peas, almonds, mint, green onions, and
- lemon zest into a large mixing bowl.
- Whisk together the lemon juice and olive oil. Season well with salt and pepper.
- Pour the dressing over the salad and toss well. Serve immediately.

recipe source: designmom.com

What's the different between Black Eyed Peas and Chick Peas?

Black Eyed Peas can sing us a song.
Chick Peas can hummus one.

Pea Fritters

Freeze some of your spring harvest peas for a fall fritter delight.

Ingredients

- 400g (3 cups) Frozen Peas
- 3 Eggs
- 120g (1 cup) All Purpose / Plain Flour (See note 1)
- 1 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 Spring onion (Scallion, chopped)
- 55g ($\frac{1}{3}$ cup) Crumbled Feta Cheese (See note 2)
- 2 tablespoon Chopped Parsley (See note 3)
- 3 tablespoon Olive Oil
- Salt and black pepper, to taste

Directions

- Boil the peas for 2-3 minutes, or until peas are tender, drain and rinse under cold water.
- Add the eggs, spring onion and half of the peas to a food processor or blender and pulse until combined.
- Add the blended mixture to a large mixing bowl and fold through the remaining peas, feta cheese, parsley, flour and baking powder. Stir until just combined. (
- Add 1 tablespoon of the oil to the skillet and heat over medium heat. Take a heaped tablespoon of the mixture and drop it into the pan. Flatten slightly and repeat with more tablespoons of the mixture. Cook for 2-3 min on each side, or until golden brown and crispy. Repeat until all the mixture is used up.



recipe by healthylittlefoodies.com



A Gardener's Bookshelf

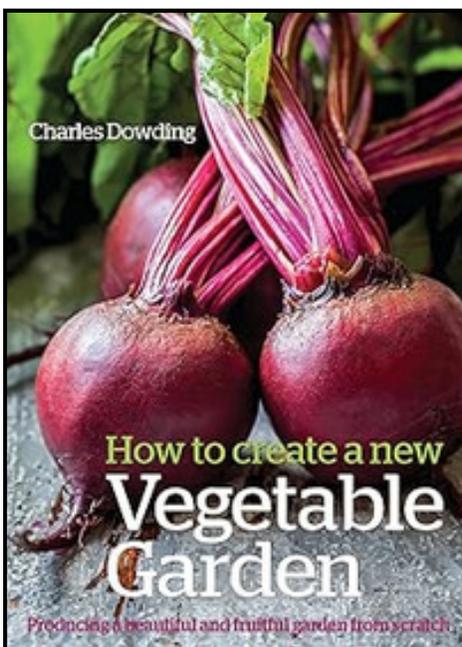
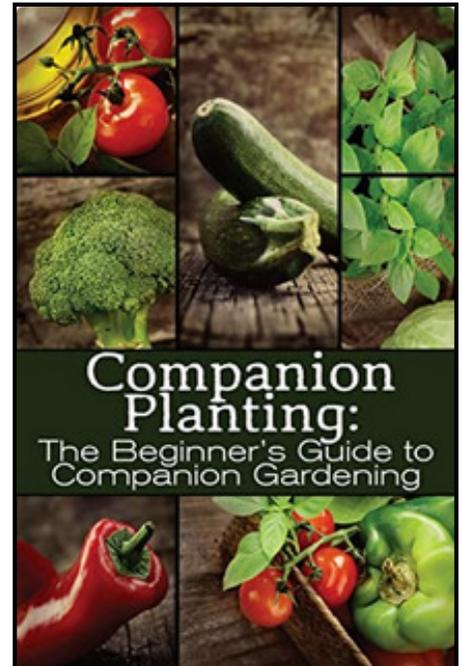


**A good gardening library can be one of your best tools.
This space is for sharing books to consider on gardening and plants.**

By author: M Grande

This guide to companion gardening covers the following topics:

- What companion planting is and how it can benefit you.
- How good companion plants are discovered.
- Organic gardening and companion planting.
- Companion planting strategies.
- Allelopathy: The chemical abilities of plants.
- Beneficial insects in the garden and how to draw them in.
- How to repel pest insects.
- Planning your garden using companion planting.
- Companion planting information on more than 70 fruits, vegetables and herbs, including good and bad neighbors.



By Charles Dowding,

Who draws on his years of experience to show how easy it is to start a new vegetable garden.

Any plot - whether a building site, overgrown with weeds or unwanted lawn - can be turned into a beautiful and productive vegetable area. Charles's no-nonsense and straightforward advice is the perfect starting point for the beginner or experienced gardener.

The book takes you step-by-step through everything - from planning, clearing the ground and the early stages of starting a vegetable garden, to growing in polytunnels and greenhouses. There is also helpful guidance on how to use mulch, ways to minimize digging, and planting/sowing tips across the seasons.

LOCATION

371 W. Avenue L
Calimesa, CA 92320

Visit us online at:
calimesacommunitygarden.org



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**EMERGENCY WATER SHUT-OFF
CCG MEMBERS — IF MAJOR LEAK**

- ▶▶▶▶ Find the key in the front shed to Un-Lock the valve cover outside the front gate.
- ▶▶▶▶ There are TWO VALVES, turn the one closest to the fence—clock wise. This shuts off all water to the garden.
- ▶▶▶▶ Notify a board member immediately.....Be sure you make contact.

Seth Wiafe: 909-855-1217

Angie Cloud: 909-556-2856



**Garden
Reminders**

- ❁ Please, return all tools to the tool rack before leaving garden.
- ❁ Please, remove all dead and dying plants from your plot(s).
- ❁ Unattended watering is not permitted.
- ❁ Make sure all faucets are off when you leave the garden.
- ❁ Knock dirt off plants before placing in trash bins.

PLANTING CALENDAR—with notes

- ⇒ This calendar is for use as a general guideline.
- ⇒ Even the various garden books do not agree on all their recommended planting times.
- ⇒ Bear in mind, are you planting an early bearing variety or a late one? Timing of planting and particular varieties are important factors, as well as, consider if you are planting seeds, seedlings, or bareroot.
- ⇒ Even whether it is the first half or the second half of a given month can make a difference.
- ⇒ Enjoy and expect the unexpected!

January

Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Spinach, Turnips

February

Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Fava Bean, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabaga, Spinach, Strawberries, Turnips

March

Artichoke, Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Fava Bean, Herbs, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Spinach, Strawberries, Turnips

April

Beans - bush & pole, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Fava Bean, Herbs, Lima Beans, Leeks, Lettuce, Melons, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Peas, Peppers, Potatoes, Radishes, Short Day Onions, Squashes, Strawberries, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips

May

Beans - bush & pole, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Herbs, Lima Beans, Leeks, Lettuce, Melons, Okra, Onions, Parsley, Peas, Peppers, Pumpkins, Radishes, Short Day Onions, Squashes, Swiss Chard, Tomatoes, Turnips

June

Beans - bush & pole, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Herbs, Lima Beans, Leeks, Melons, Okra, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squashes, Tomatoes, Turnips

July

Beans - bush & pole, Beets, Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Eggplant, Melons, Peppers, Squashes, Tomatoes

August

Asian Greens, Beans - bush type, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cucumber, Kale, Leeks, Onions, Shallots, Summer Squash

September

Asian Greens, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Cauliflower, Fennel, Garlic, Kale, Leeks, Lettuce, Onion sets, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Spinach, Squashes, Swiss Chard, Rutabagas, Turnips

October

Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Fava Bean, Fennel, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Onion sets, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rutabagas, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnips

November

Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Fava Bean, Fennel, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Strawberries, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Turnips

December

Asparagus, Asian Greens, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Swiss Chard, Endive, Escarole, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Short Day Onions, Parsley, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Rhubarb, Rutabagas, Spinach, Strawberries, Turnips

