

# Earthly Elements

"Helpful Information From The Trenches"

Issue 3

Fall Edition

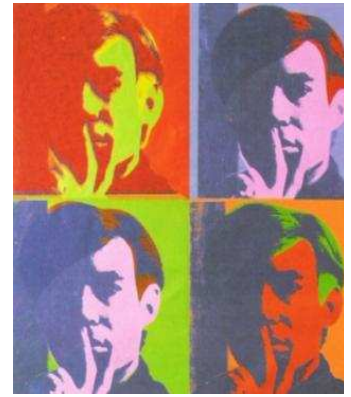
September 2007

## Gardens of Splendor

WHAT A TRIP! We had the privilege (despite rainy weather) to see 2 **VERY INSPIRING** gardens during our vacation. First up.....was the Chicago Botanic ([www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)) photos below:



Then on to Frank Lloyd Wright's "Falling Water" house.....& lastly the Andy Warhol Museum.



Next up....the **Dale Chihuly** exhibit at the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. To see more of these photos go to the "Travels" section of this website.

## WILD & WONDERFUL Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)

This flower originated in Europe, and was very popular during the reign of Queen Anne but **wasn't** named after her. The attractive flower got its name for the lacey nature of its flower head. Each 2 to 4 inch "flower" is actually made up of

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many small flowers (compound inflorescence). Also known as Wild Carrot, it can be found growing wild in fields and along roadsides almost anywhere in the U.S.

#### How to Grow:

To start your own Queen Anne's Lace, collect seeds in fall when the umbel (flower head) is brown and dried. Next, shake off the seeds in the area where you want them to grow. I'd suggest at the back of your garden, as it can reach 3 to 4 feet tall. Many people think of Queen Anne's Lace as a perennial because its such a prolific re-seeder that comes back year after year. To prevent it from spreading this way, deadhead at the end of the season. Queen Anne's Lace is however, actually a biennial. That means it requires two seasons to complete its life cycle. It grows as a leafy basal rosette the first season. The following season is when it produces flowers/seeds then dies. The bloom time is from July to October. The flowers are usually white however, there's also a pink variety. Being related to the carrot, it has a carrot-like tap root that even smells like a carrot. Some say it's edible cooked, while others say **NO**, and I agree. The reason being is that Queen Anne's Lace can also easily be mistaken for Poison Hemlock.....and we all know what



happen to poor Socrates.

#### Good Company

Queen Anne's Lace adds a lovely lightness to a border of blue and pink flowers such as Delphiniums and Phlox. It's also beautiful in a butterfly garden or naturalized area with Coreopsis, Gaillardias and Daisies.

#### Dried Arrangements

For a lacy everlasting bouquet, cut long stems of the best flowers then hang them upside down to dry. They look beautiful combine with other dried garden favorites such as Statice, Lavender or Straw Flower. Need to color coordinate your dry arrangement? Simply spray paint them any color you like (use colored floral spray available at JoAnn or Michael's). You could also use gold or silver spray glitter to add that special sparkle to fall or Christmas arrangements

## Creating a **STANDOUT** Garden

Great gardens rise up off the earth to intrigue the eye and tantalize the senses. Here are some tips to consider to make **YOUR** garden a **STANDOUT!**

- Add height with trellises or pergolas.
- Define garden with crisp cut edges.
- Break large areas into smaller compartments using hardscape or garden structures such as arbors. This will be the most costly portion of your budget, but if done correctly, worth every penny!
- Frame desirable views with short and/or open sections of walls or fences.
- Delineate areas with bold (in size and

color) planters. Remember to choose those that are of the same style or color.

- Add focal points to select garden spaces with benches, birdbaths, containers, folk or found object art, boulders, & sculpture.
- Generate a sense of movement with a dry creek bed, especially in those wet/dry trouble areas.
- Select plants with presence, especially those with bold, well-defined shapes. Evergreens are extremely important as they will define your garden during the winter months.
- Unify the garden by repeating the same color in different areas.
- Construct appealing paths and beds with pockets, bends, swells, and undulations.
- Stagger & layer plantings rather than arranging them in a straight line.
- Create privacy screens using large evergreens or mixed-shrub hedges.



## Punk'in Pick'ins

The most popular use of pumpkins is for decoration. Enter the jack-o-lantern. However, nourishment/food is also popular. When selecting a pumpkin for cooking, the best selection is a "pie pumpkin" or "sweet pumpkin." These are smaller than large jack-o-lantern pumpkins with the flesh being sweeter and less watery. Bear in mind that the large jack-o-lantern variety is 90% water. It can however be substituted with fairly good results. Both varieties are nutritious and contain potassium and vitamin A.

When purchasing a pumpkin look for one with 1 to 2 inches of stem left. If stem is cut down too short it will decay quicker or may be decaying at the time of purchase. Avoid pumpkins with blemishes and soft spots. It should feel heavy. Since you're cooking with it, shape is unimportant.

## Pumpkin Desert

- 1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin pie filling
- 1 can sweet condensed milk
- 2 eggs (beaten)
- 1 t cinnamon
- 1/2 t ginger
- 1/2 t nutmeg
- 2 T brown sugar



Mix all the above ingredients together till well blended. Pour in a greased 9 x 13 pan.

### Topping Mix

- 3/4 c chopped pecans or walnuts
- 2 T crystallized ginger
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 dry yellow cake batter mix

Bake at 350 F for approximately 40 minutes. Serve with whip cream or Cool Whip.



## Cider Spice Rules

A mug of warm cider kicks up a chilly day. Add an extra zip of flavor by stirring in some these:

**CHILI POWDER** for heat

**CARAMEL SAUCE** for creamy comfort

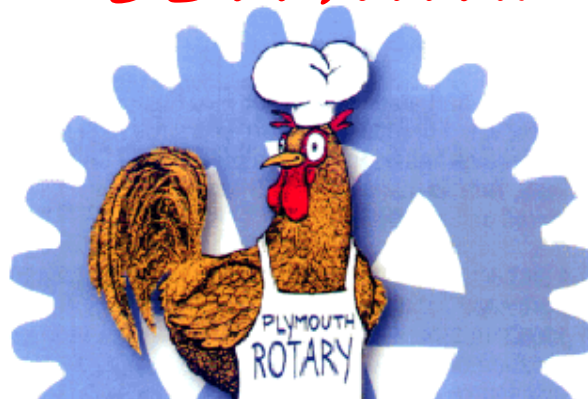
**APPLE PIE SPICE** for pie-in-a-mug



## Failing Fall Color

Why doesn't it look as good as last year? This is a tree/shrub question that I'm often asked. Our strange Michigan weather certainly has a lot to do with it. The intensity of leaf color varies from year to year, and while the science of fall color is complicated, I'll sum up some of the factors I know of that are responsible. Temperature, the number of sunny days, and moisture all play a role in the trees/shrubs showiness. Typically, cool nights and sunny days increase fall color; while drought, an early freeze, or especially warm temperatures can keep the color from reaching its peak.

## Plymouth Rotary Club 52nd Annual



## CHICKEN Bar-B-Que

At Kellogg Park in Downtown Plymouth

**Sunday, September 9th 2007**

11:00 am to 5:00 pm *(or until sold out)*

Tickets: \$9.00 (presale)  
\$10.00 (day of)

Contact Plymouth Chamber of Commerce  
**734-453-1540** for details

### What & Where

#### Tollgate Fall Fair

**September 15th 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

at MSU Tollgate Gardens

call **248-347-3860** for directions & info

**(SEE INCLUDED INSERT)!**

#### FREE PLANTS! FREE PLANTS!

#### Novi's Fall Perennial Exchange

**September 15th 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

at the Novi Civic Center

call **248-347-0400** for directions & info

#### Bedding Down for Winter Talk

**September 27th 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

at the Plymouth Public Library

call **734-453-0750 ext. 4**

Contact us at **734-416-0866** or [earthenjoy@wowway.com](mailto:earthenjoy@wowway.com)

Cultivation  
to the MIND  
is as necessary as  
FOOD to the body."

-Marcus Tullius Cicer