

Garden Pants



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Spring is Here - Gardeners of the North Shore is Back April 4 Program - Sharon Yiesla - Beneficial Bugs

Beneficial Bugs - Presented by horticulturist Sharon Yiesla, owner of Sharon Yiesla, Horticultural Services through which she delivers gardening presentations.

She has been a horticulturist since 1983. She earned a BS in horticulture from Purdue University and an MS in horticulture from University of Illinois. Her past accomplishments include teaching at Illinois State University, working as a Horticulture Specialist for University Extension in Missouri, working as a Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension in Lake County and teaching classes at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Not all bugs are bad! Learn to identify common beneficial organisms and how they benefit gardeners. Get tips for

getting the good guys into your garden and keeping them there.

Come to our first meeting in 2017 at the Chicago Botanic Gardens Tuesday April 4, 7:30 p.m. in the Pullman Room

Presidents' Message

What a 'whacky and wild winter" we have had! You don't know from day-to-day if it is winter or spring? Seeing little greens and tiny flowers emerging offer great hope for our upcoming season. Your Board of Directors is busily planning events and ideas for the club. Keep in touch for dates, and places as we put them together. Our this year's meetings will be at The Botanic Gardens on: April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11 (4th of July is on the first Tuesday this year), August 1 (Pot Luck Dinner,) Sept 5, Oct 3, November 7, and our final event will be

our Winter Banquet on December 5.
Mark your calendars for these meeting dates.

Red's Garden Center offers some interesting workshops, check their website for future events. This month, there is a container workshop, on Saturday, April 8, cost is \$20.00 Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. If any of our members know of a friend or neighbor who might enjoy our group, will you bring them to a meeting? We are hoping for some new faces to partake in the club activities, and to hear our speakers. Thanks to Karen Finerman for planning the year for us.

Looking forward to seeing all of our club members and guests on Tuesday, the 4th.

Regards, Charlene Ackerman & Gerry Palmer, Co-Presidents

Spider plant contest

The spider plant is the plant chosen for the Fred Ritter plant contest at the Flower Show at the CBG (Aug 12-13)

They will be given out at the April meeting. Grow them indoors and bring them to the August show. See the article in this newsletter on how to care for them.

FUTURE PROGRAMS - Karen Finerman

May: 2 - Jeanne Nolan -- channel 11 celebrity

June 6 - Karen Finerman --

July 11 - Theresa Cichochi --Northbrook village arborist-- walk in McDonald Woods

August: Garden show at the CBG (Aug 12-13) - picnic (August 1)

September 5 - Jill Selinger-- CBG instructor

October 3 - Rory Klick -- CLC Instructor

November 7 - Kathryn Gilbert, local landscape architect

December 5 - Banquet

Spider Plant Care: Gardening Tips For Spider Plants



By Nikki Tiley

(Author of [The Bulb-o-licious Garden](#) ^[1])

The spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) is considered one of the most adaptable of houseplants and the easiest to grow. This plant can grow in a wide range of conditions and suffers from few problems, other than brown tips. The spider plant is so named because of its spider-like plants, or spiderettes, which dangle down from the mother plant like spiders on a web. Available in green or variegated varieties, these spiderettes often start out as small white flowers.

Gardening Tips for Spider Plants and General Spider Plant Care

Caring for spider plants is easy. These tough plants tolerate lots of abuse, making them excellent candidates for newbie gardeners or those without a green thumb. Provide them with [well-drained soil](#) ^[2] and bright, indirect light and they will flourish. Water them well but do not allow the plants to become too soggy, which can lead to [root rot](#) ^[3]. In fact, spider plants prefer to dry out some between waterings.

When caring for spider plants, also take into account that they enjoy cooler temperatures — around 55 to 65 F. (13-18 C.). Spider plants can also benefit from [occasional pruning](#) ^[4], cutting them back to the base.

Since spider plants prefer a semi-potbound environment, repot them only when their large, fleshy roots are highly visible and watering is difficult. Spider plants can be easily propagated as well through division of the mother plant or by planting the small spiderettes.

Spider Plant Spiderettes

As daylight increases in spring, spider plants should begin producing flowers, eventually developing into babies, or spider plant spiderettes. This may not always occur, however, as only mature plants with enough stored energy will produce spiderettes. Spiderettes can be rooted in water or soil, but will generally yield more favorable results and a stronger root system when planted in soil.

Ideally, the best method for rooting spider plant spiderettes is by allowing the plantlet to remain attached to the mother plant. Choose a spiderette and place it in a [pot of soil](#) ^[2] near the mother plant. Keep this well watered and once it roots, you can cut it from the mother plant.

Alternatively, you can cut off one of the plantlets, place it in a pot of soil, and water generously. Place the pot in a ventilated plastic bag and put this in a bright location. Once the spiderette is well rooted, remove from the bag and grow as usual.

Terrariums - from Pasquesi Garden Center Web site



Learn how to create a miniature 'jungle in a jar'.

All you need to build a terrarium is a good balance of plants, water, light and soil. This 'jungle in a jar' acts as a miniature ecosystem that teaches the basic concept of rainfall. As water accumulates in the soil, light causes this water to evaporate, causing small water droplets to cling to the sides of the container. As the drops get larger, they slide off the sides and fall back into the soil. When the water passes through the layer of charcoal, the impurities are trapped and the water is cleaned for the next cycle. A healthy terrarium will continue like this... in the same way that rain works in our environment. Give this DIY project a try! It's a hands-on way to teach children about the everyday workings of our natural world while having fun playing in the dirt. You can enjoy plants are sculpture with

the endless combinations of shapes, colors and textures or turn your terrarium into pure magic as a fairy garden.

Basic materials

Clear glass containers: Choose a mason jar, hanging glass orb, clear glass cookie jar or any type of glass container that will allow the light to come through. The lid could be a part of the glass container or you could use a small plate or plastic wrap-- anything that will retain and regulate the humidity in the terrarium.

Potting soil: A well draining, potting or soilless mix is best for plants in a closed terrarium.

Sphagnum peat moss: Add a layer of this fibrous material to prevent the soil from washing down into the gravel layer.

Pebbles or gravel: Small-sized pebbles or gravel will insure good drainage. (Aquarium-size gravel works well.)

Charcoal: The main benefit of adding charcoal chips to a terrarium is to remove toxins and odors in the mini ecosystem. Charcoal absorbs chemicals in soil, water and air that build up inside.

Small plants: Choose plants that share the same growing conditions. Low light: ferns, African violets, moss or even the 'carnivorous, Venus Flytrap. Bright light: succulents, sedum, cacti or an air plant (Tillandsia).

Tools: Make your own miniature shovel. Tape or hot glue a plastic spoon to a straw or chopstick. This new tool will help you dig holes and move elements around inside small openings.

How to Make your Own Terrarium

It's never too early to get kids involved with gardening. Give the terrarium some kid-appeal with colorful flowering plants or unusual, Venus Flytraps, colored gravel, or... tiny chairs, houses or other elements for a fairy garden.

1. Put a one to two-inch layer of pebbles or gravel on the bottom of the container.
2. Cover pebbles with a thin layer (one-half inch or so) of charcoal chips.
3. Layer two to three inches of sphagnum moss over the pebbles or gravel.

4. Cover the moss with several inches of potting soil (depending on the size of container).
 5. Plan plant placement. Leave room between plants for growth. (Odd numbers of plants tend to look more interesting when grouped together.)
 6. Dig small holes with mini tools. Tuck small plants into little holes. Next, cover the roots sufficiently with soil and tamp soil down lightly around base of plant.
 7. Cover container with lid of jar or plastic wrap, if desired.
 8. Place the terrarium in a spot that receives bright but indirect light. You don't want to cook your plants!
 9. You can regulate the humidity by removing the lid for a few hours each day to allow air to circulate around the plants. This will cut down on mold or mildew from excessive 'rain' or condensation.
 10. After 5-7 days, water sparingly with distilled water. To keep your terrarium from becoming too soggy, only water your plants when the soil starts to dry out.
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