

Time Is At Hand If You Want Potatoes In Bushels

Potatoes are one of the earlier planted vegetables and, because of this, many gardeners let time slip up on them and don't get the planting done until it seems that it's too late.

In eastern sections of the state, Irish potatoes can be planted the first few days of March, depending on the specific locations, according to N.C. Agricultural Extension Service horticulturists.

The best dates in the Piedmont are between March 15 and late April. Mountain area gardeners should wait until about the end of March to begin planting.

Popular varieties of Irish potatoes for the Piedmont and Coastal Plain are Pontaic, LaSoda, Chippewa and Norland. Good varieties for Mountain section gardens include Kennebec, Boone, and Sequoia.

Any mellow, fertile, well-drained soil is suitable for potatoes. Stiff, heavy clay soils often produce misshapened tubers.

Potatoes grow well in soils with a pH ranging from 4.8 to 6.0. A pH of around 5.0 is recommended if common scab is a problem. Before planting apply three pints of 8-8-8 fertilizer or equivalent per 100 feet of row.

Medium size potatoes — those weighing from five to seven ounces—make the best seed potatoes. Cut each potato into four or five blocky pieces with at least one eye. Plant the seed pieces 10 inches apart in rows that are three to four feet apart. Plant the seed pieces four to six inches deep.

Potatoes require two to three weeks to come up, depending on the depth of planting and the temperature of the soil. Slightly frozen ground is seldom harmful

unless the sprouts are emerged. Prolonged cold and wet weather after planting is likely to cause pieces to rot. Therefore, avoid planting too early.

Young potato plants are often damaged by frost, but they usually renew their growth quickly.

Late blight might be a problem on potatoes in the Mountains. If your crop becomes infected, ask your garden supply store about a suitable fungicide to use.

Many insects attack Irish potatoes, but only aphids, flea beetles and the Colorado potato beetle normally require control in the home garden.

Aphids can be controlled with Malathion, Thiodan or Spectracide. Thiodan or Sevin will control the Colorado potato beetle and flea beetles. Be sure to use these insecticides according to directions on the label.

Loss Of Color With Butterfly Drop In Population

Color in the flower garden delights the eye. Colorful visiting butterflies add another element: graceful motion.

The large orange-and-brown monarch butterfly sails from one blossom to another. The common yellow sulphur dances through the beds or fields, sometimes congregating around a moist spot for a moment of conversation. American copper butterflies compete with the hummingbirds around nectar-filled flowers.

Butterflies inspire not only ordinary mortals but the poets as well. Elizabeth Barrett Browning observed: "Hedgerows all alive, / With birds and gnats and large white butterflies / Which look as if the Mayflower has caught life / And palpitated forth upon the wind."

Butterflies, like bees, are necessary for pollination in our gardens. But the butterfly population is decreasing for several reasons.

Flowery meadows are plowed up. Roadside banks are trimmed, eliminating many wild

flowers that butterflies depend on for their summer food. Hardwood forests are cut, depleting the plants that provide shelter for the larval form of the butterflies, and increased spraying of gardens and fields has affected them as well as harmful insects.

For those who want to attract butterflies for added beauty in the garden, there are certain flowers that can be depended on, according to specialists at the N.C. Botanical Garden of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Butterflies seem to prefer symmetrical flowers with long floral tubes, or those with flat rims that provide landing platforms. *Asclepias tuberosa*, commonly and aptly called butterfly-weed, is one of their favorites and is native to our area. It has a strong perfume to butterflies, is a bright orange color that attracts them and has plentiful nectar.

The shrub buddleia—or butterfly bush—with lavender, white or pink flowers in profusion in summer and fall,

sometimes looks as if it has as many butterflies as blossoms.

Sedum spectabile, a garden favorite, attracts both butterflies and bees in large numbers. And many wild flowers, such as clovers, milkweeds, thistles, asters and sunflowers draw a good share of butterfly visitors.

While gardens are a source of beauty for humans, they are a necessary source of nectar—food—for the butterflies. They repay us with a show in motion in orange, yellow, copper, gray and blue colors, making the gardening effort worthwhile.

Butterflies and gardens go together.

Flint Hill Church

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Kids."

On Saturday May 19th there will be a bake sale and hot dog sale beginning at 10:00 followed by a quilt sale at 1:00 p.m. These are hand made quilts with special designs quilted by the Senior Citizens of the church. Proceeds will go to the building fund.

Dear Dr. Graham

Dear Dr. Graham: I am a nurse, and I get very discouraged and depressed because of all the suffering I see. For the first time in my life I am beginning to think about God. Do you think he can help me in my job?—Mrs. B.B.A.

Dear Mrs. B.B.A.: I can understand why you get discouraged and depressed as you deal with suffering and death each day. Frankly, if I were not a Christian I too would get depressed because there would seem to be little hope in the world. But Christ makes all the difference — and he can make a difference in your life as well.

There is much we may not fully understand about suffering and why God allows it. The Bible speaks of evil as a "mystery" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). But there are several important truths I want you to know. First, God loves us and he understands what it is like when we suffer. How do I know this? I know it because Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross. Christ is God, come in human flesh to win our salvation. And Christ knows what it is to suffer. In fact, he suffered far more than we could ever suffer, because he took upon himself the punishment and burden of our sins.

Then I want you to know that death is not the end, but the beginning of a new dimension of life — eternal life. Yes, there is hope for life beyond the grave, because Christ made it possible. By his death he made it possible for us to go to Heaven if we will turn to him in trust and faith. By his resurrection from the dead he demonstrated beyond doubt that there is life after death.

Christ also is able to strengthen you and help you every day. He wants you to be a blessing to other people — including those you work with every day.

My prayer is that you would turn to Christ by faith. You can invite him into your heart by a simple prayer of faith. And then seek to walk with him every day. In the midst of all the suffering you see, Christ can give you hope and strength.

They'll Take Motherhood

—But Hold The Apple Pie

Columbia—The South Carolina Senate has voted overwhelmingly against making the apple the state fruit. Senator Alex MacAulay says he initiated the proposal on behalf of upstate apple growers. The Oconee democrat said more peaches are grown in South Carolina, but he stands

for waulity in the face of quantity. Senators rejected his measure on a voice vote. Another upstate senator, Thomas Garrison of Anderson, said apples bring in about 2-and-a-half-million dollars into the state economy each year, while peaches account for 60-million dollars.

State Senator

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completing any unfinished business of the last session. She expects the salary freeze will be lifted at the session and an increase to state employees and former state workers. She feels the increase will be given top priority. She says our state EDS hospitalization program has increased its staff to provide quicker and more efficient service, but time is required to get the job done. Mrs. Marvin is trying through her Legislative position to help bring equity in laws of North Carolina for women. She says some glaring inequities still exist. She is working to get the Legislature

to draft a bill that will help women in inheritance matters. The meeting closed with a benediction given by Rev. M.L. Campbell. Mr. Herbert Gidney presided in the absence of Mr. Myers T. Hambright.

The Foothills View is published monthly by Gardner-Webb Press, David M. Robertson, editor. Our business office is in the Dover Student Center, at Gardner-Webb College, mailing address P.O. Box 876, Bolling Springs, N.C. 28017. For advertising and subscription information phone 434-7130.