

This has been quite a spring! The early spring in March, followed by the cold April and now the dry June. Our garden has suffered quite a bit with the corn and peas not even germinating. I finally installed a sprinkler system for half the garden and next year I hope to have the other half installed. We even started to mulch the nursery with straw so that water loss will be at a minimum and weeding will be minimized as well.

This is my 'did you know' column. Every so often, I like to browse through my collection of books for interesting information which may or not be useful at the moment. Come browse with me.

Did you know?

A bunch of bananas directly off the tree can easily weigh over 50 pounds.

That banana skins are extremely rich in phosphoric acid and potash. Great for the compost pile.

Bush beans are an excellent source of vitamins A, G as well as B1 and C. They also provide calcium and iron.

Common sense says to plant glad bulbs right side up so they will grow better. Commercial growers do not have the time and plant them any which way. They also only use #2 grade bulbs as anything bigger than that will not increase the size of the flower.

That foxglove has nothing to do with foxes. Its actually a slurring of folksglove {German translation} which means fairy flower.

Coffee grounds can be used as a mulch on acid loving plants such as blueberries or evergreens.

To deter crabgrass in your lawn, mow the grass no shorter than 1 and 1/2 inches.

That there are over 2000 species of earthworm ranging in size from microscopic to several feet in length. A single worm can produce 15 tons of castings in a year.

That rose hips have 1700 - 4676 mg. of Ascorbic acid {vitamin C} in a 100 gm. Oranges have between 37 to 80. Need vitamin C, have a glass of rose hip juice.

That goldenrod {Solidago} does not give you hay fever. Its actually the ragweed. Because the goldenrod is in full bloom at the same time, it gets the bad press.

There are over 300 species of lady beetles. Adult lady beetles eat about 45 insects {aphids} daily, the lady beetle larvae eat about 36.

In one gram of soil there are 1,000,000,000 bacteria, and 10-20,000,000,000 actinomycetes, 1,000,000 fungi, 1,000,000 protozoa, 1,000 yeasts and 100,000 algae.

If you took an acre of soil, one root deep - gathered all the worms and insects found - you would have about 1000 pounds of insects.

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