



## GCFP District VI Newsletter

3rd Quarter, 2023

# Seedlings



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### Director's Corner

**Deb Stumpf, District VI Director**

*"Always Growing Together"*

Summer is the season of "showing off" for gardeners and garden club members alike. Some people might call this "bragging" but to the average home gardener it is about success. It's about getting that difficult plant to grow or rescuing something that looked like it is on its way out. Gardeners love to show off the fruits of their labor and garden club members love to flock to these gardens to "ooh" and "aah". Lots of garden clubs have member garden tours that wow and delight members and their guests. Some are even in the form of progressive dinners that allow the members to enjoy each other's company along with great food and beautiful gardens.

Everyone enjoys the uniqueness of the individual garden on the tour, whether it be a new garden, a remodeled garden, or a well-established garden. It can also be a city lot or acres of property; everyone finds something to love about the area. Vegetable gardeners may say their garden doesn't look so good, but have large ripe tomatoes and green beans and zucchini to spare. And what about all the professional gardens your club can visit. Plan an outing to a nursery, a private garden or one of the many public gardens in the area. Have your club put on a flower show and show off their horticulture and design skills or get a group of your friends together and attend some of the area flowers shows. Inviting guests to these events is a wonderful way to attract new members.

Whatever you choose to do as a club, always remember, gardeners love to "show off" their skills and accomplishments. Enjoy your garden and your summer!!

Deb Stumpf Director  
District VI  
*"Always Growing Together"*

## 2023 District Calendar

**August 4**—IGC Flower Show, Indiana, PA  
**August 16**— Joint LHJC & PAJC Flower Show, Greensburg, PA  
**August 23**—District VI Board Meeting, Perkins, Johnstown, PA  
**Sept. 1**—District VI Annual Meeting Jennerstown, PA

Articles, events and happenings concerning District VI may be submitted to:  
**Mary Lou Colussy at**  
[lalou46@aol.com](mailto:lalou46@aol.com)  
**Next Seedlings by**  
**November 1, 2023**

**A special thank you to Nerita Brant. Seedlings Proofreader**



**August 23—District VI Board Meeting, Perkins, Johnstown, PA 10:00 a.m.**

**Annual District VI Meeting**  
**Sept, 1, 2023**  
**Jennerstown, PA**  
**Hosted by the Weeders & Seeders GC**  
Registration form on page 15

**CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**Trophy for Best Decorated**

**Bedford County Garden Club**

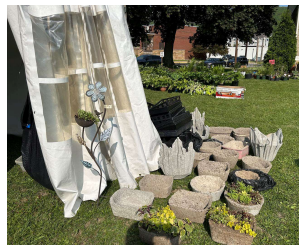


A committee from the Bedford County GC created a “bed” to enter the Bed Race competition in Bedford on May 20th. The Great Bedford Bed Races ran along Juliana Street.



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### BGC Plant Sale May 19-20, 2023



**Blair Garden Club**

### BGC Scholarship Awards Scholarship

BGC Scholarship Committee Chair, Paula Crow;  
Marin Cooney, BGC Scholarship winner;  
BGC President, JoAnn Propcheck



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### BUSY SPRING AND SUMMER FOR THE BGC

What a busy spring and summer the BGC has had!

In May we presented a certificate and small gift to our Scholarship Winner at our May Club meeting. Our Scholarship Winner, Marin Cooney will major in Plant Science at Penn State University. We also did some final planning for our upcoming Flower Show.

We had many club members help with landscaping for our Habitat for Humanity house, on May 26, 2023. 7<sup>th</sup> Street Planting beds are planted, and we cannot wait to watch them grow. The Legion Social Hall is looking wonderful, with the steady maintenance and mulch.

Jim Yeager from the Monastery Gardens presented a program on running the monastery gardens, which plant and distribute home grown vegetables to many in need in our community.

June had many members attend a Baker Mansion Tea on June 15, 2023. Our own Mary Cramer presented the History of Baker Mansion Gardens, which she has directed for many years. Bravo, Mary!

Please visit the Discovery Garden to check out the rain garden's growth and the construction of our new Kaleidoscope exhibit.

American Rescue Workers in Hollidaysburg is a great provider of food, clothing and furniture to those in need in our area. They ask for bags to use in separating food for those visiting the ARW facility. We have been donating bags to this organization for many months, via member Nancy Smith. Linda Renney reported that only 9% of returned plastic bags are used in recycling efforts.

Finally! Blair Garden Club presented "The Gardener's Palette," an NGC Small Standard Flower Show on July 22, 2023. Judging took place on that same morning. The flower show was from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the First United Methodist Church of Hollidaysburg at 801 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA. 16648. Rene Hrescak chaired this event.



These are just a few of the gardening projects that we maintain.

What a wonderful group to work with on so many projects. Looking forward to the rest of the year!

Submitted by,  
JoAnn Propcheck  
Club President

## Blair Garden Club



## Workdays for Evergreen GC Members

The club had two workday meetings. May was a workday/meeting at the Silas Clark House. After planting outside, we had lunch and a meeting inside the historical house. In June, it was another workday meeting at the IUP Heritage Garden. Afterwards, members had lunch and a meeting in the North Dining Hall located, conveniently, next to the garden.



### Evergreen Garden Club



A new scholarship recipient, Ella Wells, was selected by the Scholarship Committee and will attend the club's annual picnic in July.

Currently, we are having quite a time with Japanese beetles! They have been mainly attracted to the roses and mallow plants. Found out that various people passing by the Heritage Garden have pitched in removing the beetles as well!

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Activities Abound in the Garden Club of Johnstown

#### Garden Club of Johnstown

In January the club took a very well-deserved respite from meetings, but members were busy behind the scene. There was the new Handbook to create and members' dues and Interest Surveys to collect and collate. We also took this time to take a look at our by-laws and did some updating and made a few needed changes. Our club's name has officially become The Garden Club of Johnstown.

We also have developed and gotten our club's website up and running. Come see us at [www.gcjpa.org](http://www.gcjpa.org).

Since February was National Bird Feeder Month, members of our Youth Committee made bird feeders with a group of preschoolers. After sharing a book about backyard birds, the committee worked with the four-year-old class making bird feeders from wafer ice cream cones. They will return this month to work with 3-year-olds.

At our March meeting we had our annual Garden Auction where members provide garden related items they no longer needed to be auctioned off as a Club Account fundraiser.

On March 25th our Civic Development Committee is presenting its annual open to the public make-and-take workshop at Sandyvale Memorial Garden Greenhouse. This year the presentation will be "The Fascinating World of Hummingbirds."

Our historian is working on a plan with the Cambria County Public Library to put our historical documents on electronic memory sticks to archive. Presently we have many boxes of "saved" books and clippings.

Prepared by Charlotte Crissey





## CLUB ACTIVITIES

IGC maintains three gardens in the Indiana area through our Community Beautification program.

- The Point Garden at the point of Wayne Avenue & 7th Street.
- The Jimmy Stewart Island on Vinegar Hill in front of Jimmy Stewart's boyhood home.
- The Fence Line Bed at the top of the stairs to Vinegar Hill

### Indiana Garden Club





INDIANA GARDEN CLUB

# FLOWER SHOW

"WONDERS OF NATURE"

FRIDAY AUGUST 4, 2023 1-4:30 PM

INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION

DISTRICT BUILDING

435 HAMILL RD.

INDIANA, PA

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC





## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### At Work Again

IGC members were able to dodge the rain and get some planting done at the point on May 13, 2023

### Indiana Garden Club



### PGC 2023 Plant Sale

### Patton Garden Club



Plants, plants and more plants. We were so fortunate to have generous givers to our 2023 plant sale this year. A healthy profit was made and all the proceeds go to the PGC scholarship fund. A special thanks to Martina White and Cole Weiland, the 2023 recipients of PGC scholarships this year were also on hand to help with the sale along with many members of the club. Thanks to Jan Davis and her committee for a spectacular event this year!!

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### Herbal Remedies

#### “Baleful Weeds and Precious Juiced Flowers”

### Patton Garden Club



PGC Member, Dr. Russ Miller presented a program on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> on herbal remedies and as he introduced it... *“Baleful Weeds and Precious Juiced Flowers”* from the Romeo and Juliet and Renaissance medical discourse. Friar Laurence and the apothecary, makes a statement about the conditions of medical treatment in sixteenth century London. These two figures represent two very different approaches to healing, one that is informed with ancient holistic medical theory and one that is driven by economics, and this work attempts to explain the cultural conditions that warranted such a discrepancy in the play.

He introduced various leaves, flowers, and roots that could be made into tinctures, teas, essential oils, syrups, salves, poultices, and infusions that our grandparents have successfully used for centuries.

One of the many piqued my interest was the Plantain leaf which can be used for stings, bites, rashes, splinters, and more. It's a great "drawing" plant as it draws things out of you (like venom). It's also an ingredient in my all-purpose salve for this very reason.

Another one is Mullein leaves and flowers are anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, antispasmodic, astringent & expectorant. It's a go-to remedies for respiratory illnesses. Dried leaves can also be smoked or smudged to help loosen chest congestion. Secrets like this can keep your family healthy & thriving instead of dependent on pharmacies & grocery chains.

All in all, an interesting evening into the world of “Herbal Medicine Remedies”



# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## Somerset GC 2023 Plant Sale



Thank you to everyone who supported our plant sale and flea market. Thankfully, the rain stayed away until the very end, so coming out to support your local garden club helped make this event a big success and will help to support programs in Somerset. A huge thank you also to all our garden club members who worked so hard, not just on the day, but to organize the event, set everything up the day before, and attend the auction to buy and transport all those beautiful flowers, plants, and herbs.

And, of course, we have to mention the help we had this year from our local Girl Scout troop. Not only were they selling delicious Girl Scout cookies, but they were helping everyone who needed assistance with carrying their plants, and were instrumental in drawing people into the sale. A very welcome addition to our event. Let's do it again next year!

**Somerset  
Garden  
Club**





# CLUB ACTIVITIES

## SGC 2023 BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

A huge thank you to all our SGC members who worked so hard at our annual uptown beautification project. The flowers looked beautiful as always, and a special thank you must go out to Linda Musser and Carol Miller who put in so much extra effort to ensure that the project ran so smoothly. And, of course, our resident photographer, Jane Crise, was on hand to ensure that we had some lovely memories of another fun and rewarding day for our club.

**Somerset  
Garden  
Club**





**CLUB ACTIVITIES**



The Weeders and Seeders sponsored the first annual May Day Basket Contest on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Ligonier community (including children) and local merchants entered imaginative, fresh floral arrangements displayed around the Ligonier Diamond. Judging took place that day for a variety of different categories. The rain didn't prevent the enjoyment felt by all.

Thanks to Judy Ridgway, our co-president for initiating and organizing this very first (and successful) attempt at celebrating the beginning of May in the town of Ligonier. On May 16<sup>th</sup> preceding our club program and meeting, the winners were announced and awards distributed with many of the proud winners' present to receive them. After expenses of \$170, \$110 of profit (from the entry fees) went towards the garden club's scholarship fund.

**Weeders  
and  
Seeders**

After the award ceremony, members Deb Christopher and Patti Schildkamp presented their program, **YOU Can Help Save Our Endangered Monarch: Learn How to Be a Monarch Waystation.** They discussed the iconic Monarch butterfly, why it is endangered and what we can do to help save it. Attendees were taught what plants and sustainable practices can be used in their own gardens to fulfill the criteria of being a Monarch Waystation. In addition, Westmoreland County residents learned about the free initiative covering the cost of the Monarch Waystation certificate and sign. 28 members and 21 guests attended.



We are very proud of our member, Patti Flowers-Jacobina, who is now writing a regular feature on gardening and nature in our local newspapers, the Ligonier Echo and Latrobe Bulletin, while representing our garden club.

Our June 19<sup>th</sup> Garden club meeting was at the Laughlontown home of PA Master Naturalist and Bee Keeper, Nancy Thorne. Nancy gave a short tour

of her beautiful Washington Furnace property and bee hives and then presented a program relating her experience raising honey bees. She offered Wildflower honey from her bees after a taste testing of various other honeys. The meeting followed the program with 24 members and 4 guests attending.



## CLUB ACTIVITIES

Weeders and Seeders members, along with Penn State Extension Master Gardeners, have already offered two special feature booths at the Ligonier Country Market. On May 20th, children were encouraged to plant native perennial plants and annual seeds in the children's pollinator-friendly garden beds. On June 24th, the children's activity was making sun catchers using flower blossoms. And of course, both garden club members and master gardeners not only answered gardening questions from the public, but they also distributed the Monarch Waystation certificates and signs to all who already applied from Westmoreland County. The market-goers who visited the booth were also encouraged to certify their gardens as Monarch Waystations and applications were available for those interested.

Garden Club (and Westmoreland Pollinator Partner) member, Andrea Kautz, awarding the Monarch Waystation certificate and sign to garden club member, Louise Sprowls on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ligonier Country Market.



**Weeders  
and  
Seeders**



Children (and adults!) loved the flower blossom sun catchers made at the Jun 24<sup>th</sup> Ligonier Country Market.

Our next meeting will be on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The program will be on Storm Water Management and will cover building a Rain Garden; details on the construction of a green "living" roof; planting a riparian buffer, and a general overview of how the public can manage storm water in a more environmentally-friendly way.

Planning continues for the District VI Annual Meeting hosted by our garden club this year. Save the date, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 am- 3:30 pm, because the more we plan it, the more exciting it becomes! Registration form on following page.

Prepared by Patti Schildkamp





### Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania

#### District VI Annual Meeting

Presented by the Weeders and Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier

Friday, September 1, 2023

Green Gables Restaurant, Jennerstown PA

(Nestled in the Laurel Highlands)

#### “Nature Is Always in Fashion”

9:00 AM Registration: Coffee, Tea, Breads & Pastries. Visit our tables of gently used treasures, handmade holiday critters and décor, raffle baskets, and seasonal wreaths handmade by Weeders and Seeders members.

9:45 AM Business Meeting Begins

Noon: Lunch

1:00 PM Business Meeting Continues

1:30 PM Program “**Seasonal Decorating with Succulents**” by Glenda Gebert, Owner of GARDEN IN THE WOODS

3:00 PM Door Prizes, Raffle Ticket Winners Announced

#### Lunch Menu Choices:

(1) Herbed Breadcrumb Baked Cod w/lemon wedge, cheesy wild rice & broccoli

(2) Turkey ala King w/egg noodles, sherry cream, mushrooms & peas

Includes Iceberg Salad with Italian dressing

Beverage - Hot or Iced Tea, Coffee, Water

Cookie Table courtesy of Weeders and Seeders Garden Club

Special Dietary needs can be accommodated

\*Cost: \$27.00 Make checks payable to *Weeders and Seeders Garden Club*

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: 7712 Somerset Pike in Jennerstown, located ½ mile north of the Lincoln Highway (RTE 30). The intersection of Rte 30 and Somerset Pike (Rte 985) has the only stoplight in Jennerstown.

#### .....**Registration Form – Please Print**.....

District VI Annual Meeting - Friday, September 1, 2023 - **Reservation Deadline - August 24, 2023**

[Please Print] Name.....Phone # .....

Garden Club.....

State Board Member, District Board Member, Garden Club Member, or Guest (Please circle)

Lunch Choice: Herbed Breadcrumb Baked Cod \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey ala King w/egg noodles \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary

Requirement?.....

\*Mail check for \$27.00 to: Marge Jenke, 222 West Church Street, Ligonier PA 15658

Any questions may be directed to Angela McDonnell...724-238-9851...angeljam224e@gmail.com

THE LAUREL HIGHLANDS JUDGES COUNCIL &  
THE PITTSBURGH AREA JUDGES COUNCIL

Presents

# Dance with Me

An NGC Standard Flower Show



Wednesday, August 16, 2023 1-2 PM

Free and Open to the Public

Greensburg Garden and Civic Center

951 Old Salem Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601

724-836-3074



## Finding Better Biodegradable Bags

By Gemma Alexander Source: <https://earth911.com/home-garden/finding-better-biodegradable-bags/>

Once upon a time, plastic was heralded as a miracle material. Cheap, lightweight, infinitely customizable yet virtually indestructible, plastic quickly replaced natural materials in myriad products – especially bags. Today, plastic bags are ubiquitous for shopping and groceries, and even inside other types of packaging. Plastic bags are found on roadsides, in waterways, and deep in the ocean, where they break down into microplastics that end up in our food.

### Biodegradable Is Better

We need to move towards a post-plastic world. Unlike other nonbiodegradable materials like metals, plastic is not infinitely recyclable. In fact, it is often not recyclable at all. What we need is a biodegradable alternative. But creating a bio-based material that functions like plastic is a technological challenge; creating a feasible production model for bioplastics is another challenge. Making the switch to biodegradable products can also be as complicated for consumers as making the bioplastics is for manufacturers.

### Biodegradable Plastic

Plastic as we know it is made from natural gas, and accounts for between 4% and 8% of global oil consumption. But functionally similar materials can be made from polylactic acid (PLA), which is typically made from plant starch. The other main type of bioplastic is made from polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs). PHAs are long-chain polyesters produced by microorganisms and plants. Both types of material are called bioplastics. You will also see them referred to as biodegradable plastics and compostable plastics. Despite the name, not all bioplastic products biodegrade naturally or break down in a compost bin. In one study, only one plant-based plastic bag (of four bioplastics tested) broke down quickly in water, and even that kind survived more than a year buried in soil.

### Biodegradable Drawbacks

Many of the desirable qualities of plastic – like being sturdy and waterproof – are opposed to biodegradability. Many bioplastics can only break down in a high-temperature commercial composting facility. Those that are readily biodegradable are not sturdy enough for most products. Easily compostable bags are available, but they need to be stored carefully. They can break down in hot or humid environments before you use them.

Most biodegradable plastic bags still require a commercial composting facility. If your local composting facility accepts biodegradable bags, look for ones with a “BPI certified compostable” label. If you don’t have access to a commercial composting facility that specifically accepts bioplastics, the landfill is usually the best option for disposal.

Bioplastics cannot be placed in with the recycling, even if your community recycles other plastics. Products like compostable plastic bags are a contaminant in recycling because they are chemically different from petroleum-based plastics. There have been some attempts to develop consistent labels that will inform consumers about the best way to dispose of bioplastic products.

### Plastic Bags

Bioplastics have mostly been used as an alternative for PET, especially in food packaging like beverage bottles and compostable cutlery. Durables might be a better option for these products. One product category where biodegradability makes the most sense is plastic bags. Even when they are made of a recyclable polymer, plastic bags can’t go in the regular recycling in most communities. A few curbside programs accept bagged plastic bags, but more often, they must be delivered to special collection bins – which are not available everywhere.

### Biodegradable Bags

Unfortunately, biodegradable bags are not necessarily more environmentally friendly. As a replacement for shopping bags, biodegradable bags might not eliminate the problem of litter, because many of them don’t break down in the environment. Nor are they a very good substitute for garbage bags; they don’t break down in landfills. But they might break before they reach the landfill, creating litter. Biodegradable pick-up bags for pet waste are only environmentally preferable if your municipal composting facility specifically states that they accept pet waste.

The best use for biodegradable bags is to contain food waste in communities that have a three-bin recycling program that accepts both food and yard waste for industrial-scale composting. Even then, you should confirm that your local composting facility accepts biodegradable plastics before throwing them in the bin.

### Compost Bags

BioBag is BPI-certified and even OK Compost Home-certified for home composters. EcoSafe bags are also BPI-certified. Besides food waste bags, they also make compostable grocery bags and a compostable alternative to latex gloves for food preparation. Good Housekeeping rated the BPI- and OK Compost Home-certified bags from BIOOK as the best choice for home composters. Full Circle’s biodegradable compost bag can give you lemon-scented compost collection. They also offer a Kraft paper compost bag with a vegetable-based plastic liner that looks a bit nicer than the standard green bioplastic, and

## 7 Plants That Prevent Weeds in Your Yard

source: <https://www.gardenloversclub.com/problems/weeds/plants-that-prevent-weeds/>

If you've ever struggled with pesky weeds popping up in your yard, you're not alone. It's a common issue faced by gardeners and homeowners alike, but did you know that certain plants can actually help prevent weed growth?

By integrating these helpful plants, you can minimize the time you spend dealing with unwanted invaders while enhancing the beauty of your landscape.

In this article, we're going to introduce you to seven plants that work wonders in preventing weed growth. From ground covers to larger bushes, these plants help keep your yard looking its best while saving you time and effort.

So, get ready to explore these natural weed suppressors and get one step closer to the ideal outdoor environment you've always wanted.

### 7 Plants That Prevent Weeds in Your Yard

#### Creeping Phlox

Creeping phlox (**Phlox subulata**) is an excellent choice for your yard. It forms a dense mat that prevents weed growth and adds lovely pink, purple, or white flowers during spring. Plant it in well-draining soil and give it plenty of sun. It's drought-tolerant, making it an easy plant to maintain.

#### Sweet Woodruff

Sweet woodruff (**Galium odoratum**) is a beautiful ground cover that spreads quickly, suffocating weeds beneath its attractive foliage. Its delicate white flowers can brighten up shady areas of your yard. The sweet vanilla scent makes it a delightful addition to your garden.

#### Creeping Mazus

Creeping mazus (**Mazus reptans**) is a low-growing plant that forms a dense carpet, making it difficult for weeds to take root. Its attractive blue or white flowers bloom in spring and early summer. Plant creeping mazus in moist, well-draining soil and provide partial shade for the best results.

#### Creeping Thyme

Creeping thyme (**Thymus serpyllum**) is not only a culinary herb but also an excellent ground cover. It forms a dense mat of attractive foliage that smothers weeds, making your yard virtually weed-free. Its fragrant leaves and small purple flowers add beauty to your garden and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.

#### Creeping Juniper

Creeping juniper (**Juniperus horizontalis**) is a versatile evergreen that prevents weed growth by creating a dense ground cover. It's a low-maintenance plant that thrives in various conditions, including dry,

rocky soil. Its needle-like foliage provides year-round visual interest in your yard.

#### Alfalfa

Alfalfa (**Medicago sativa**) is a nutrient-rich plant known for its weed-suppressing abilities. Its deep root system outcompetes weeds for water and nutrients, helping to keep your yard weed-free. Although primarily grown as an agricultural crop, alfalfa can be an effective and attractive addition to your garden.

#### Lamb's Ear

Lamb's ear (**Stachys byzantina**) is a soft, velvety ground cover that forms a dense mat to block out weeds. Its silvery-gray foliage adds a unique texture to your garden, and its pink or purple flowers attract pollinators. Plant lamb's ear in well-draining soil and full sun for optimal growth.

### Benefits of Using Weed-Preventing Plants

Using weed-preventing plants in your yard can bring an array of advantages. In this section, we will discuss the benefits of using these plants, including how they are environmentally friendly, low maintenance, and add aesthetic appeal to your yard.

#### Environmentally Friendly

By incorporating weed-preventing plants in your garden, you are opting for a more eco-friendly alternative to chemical-based weed killers. These plants can effectively suppress weed growth while also improving soil quality through nutrient release and reducing soil erosion. As a result, you contribute to a healthier ecosystem, promoting the well-being of other plants and wildlife in your yard.

#### Low Maintenance

The low maintenance aspect of these plants is undoubtedly one of their greatest strengths. Once established, they require minimal attention as they self-sustain and aid in reducing weed growth. They can save you time, effort, and money usually spent on continuous weeding, herbicides, or expensive mulching materials. In addition, the dense ground cover provided by certain weed-suppressing plants can save you water by retaining soil moisture.

#### Aesthetic Appeal

Not only do weed-preventing plants efficiently suppress weed growth, but they can also transform your yard into an inviting and visually appealing space. The variety of colors, textures, and growth patterns these plants offer can enhance the overall look of your garden, bringing an attractive layer of diversity. By choosing the right combinations of weed-preventing plants, you can create a stunning, low-maintenance yard that will be the envy of your neighbors.



## 10 Heat-Tolerant Container Plants for Summer Heat

Source <https://blog.gardenloversclub.com/container-gardening/heat-tolerant-containers/>

Looking to add some greenery to your outdoor space this summer? With the scorching heat, it can be challenging to find plants that can survive in containers. But don't worry, we've got you covered! Here are ten heat-tolerant container plants that will thrive in the summer heat.

One of the first on our list is the Lantana plant, which is known for its vibrant colors and ability to thrive in hot and dry conditions.

This plant is perfect for adding some color to your outdoor space and requires minimal maintenance. Another great option is the Portulaca plant, which is a low-growing succulent that produces bright, colorful flowers. This plant is perfect for hanging baskets or as ground cover.

If you're looking for a plant that can handle the heat and humidity, the Caladium plant is a great choice. With its large, heart-shaped leaves, this plant adds a tropical feel to any space.

Other heat-tolerant container plants that made our list include the Zinnia, Verbena, and Marigold.

So, whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these ten plants are sure to add some life to your outdoor space this summer.

### Understanding Heat-Tolerance in Plants

When it comes to choosing container plants for the summer, it's important to consider their heat-tolerance. Heat-tolerant plants are those that can withstand high temperatures and thrive in hot and dry conditions. Here are a few things to keep in mind when selecting heat-tolerant plants for your containers:

- Look for plants that are native to hot and dry climates. These plants have evolved to survive in extreme heat and require less water than other plants.
- Choose plants with thick leaves or succulent foliage. These plants are able to store water and withstand heat better than plants with thin leaves.
- Consider plants with deep root systems. These plants are able to access water

deeper in the soil, which helps them survive in hot and dry conditions.

- Avoid plants with high water requirements. Plants that require a lot of water will struggle in hot and dry conditions and may not survive in containers.

By choosing heat-tolerant plants for your containers, you can enjoy beautiful and thriving plants all summer long, even during the hottest months.

### 10 Heat-Tolerant Container Plants for Summer Heat

When it comes to container gardening, choosing the right plants that can withstand the summer heat is crucial. Here are 10 heat-tolerant container plants you can grow in your garden to add color and beauty to your outdoor space.

#### Portulaca (Moss Rose)



Portulaca, also known as Moss Rose, is a drought-tolerant plant that thrives in hot and dry conditions. It produces small, colorful flowers that bloom all summer long. Portulaca is easy to grow and requires minimal maintenance, making it an ideal plant for busy gardeners.

#### Lantana



(Continues on following page)

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Lantana is a versatile plant that can be grown as a shrub or a trailing vine. It produces clusters of small, colorful flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Lantana is heat-tolerant and can withstand drought conditions, making it an excellent choice for container gardening.

### Pentas



Pentas is a heat-loving plant that produces clusters of small, star-shaped flowers in shades of pink, red, and white. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and is easy to grow in containers. Pentas requires regular watering and fertilization to thrive.

### Sweet Potato Vine



Sweet Potato Vine is a fast-growing plant that produces trailing vines with heart-shaped leaves in various shades of green and purple. It is heat-tolerant and can withstand drought conditions. Sweet Potato Vine is an excellent choice for adding color and texture to your container garden.

### Zinnia



Zinnia is a popular annual plant that produces colorful, daisy-like flowers in shades of pink, red, orange, and yellow. It is heat-tolerant and easy to grow in containers. Zinnias require regular watering and deadheading to promote continuous blooming.

### Marigold



Marigold is a hardy plant that produces bright, sunny flowers in shades of yellow, orange, and red. It is heat-tolerant and can withstand drought conditions. Marigolds are easy to grow and require minimal maintenance, making them an ideal choice for beginner gardeners.

### Verbena



Verbena is a low-maintenance plant that produces clusters of small, colorful flowers in shades of pink, purple, and white. It is heat-tolerant and can withstand drought conditions. Verbena is an excellent choice for adding color and texture to your container garden.

### Geranium



(Continues on following page)



Continues from page 20

Geranium is a popular plant that produces colorful, showy flowers in shades of pink, red, and white. It is heat-tolerant and easy to grow in containers. Geraniums require regular watering and deadheading to promote continuous blooming.

**Salvia**



Salvia is a heat-loving plant that produces spikes of small, colorful flowers in shades of blue, purple, and red. It attracts butterflies and hummingbirds and is easy to grow in containers. Salvia requires regular watering and deadheading to promote continuous blooming.

**Bougainvillea**



Bougainvillea is a tropical plant that produces vibrant, showy flowers in shades of pink, red, orange, and purple. It is heat-tolerant and can withstand drought conditions. Bougainvillea is an excellent choice for adding color and texture to your container garden.

In conclusion, these 10 heat-tolerant container plants are perfect for adding color and beauty to your outdoor space during the summer months. With proper care and maintenance, they will thrive and provide you with a stunning display of flowers all season long.

**PA Resource Council**

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## Natural Insect-Repellent: 3 Pleasant Plants to Keep Bugs at Bay

Source: <https://blog.gardenloversclub.com/gardens/3-insect-repelling/>

As a gardener, you love to spend time outdoors in the green embrace of nature. There's a meditative peace and focus that is familiar to anyone who's spent time on their knees in the garden. One of the only things that can break this peacefulness is the invasion of pesky insects.

While there is no shortage of DEET-laden manufactured insect repellents on the market, you may want to focus on natural, simple, passive solutions that are available to anyone willing to look. Whether a skin sensitivity, concern for the environment, or simply frugality is your impetus, look no further for natural options to keep the insect population at bay while spending time in your garden.

We have gathered a trio of naturally pest-resistant plants to share. While each of these species are innately bug-stopping, they're also remarkably pleasant to their human caretakers. It's a perfect solution to a problem anyone who spends time outdoors has encountered. Read on for a detailed breakdown of the attributes of each of these plants, tips for growing them, and the science behind why they make fantastic, all-natural insect repellents.



### 1. Rosemary

The rosemary shrub naturally produces an oil that we humans find pleasant to smell and taste, yet wards insects off. The rich herbal scent will keep insects at bay, including mosquitos, carrot flies, and cabbage moths. The smell permeates the air and ensures that insects will remain away from the plants and anything nearby, such as your exposed skin. Rosemary needs to be planted in well-draining soil and regularly watered only once the soil has dried. It will grow in full sun and warm climes, but should also handle partial shade and frigid winters.



### 2. Lavender

The lavender plant emits a soothing fragrance via essential oils found on its leaves. These have been found to repel insects like mosquitoes, as well as other wild animals. Once the plant has become established, it will remain strong and drought resistant. Lavender needs full sun, reliably draining soil, and warmer weather. It will flourish in moveable containers, allowing you to place the plant in the best sunlight or move indoors during colder days. As it thrives, the plant will create an insect-free zone anywhere you place it.



### 3. Lemongrass

The lemongrass plant contains citronella, a registered natural insect repellent. This gives off a lemony scent that will drive off mosquitoes, flies, gnats, ticks, and more species, while remaining pleasant and relaxing to humans. Lemongrass can be used in cooking, as well. The plant itself is a tender perennial, growing all year-round, preferring well-draining soil and at least six hours of sun per day. Being more comfortable with warmer climates, you'll want to plant it in a moveable container if you live in a Northerly area where temperatures regularly drop below freezing during winter.