

WTCGG



Washington  
Township  
Community  
Garden

## NEWSLETTER: Third Year In The Garden

Welcome to YEAR THREE at the WTCG! Who can believe this will be our THIRD year? It seems like yesterday we were out there breaking the sod, and look how far we have come. Our first year saw us working the soil and adding organic material every chance we could. It was a very wet summer and the clay held the moisture. We spread chips on the paths after each flood. Then came the PNC Neighborhood Project and we were granted the funds to buy a shed instead of leaving our tools outside in the elements! In our second year we received grant funds to build the compost bins, and two Eagle Scout projects were completed in our garden, the kiosk and the planter benches.

This year, we have applied for funds to reconstruct the gate area and correct the drainage problem there. We will find out in April if the funds are received and go from there. We hope to have an Asian Demonstration Garden (thank-you Mr. Cooper!) and another garden sponsored by the Garden Club of LV. Our Food Bank program will continue with Tiago Neto as our Coordinator. Why not get more involved, and help make our third year the best ever? - Diane Muenzen



### MARCH GARDENING CHORES:

*From the website:*

*[www.TheGardenHelper.com](http://www.TheGardenHelper.com)*

The fickle weather of March makes it impossible to set exact dates and schedules for planting, so proceed with caution!

### ANNUALS, PERENNIALS & BULBS:

**THERE IS OFTEN** a strong temptation to start removing winter mulches from your flower beds... WAIT!!! Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly. It is much better to remove the mulch a little later than to remove it too early.

**PLANTS** that may have been pushed out of the ground by frost heave should be pressed firmly back into place.

**MOST** perennials can be divided and moved up until the time they begin to show new growth.

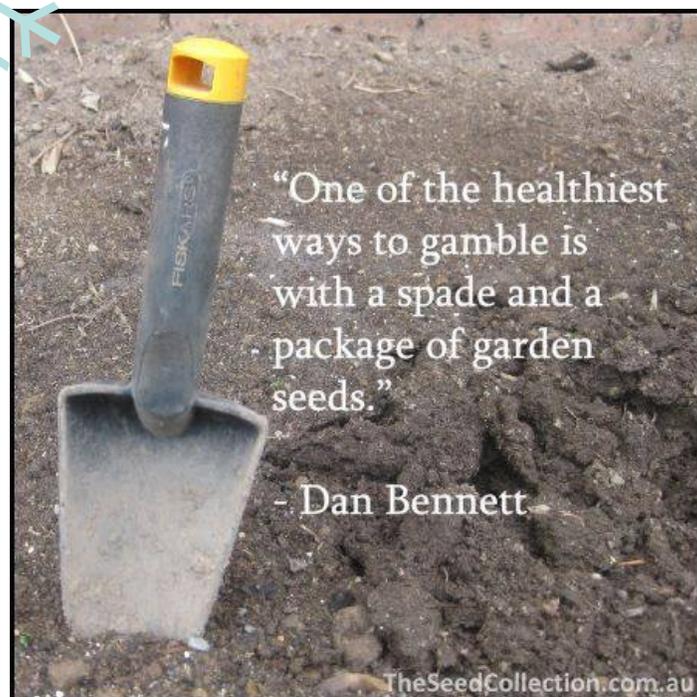
### FRUIT & VEGETABLE GARDENING:

**READ** seed packs to plan seeding times and assure you have needed supplies and space to grow seedlings & transplants.

**PEAS** may be planted in the garden this month.

**STRAWBERRIES** can be planted as soon as they become available.

# OUR GARDEN IS UNDER SNOW!



“One of the healthiest ways to gamble is with a spade and a package of garden seeds.”

- Dan Bennett

TheSeedCollection.com.au

## VARMIT OF THE DAY: **THE VOLE**

*ALSO KNOWN AS: MEADOW MOUSE, FIELD MOUSE*

Meadow Voles have a remarkable reproductive output: they are the world's most prolific mammals. Females can breed when they are a month old and produce litters of 3-10 pups every three weeks for the rest of their lives. A captive female produced 17 litters in one year. They are known for their boom-bust population cycles. Population density can vary from several Voles to several hundred per hectare over a 2-5 year period. Biologists have been studying - and trying to explain - these boom-bust cycles for more than half a century. At peak density, Meadow Voles are capable of real damage to farms and orchards. They are also a very important food source for many predators. It is because of the risk of killing important predators that we do not poison this important food source. Instead here is a proven repellent recipe:



### **VOLE REPELLENT**

**1 tsp. scented castor oil  
1 tsp. dish detergent  
1 gallon water**

**Using a watering can or hose end sprayer, saturate the ground to a depth of 3 inches. Do not lightly spray. No need to reapply after rain.**

**Cold weather is the time most damage is found.**

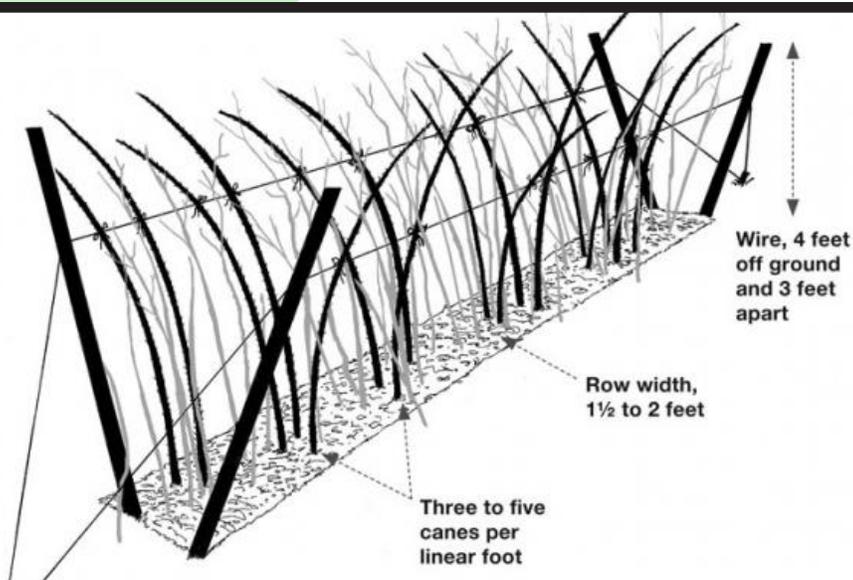
# PRUNING in the garden...

## Red Raspberries

To prune any plant properly, you need to understand its growth cycle. In the case of red raspberry, the roots and crown are perennial but the canes are biennial (they live for only two years). The first year, they emerge as green primocanes and form fruiting buds. If you have a summer-bearing variety, these buds won't flower until the following year. If you have an everbearing variety, the buds at the tips of your primocanes will give you a small fall crop, and the buds lower on the canes will remain dormant until next season. As winter nears, primocanes drop their leaves and develop a thin brown bark.



pruned and tied raspberries



### 1. Remove last year's canes

The first step of the late-winter pruning process is to remove all of last year's spent floricanes. By removing these dead canes, you prevent disease spores from overwintering on them and spreading to new canes. Floricanes have peeling gray bark and old fruiting lateral branches on them. Cut all of these dead canes right to the ground.

### 2. Narrow the row

The recommended row width is 1½ to 2 feet. Prune to the ground any canes that are growing outside of this perimeter. It doesn't matter how nice the cane looks; if it's out of bounds, cut it off. Keeping the rows narrow is critical for preventing disease and making fruit easy to reach during harvest time.

In their second year, the canes are called floricanes. The previous year's buds grow into fruiting branches and bear a summer crop. As their berries ripen, floricanes begin to senesce. Their leaves turn red or yellow, and they die as winter approaches. A big part of pruning a red raspberry is getting rid of these spent floricanes. To keep your plants from getting unruly during the growing season, cut back any new canes that emerge outside the desired row width of 2 feet; however, don't touch the new green shoots growing within the prescribed row width. It's not until late winter that you prune the entire plant.

In fall, resist the temptation to cut out the dying floricanes that fruited that summer. Research conducted at Cornell University indicates that these canes send carbohydrates to the crown and roots well into early winter, helping the plant survive dormancy.



# RECIPES

## PENNE WITH HAM, MUSHROOMS & PEAS

Ingredients: Original recipe makes 6 servings

1 pound penne pasta  
 1 tablespoon olive oil  
 1 cup finely diced white onion or cooking onion  
 1 tablespoon minced garlic  
 1/2 teaspoon dried chili flakes  
 1 cup diced ham, 1/4-inch/0.5 cm  
 3 cups thinly sliced button mushrooms

2 cups 35% cream  
 2 cups peas, fresh or frozen  
 1 1/2 cups shredded smoked Cheddar cheese  
 3 tablespoons lemon juice  
 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley  
 Salt and black pepper

Directions:

1. In a large pot of boiling, salted water, cook penne according to package directions until tender, but firm. Drain and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, in another large pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and cook, stirring for about 3 minutes or until tender and fragrant. Add garlic and chili flakes and cook, stirring for 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add ham and cook, stirring well, for 30 seconds. Add mushrooms and cook, stirring for 3 minutes or until water is starting to release from mushrooms. Increase heat to high and cook, stirring for about 5 minutes longer or until water is evaporated and mushrooms brown lightly.
3. Pour in cream and bring to a simmer, stirring often (don't boil it). Reduce heat and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes or until slightly reduced. Stir in peas and heat through (if using fresh peas, simmer for 2 to 3 minutes or until tender).
4. Add drained pasta and cheese to pot and stir to mix well. Stir in parsley and lemon juice. Taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.



## PEAS & PANCETTA

Ingredients Original recipe makes 4 servings

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
 2 ounces pancetta, chopped  
 3 tablespoons chopped onion  
 1 pound frozen peas, thawed  
 1/4 cup dry white wine  
 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme leaves  
 salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions

Heat olive oil in a frying pan over medium heat; cook and stir pancetta and onion in the hot oil until pancetta is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir peas, white wine, thyme, salt, and pepper into pancetta mixture; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until peas are tender and liquid is slightly reduced, 3 to 5 minutes

# EVENTS...

## EVENTS & PROGRAMS AT FRELINGHUYSEN ARBORETUM

Go to [www.arboretumfriends.org/events](http://www.arboretumfriends.org/events) for the full schedule of events

morris county park commission

**Grow, Cook, Eat**  
A Full Circle Garden Series

at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
353 East Hanover Avenue • Morristown, NJ 07962

Go from spade to spatula each month with Horticultural Program Specialists Gwen Montgomery and Cynthia Triolo. The series focuses on a different garden vegetable every month during the growing season and offers growing suggestions, planting tips, info on pests and diseases, seeds, new varieties, tastings and recipes.

Get inspired to go outside and plant something so that you too can go from garden to table.

**Time:** 7pm-8:30pm • **Cost per Class:** \$15, members/\$20, non-members per session

March 18—Perennial Vegetables: Asparagus and Rhubarb  
April 15—Annual Herbs: Basil, Dill, Cilantro and Parsley  
May 20—Vegetables for Containers

*Each session in this series is eligible for  
1.5 Rutgers Master Gardeners CEU's*

Register online at [arboretumfriends.org](http://arboretumfriends.org) or call 973.326.7603  
[facebook.com/MorrisParksNJ](https://www.facebook.com/MorrisParksNJ)  
[twitter.com/MorrisParksNJ](https://twitter.com/MorrisParksNJ)

[arboretumfriends.org](http://arboretumfriends.org)  
[www.kidsarboretum.org](http://www.kidsarboretum.org)  
[morrisparks.net](http://morrisparks.net)

[morris county park commission](http://www.morriscountyparkcommission.com)

### EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Grow, Cook, Eat Series

**Perennial Vegetables: Asparagus & Rhubarb.** Go from spade to spatula with Horticultural Program Specialists Gwen Montgomery and Cynthia Triolo as they team up again to offer their popular garden series that focuses on a different vegetable each month during the growing season. Perennial vegetables are the topic for March with an in-depth look at asparagus and rhubarb. Get great growing suggestions, planting tips and pest and disease prevention ideas for those tried and true varieties. Learn about some new and unusual ones, too. Seeds or plants, recipes and a tasting of a prepared dish using the featured vegetable are all on the menu. **March 18** (7:00 - 8:30pm)

**Winter Pruning Workshops** Learn the basic why, when, and how of pruning woody plants in a hands-on workshop taught by horticulture staff. First half hour of workshop includes indoor lecture, then on grounds with demonstration and hands-on training. Fee. **March 7:** general winter pruning with emphasis on conifers and broad-leaf evergreens, with Marc Montefusco, Dir. of Horticulture.

## SPRINGFEST GARDEN SHOW - SUSSEX COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

### March 12 thru 15 - Springfest Garden Show, NJ's best Garden Show

Noted as the best Garden Show in NJ, and even in surrounding states, this juried show is completely run by dedicated volunteers every year. This year: 7 outstanding garden displays by cutting-edge horticultural professionals, Still Life competition, informative seminars including David Culp, Kerry Ann Mendez, and other professional horticulturists. Vendor Market place devoted to people who love gardens and great Garden Cafe, The Kids Plant Your Own Zone and Treasure Hunt for kids. 973-948-9448

Sussex County Fairgrounds, 37 Plains Rd., Augusta, NJ 07822, [www.springfestgardenshow.org/](http://www.springfestgardenshow.org/)

## NJ BOTANICAL GARDEN AT SKYLANDS EVENT

**March 1** (11am - 3pm) Skylands Manor Tours. Historic tours guided by knowledgeable NJBG docents. The last tour begins at 3 pm. Manor House tour dates are subject to change; please check back. [www.njbg.org](http://www.njbg.org)

## THE HOME GARDEN CLUB OF MORRISTOWN EVENTS

**March 18 - Program 12:30** Garden Designer and Author, Kerry Ann Mendez, speaks on "Three Seasons of Outrageous Color with Perennials." Kerry's books include her latest: "The Right-Size Flower Garden." As an award winning Garden Designer, her gardens have been Featured on HGTV and national magazines. For all level gardeners. Light refreshments, spring tool sale. At Frelinghuysen Arboretum Lecture Hall. Send checks to: HGCM c/o Betsy Martone, 6 Spargo Lane, Randolph, NJ 07869. Include email address for conformation.

**Tickets: \$25. More info: (973) 479-4197 [www.homegardenclub.org](http://www.homegardenclub.org)**

# LUCKY peas!

Article from [www.gardensalive.com](http://www.gardensalive.com)

I know—you might not like the idea of putting anything in the ground really early in the season. But there are two very good reasons to get peas in the ground on March 17th:

1) They ARE called “SPRING Peas” for a reason: Peas are NOT a summer crop. As soon as it gets hot, the vines wither up and depart this mortal coil. If you wait till it seems a reasonable time to plant, your vines may shrivel and die just as the first peas are ready for picking. It’s a lot like going back to dating in High School. And

2) ...one of the great superstitions of gardening is that it is LUCKY to plant peas on St. Patrick’s Day. And as you probably know all too well, we gardeners NEED that luck much much more than normal people.

So--it’s the right time AND it’s lucky—you’re already two points ahead of your normal score! (No matter WHAT, plant by April 1st or you’re wasting your time--and the peas’.)

Your basic choices are:

- Sweet and crispy snow peas; pick ‘em while they’re still nice and flat and enjoy ‘pod and all’ in salads and stir-fries (MY personal choice of pea!).
- Southern favorite ‘snap’ or ‘sugar’ peas; let the pods get a little fatter on the vine before picking, then zip off and discard the strings and eat these sweet treats ‘pod and all’ as well.
- And, of course, your basic ‘English’, ‘garden’ or ‘shell-ing’ peas; where you zip open the pod and just eat the tasty peas inside.



(Note: Most snow pea vines are self-supporting, but even they prefer a little support to do their best—and you’ll need to provide a tall trellis for the other types to climb.)

~ However, even SNOW pea seeds won’t germinate outside if the weather turns (or stays) frigid. So, to get those extra March 17th good luck points, plant sprouted seeds outside instead! You’ll pick peas for six weeks this Spring instead of just two days! Surround your seeds with wet paper towels, put ‘em in a Ziploc bag, BUT DON’T SEAL IT, and leave them sit out in the open at room temperature. The seeds should sprout in 48 hours. If it’s nice and warm on St. Pat’s, plant ‘em all. If it’s cold, plant a few seeds (for luck), wait a few days for the weather to change and then plant the rest (for intelligence).

~ Dig a little trench next to a trellis, fence or tall, thin sticks jammed into the ground, so your vines will have something to climb. Add a tablespoon of wood ash per foot of row to ‘sweeten’ the soil, drop in your sprouted seeds (don’t be afraid to crowd ‘em—they love it!), cover with an inch of non-clay soil or (better!) seed starting mix, and water well.

~ Then be brave—if a cold wave hits, it may be a while before the sprouts shoot through the surface of the soil, but they will. Water weekly if it don’t rain. For food, shovel some nice fresh finished compost around the plants when they get to be about six inches tall; water with compost tea every other week; or use a gentle organic packaged fertilizer. Pick promptly when the peas start coming—the more you pick, the more you get!

# Help Support Our COMMUNITY GARDEN

Please share this page with people in the community that you feel would like to help support our wonderful town garden so it will be here for generations to come. Details and donation forms may be found on our website: [www.wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com](http://www.wtcommunitygarden.jimdo.com)

## Business & Personal Sponsorships

With your help we will be able to have the basics every garden needs.

For your sponsorship we will plant bulbs, place pavers & stepping stones or plant a fruit tree in your name.



**Fruit Tree**

Sponsored by  
Luigi's Pizza  
Joe & Maria

**Stepping Stone**

Joe & Maria  
Santos

**Brick Paver**



**1 Doz. Bulbs**

Large logo featured on website.  
A Fruit Tree planted in WTCG with dedication plaque.

\$500 +

Medium logo featured on website.  
Engraved Bluestone Stepping Stone placed in WTCG.

\$250 - \$499

Small logo featured on website.  
Engraved Paver placed in WTCG.

\$100 - \$249

Name featured on website.  
One dozen bulbs planted in WTCG.

\$50