



# Holly's Household Corner



*Make Your Trash Can Happy!*

Want to freshen up your trash cans? Here are a few ideas to deodorize your trash receptacles and keep things smelling nice by simply using common household products:

- Use some flavoring extracts. There are many that smell wonderful like lemon, vanilla, peppermint and chocolate. Get a cotton ball and soak a little extract into it. Then put the cotton ball into the bottom of the trash bin (not in the trash bag).
- Put an anti-static dryer sheet into the bottom of your trash can. It will keep your wastebasket smelling fresh - just as it does your clothes.
- Try cleaning your trash can with white vinegar. The vinegar will help neutralize any lingering odors.

~ Adapted from the PageWise website

## Gardens and Greenhouses

*May Gardening Tips*



The month of May brings yard and garden activity to a fever pitch! Proceed with caution early on for some activities, however, as the weather can still be uncooperative and winter-like well into the month.



### SHRUBS & TREES:

- Remove winter protection wraps from young trees; if left in place they create a haven for insects.
- If you haven't done so already, fertilize trees, evergreens, and shrubs to maintain health and encourage growth. Many turf fertilizers contain high levels of salt, chlorine, and insoluble materials which can damage trees and ornamentals, so be sure to use a fertilizer blend formulated specifically for trees.
- Remove vertical branches ("water sprouts") and suckers from flowering crab and apple trees.
- Plant ground covers under shade trees that don't allow enough sunlight to sustain grass. Periwinkle, Pachysandra, and English Ivy are three ground cover plants that grow well in shade.

## Are You a Literalist About 'Literally?'

If you're one of the people who gets your dander up over the usage and supposed misuse of the word "literally," Jesse Sheidlower, editor-at-large of the Oxford English Dictionary has news for you. Even though the word originally meant "in a literal manner; word for word; exactly," eventually many authors began using it as an intensifier. An example would be, "He was literally rolling in money." The intended way to use the word is, "The author literally translated the piece to German."

So, as is sometimes the case in language, a word that once meant "exactly" has come to take on a meaning the opposite of its origin. Jesse suggests opponents of using the word "literally" as an intensifier should think of the modern usage of the word "really." It's unlikely that anyone would argue against the following usage: "I'm really dying to eat at that restaurant." No one would think someone saying this was actually dying. Using "literally" as an intensifier just falls into a similar category.

### LAWN CARE:

- Early May is a good time for fertilizing lawns. Choose a fertilizer with controlled-release or slow-release nitrogen.
- Weed and feed mixes take a shotgun approach to weed control. The herbicide is broadcast with fertilizer with the hopes that enough weed killer is present where the weeds are to kill them. These products are a good approach where weeds are scattered here and there throughout the lawn, but it's best to spot treat, too, when you have bad infestations in localized areas. Just allow the proper time interval to pass between applying the weed and feed to the whole lawn and treating the problem spot.
- Consider core aerating your lawn if your lawn was sodded or has developed a heavy thatch layer. Aeration will help alleviate the symptoms of necrotic ring spot. Unfortunately, while May is a good time to aerate, it is often difficult to time. If you aerate when the soil is too wet, the aerator will become clogged and you may actually compact your lawn in the process.
- Never let your lawn grow so high that you need to cut off more than one-third of the height of the grass blade at a time. Such extreme leaf removal stops the flow of food to the roots, weakens the plants, and opens the lawn to diseases. If necessary, raise the mower cutting height, mow, then two days later lower the cutting height and mow again.

~ Adapted from [www.redsgardencenter.com/may.html](http://www.redsgardencenter.com/may.html)

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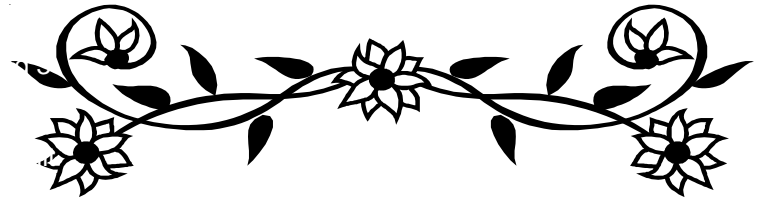
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To dread facing a problem is a waste of energy. If you fear certain issues that arise, shifting your way of thinking is probably the best thing you can do.

When you face a problem, do you judge yourself or others negatively? Do you feel as if there's no solution? If you do, it'll probably be more helpful if you can try to see all problems as the seeds of new opportunities. Think of it this way: without problems most people and companies might not evolve.

Problems inspire people to learn in ways they otherwise would not. So the next time you come face-to-face with a problem, instead of saying "Oh, no," it might be more appropriate to welcome the opportunity the problem represents.



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