

# August 2010

## Anti-Mosquito Tips for Your Yard By Linda Kay Harrison

There are few things in life that are as enjoyable and memorable as a warm summer evening out in the backyard... and there is nothing that can ruin one as quickly as mosquitoes. Nothing sends us running indoors quite like that annoying little buzz in our ears that we know will turn into itchy welts later.



The reality is that mosquitoes are more than just annoying. Mosquitoes can carry diseases that cause serious health issues. So how do you go about driving away these tiny pests once they've made their appearance?

Here are some environmentally low-impact tips to take back your yard:

1. Start by checking your yard for sources of standing water— ponds, birdbaths, flower pots and saucers, kiddie pools, the dog's water dish, even low spots in your lawn.
  - a. Drain and clean standing water sources at least once a week.
  - b. For ponds, use mosquito dunks that are safe for fish and plants. You can also use a product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT), which is a bacteria that kills mosquito larvae, but will not harm animals or humans. Dennis' 7 Dees has both of these products.
2. Attract birds to your yard. A good bird population can make a huge difference in mosquito population. Many common backyard birds eat mosquitoes, so try putting out a bird feeder and a bird house.

3. Attracting bats to your yard is an excellent way to get rid of mosquitoes. One bat can eat up to 600 mosquitoes in one hour. That's a good reason to consider putting a bat house in your yard!

4. There are several plants you can use in your landscape and patio pots that will help you get rid of mosquitoes naturally. And most are beautiful and low maintenance.

a. Some plants repel mosquitoes with their scent. Scented geranium and sweet basil repel mosquitoes for short distances, so these are good choices for the pots around seating areas, decks and patios.

b. Other plants you might use for their repellent qualities are:

Lemon Grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)  
Catnip (*Nepeta cataria*)  
Peppermint (*Mentha piperita*)  
Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)  
Marigolds (*Tagetes spp.*)  
Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*)  
Garlic (*Allium sativum*)  
Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*)  
Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

If you're just itching to get outside, don't let mosquitoes spoil the fun! Instead, let the knowledgeable staff at Dennis' 7 Dees help you find everything you need to take back your yard this summer!

## Event at our Lake Oswego Location

### Hawaii Dream Vacation Celebration

Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> 11-3 pm

Enter to win a Hawaiian Dream Vacation Giveaway and celebrate with FREE orchid with purchase for the

first 50 customers, FREE food from Noho's Hawaiian Cafe, make a plumaria lei for FREE and enjoy Hawaiian entertainment. Selected hardy tropical plants are 20% off this day only!

Smarter Gardening Since 1956



**DENNIS'**  
**SEVEN**  
**DEES**  
Since 1956

landscaping & garden centers

**Lake Oswego**  
1090 McVey Ave  
Lake Oswego, OR  
503.636.4660

**Cedar Hills**  
10455 SW Butner Rd  
Portland, OR  
503.297.1058

**Eastside**  
6025 SE Powell Blvd  
Portland, OR  
503.777.1421

**Seaside**  
84794 Hwy 101  
Seaside, OR  
503.738.6980

Dennis7Dees.com

Join us on



## Monthly Tips: August

- While it's probably too hot to start a new lawn from seed, begin your soil preparation now. Test your soil's pH (add lime if necessary), kill existing weeds and measure the square footage so you'll know how much compost, fertilizer and grass seed you'll need. The optimal time for establishing a new lawn is August thru mid October in the Willamette Valley.
- Have you had a bumper crop of vegetables this year? Now's the time to fertilize cucumbers, summer squash & broccoli for continued harvesting. We suggest Dr. Earth, an organic, pro-biotic fertilizer. It's also time to clean up and fertilize your strawberry bed.
- Perhaps you or your friends and family have had enough zucchini and want to plant a new crop of fall vegetables— Plant cauliflower, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, winter kale, spinach, turnips and parsnips. It's also a great time for a mid-summer planting of peas. Use an inoculant and plant disease resistant varieties. Our garden centers still have a great seed selection and fall veggie starts are in stock now.
- As space opens up in the vegetable garden, plant winter cover crops to naturally improve your soil. We have many to choose from!
- Mulch beds with Black Forest compost for weed control and to protect plants from hot weather damage. If needed, provide temporary shade for vulnerable or recent plantings. Spray with Wilt-Stop to reduce shock on new plants.
- Prune raspberries and other cane berries after harvest; monitor potatoes and tomatoes for early and late blight.
- Sit out and enjoy your garden; pick and eat a home-grown feast! Control yellow jackets and wasps with lures or traps but remember that they are beneficial to our gardens by preying on caterpillars and other pests.

## Plant of the Month: **Hardy Fuchsia**

Hardy fuchsias are one of our longest blooming perennials. They thrive in part sun or shade and bloom from June thru October. Container-grown plants are more vulnerable to winter temperatures. Several growers recommend planting your hardy fuchsia 3 to 4 inches deeper than the current soil level to bury the crown of the plant for added protection. Equally important is to avoid pruning back the plant until early or mid spring as new growth appears rather than trimming it back in the fall.

Some of our favorite varieties are pure white



'Hawkshead', 'Checkerboard' which is red and white and 'Delta's Groom', an unusual color combination. Most flowers average about one inch in size but some varieties have larger blooms. Plant sizes range from 2 to 4 feet tall and wide with some types getting up to 5 feet by 5 feet.

Hummingbirds are passionate about fuchsias! Often they will compete over feeding rights so be sure to plant several so your birds will be happy. The small leaves of hardy fuchsias look great with the large leaves of hostas and brunnera in your shade garden.

# Check our website for web only coupons!

Smarter Gardening Since 1956



landscaping & garden centers

**Lake Oswego**  
1090 McVey Ave  
Lake Oswego, OR  
503.636.4660

**Cedar Hills**  
10455 SW Butner Rd  
Portland, OR  
503.297.1058

**Eastside**  
6025 SE Powell Blvd  
Portland, OR  
503.777.1421

**Seaside**  
84794 Hwy 101  
Seaside, OR  
503.738.6980

OLCB# 5009

Dennis7Dees.com

Join us on

