



Summer Gardens ... For decades, we have carefully separated the vegetable garden, the herb garden, and the flower garden. This year try planting all three gardens in one – and reduce your workload. Welcome to the age of the mixed garden, where medicinal and culinary herbs now rub shoulders with flowers and vegetables.

Calendar Corner: Memorial Day (May 30) - The custom of honoring ancestors by cleaning cemetery grounds and decorating graves is an ancient and worldwide tradition, but the specific origin of Memorial Day, or Decoration Day as it was first known, is unclear. In early rural America this duty was usually performed in late summer and was an occasion for family reunions and picnics. After the Civil War, America's need for a secular, patriotic ceremony to honor its military dead became prominent, as monuments to fallen soldiers were erected and dedicated. For many years, states observed the holiday on different dates. Now, by federal law, Memorial Day is celebrated on the last Monday in May.

Weekly Round-up ... World Environment Day (June 5) - The UN General Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. The World Environment Day theme for this year is Green Cities, and its slogan is 'Plan for the Planet!' - to learn more, visit the UN Environment Program.

Tall Tales on Weather:

- When spiders build new webs, the weather will be clear.
- Listen for the sound of the first cicadas. The first frost of the year will occur about three months later.
- An open anthill indicates good weather; a closed one, an approaching storm.
- When the down of a dandelion contracts, it is a sign of rain. The sunflower raising its head indicates rain.

In the Garden:

- Trim climbing roses and attach securely to fences or trellises.
- Scatter crushed eggshells in a thick ring around roses to deter slugs.
- For midsummer bloom, sow annual poppies and baby's breath in borders by scattering the seeds between the other plants, cover with fine soil and tamp down gently.