



Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com

Issue 69, July, 2022

My garden is an honest place. Every tree and every vine are incapable of concealment, and tell after two or three months exactly what sort of treatment they have had.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, Journals (Published 1909 – 1913)

SPEAKER July 18

Colleen Jones, on A Four Seasons Garden.

WHAT'S EATING YOUR GARDEN?

Every summer, gardeners deal with the ugly, reddish brown beetles, known better as earwigs. Immediately recognizable by their pincer-like tails, they wreak havoc on gardens as they munch on young plants. You *can* resort to chemical sprays and dusts, or try these eco friendly remedies, which will protect beneficial insects.

Dig them out in the spring and fall. Adults overwinter in the soil and plant parts left lying around. Females lay eggs in tiny nests in the top five centimeters of soil. Since they hatch in the early spring, dig around all plants as soon as possible to disrupt the larvae, as exposure to air kills them off. Then cultivate the soil through the summer to prevent larvae from thriving. In the fall, remove all garden debris that could provide overwintering sites.

Trap them in May and June, or whenever plant damage is first noted. Earwigs hate the sun, so they hide in the daytime. Create instant traps with anything that will lure them out of the sunlight. Place folded or rolled newspapers near damaged plants overnight. Earwigs will take cover in the folds once the sun comes up. In the morning, shake them out into a pail of soapy water, which clogs their breathing pores and suffocates them. Or place in a pail of hot water to kill them instantly.

Get rid of ants by using natural and effective essential orange oil. Mix 1/3 cup orange oil per four liters of water in a refillable sprayer tank, or divide in a large spray bottle, shake well and spray wherever you see ants. To eradicate an ant hill, spray in the perimeter to enclose and trap the ants, and then work your way towards the hole, pouring solution on ants and ground, directing it to the queen and the colony.

Peppermint or spearmint is a pleasant scent...to us. But ants, mice, flies and especially raccoons find it repulsive. Grow some, in pots and throughout the garden, or chop leaves and sprinkle in strategic areas. Mix peppermint extract with water and spray to discourage these pests.





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Flies hate the scent of basil. Grow near the windowsill that pesky fly keeps throwing itself against.

Spiders can be scary, but when it comes to natural pest control, they rule. An average spider will consume 10 percent of its body weight in insects per day; something to consider before killing them.

ZUCCHINI FLOWER FRITTERS

This recipe does not have exact measurements; it is written in the old, Italian 'by eye/feel' way. Since it all depends on how many flowers you have, adjust ingredients till you achieve a pancake like batter that's easy to scoop with a spoon.

Clean flowers of any debris. Rinse under running water. Dry and remove stems and stamen. Roughly chop, and add chopped onions, garlic, chopped herbs of choice (traditionally, basil and parsley.) In separate bowl, beat eggs (at least 2 eggs to 10 -15 flowers, more if necessary) add ½ cup parmesan or Romano cheese. Add at least one cup all purpose flour, adding more if needed, and a pinch of baking powder.

Prepare frying pan with one inch of vegetable oil and bring to a medium high temperature.

Place one heaping tablespoon of batter at a time into the pan, pressing to flatten slightly. Fry until brown, flip to cook the other side.

Remove with a slotted spoon, place on paper towel to soak up any excess oil. Sprinkle more cheese on top and enjoy hot!

REMINDER

There will not be a meeting in August 2022.

We will resume our horticulture meetings on **Monday, September 19.**
Heinke Thiessen will be talking about fall perennials.

SUBMISIONS

If you have anything you'd like added to the newsletter, please call or email Mary no later than one week before the next meeting.

