**Tips from TAProots Garden Guru, Hoeman**

**2018 Tips from Hoeman**

**October 15, 2018**

So you may have read that our group visited the Duke Gardens. One thing struck me. They had used terraced gardens where originally water runoff would flood and ruin their plantings. Now you know in the orient they have used this for planting rice paddies and Japanese gardens (also at Duke). This has also been used in the UK and else where when they have hilly or rocky terrain.

At my second house  I had terraced gardens put in by the previous owner who had a gardener so my property was viewed at by those in the know, spring summer and fall. With over two hundred trees plus numerous shrubs and flower beds, many with labeled stakes. She had semi loads of fill dumped in the back so a portion was 3' higher than my neighbors and she had a pond that was 6-7' deep with a large pump to recirculate the water. Down another 15' hill was a stream that crossed the property. Unfortunately the DEC made her fill in the pond to a 3' depth because the koi fish could get into the stream during a flood. Now my neighbors built a koi pond and brought the fish indoors for the winter. So I understand the lure of water running and watching fish. in the right setting.

If you want this too, just PLEASE DON'T build a hill on flat land. You are better off building a reflecting pool with a fountain. You can still enjoy the visual and sound that it gives. It's better for resale too.

Are you digging it

Hoeman

**October 9, 2018**

Another thing you can do with leaves is press them. If you remember use a piece of blotting paper (not paper towel) on top and a heavy book. to speed it up use an iron on low with no water, do not rub. You can spray the dried leaves with clear acrylic. Because we are in the south ask a farmer if you can use a Tabaco leaf. (make one for him) I've seen them sold for good dollars or have your kids take them to show and tell.

**October 8, 2018**

I Just received the latest from "the farmers almanac" titled "The Value of Leaves" while I read it memories washed over me from the years. So I'll paraphrase and add my two cents.

The leaves of a large tree can be worth as much as $50 worth of plant food and humus. They are rich in calcium, magnesium, phosphorous, potassium, and trace minerals. They contain twice the mineral content of manure and organic matter to improve soil. They will lighten your clay soil and increase moisture retention in sandy soil.

You can compost them as they are high in carbon and low in nitrogen so you may want to add a shovel of soil and grass clippings between layers to help the breakdown. Or you can make mulch by shreadding them.

My first house was a new tract home with no trees. Back then people raked their leaves into paper bags which were set out for the garbage. So I went to homes that I knew did not have dog's picked up their bags and dumped them in my garden. Now they are picked up by the curb but you can pick them up for yourself. Now my second house had over 200 trees but no big garden so I blew what I could into my small plots and with the mulching blade set at 3" I just left them to enrich my yard. They feed the worms, fungi, and bacteria. I also spread a little lime to green up the lawn and fortify the garden plots.

So watch the beautiful colors of this fall and warm yourself as you take care of your lawn and garden.

Till them in

Hoeman

**October 6, 2018**

Here's a little tip from Hoeman.

Being that it October You might want to think about taking your mower in for blade sharpening ect. and avoid the lines and wait you will find in a couple weeks. Then you can get a couple cuts in before winter and be assured that your mower is ready for spring. Don't forget to put a trickle charger on your battery or get inside where it won't freeze.

Hoeman

**October 3, 2018**

Now it's fall and if you read our blog you know we gathered flower seeds to be put into packets. Thinking of flowers it's time to plant bulbs for the spring time. Over the years I've enjoyed seeing the first signs of the crocus then the daffodils followed by tulips and daylilies. I would buy different types. Tall, short, early, late, and all kinds of colors. Now my like for such things is in my blood. My mother still has huge beds of flowers. and one of her sisters even got into the business having a lily farm. It's kind of cool. She has lilies with different names so hence the business name "[dyliliesbyname.com](http://dyliliesbyname.com/)". You can look up your name and she will send you bulbs. If you would mention my name or say Hoeman told me about you. I don't get anything for this but she would get a kick out of it. Well dear me I'm just going on and haven't talked about the bulbs. I'll have to make a part 2 so we can get down to business. for now seek out and purchase bulbs.

Hoeman

Bulbs part 2

So now let's get down and dirty. First to know bulbs will multiply and you will have to thin or divide them over the years. As far as soil well we've talked about that. Do your planting within a week or so from purchase when the temp is around 60 degrees.  Location. Plant in beds maybe around a tree, the edge of your property or around your mail box post. You will ant the taller ones in the back putting smaller types like crocus in the front. You can use a hand shovel but a bulb tool works best. the spacing and depth should be on the package. For tulips it's about 6" deep and 4" apart. You can do rows or clusters what ever seems right. Put them in the hole pointy side up cover and water. They should poke out as soon as the days warm a little. Your biggest problem maybe squirrels but they can be tasty.

Till your dirt and till later

Hoeman

**May 14, 2018**

So I'm looking out at the back yard and it is ***a sea of dandelions.*** What are we going to do? Well I immediately recall my uncle Ken (not really a uncle, just what  we called him) anyway he was into making wine, and he did make dandelion wine when they were in season. Now the thought of making wine never stuck me as fun so I thought I'd tell you about a few WEEDS that you my like to try.

Obviously the Dandelion which you can put the leaves in salad and here's the kicker, they are loaded with Beta-carotene. Next for your salad try Lambs Quarters. They act as a wild spinach. Now add some Purslane which will give you vitamin A, C, and Omega 3 fatty acids.

Let's see you've had your salad and feeling good, but what about ailments. We've got that covered in part by starting with a cup of tea made with Kudzu. Now I realize it's the scourge of the south but back in the day the tea gave relief for allergies, colds, and fever. Not as bad as you thought. My last one is Red Clover which has it's accolades in treatment of both prostate and colon cancer. Now I'm not claiming it's a cure but these home remedies your doctor will tell you are worth the try.

I've only covered a few of the eatable weeds here. Have fun researching the others that may be out you back door.

Happy weed collecting.

Hoeman

### January 11, 2018

### *BURR it's most definitely been too cold*. So I've been dreaming of warmer days in the garden. For now its time to check and clean my gardening tools. You may find that some of them need to be hit with a file or the handles are loose. Maybe you find that your gloves need patching. Well now is the time to get after them.

Now that you feel better with one chore done, you can turn your attention to the garden. Start with a sketch, placing veggies in a different locations from last year. Keep in mind companion planting, sun, shade ect. When you have your plan its time to get out your seeds and determine what is still viable, making a list of what to buy. Do not forget the flowers.

Till later,

## *Hoeman*

**2017 Tips from Hoeman**

## September 18, 2017

***It's a great time in the garden!*** Most of your crops are in and maybe you still have tomatoes, peppers, and greens. Now is the time to clear out the other areas for fall/ winter crops. You can use leftover seed or get new. You will want to plant your seed a little deeper than you did in spring. There are two types of crops; (1) are the ones you want to harvest before frost and (2) are the ones you can leave through winter or harvest in the winter when you want something fresh. My favorites for #1 are: beets, broccoli, and carrots. You can also grow: cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, radish, and spinach. My favorites for #2 are: beets, brussel sprouts, leeks, rutabaga, and turnip. You can also grow: cabbage, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion, and Swiss chard. In both #1 and #2 I have grown my favorites with success in NY and now I'll try them here. If you know what works for you please let me know!

If you don't want to grow vegetables this fall/ winter stay tuned for the next issue when we explore Fall garden clean-up, plus green manure ideas.

*Hoeman*

**August 11, 2017**

***This time we will mention two more means of controlling your property*.** First is another means of controlling garden pests. Other than the ladybug you can try praying mantis. You only need a few and if you place them at opposite ends of the garden,  they will scour it clean. When they don't have enough pest to eat they will eat each other.

Secondly is for those that have a constant problem with brush and weeds growing all over the place. You can get a brush hog or see if someone in your area has goats. Now some say that goats eat everything in sight, which is a myth. If you look at India they use goats to eat garbage in their dumps. If you enlist the assistance of local goat farmer, your farmer will put temporary fencing up and in a couple of days you are back incontrol. By the way, they will even eat poison ivy.

What's the difference between a unicorn and a head of lettuce.

The unicorn is a fun beast.

And lettuce is a bunny feast.

*Hoeman*

**July 2017**

***All That Squash***

Here's a tip that you can use for all the summer squash.

Squash Fritters

2 cups grated squash

1 cup chopped onion

2 whisked eggs

6 T flour

2 t sugar

1/2 t salt

1/2 t pepper

pinch baking powder

Mix all together

heat 2 T veg oil and 2 T butter

fry like pancakes drain and enjoy

*Hoeman*

**July 2017**

***Here are some tips for food storage while it's too hot to get out.***

Reorganize your food storage by looking at what you have. Rotate older stock to the front and plan your meals based on these items. ie:  
if there is dust on the can use it. Next look at how you use your freezer. 2  
methods I've used is to utilize bins in the freezer. 1 put beef and fish in one  
basket, chicken in one, and pork and sausage in another, then vegetables in  
another and ice cream/ odds in the last one. While this works if you are  
disciplined if you are always just grabbing the chicken, the others may sit to  
long. So you can number your bins and put what you buy in the same couple

months in the bin. Now just eat out of the oldest bin.

*Hoeman*

**July 2017**

***Quick Tip***

Just went to Fuquay Walmart and got a large watermelon for $2.47. It is so good and at half the price.

Also, a question about food storage:

If anyone has used the Rubbermaid Fresh Vent storage bowl we'd like to know what you think about the results.

*Hoeman*

**July 8, 2017**

***Hoeman on Weed Woes***

Here's a tip that you can use to help your garden grow better.  It's for those pesky weeds. I once read that weeds are just plants in the wrong place and its true. Some you can eat, but when they invade your garden space they rob the soil of both moisture and nutrients. The best way to deal with them is to keep pulling them and mulch - and pull and mulch and...well you get it. Years ago the thought was to hoe the first couple inches chopping up the weeds but we found that with many weeds this just promoted more weeds. You want to get right down and dirty pulling each one up using what looks like a screw driver with a split tip. Then, keep the garden edged.

For the off season, you can plant a cover crop (a manure crop). In this area, try winter wheat, barley or rye. In the spring, you turn them under a couple weeks before planting. Or, you can cover your garden with a foot of clean leaves. This works well if you have a lot of trees AND you don't have to use that burning barrel.

There are two more methods after the growing season; one is to cover the whole garden in black plastic which will kill the weeds by not getting in light. The draw back is that when you take off the cover some of weeds will have just gone dormant. The other thought is to put a clear plastic cover over the garden in the spring. The sun will warm the ground and the weeds will grow. Now pull off the cover and go to town pulling them all before planting. Now you are ready for planting and you want to be sure to mulch. I've used black plastic, straw, wood chips, and my favorite was to use cardboard. There are a lot of stores where you can get this for free. Go to the big box stores for those large cardboard sides from lawn mowers shipping etc.

On the lighter side:

An ear of corn says; My ears have bean ringing and it beets me how these rumors sprout. Rosemary you know how I relish the thyme we have together, I think your radishing so I just want to squash those rumors.

Keep the hoe between the rows.

*Hoeman*

**June 20, 2017**

***Timely Tips for your Garden:***

I want to share the true spirit of “Hoeman” in food storage. In my great granpa's day, they had a milk farm with the typical farm house and across the driveway they built a 2 bedroom 1 bath stone house with a big porch with large trees. You know, so big a full grown man could not reach around them, in-frontof both to keep things cool. Out back they had dug a 15 ft or so long trench about 4-5 ft deep. They had lined it with stones and had built a stone roof using what they had from clearing the land for hay and corn fields. This was our root cellar.

Now granpa lived close to town and only had a small parcel, so he had used galvanized garbage cans in holes with straw covering them. I heard that before he got the galvanized cans he had used wooden barrels. The veggies would be put into separate burlap bags and placed in the barrels. Granpa told me that the straw they put on top was from cleaning out the horse stalls and that the dung smell kept dogs and other critters away. But I don't know if he was just pulling my chain.

So now a days most of us have enough power and funds to by a freezer. Our latest toy I don't know how I got along without is our vacuum "foodsaver". I think it is a model #5300 with a hand held device to seal and reseal bags and special bowls. This is especially useful with lettuce and sliced onion/tomato/ etc. It seems expensive to start but the food is so much better and I can't tell you how many items that have been eaten instead of going to the trash.

And again we are going to use up our stored foods, this time green beans. Out of the garden just put a pad of butter on them but after freezing, try this, or just add some chopped nuts to your green beans.

Fried Green Bean Recipe

1 LB GREEN BEANS trimmed and cut at angle in 3 pieces ea.

1 T GARLIC chopped

1 T GINGER chopped

2 SCALLIONS chop whites

1/2 t CHILI PASTE

1 T SOY SAUCE

1/2 t SUGAR

1/4 t SALT

taste PEPPER

2 T VEG OIL

6 min FRY ON MED GREEN BEANS IN 1 T OIL UNTIL SHRIVEL

DRAIN and ADD 1 T OIL

few sec FRY ON MED GARLIC / GINGER / SCALLIONS

ADD SOY / SUGAR / S & P

STIR and SERVE HOT

*Hoeman*

**June 16, 2017**

1. As it is hurricane season you want to make sure all your garden stakes are deep seated as they could be whipped thru a window if a storm comes up.

2. As we are trying to use last year's canned veggies, I thought you might like the attached recipe for beets.

BEET HUMMUS

15 Oz CANNELLINI BEANS DRAINED

1 LB COOKED PEELED BEETS

1/4 C SESAME SEED PASTE

2 T LEMON JUICE

1 T PREPARED HORSERADISH

2 CLOVES GARLIC

1/4 C OLIVE OIL

PARSLEY TO TASTE

KOSHER SALT TO TASTE

FOOD PROCESSOR ALL

ADD OIL UNTIL SMOOTH

*Hoeman*

**April 2017**

***Today we are going to discuss two garden pests.***

The first pest is Aphids. You can cover your plants when they are small. You can use some different soap-type sprays or insecticides. But these methods are time takers, so my favorites are; first, spraying water throughout your plants every couple days. This also gets them watered. Secondly, is the ladybug. You want to plant marigolds and dill throughout your garden to draw them. If you don't attract them, you can purchase or mail order them. Here is the draw back. If you buy too many, they will go elsewhere. I've also seen pictures of homes infested with them, so only buy a small amount.

The second garden pest is Crows. We just lost our crop of watermelon to them. It made us mad and cry at the same time. Next year we are going to make cages for each melon. I'll start with a rectangular frame and cover it with chicken wire. Then as each melon grows we'll put a cage over it and stake it down. I know my mom used to put a scare crow in the garden and string up aluminum pie plates, but I don't think they were effective.

If you have something that works, please let me know.

*Hoeman*