



## Bonner County Gardeners Association Education ~ Community Service ~ Camaraderie

April 2013

Please contribute to *The Garden Gate*. Informational articles, garden tips, announcements, and digital photos are welcome. For questions or comments please email [lauriebrown54@gmail.com](mailto:lauriebrown54@gmail.com) When emailing, please put "MG" in the subject line.

### In This Issue

President's Message  
April Gardening To-Do List  
City Baskets Planting  
Event Chairs and Contact Info

### President's Message

No more waiting for spring to arrive; spring is here! The spring equinox is behind us and the greening of our world is proof that the growing season has started.

April's flower is the Sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*), also known as the Queen of Annuals.



Here are sweet peas, on tip-toe for a flight: With wings of gentle flush o'er delicate white, And taper fingers catching at all things, to bind them all about with tiny rings. John Keats

Kingdom: [Plantae](#)  
Order: [Fabales](#)  
Family: [Fabaceae](#) (legumes)  
Genus: [Lathyrus](#)  
Species: *L. odoratus*

The introduction of sweet peas to Northern Europe and the British Isles began in 1699, when Sicilian monk Franciscus Cupani sent some European botanists seeds of what is now known as 'Cupani Original'. This parent of the flowers we enjoy today has two dainty, intensely colored and scented flowers per bloom stalk. 'Cupani Original' seeds are available for purchase.

For the first 180 years after its European introduction, sweet pea flowers were limited to a handful of colors. In 1870 Henry Eckford, a Scottish nurseryman, began working with sweet peas. His work resulted in a wider color range and larger showy flower petals. Henry Eckford's claim to fame was assured when his sweet pea 'Prima Donna' mutated three times. The most famous of the mutations happened in 1912, in the gardens of Earl Spencer; great-grandfather of Princess Diana. The new strain was named 'Countess Spencer'. 'Countess Spencer' was crossed back to the huge range of grandiflora sweet peas which had been developed by Eckford and others, giving rise to the 'Spencer' sweet peas series.

Sweet peas became hugely popular in many countries around the world, especially so in Europe and the United States. In the early twentieth century

approximately 1700 acres of sweet peas were grown in California to meet the demand for approximately 450 tons of seed. Over half of the seed harvested was shipped to Europe; most going to England.

Sweet Peas were favored flowers during Queen Victoria's and her son Prince Edward VII's lives. Both mother and son were avid amateur botanists, gardeners, and floral fashion trendsetters. Sweet peas were incorporated into floral arrangements for all occasions; especially weddings and dinner parties. Dried sweet peas petals were an important ingredient for potpourris. Sweet peas became the floral emblem of Edwardian England.

In the 1980's, the Sweet Pea Society of Wem, England started an annual festival to honor Henry Eckford. Eckford moved to Wem in 1888. It was here he succeeded in breeding his grandiflora sweet peas.

Most varieties of Sweet pea are annual vines. Leaves are pinnate and tendrils help the plant to climb. Sweet peas flowers self-pollinate while still in bud. The flowers and seeds are somewhat poisonous. The most robust of these vines can reach over 8 feet tall and the flower blooms are available in a wide range of colors, tones, and petal appearance.

Some of my favorite childhood memories include sweet peas. My mother grew glorious sweet peas here in Sandpoint in the early 1950'. Most of our friends' gardens included these delightful flowers. I was encouraged to pick bountiful bouquets of this Queen of Annuals. I hope to do so again this year.

Jan



## April Gardening To Do List

From Backyard Gardeners located at:  
[http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening\\_Montzonenese01.html](http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Montzonenese01.html)



### Zone 3

- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals indoors
- Water cymbidiums weekly until they bloom
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials
- Plant bare-root and container roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root shrubs and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees

### Zone 4

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees

- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant, feed, and aerate cool-season lawns and loosen thatch
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

## Zone 5

- Set out cool-season annuals
- Sow seeds of warm-season annuals
- Set out summer-flowering bulbs
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root fruit trees
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees before buds swell
- Spray apples, peaches, and pears that have been affected with canker problems
- Plant cool- and warm-season lawns
- Plant bare-root perennial vegetables
- Plant seedlings of cool-weather vegetables
- Sow fast-growing warm-season vegetables

- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Sow seeds for tender perennials
- Plant container and bare-root roses
- Uncover roses for spring and apply dormant spray
- Plant balled-and-burlapped, container, and bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Apply dormant spray to trees, shrubs, and vines
- Plant summer-blooming shrubs and vines
- Plant frost-tolerant trees
- Plant needle-leafed evergreens

## City Baskets Planted

Friday, April 5th members of the Bonner County Gardeners Association planted the Hanging Baskets that will grace downtown Sandpoint. All Seasons Garden and Floral care for the baskets at the Panhandle Special Needs Inc. greenhouse until their debut for the Lost in the 50's weekend. Funding for the baskets provided by the Downtown Sandpoint Business Association. Picture taken by James Reinhardt.



2013 Event Chairs and Contact Info			
Event	Date*	Chair(s)	Contact
Membership Meetings	Ongoing	Jan Wilfert	263-7405 or <a href="mailto:rj.wilfert2@frontier.com">rj.wilfert2@frontier.com</a>
Continuing Education Program	Ongoing		
Membership Committee	Ongoing	Zoe Bolton	264-1210 or <a href="mailto:zbolton@gmail.com">zbolton@gmail.com</a>
Home Horticulture Series	Spring & Fall	Don Childress, Janae Dale and Gail Swan	Don – 255-7928 or <a href="mailto:dwc1rsc@televar.com">dwc1rsc@televar.com</a> ; Janae – 265-2205 or <a href="mailto:dalejanae@gmail.com">dalejanae@gmail.com</a> , or Gail H 263-0180 C 290-4126 or <a href="mailto:gswan8274@hotmail.com">gswan8274@hotmail.com</a>
Home and Garden Show	April	Ellie Lizotte and Ann Warwick	Ellie – 264-5462 or <a href="mailto:hopeellie@aol.com">hopeellie@aol.com</a> ; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.com</a>
School Gardens	Spring/Summer	Janae Dale	265-2205 or <a href="mailto:dalejanae@gmail.com">dalejanae@gmail.com</a>
Farmers Market	Spring/Summer	Sandra Gevurtz	(509)922-2359 or <a href="mailto:sangevurtz@gmail.com">sangevurtz@gmail.com</a>
Mickinnick Trailhead – meet the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month at 9am at the trailhead	Spring/Summer	Jan Griffiths	<a href="mailto:jan@looptravel.com">jan@looptravel.com</a> , 290-1973
Healing Garden	Spring/Summer	Valle Novak	
Potlucks	Summer	Becky Reynolds, Ann Warwick	Becky - <a href="mailto:rplace@directv.net">rplace@directv.net</a> or 264-3214; Ann – H 263-2844 C 691-1900 or <a href="mailto:w.redguy@frontier.com">w.redguy@frontier.com</a>
Garden Tour	July	Penny Barton	H 265-9733; C 610-1493 or <a href="mailto:one-cent@gotsky.com">one-cent@gotsky.com</a>
Bonner County Fair	Aug	Lynn Pietz and Jon Bair	<a href="mailto:lynnpietz@hotmail.com">lynnpietz@hotmail.com</a> or 265-3563

