

Notes from AGC Speaker: Dorothy's Garden Secrets

Fertilizer: Do not use more than 5 for nitrogen. Use Jobes 4-4-4 which includes microbes. You can also use Lowe's Perfect Blend fertilizer.

If you have poor looking leaves due to fungus use 1 or 2 bags chamomile tea to one cup of boiling water, brew for 10 mins, add ¼ tsp baking soda. Stir well, place in spray bottle and spray both sides of leaves. Use 2 bags of tea if your leaves look really bad. Another mixture is 1 cup of raw cow's milk plus 1 tsp of cinnamon. Allow to stand overnight for cinnamon to dissolve. Place in spray bottle and spray both leaves and ground.

Cinnamon is an anti-fungal so it will also kill mushrooms.

Best time to water is in the morning so plants dry out during the day. This will discourage fungus.

Use Timothy hay instead of alfalfa meal. It has more protein and other nutrients than the alfalfa. Just spread the hay around plants and as it breaks down it will feed them.

Weeds: If you have dandelions it means your soil is calcium deficient.

Those that have prairie grass or weeds, place newspaper (not the glossy newspaper) over it, hold in place with a rock. If you are re-seeding your lawn use Pennington Kentucky Blue Grass. It's the best for our area.

If you have moss in your grass put lime down in the spring. A lot of weeds grow in high acidic soil and lime will lower the Ph. Make sure it is watered in good as it can burn animals' paws. You can also use 1 cup of the blue dawn liquid soap (not the anti-bacterial soap) in a gallon sprayer and spray moss.

Spreading corn meal in your garden will kill prairie grass.

Moles: Put used kitty litter in their tunnels or soak lava rock in onion and garlic and put down their holes.

If you have an area where you won't mind the moles put coffee grounds there. Moles' food source loves coffee grounds which will attract moles to that area. You can get coffee grounds from coffee stands or at the dollar store.

If you purchase ladybugs – purchase them frozen, take an ice chest with ice with you for transportation. At 4:00 PM water really good; at 5:00 PM release them, they will immediately want water and then it will be time for them to sleep.

As much as possible buy locally grown plants, don't buy plants from Canada. Canada uses sprays that kill bees. Dorothy's favorite nurseries are: NW Horticulture (I couldn't find anything on this nursery), Monrovia and Smith Gardens in Marysville. Sunnyside Nursery sells Monrovia plants.

Plant green beans and peas in the fall in your garden. They will biodegrade and raise the nitrogen level naturally in your garden.

Super Thrive comes in a brown bottle with a yellow label and is great for anything with roots. It has vitamin B and is great for transplanting and cuttings. Use 1 drop to 1 cup of water which will help roots to grow.

Compost is like ice cream – you can never get enough. Cedar Grove compost is really good.