

# Gotthyme Newsletter

## *It Began In The Garden*

SPRING ISSUE  
APRIL 2011

### Our Perennial and Annual Herbs are California-Grown !

#### Our Herbs

are grown by safe and natural methods of farming, for a product that is safe and healthy for the whole family.

We do not use toxic chemicals, pesticides or synthetic fertilizer. Instead we follow a natural method of organic composting and cover crops to upgrade and preserve our land for the next generation.



**Herb Gardens** Having access to a small herb garden can be as simple as having a nice large squatty pot just outside your kitchen door containing a few of your favorite herbs like the right sweet basil, purple leaf basil, chives and flat leaf parsley. Your food preference tastes should dictate what you would like to grow. Two favorites that almost everyone would agree upon are parsley and chives. Their mild flavors are very versatile and can be used in any variety of cuisine. Perhaps you want your mini garden within arms reach of your cooking area. All you have to do is design a window box or group of planters for your kitchen. When creating this mini herb garden, decide where your box will be located.

The amount of sun that you get in the chosen window will dictate which herbs to select. Both southern and western exposures are generally sunny and hot. Good choices are thyme, coriander, French lavender, bay laurel, basil, lemon verbena, dill, parsley, chives, sage and rosemary.

Northern and eastern exposures will provide more shade and are not as warm. Shade loving plants that will work nice here include parsley, spearmint, lemon balm, chives, and borage.

Fill your containers half full of potting soil mix with equal parts of potting soil, peat moss and vermiculite. Move and place plants until you are pleased with how the design looks. Remember to keep in mind the mature sizes of the plants and what their growth habits are. Do not place a plant that will mature at 12 inches in front of a plant that will mature no taller than 2 inches. Don't fear mixing plants together - it will not hurt anything. Once you have settled on the placement of the plants, add potting soil to about 1 inch below the rim of the container.

Tamp the soil down firmly and water liberally. Pinch back any large growth to promote thick growth.

When planning an herb garden outside, you can start modestly with a few pots on the patio or located on a bakers rack.

Herbs like sage, thyme and mint are available in different colors, so that you can make an attractive bed in various shades.

Construct the bed as close as possible to the house, so you do not neglect to gather the herbs for cooking during wet weather. Whenever possible, grow each type of herb in a separate pocket. You can actually divide the bed into distinct pockets with dwarf hedges of lavender or you can use concrete or stone pavers or stones to add a landscaped design.

This way, herbs may easily be reached by foot paths and easily replaced without disturbing other plants that are nearby. Keeping plants harvested insures thick and hearty growth.



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#### Container Gardening

- Basics of Grouping Plants
- Create Welcoming Entryways
- Create Boundaries & Direct Traffic
- Break Up Wall Space
- Use Pots to Soften Edges & Corners
- Create Drama with Focal Points

#### *New!*

#### *Floral Jellies*



Rose Lavender Wisteria

#### *Sauces & Marinades*



Smoky Apple Thai Chili

## Gardens To Go



### Adirondack Bench

Handcrafted of willow, stands approximately 24" x 14" x 27". Garden includes planter, plants and garden layout for part am sun (planting required).



### Adirondack Chair Planter

Handcrafted of willow, stands approximately 14" x 13" x 28". Garden includes planter, plants and garden layout for part am sun (planting required).

## Garden Decor

*Artisan Designer*

*Cheryl Gaines*

*Patio & Garden Amenities Collection*

Tables & Chairs

Stack Tables

Garden Racks

Benches

Fountains

Stepping Stones

Bird Baths

Bird Houses

*and much more!*

## Container Gardening

**BASICS OF GROUPING PLANTS** Can Be As Simple As Filling A Pot With A Plant and placing it in a desirable spot. Chances are even this quick bit of work will produce a splash of color that enhances its location. But in container gardening, as with many worthwhile things, a little bit of forethought goes a long way. Whether you are composing a single pot or a grouping of pots that amounts to a small garden, using a triangular arrangement produces a fast and pleasing result. Translated into the language of design, a triangle consists of a dominant central element flanked on either side by components of lesser stature. The triangular form is a staple of all art forms and for a good reason. It always works.



Thus, a triangular composition using three containers of different heights, sizes, and shapes has everything to recommend it. The number is manageable, and the floor plan can be flexible. Triangles can be configured to fit any situation.

Your grouping will quickly fall into place if you set the tallest container in the apex of the triangle, with the other two pots on either side. Plant the tall container with something appropriately commanding, and allow it to dominate the composition. The other two containers and the plants they house can offer contrast in height and shape.

**CREATE WELCOME ENTRYWAYS,** Flowers and Greenery At An Entryway suggest that a warm reception awaits visitors within your home. But before you choose containers and plants for your entrance, consider the period and style of your house. Although you can work against an architectural style to exciting effect, it is much safer and easier to go with the flow. In choosing containers, also keep in mind the building materials used in the house and surrounding hardscape. The mellow hues and matte finish of terra-cotta pots go with almost any material but seen particularly at home next to brick or weathered wooden structures. The neutral gray of cement or reconstructed limestone goes with everything and almost matched granite. Often, potted plants at entryways serve practical as well as esthetic purposes, such as identifying the main entrance of a house with multiple outside doors. Finally, plants at the entryway create a transition between the house and the natural world bringing the garden right up to the door.

**CREATE BOUNDRIES & DIRECT TRAFFIC,** It's Amazing What A Group Of Potted Plants Can Do. Tall, impressive plants in large containers can build walls where none exist, create privacy by enclosing open spaces, lead visitors along paths chosen by the gardener rather than by chance, and steering people clear of obstacles or sudden changes in level. Think of potted plants not only as a decoration but also as movable partitions with many uses. Walls made with containers can be uninterrupted and hedge-like, or sketchy and permeable to sight.

**BREAK UP WALL SPACE** In The Architecture Of The 18th and 19th Centuries a pleasing balance existed between walls and windows. Home were typically smaller than they are today, and their simple facades had openings for a door or doors and a number of windows, all of which were harmonious in size and proportion to the amount of wall space.

Changes in the way we live and do business have altered the function and look of both private homes and commercial buildings. In both, large uninterrupted walls of glass, metal, masonry or wood are now common. Some of these walls are just boring; others are downright ugly; a few are beautiful, depending on the material with which they are constructed.

All cry out for pattern and softening influence of leaves and blossoms. But there is simple solution to all these changes. Potted plants can be easily placed wherever needed. They not only offer a broad spectrum of sizes, shapes, forms and colors to create patterns of light and dark against a neutral an add movement.

**USE POTS TO SOFTEN EDGES AND CORNERS,** Since Most Houses Are Made Up Of Cubes And Rectangles with outbuildings and garden structures that repeat geometric themes, corners abound. These right angles are, of necessity, sharp edged and project aggressively into the natural world. By arranging potted plants around outside corners, you can soften and blend these forceful angles into the landscape. And inside corners, which would otherwise be dead or wasted space, come wonderfully alive as setting for containers. Of course, edges are necessary and do play a vital role in defining and containing space, but their precision can intrude upon your sensibilities. Even the edge of a well built wooden planter or a gracious stone urn is often improved by a veil of leafy stems. Trailing plants blur hard lines and enliven inert containers. Less agreeable materials, such as plastic, can be covered by lush living curtain.

**CREATE DRAMA WITH FOCAL POINTS**, An Eye-Catching Object, Like A Single distinguished container, can provide a garden with high drama, These focal points are often found at the end of a long vista or as the centerpiece of a garden divided into quadrants. The function of a focal point is to draw our eye and arouse and then satisfy our interest. But a pot or urn must be in scale with its surroundings, and in a very large garden, it may need the reinforcements provided by other pots. For example a garden with a massive container appropriately elevated and extravagantly planted, were it not for the supporting cast. In this case, a lower basin of succulents in the foreground and a pair of empty urns at the top of a set of steps are all cast members that maintain our interest and lead our eyes onward and upward to the star of show.



## Make A Good Potting Soil

I Work Hard To Ensure That The Soil In My Garden is the best I can give my plants, and they reward me with robust health. Yet that same good soil if transferred to a container would cause the plants in it to languish. That's because garden soil doesn't offer enough air, water, or nutrients to a plant growing in a container. Potting soils are specifically formulated to overcome these limitation.

- **Potting Soil needs to drain well but still hold moisture.** One of the most important things a potting soil needs to do is provide roots access to air by letting water drain away from them. In the ground the soil is usually deep to let excess water drain beyond root zones. In pots however water tends to accumulate at the bottom, despite drainage holes. The smaller the pore spaces of the soil in the pot the higher that water layer will reach. Larger pores, formed by adding mineral aggregates to potting soils, readily admit water into the soil, then carry it through the medium and out the bottom. Then all those large, empty spaces can fill with air.
- Perlite, vermiculite, calcined clay (kitty litter), and sand are the mineral aggregates most commonly used in potting soils.
- A potting mix also must have ingredients that help it retain moisture. This is where organic materials—usually peat moss, sphagnum moss, or coir— come in. They cling to some of the water that the aggregates are helping to drain. Organic materials also hold on to nutrients that might otherwise wash away.
- In addition to peat moss, vermiculite and perlite, commercial mixes often contain various grades of shredded bark. Lime may be added to help balance the acidity of the peat moss, and small dose of fertilizer can often make up for lack of nutrients.

## Homemade Potting Soil

I've Found That Making My Own potting Soil produces better results than commercial mixes and eliminates the need to monitor my containers nutrient and ph levels. With plenty of good soil in my backyard, I have no trouble making this traditional potting medium. It features a mixed bag of ingredients, but I figure that plants, like humans, benefit from varied diet, This mix can support plants for a year or two without additional fertilization.

I place a 1/2 inch mesh screen over my garden cart and sift the peat moss, compost, and garden soil to remove any large particles. I then add the remaining ingredients and turn the materials over repeatedly with a shovel, adding water if the mix seems dry. After a few incantations, the stuff is ready to work its magic on everything from tomato seeding to my weeping fig.

- Remember to add 1" gravel to the container before soil mix and 1½" mulch on top after planting.

### Basic Recipe

#### Mix 2 gallons of

- Vermiculite
- Perlite
- Compost
- Garden soil

#### With 1/2 cup each of

- Soybean meal
- Greensand
- Rock Phosphate
- Kelp Powder
- Dolamitic limestone

## Green Gifts

### Herbs & Herb Blends

Freeze Dried Fresh Herbs

Herbs de Provence

Italian

Mediterranean

Poultry

*Our classic selections, essential for your gourmet kitchen.*

### Herbal Teas

Chai

Chamomile

Herbal Blend

Lemon Lavender

Lemon Verbena

Peppermint

Spearmint

Rooibos

*Our herbal teas are from fresh and the blended teas are our recipes.*

### Jellies & Jams

Herbs de Provence

Habanero

Jalapeno

Wisteria

Cottage Rose

Lavender

Apple Butter

Pumpkin Butter

Blackberry

Raspberry

Mint

*Our jams and jellies are made from all natural ingredients and packed on our farm.*

*check out our ...*

### Home & Business Gifts

*online at our website*

[www.gotthyme.com](http://www.gotthyme.com)

## Contact Information



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## Dragonfly Crossing

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A licensed California contractor

"Give Your Home A Facelift "

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Extend your living space, create an outdoor room, exterior layout and garden design, both hardscape construction and softscape installation.

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## Come Visit Us!

### Southern California Farmer's Markets

Day	Time		Location	City
Wednesday	8:30 am	1:30 pm	Arizona at 3rd St Promenade	Santa Monica, CA
Saturday	8:30 am	1:00 pm	Arizona at 3rd St Promenade	Santa Monica, CA
Sunday	8:30 am	1:00 pm	Swarthmore at Sunset	Pacific Palisades, CA
Sunday	10:00 am	2:00pm	Malibu Civic Center	Malibu, CA

### Spring Garden Show Calendar

March 4, 5 & 6, 2011	Riverside Spring & Garden Show Riverside Convention Center	Riverside, CA
April 28, 29, 30 & May 1, 2011	So. California Spring Garden Show South Coast Plaza, Crystal Court	Costa Mesa, CA
May 13, 14 & 15, 2011	Pomona Spring Home & Garden Show Pomona Fairplex Exhibition Complex	Pomona, CA

### Southern California Spring Garden Show



Some scenes from the 2010 show for our friends and family

## Cooks Corner

### Got-No-Thyme Recipes

#### Habanero Jelly

*Hot and spicy... not for the faint of heart!*

#### HABANERO CHIPS & DIP

##### Ingredients

1 pint Sour Cream  
3 tbs Habanero Jelly  
2 ozs Tequila Gold  
1 lg bag Blue Corn Chips

##### Directions

Preheat oven 325 degrees  
Blend sour cream, Habanero jelly, and Tequila, together until evenly blended.  
Place in refrigerator for 30 minutes.  
Place the blue corn chips on a baking sheet an warm for 10 minutes, transfer to serving platter with dip.  
Cooks note: This recipe also works well with our Gotthyme Jalapeño jelly.  
Serves: 6

#### Herbs de Provence Jelly

*a savory ....sweet flavor*

#### BRIE EN CROUTE

##### Ingredients

15 oz wheel Mini Brie  
1 sheet puff pastry ( thawed )  
1/4 cp Herbs de Provence Jelly  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
1 French Baguette, sliced

##### Directions

Preheat oven to 400° F.  
Roll and shape dough on lightly floured surface large enough to fit around cheese.  
Spread Herbs de Provence jelly over top of cheese. Turn over and seal pastry, pressing gently. Brush with egg wash.  
Place pastry on a greased baking sheet with smooth side up. Bake 20 minutes or until pastry is puffed slightly and golden.  
Serves: 6