

Susan's Gardening Diary - Photographs Included

By : Mistress of Word Play

This is a weekly diary of my garden. I have included photos in the write. I am including gardening tips for those who need help in that area. Hope you enjoy this presentation. Susan :)



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Chapter 1: Susan's Weekly Garden - Photographs Included

My Garden Diary

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Week of March 7, 2010 to March 13, 2010

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Spring has arrived here in Western Kentucky and my flowers, trees, and shrubs have started to emerge. I noticed my pussy willow bush that stands a whopping fifteen feet in height blooming this week and my snowdrops and crocuses are up and spilling their color. The weather here has ranged between sixty and seventy degrees Fahrenheit through the daylight hours and about forty degrees at night.

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About the time spring arrived, I was just about to go stir crazy being cooped up all winter long. Well for early blossoms plant snowdrops, crocus, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinth bulbs in the fall. They are fairly inexpensive and can be purchased at gardening centers or by catalog. Be careful with the bulbs some of them are toxic if ingested.

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I planted two new climbing rose bushes on our privacy fence Gary put up last year. Several good varieties include Don Juan, Peace, and Pii¿½ata for climbing roses. Don Juan is dark red almost black, Peace is a multicolored pastel shades, and Pii¿½ata is medium red, orange, and yellow multicolored.

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Roses should be planted early in the spring after danger of freeze is gone. You have to really care for them to keep them healthy. They need rose food and at times a chemical to keep them from getting black spot. In the fall or early spring prune back any dead wood from the bush to keep the plant strong.

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I also cleaned out some of my flower beds and did some weeding. I have been looking for some new trees to set to replace the ones we lost in the ice storm. Nothing has really caught my eye yet but I am leaning toward a few more kwanza flowering cherry trees.

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Well included some pictures below hope you enjoy them. Will be back with next week's update on what's blooming at mine and Gary's house.

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Susan

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Snowdrops

Crocus

Pussy willow bush

Chapter 2: Week 2

My Garden Diary

Week of March 14, 2010 to March 20, 2010

This week was really a strange one. We have had several days of nice warm temperatures with sunlight then it flipped back to rainy cooler days and nights.

I have been busy picking up twigs and limbs in the yard. Stuff is still breaking out of the trees from the ice storm. We have a two hundred year old oak tree that looks like it might die. All last summer it looked sick. It lost quite a few large limbs and branches through the storm. Hope it makes it.

Well this week some of my daffodils opened up. I have several early varieties that are just beautiful. Ice Follies a large white daffodil with a yellow center is a great variety to plant. They bloom earlier than the others. Standard daffodils are also nice. They have a small bright yellow flower. I have a variety that is tiny, not sure what the variety is but they are so cute. They are bright yellow and have an orange center. I included a photo of them.

Mom and I went shopping at Lowes on one of my days off and purchased pansies and primroses. They sure were pretty. We even got a great deal on the pansies. I planted my pansies in boxes that hang on the front porch rail and in planters that go down the front steps. I like pansies because they tolerate the cooler weather well. They come in many different colors and varieties. A smaller pansy that is nice is a Johnny Jump Up. The flowers are smaller than the standard pansy but they have more blooms.

Primroses are nice as well. They have a large color range and are early bloomers. I like them because they are perennial, which means they come back each year. They reproduce from the roots and can be separated in early spring or late fall by digging them up and cutting them apart. I usually let them clump and cluster in a large mass.

My two large star magnolia bushes-trees are also in full bloom. These are just the most beautiful and fragrant shrubs a gardener could ever want. Before the foliage comes out medium snow white rosette flowers that have a sweet scent cover the bush. Mine are over thirty years old and are over ten foot tall. When I planted them I pruned them heavily as they grew. Be sure and trim these bushes right after they bloom off as they set the next years blossoms in early fall.

Well everything else is looking really good. My clematis, rose bushes, shrubs, and trees are all coming out nicely. Gary has tilled the garden and we will be planting soon if the weather holds.

My fingers now have blisters and tiny cuts, but what the heck at least I am working off some of my weight I gained and the winter blues.

Let me know how your gardens are coming or if you have any input. I love to hear stories about gardening.

See you next week,

Susan

Ice Follies Daffodils

Susan's Gardening Diary - Photographs Included

Chapter 3: Week 3

My Garden Diary

Week of March 21, 2010 to March 27, 2010

Well it has been an interesting week to say the least. Temperatures have been up and down. We had 70 degree weather for several days and then the rain came. Temperatures plummeted back down into the 50's and 40's. All my trees, shrubs, and flowers are still emerging. I would say we are probably almost a month ahead of schedule as far as plant and animal life is concerned.

I am waiting until danger of frost is over with to plant petunias, but I plan on starting my zinnia, marigold, Sweet William, and other annual plant seeds next week in pop boxes. These varieties are sure growers and easy to propagate. They will also bloom till frost.

I noticed my plum trees are blooming and hope we do not have a late frost or freeze. We lost most of our plum crop last year because of a late freeze. Plum, peach, and cherry trees are very susceptible to pine bores and should be treated to protect them. There are several products on the market that can be purchased. I lost a nectarine tree two years ago because we forgot to treat it.

My biggest problem right now is finding shorts that fit me. Seems my clothing shrank through the winter. I have included some photos of things that bloomed this week. I hope you enjoy them. Some of the things that are blooming are my hyacinths which come up every year and smell really sweet, my Virginia bluebells which are just a beautiful shade of blue (they come up every year, but like a shady spot), my grape hyacinths, blue Scilla, flowering almond bush, japonica bushes, and my pieris fire bushes (I have a white blooming and pink blooming variety).

Take care, get outside, and get those hands dirty!

Susan

Chapter 4: Week 4

My Garden Diary

Week of March 28, 2010 to April 3, 2010

This week has been really busy. I mowed our grass and did some weeding. I applied Preen to my iris bed to keep the weeds from coming up. What weeds were there I pulled by hand. I hate to try and weed the irises when the blooms are up. It's much easier to do it before they start making their blossoms.

The weather here, other than a big storm that we had Tuesday, has been great. Temperatures at times have been close to eighty degrees. It's about time to get the swimming pool up and running. Sun and wind sort of scorched me pretty good. I got a little light headed and sick to my stomach. I have to remember my age is what Gary tells me.

Tulips have opened up. I did not include pictures of all the things which are now blooming, but some of the native fruit and ornamental trees we have are here.

I did not upload a picture of my Jane magnolia. It sure is beautiful. It has dark red blooms that are huge. We planted it last year and it tripled in size. For those who do not live in the South this tree is better known as a tulip tree.

Our pear, cherry, and apple trees are blooming as well as the redbud trees, crabapple, and dogwoods. The area we live in is renowned for redbuds, crabapple, magnolia, and dogwood trees. These varieties to me are some of the most beautiful of the ornamental trees.

Gary planted some cabbage and lettuce in the garden. We hope to set some tomato plants, pole beans, bell peppers, cucumbers, cantaloupe, and watermelons soon. I just hope the weather holds and it does rain too much this year.

Almost forgot to say we fertilized the bushes and trees this week and I planted my pop boxes with zinnia, Sweet William, Yarrow, and foxglove seeds. I start them then transplant them into my flower beds.

Well have fun outside. Hope you had a great Easter. See you next week.

Susan

Chapter 5: Week 5

My Garden Diary

Week of April 4, 2010 to April 10, 2010

It's been a busy week in the yard. Mowing, weed eating, weeding, and planting were on my agenda. The weather here has been great, lots of sunshine and warm temperatures. Gary finally got the garden ready to plant our vegetables. I noticed the asparagus we planted last year is starting to come up. I love fresh asparagus. Glad we planted those starts last year.

I noticed my lilac bush has opened up and smells really great. In my shade garden the wood phlox is blooming. It comes up every year and spreads by seed. My bergenia mother told me to plant is blooming near the fish pond. I thought it a really nice addition.

I have a bridal veil spirea bush which I planted 20 years ago in my front yard and it is just beautiful. I included a photo. Mom and I went to a new nursery called Blooms and Things and I purchased some double petunias, verbenas, and a few other things that were really pretty. I also bought the most beautiful hanging basket filled with pink hanging petunias.

Sorry I have to cut this short, but the out-of-doors is calling.

See you soon! Have a great week,

Susan

Chapter 6: Week 6

My Garden Diary

Week of April 11, 2010 to April 17, 2010

This week started out unseasonably warm and now we are in the midst of Dogwood Winter. Cooler temperatures have sent us back into the high 30's at night and the 60's through the day time hours. The sun has been shining and we have had a few sprinkles but no real rain.

I planted some impatiens in the front of the house and put together a few hanging baskets with wave petunias and impatiens to hang on the front of the house and on my trellis Gary built for me out front.

Impatiens seem to do well in the shade and the petunias love sunlight. Impatiens can be found in many different colors and varieties. I found a variegated variety that is really nice and prefer the pink impatiens to the other colors. Have not seen any New Guinea impatiens this year, but the season is still early.

My wisterias are blooming. I have three varieties. A blue, a pink, and a white variety adorn my yard. The blue one did not bloom this year because I cut it to the ground so I could braid the base when it pushed out again. The blooms smell really sweet and of course I have had a bee problem around my house. Seems I am not the only one who loves the scent of them.

My pink salvia has opened and is really pretty, but the purple and white salvia are not yet showing color.

Well I am closing for the week. Sorry this was posted late, but things are pretty busy around here this time of year. I am going to try and shoot some video and load it to my account so I can place it here. When my irises bloom I may do a short walk through of the yard and post it.

See you soon. Go out and get those hands dirty! You know you want to.

Susan

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