



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello fellow gardeners! Let's get Social!!

An underlying principal governing all charter clubs, is that we are to be a social club in addition to our principal activity. While we are all here to garden, we should also look at how we can be more social in the garden. Do you know all your fellow gardeners in the plots next to you? How about the gardener at the end of your lane with the magnificent tomatoes? Take some time and meet your neighbors and have a chat.

In addition to your own social actions the club is exploring ways for us to have more social time in the gardens. We would like to have at least one Saturday morning coffee per month for the months of September, October, November, January, February, March and May. We have our Holiday Party in December and the Spring Fiesta in April. We only need 7 volunteers to pick up some donuts and put on the coffee.

Sue Anderson, our Secretary, is awaiting your call. Pick a month and get in touch with her.

We need your help and suggestions. Talk to a board member with your ideas as well as help us with finding interesting speakers for giving a 15 minute presentation at our general meetings.

Let's have some fun! Its more than planting seeds and pulling weeds!

President Dan

ARCADIA'S EDIBLE GARDEN TOUR

On Saturday, May 13, Sue Anderson, Yvonne Tatalovich, Sarah Burbank, Lee Rhenish and Judi Lauletta enjoyed the Edible Garden Tour. The ladies visited 5 sustainable locations and enjoyed nature.



Harvesting Carrots

Judi Lauletta enjoying harvesting carrots on a beautiful morning in February. Thirty two carrots were harvested this particular day.



The carrot is a root vegetable, usually orange in color, though purple, black, red, white and yellow cultivars exist. Carrots are a domesticated form of the wild carrot, *Daucus carota*, native to Europe and Southwest Asia.



No matter how tasteful the delicacy, why would anyone eat a squash blossom? Wouldn't it be better to allow each of those blossoms to grow into a delightfully delicious squash? Perhaps it would be better if, in fact, all squash blossoms became squash. They don't. Mother Nature, with her infinite sense of humor, put both male and female squash blossoms on the same vine, but they're too far apart to make baby squash without a little help. Read on to learn how to tell the difference between the two.

Male and Female Squash Blossoms

It's all a part of that Birds and Bees story your mother told you and when it comes to [squash plants](#), the emphasis is definitely on the bees. Whether it's the summer varieties such as [zucchini squash](#), crook neck squash, straight yellow squash or winter types like [butternut squash](#), [spaghetti squash](#) and [acorn squash](#), all squash have one thing in common. There's a male squash blossom and a female squash blossom, and without at least one of each and a few busy bees, you won't be eating any squash.

Here's how it works. The male flower opens and the bees get busy doing what bees do and while they're doing it, pollen from the male flower sticks to their hairy little legs. The bees then buzz on over to the female flower where a little of the collected pollen falls off and fertilizes the female flower. Time passes and the little base of the female flower grows into a squash. The male flower has done his job and is now pretty much useless. Let's eat him and enjoy!



Say **NO** to Red Dye Hummingbird feed



Reason #1: It serves NO purpose

The great majority of hummingbird feeders on the market, and certainly the hummingbird feeders have enough color on them (red or otherwise) to attract hummingbirds without the need for red dye in the nectar.

Reason #2: The dye is petroleum based

The dye in colored nectars is red dye #40, named Allura Red AC. Red dye #40 was originally made from coal tar, but it is now made mostly from petroleum. I don't know about you, but that doesn't sound good for ingestion by me or by hummingbirds.

Reason #3: Nectar from flowers is clear - not red

Nectar made with water and simple table sugar at a 4-to-1 ratio most closely approximates the naturally clear nectar found in flowers.

Reason #4: The red dye passes through the hummingbird

The Hilton Pond Center website has an image showing red dye stains on a hummingbird at the site of excretion. And the dye also stains their excretions red. Naturalist and author Julie Zickefoose made this interesting observation while rehabbing a female hummingbird. The bird had been fed red nectar before entering her care, and she was shocked by the red droppings that the hummingbird continued to excrete for over a day after the red nectar was stopped. [May/June 2010 issue of Bird Watcher's Digest.](#)

These indicators mean the red dye is "not metabolized, but passes through the kidneys, where it might cause problems.

Reason #5: You can make clear nectar more simply

No more trips to the store to buy nectar. Make it at home.

Clear Sugarwater Nectar

A healthy hummingbird feeder recipe.

- Boil 4 cups water for 3 minutes
- Stir in 1 cup pure granulated sugar
- Cool to room temperature
- Store remaining mix in fridge for 7 to 10 days.

Do not substitute sugar. Do not add red nectar, red dye, honey or anything else.

Boiling water not only kills most bacteria and viruses, it also removes many other microorganisms and some chemicals.

If you choose to use non-boiled water, please discard all nectar after 24 hours.