

# Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

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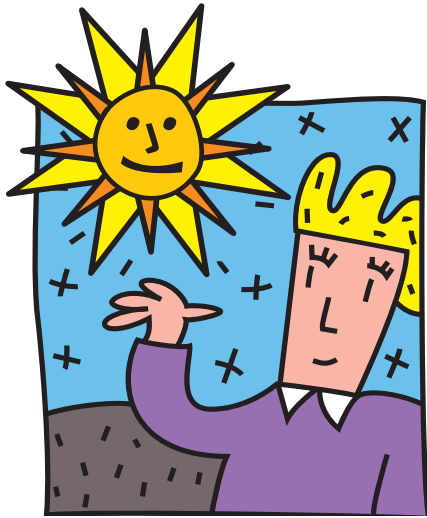
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"People Helping People Achieve Their Dreams"



## This Summer, Block the Sun, Not the Fun!

- Generously apply sunscreen with SPF of at least 15 which provides broad-spectrum protection from both UVA and UVB rays. Re-apply at least every two hours and after swimming or sweating.
- Wear protective clothing such as long-sleeved shirts, pants, a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection.
- Seek shade when appropriate, remembering that the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Avoid tanning beds. UV light from tanning beds can lead to skin cancer and wrinkling. Consider using a sunless self-tanning product instead.
- Use extra caution near water and sand as they reflect the damaging UV rays, increasing your chance of sunburn.
- Check UV, heat, and air quality indexes.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Remember to practice sun safety every day, all year long.

[www.sunalliance.org/pdfactivities/SSA%20Pamphlet.pdf](http://www.sunalliance.org/pdfactivities/SSA%20Pamphlet.pdf)

**JUNE HOME WARRANTY TIP:** Over time, the rubber water hoses that came with your new washing machine may leak or burst. It's a good preventive maintenance practice to check these hoses from time to time for any sign of wear or weakness. Most manufacturers recommend replacing the hoses every 5 years. An alternative is to replace the rubber hoses with high quality stainless steel fill hoses, which are more rugged.



## Maintaining a Perennial Garden

by National Gardening Association Editors

Perennial gardens require less maintenance than lawns, but they do need regular care to look their best and stay healthy.

**Remove spent flowers.** Using scissors or hand pruners, snip off flower stems just above a leaf or bud when they finish blooming to prevent them from forming seeds. Pick off damaged leaves.

**Inspect for pests and problems.** Look for leaves with holes or ragged edges; sticky, discolored or spotted leaves; chewed or abnormally growing flowers or buds; or damaged stems.

**Water.** Dig into the top 2 to 3 inches of soil with a trowel. If the soil is dry, water until the soil is moist to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.

**Pull weeds.** Remove weeds as you see them on your daily or weekly inspection.

**Edge the beds.** Keep the edges between your garden and lawn well defined and tidy with a half-moon edger or garden spade. Facing the garden, push the tool blade straight down into the edge of the turf about 3 to 4 inches. Pull the handle toward you to remove a wedge of soil. Repeat around the perimeter of the garden.

**Fertilize and mulch.** Early in the spring, fertilize with a granular, slow-release fertilizer formulated for perennial gardens. Follow package recommendations for the correct amount to apply. Replace or renew organic mulch, such as shredded bark or leaves.

[www.garden.org/howtos/index.php?q=show&id=1284](http://www.garden.org/howtos/index.php?q=show&id=1284)



National Iced Tea Month

Perennial Gardening Month

June 4–9: National Sun Safety Week

June 14th: Flag Day

June 17th: Father's Day

June 20th: Summer Solstice



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*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*



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## Paint Smart and Enjoy Your Summer

For faster, easier, more professional results on your painting projects this summer, think about investing in a paint sprayer. Whether you are painting a fence, a deck or your entire home, the right paint sprayer will simplify a project, cut your painting time in half and, if you shop wisely, give years of trouble-free operation. When considering a paint sprayer, look for a product that:

- Is powerful enough to give you a fine finish for the exterior of your house.
- Is versatile and portable so that it can be used for all outdoor painting projects.
- Has a minimum of a 25-foot hose to reach all areas of the project.
- Has a contractor-grade metal spray gun with a full size filter to eliminate clogging.
- Has a hopper large enough to hold more than one can of paint at a time so that you can paint longer without stopping to refill.

With the right equipment in hand, you will soon put your summer home improvement projects behind you so you and your family can relax and spend time doing what matters to you this summer.

Excerpted from an article provided courtesy of ARA Content

## SPARKLING ICED TEA WITH LEMON, CUCUMBER AND MINT

Recipe courtesy of Liesbeth Smit

Most drinks you find in the supermarket are sweetened with sugar, fructose or artificial sweeteners. Beverages that are less sweet can satisfy your thirst without adding a lot of calories. This iced tea can be made exactly how you like it and is a perfect sugar-free alternative to sugary drinks.

The following recipe will make two liters of sparkling iced tea.

- 1 liter water
- 2 tea bags (choose a green tea or an herbal tea that you like)
- 2 lemons
- 2 limes
- 1/4 cucumber, sliced
- 1 bunch fresh mint leaves
- 1 liter unsweetened seltzer
- Ice cubes

Boil water. Let it cool for 10 minutes. Add the tea bags and half of the mint leaves and let it steep for 5 to 10 minutes. This will make a less bitter tea infusion, which is perfect for iced tea.



Squeeze the lemons and limes, reserving a few slices for decoration. Add the lemon and lime juice to the tea infusion. When the mixture has cooled down, add the cucumber slices and the rest of the mint leaves.

Mix 1 part of the tea infusion with 1 part of seltzer just before serving. Decorate with mint leaves, a lime or lemon slice and some cucumber slices.

**TIP:** The amount of tea, rather than the brewing time is what determines the strength of the tea. Over-steeping can draw out too much tannin and make it bitter. If this occurs, a pinch of baking soda can soften the taste.

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/recipes/iced-tea-with-lemon-and-mint/index.html>