



Blue Dutch iris.

... continued from Page OH8

Re-seed lawns to fill in gaps or to make them lusher. Fertilize with an organic spring formula to feed the soil. I always check the weather so that I go out in the rain to accomplish these tasks. By re-seeding and feeding while it is raining, the seeds and nutrients will penetrate.

Weed carefully and steadily. The days are longer, so it is easier to get a few chores done after work. It's important to remove weeds before they go to seed and spread. Each day I make sure to fill at least a five-gallon bucket. For weeds that have roots that will multiply and spread when even a tiny piece is left in the soil, I mix a gallon of 30% vinegar with a cup of table salt, and 1/2 a cup of dawn detergent and spray it where needed. Be cautious as this mixture will kill anything it touches. It is especially effective for poison oak and bindweed. Weeds may go in the compost pile if they are not poisonous or have seed-heads. Euphorbia, oleander, hemlock, poison oak, ivy, bindweed, bull thistle, and any other noxious or toxic plants are best bagged and disposed of in the trash. According to the Weed Science Society of America, a "noxious" weed is "any plant designated by federal, state, or local government officials as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property."

Bait for snails and slugs. These pests target sprouts and new



Get a head start with seedlings in a greenhouse.

growth. When you see a mucus track or holes in your cabbage leaves, you have an infestation. There are many methods to eradicate them. Spread Sluggo which is considered safe around children, pets, and edible plants because its main ingredient is iron phosphate. You can go out at night with a flashlight and pick them up one by one. Copper barriers also deflect the activities of these gastropods. Sprinkle diatomaceous earth around your garden as these mollusks prefer not to crawl through it. Cheap beer in cups is a remedy I've used repeatedly. They aren't getting drunk, they are attracted to the yeast, and they drown. Raccoons, opossums, mice, and birds feast on these grimy slimy pests. Since slugs and snails multiply rapidly, control the infestation.

Amend your soil with compost and mulch as a solid foundation before you plant.

Add new gravel to garden paths and reinforce wood, brick, or stone edging.

Enjoy the exploding colors as spring unfurls.

There are many more actions to be taken in our spring gardens. In my 501st article, I'll continue with recommendations. In the meantime, dig your fingers into the dirt and let your spirits soar!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing! Happy Spring!