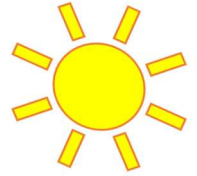


Florets
Twin City Garden Club
April 2025



Announcements

Spring Luncheon Tuesday April 15th at **12 noon**

Manzella's Italian Patio, 115 South First, Champaign
Join us for food and friendship

April birthdays: Lisa Sur, 4/3; Cheryl Weber, 4/8; David Delaney, 4/13; Donica Halcom, 4/17
Dottie Frye, 4/17 --- 90th birthday !

TCGC annual plant sale Saturday May 3 8 a – 12 noon
East parking lot Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

From Nicole Miller and Martha Tinsley:

"This is our major fundraiser of the year, and we usually donate part or all of the profits to worthy causes like community or school gardens. If you can come to help with the sale, even for part of that time, great! Please wear your garden club shirt.

We gather divisions or volunteer plants from our gardens, as well as unwanted gardening accessories and equipment to sell. Please try to use pots that are half a gallon sized or larger. If you need plastic pots contact Tori Corkery. If you need help digging plants, please contact Nicole Miller by Friday April 18th at reservationfor5@gmail.com. We have found that plants look much better and are less wilted if dug some days in advance of the sale.

We have yard signs that advertise the sale. If you have a good location to place a sign, then please contact Martha Tinsley. If you already have a sign from last year that you will display again, please let Martha know that as well.

We can drop off our plants for the sale in front of the church under the portico the day before the sale on Friday May 2nd. We will discuss this and other details at our luncheon next week. See you there!"

Events of Interest

Delight Flower Farm: Spring Plant Sale **April 19th, 12 – 3 p**

(special event and open to the public) Location 1472 CR 500E Champaign;
accepting pre-orders for this sale – details at delightflowerfarm.com

Country Arbors Nursery: Annual Garden Party **April 26th 10a-4p**

A celebration of nature and community with live music, food trucks, and unique artisanal goods

The Farms (at Allerton Park): Plant Sale Fundraiser

May 2nd 5-8 p, May 3rd 9a-5p, and May 4th 10a-4p

Do check out the details on the sale: it is coordinated with Allerton's **Bluebell Festival**

<https://allerton.illinois.edu/events/plant-sale-2025/>

Parkland College Horticulture Spring Plant Sale **May 5th– May 9th 9a-3p**

Annual bedding plants, succulents, hanging baskets, houseplants and vegetables

Cash or check only Building W 2400 W. Bradley Champaign

Grand Prairie Friends: 2025 Plant Sale Online ordering starts **May 4th** The catalog is available now, just visit their website, grandprairiefriends.org

CU Herb Society Annual Herb Sale **May 10th 8a-12n** (or until sold out) inside Lincoln Square Urbana

List of plants: <https://cuherbsociety.org/plantsale/list2025.pdf>

(pot size: 3.5 inch, and most are only \$3)

Sola Gratia Annual Spring Plant Sale open each day **9a-5p, May 9-18 2025**

2200 Philo Rd Urbana

Organically grown vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers as well as both perennial and annual decorative plants from Country Arbors

IN THE GARDEN with Karen and Cheryl – dealing with squirrels

Yikes!!! What happened? After carefully choosing and preparing a combo of flowering plants in a pretty pot for the porch entrance, find that a great disturbance has occurred. Then, can actually see the culprit has returned, digging away and uprooting another pansy. Well known that squirrels relish acorns, but why dig up plants and in locations that never held any hidden food cache? May never know the answer to that question, but there may be ways to outwit the invaders.

Even though most of our encounters with squirrels are seeing them running and digging in the ground, the ones here in east Central Illinois are tree squirrels, the eastern grey type and do have their nesting sites in trees. Their favored food source are acorns and various types of seeds, especially sunflower seeds. Natural predators are owls and foxes, few of which exist in most neighborhoods.

Here are some suggestions for deterrence on our part:

From Southern Living: put up barriers to the soil such as chicken wire or small rocks.

From Better Homes & Gardens: use repellants such as cayenne pepper, peppermint oil or garlic -- though these do need to be refreshed regularly.

From Gardening Know How: use shiny objects: pinwheels, old CDs, or small aluminum pie pans that can distract and intimidate the invaders
Squirrels do not like the taste of coffee grounds

Mixing used coffee grounds from your coffee pot with the top layer of soil is dual-purpose. Not only do squirrels strongly dislike the scent and taste of coffee grounds, but most plants get a nice boost of nutrients from it.

Plants love blood meal, which is often used to increase potting mixes' nutritional value. As a bonus, squirrels despise the smell if this as well.

Pack the planter pot with plants, for example using fragrant herbs (lavender, peppermint, spearmint) to fill in empty spaces. Tree squirrels have been reported to have preferences for bare soil and they avoid areas congested with tall grass. This technique has worked well for Karen. (But still working on how to keep the squirrels out of the general garden ...)

Use squirrel-proof bird feeders that can discourage squirrels from being habituated in your area.

For those interested in the chicken wire technique, did find a YouTube video that gave good advice about how to use the chicken wire to make cages plus how to use thorny rose cuttings for deterrence. (Search for video "Stop squirrels from eating bulbs" or follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOMGdFSmVkl>)