



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

February 2003



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## Garden Tips

**Marty Johnson**, *President, Johnson's Garden Centers and Kansas Certified Nurseryman*

### Gearing up for Spring

It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas. We were busy opening presents, snacking on everything in sight and enjoying great times with family and friends.

Then all of the sudden it was 2003 and we were off to Kansas City for our annual Nursery Trade Show to see all of those neat new items that manufacturers have for 2003.

Most of what we saw were items for enjoying the outdoor space around our homes. We ordered new fountains and statuary from Henri Studios. If you have ever wanted to get your feet wet (no pun intended) in water gardening, maybe a fountain is the place to start. Stop by any one of our stores to see the new pieces.

### Wichita Garden Show

I am also getting excited for the Wichita Garden Show which will be March 5-9. We ordered some fun items for the yard. If you remember in days past those brightly colored items that we commonly call "yard art," well let me tell you, IT'S BACK. We have spinners, flamingos, and lots of other items to make spending time in your backyard fun again.

### Starting Seeds Indoors

It is time to start those unusual varieties of plants for your garden. Whether it is a new vegetable, annual, or perennial, be sure to stop by the store and spend time at the seed racks. We have more varieties in our seed department than we can offer as plants in the spring. It's easy and fun to see what happens with some of the new varieties.

### Crabgrass Preventer

We all need to start thinking about putting down the first application of our 5-Step Lawn Care Program ... ferti•lome Crabgrass preventer containing Barricade. It can be applied any time now and still give you season-long control of annual grassy weeds. Be sure to water it in well and you will be set for the rest of the season.

### Broadleaf Weed Control

If your lawn has had spring-flowering weeds such as dandelion, or henbit, this month is an excellent time for control. By applying ferti•lome Weed-Out (either liquid or granular) when the temperatures are over 50° for a few days, you will control those broadleaf weeds before they bloom and send out more seeds. Be sure not to water in this product after the application.

## **Gamble Garden**

Later this month will be the perfect time to start your gamble garden. If our weather will cooperate, we can plant onion, peas, lettuce, radishes, and other cool-season crops that are not affected by cold weather.

I have always wanted to plant tomatoes in February. By protecting them with the Wall-O-Water, I think that some years you could get by with setting them out in mid February. You might not get tomatoes too much earlier, but it's fun to try.

## **New Mantis Tillers**

Be sure to stop by the stores to see the new 4-cycle Mantis Tiller. This Honda-powered rototiller is a new addition to the Mantis line. We still carry the 2-cycle and electric models which have been great little tillers that are perfect for most homeowners.

If you have a bad case of Cabin Fever, then stop by any one of our stores and just spend some time in the greenhouse. On those cloudy days it sure helps to get us through the winter months.