



Johnson's Garden Talk

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

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Gardening with Kids

Jan Decker, *Junior Gardeners' Club Coordinator*

Theme gardens are a good way to spark a kid's interest in gardening. Your child will have more fun with the planning and care of a garden when the theme interests him or her. Try these ideas to get you started:

- With Johnson's known as the "Home of the Gnomes" this spring, a gnome village is the first idea that comes to mind. Think small. Choose plenty of low-growing, tiny-leaved plants. Gnomes do not eat meat so they like all sorts of vegetables and herbs. Add a hollow stump, a shallow pool, and of course some gnome residents.

- Are there any chocolate lovers in the family? Look for plants with chocolate names or scents. At Johnson's you'll find 'Chocolate Ruffles' Heuchera (Coral Bells), chocolate mint, and chocolate scented geraniums. Just for fun, add a topping of cocoa mulch! Be sure to remind the kids that not everything that smells like chocolate is meant to be eaten.

- Plan ahead for the Fourth of July. Among the favorites for spectacular red, white and blue color are 'Fantasy Mix' Petunias. Also, look for plants with names like 'Fireworks.' Wouldn't it be fun to plant in a little red wagon for a ready-made float to parade around the neighborhood? Add some American flags for a finishing touch.

Whether started from seeds or plants, the success of your child's garden is important to us. You can depend on Johnson's to offer the best quality products and we're always here to answer your questions.