



# Johnson's Garden Talk

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

## Johnson's Garden Talk

June 2004



### WEST 13th STORE

2707 West 13th St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-942-1443

### EAST STORE

6225 E. Shadybrook  
(21st @ Woodlawn)  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-687-5451

### RIDGE ROAD STORE

802 N. Ridge Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212  
316-943-0494

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION NIGHTSCAPING

316-943-6886

### CORPORATE OFFICE

316-942-3751

### TOLL-FREE NUMBER

888-542-8463

### EMAIL

[askus@johnsonsgarden.com](mailto:askus@johnsonsgarden.com)

### WEB PAGE

[www.johnsonsgarden.com](http://www.johnsonsgarden.com)

## Gardening with Kids

Jan Decker, *Junior Gardeners' Activities Coordinator*

It's hard to believe the school year is over. You probably already have many plans to keep the kids occupied this summer. Sports, Vacation Bible School or camp may be on the schedule, but chances are you're still going to hear those familiar words, "I'm bored."

If time got away from you earlier this spring and the kids didn't get a garden project started, it's not too late. Help them select something that will be rewarding and enjoyable and not just something to keep them busy.

A vegetable garden will benefit the whole family. In early June you can plant sweet potatoes, snap beans, pumpkins, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, winter squash, eggplant and okra. Plant at least one favorite and one new vegetable to try for the first time. This is a good way to get kids to try eating something new. While waiting for the harvest, they can look for recipes!

Keep their interest with weird or exotic-looking plants, or plants with strange names. Have the kids research the origins and uses. Why would you put an Ice Plant (*Delosperma*) in full sun? What are Wormwood and Bleeding Heart? You might be able to lure that rebel child into the garden with "black flowers." Plants with dark burgundy to black blooms, stems or foliage have been referred to as the "rock stars of the plant world" because they are different from the traditional colors we place in the garden.

If gas prices remain high, many families will opt to stay closer to home. This is a good time to involve everyone in making your outside "family room" more enjoyable. Don't have a lot of space? Most things that you plant in the ground can also be grown in containers. Even water gardens! And our staff will be happy to help with your plant selections. ■