

# Washington DC Gardens, A One-day Bus Trip

Tuesday, September 13

Join us for another one-day trip to visit outstanding gardens. We will depart from Downtown early in the morning to allow us to get to Washington in time for the opening of the gardens. The cost of the trip is \$95.00 (includes motor transportation, breakfast on the bus, box lunch, and driver's tip).

The bus will drop us off in DC in one section of the Smithsonian, the **Mary Livingston Ripley Garden**, [www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/gardens/ripley](http://www.gardens.si.edu/horticulture/gardens/ripley), where we will be greeted by HPS member **Janet Draper**, horticulturist at the garden. From

there, you will have time to visit other gardens associated with the Smithsonian and the nearby **US Botanic Garden**, [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov), where the bus will pick us up for departure to the **US National Arboretum**, [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov). We will have a 40-minute tram tour to give an overview of the garden and then time to explore on our own, before departing for home, arriving back in Downtown at 9:00 P.M.

To sign up, download the trip form at our website and send in your check to Janice Thomas. To receive a paper copy of the trip application, call Janice at 610-458-9794.



photo courtesy of Janet Draper

*The Mary Livingston Ripley Garden*

## Recommendations for Protecting Plants From Deer Browsing

By Brad Roeller

### Early spring

To protect emerging bulbs and spring ephemerals, apply Milorganite®, at ½ the recommended rate for turf, directly to garden beds. Alternatively, a couple of applications of liquid foliar fertilizers/repellents, like Bobbex® or Coast of Maine's Fermented Salmon Food, work equally well. I make a second (and final) application of Milorganite®, again at ½ rate, about a month later. (Do not fertilize these areas with your "regular" plant food as Milorganite® is a fertilizer.) This technique not only feeds your plants at an optimum time, it also protects them. Some gardeners prefer making sachets of Milorganite®, placing them above ground level, hanging them directly from branches or tied to stakes, and positioned as a perimeter barrier. This method reduces the tendency of the fertilizer to develop mold when applied directly to the ground.

### Late spring/summer

Once full leaf expansion and growth has occurred, I switch to alternating a few different brands of spray repellents. I am pleased with Deer Solution, a systemic repellent derived from herbs. I can typically get about 10 days to 2 weeks' worth of protection from this product. Be aware that flower scapes or buds do not take up any product systemically, so be sure to spritz a different type of repellent when

flower buds appear and begin to open. I recommend any of the egg-based products, such as Deer Off®, Deer Stopper®, which contains mint oil, rosemary, and salt, also has proven effective. It is important to "throw them a curve" by alternating products so they don't become too used to one. One home concoction is very effective (and cheap!). Mix one egg with ½ cup of whole milk, add one tablespoon cooking oil and one tablespoon dishwashing soap (I like the lemon-scented products) to a gallon of water, and spray vulnerable plants about every 10 days. For added effectiveness, add a tablespoon of "hot" sauce and a couple drops of oil of rosemary. Finally, I like to give my plants monthly foliar sprays of the aforementioned fertilizers/repellents which afford additional protection.

### Late summer/fall

As the growing season winds down, I continue the above spray program (with the exception of any foliar fertilizers) and develop a plan for dormant season protection for susceptible perennials and woody plants. By the beginning of November, I decide if I will continue to rely on repellents or protect vulnerable plants with physical barriers.

### Winter

In my opinion, the best spray-on repellents for the dormant season are the blood-derived repellent Plantskydd® and products containing the fungicide thiram (I particularly like the commercial fungicide Gustafson 42-S®, a restricted-use pesticide, applied with an adhesive such as Vapor Gard® or Weather Shield™). I've found that the number of subsequent reapplications is far less with these products than with other popular deer repellents. This is important since environmental conditions (principally temperature) are usually not conducive to the monthly applications recommended for most spray-on repellents.

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#### Classified Ads

The HPS/MAG Newsletter accepts garden-related classified ads. The cost is \$3 per line (approximately 40 characters or spaces per line), with a minimum of \$20 per ad. For more information, contact Barbara Bricks, 610-388-0428, [bcubed32@aol.com](mailto:bcubed32@aol.com).

The newsletter is published bi-monthly, in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov. Copy deadlines are one month before the issue date: Dec 1 (for Jan), Feb 1 (for Mar), April 1 (for May), June 1 (for July), Aug 1 (for Sept), and Oct 1 (for Nov). HPS/MAG adheres to one-time use; all other rights are retained by the author.

We welcome all contributions. Contact Barbara Bricks, [bcubed32@aol.com](mailto:bcubed32@aol.com).