



The Annual Barbecue

Last Saturday, in spite of the early morning fog and heavy mist, the weather cleared and we had an enjoyable afternoon with fellow gardeners, family and friends at our annual barbecue.

Thank you to the committee members who took on the responsibility of hosting the annual barbecue this year. And thank you to all of the garden members who played a part in making our annual barbecue a great success; especially those who helped to set up, who cooked, who contributed supplies and to anyone who brought appetizers, side dishes and/or desserts.

Spicy Peanut Noodles

I'm posting the Spicy Peanut Noodles recipe in the Newsletter, since many of you asked me for the recipe.

1 lb Linguine
¼ Cup of Canola Oil
1 Teaspoon of Red Pepper Flakes
¼ Cup of Sesame Oil or Toasted Sesame Oil
¼ Cup of Low Sodium Soy Sauce
6 Tablespoons of Honey
1 Cop of crushed Peanuts
1 Bunch of Scallions

Heat canola oil & pepper flakes over medium heat for two minutes. Remove from heat and add sesame oil or toasted sesame oil, soy sauce, honey and stir.

Cook linguine al dente, drain and toss with oil mixture. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours; overnight is best.

Before serving, stir once or twice before adding the crushed peanuts and chopped scallions, then toss and serve.

Cucumber Beetle, Squash Bug, Stink Bug, etc.

For years, we've been told that the stink bug was responsible for infecting plants with polio that eventually caused our plants to wilt and die. In fact, the stink bug attacks fruits, including apples, peaches and berries. They also attack garden produce like beans, green peppers and tomatoes.

Squash bugs are most commonly found on squash plants (hence the name), but they also often appear on pumpkins. Linda Arini planted Tansy in her garden and hasn't seen any squash bugs since. It's a bit invasive and the leaves can make you a bit itchy but the bug repelling aspect outweighs that.

Other pests that are commonly found on squash include squash vine borers. Squash vine borers are an especially nasty pest because the 'borer', a grubby white caterpillar, hides inside the hollow vines of popular squash-family plants like pumpkins and zucchini as it does its dirty work. Gardeners generally don't notice anything is wrong until the whole plant starts wilting, and by then, it's generally too late.



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If you find that the stems of your seedlings are being eaten off, leaves are yellowing and wilting, and holes are appearing, you may have a striped or spotted cucumber beetle problem. They are attracted to cucurbit vegetables, namely cucumbers, squash, pumpkins and beans. The striped variety, pictured above, has been seen at Riverbend Community Garden.

One website link from Lena Gasbarro on the squash bug led to more website links about the other invasive insects listed in this article. Please Google the insects by name to find helpful tips and organic ways to prevent your plants from being invaded by these and other insects.
