



## GEDDY GARDEN NEWS

*“There is no season when such  
pleasant and sunny spots may  
be lighted on, and produce so  
pleasant an effect on the  
feelings, as now in October”*

Nathaniel Hawthorne

October is the month that often forecasts the climate of the oncoming winter. A number of foggy days in October, for instance, is an indication that a hard winter will follow. If the trees hold their leaves in October instead of letting them fall, that too is an indication that an extremely cold winter is due. Today the temperature happens to be 85°, which tells me we are in for a chilly winter this year. Meanwhile, I must admit I am enjoying the extra borrowed days of summer.

The blue Morning Glories in the garden are thriving. Morning Glories are native to Central America. Cortez sent the first seeds back to Spain after the conquest of the Aztecs. There are approximately four hundred species of wild Morning Glories around the world. The common sweet potato is one of them. Although it rarely blossoms in the north, in its native jungle home the blossoms of the sweet potato are the color of the blue Morning Glories now growing on the Gedly fence.

I've planted the fall vegetables in the garden – lettuces, parsley, and cabbages. I also have dill growing randomly about. I love the smell of dill. I like to keep it in the garden for that reason. It is a member of the carrot family and native to southern Europe. It is one of those great little plants that fit into several categories. It has culinary values, medicinal properties, and is ornamental as well. It grows easily and does best in full sun. I like to scatter it about. It is useful in your garden because it contributes to the welfare of the neighboring plants by attracting beneficial insects. The name dill comes from an old Norse word *dilla*, which means to lull. In the past it was used as a tea for the treatment for insomnia, hence the name. It was also used as a remedy for digestive upsets and it served as a treatment for swellings and pains. In the Middle Ages it was believed to be a charm against witchcraft.

In the past, as today, it was used in the kitchen. Its leaves garnish dishes and add flavor to salads and soups. The seeds were and are used to flavor bread, cheese, and salads. It is probably best known as a pickling herb for cucumbers and other vegetables. Culpepper recommended boiling it in wine, tying it in a cloth, and then smelling it to cure the hiccoughs.



The beauty of its fern-like foliage is an addition to the flower garden. The lacy look is a nice contrast to the other flowers texture wise.

We are approaching a holiday which is becoming one of the most popular holidays in America – Halloween.

The Celts originated a festival which developed into our Halloween. Centuries ago the Celts worshipped nature and many gods. The sun was their favorite god because it commanded their work and rest times and made their crops grow. They celebrated their new year on November first, so on the eve of their new year they marked the end of the “season of the sun” with a festival celebration. The Druids, the Celtic priests, would light fires and offer sacrifices of crops and animals. They danced around the fires to free themselves from the evil spirits, the souls of the dead, which included ghosts, goblins, and witches. They dressed in costumes made from skins and heads of their animals were worn as masks to scare away the demons. These three-day festivals became the first Halloweens. When the Romans conquered the Celts changes occurred, with Christianity lending new symbolism to the holiday. In 835 Pope Gregory IV established All Saints Day to be celebrated on November first, thus the night before became the eve of all hollows. In Ireland the custom that we know of as “trick or treating” developed with farmers going door-to-door to collect food and goodies to be enjoyed at the feast. The vegetable used at that time in connection with Halloween was not the pumpkin, but the turnip. When the Irish came to America in the 1800s and found there were so many plentiful pumpkins available at that particular season they started replacing the Halloween turnip with the larger and more colorful pumpkin. Aren’t you glad? Imagine, Charlie Brown and the Great Turnip!

I thought I had heard of every possible type of garden. There are herb gardens, kitchen gardens, healing gardens, pleasure gardens, victory gardens, and the list goes on and on. Then I heard about a woman named Julie Gordon from Libertyville, Illinois, who has a car garden. In the back of her 1993 Honda she grows various herbs such as basil and tarragon. She also grows Butterfly Bush and tomatoes. She keeps them in containers and takes them out at night for air and water. I guess you could call it a traveling garden.

Happy Halloween

*Janet Guthrie*