



Children's Garden Club  
 Volume #9, Sheet 11  
 November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008  
 Gourds as a Garden Container  
 Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center  
 2651 Barrett Station Rd.

Welcome to the November Meeting!

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially David for hosting this month's meeting. David and Staff have planned great projects for you "Color Gourd" & Succulents. After last year success of Growing the gourds but having to take time to dry them and Now to do the project from last year. We need to thank David and staff for the space for drying them and drilling out the wholes and cleaning them out! Thanks David.

As you know we are always looking for Fun & Creative ways to Educate and Learn about Plants-Gardening and Horticulture. Today we will be able to do two projects, one a Gourd Bird house or be creative, you may take home and do, or do it here and let it dry here and pick it up later or take it home today. David also have some containers and succulents to plant for a winter home project to grow and then enter them in the A Standard Flower Show @ The Home & Garden Show – March 5-8, 2009 @ the America's Center & Edward Jones Dome – Youth Horticulture Section Class 15 Dish Garden.



There are many types of ornamental Gourds. One type is brightly colored , with fanciful shapes. The names often describe them; apples, bells, pears, turbans or eggs. You can grow the gourds for table decorations, floral displays and harvest. Another group, know as bottle or dipper gourds, are more functional. They're also used for decorations, but they can be used as ladies, jugs, planters and birdhouses too. Gourds have been cultivated for thousands of years by many cultures worldwide.

The Gourd Family ( Cucurbitaceae ) are related to the melons, squash, pumpkins and cucumber which includes hundreds of species of vines bearing coiled climbing tendrils and some of the most unusual fruits in the world. The total number of species may exceed 700, with al least 100 different genera. Known as "curcurbits" to gourds lover, fruits of this exceedingly diverse family come in an astounding array of shapes & sizes.

You found out last year from your growing of the gourds that they are classified as a warm-season crop with a growing season from 100 to 180 days. Outdoors planting should occur when danger of frost has passed, and air temperature has warmed. Gourds seeds may rot before germination if planted in cold wet soils.

You also know to select a sunny, well-drained site. A well prepared site with organic matter, such as compost or manure gets great results.

Now a year later from what I had hoped we have gourds a plant of the family Cucurbutaceae, or a name given to the hollow, dried shell of a fruit in the genius Lagenaria.

We need to thank David and Staff for curing these gourds for us and then cleaning them and placing wholes in them. Thank YOU.

Gourds were the earliest plant species domesticated by humans and were originally used by man as containers or vessels before clay or stone pottery, and is sometimes referred to as " Nature's pottery". The original and evoluntional shape of clay pottery is thought to have been modeled on the shape of certain gourd varieties.

Today You can choose from these Gourds to either make a Bird House, make a Bird Feeder, or a planter to plant the Succulents in or just plant the succulents in a separate container. They will booth work for a entry into the Flower Show . Have Fun.

You have a wide selection of Succulents to choose from to plant in your container, these succulents are not hardy to St. Louis Climate so just to confirm these are indoor for the winter months.

David has a wide selection to choose from - Sedum coral reef, Baby Jade, red stem portulacaria, crassula (miniature pine tree), Aeonium pinwheel, Ghost plant (Graptopetalum), Jet beads (Sedeveria), and Hens and Chicks (sempervivium).

Container Gardening offers a fresh, unique approach to freewheeling innovation design. Consider when planting how the plant/s will grow in the container being aware of the height and trailing options.

Today we will discuss and show you the other side of the Cacti – the Succulents.

In the horticultural sense of the word, succulents are xerophytic plants and have fleshy leaves or stems or both. Through evolution these plants have adapted to dry habitats reducing their body surfaces to lower loss of water through transpiration. Their fleshiness gives them a natural capacity for water storage which enables them to survive periods of drought. Many have unusual or bizarre shapes. Their root systems are often shallow to take advantage of any short-lives surface moisture. These characteristics make them excellent plants for a garden, house and greenhouses.

An advantage of succulents is that you do not have to worry about them if you go on summer vacation or holidays. They are quite able to maintain themselves for two or three weeks until you get back.

It can be confusing the term “Cacti and Succulents” are two distinct groups, but a simple rule can be used to clarify this, however: All Cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.

Plants adapted to dry or desert conditions are collectively known as Xerophytes. Xerophytic plant species number in the tens of thousands and are members of many different plant families. Succulents are Xerophytes that have developed storage structures, in which they hoard water, enabling them to survive periods of drought. The degree of succulence varies considerably, as do the organs used to store the tissue, namely the leaves, stems and roots.

Roughly 10,000 species of succulents worldwide most are members of six families. The Asclepiadaceae, Asphodeliceae, Cactaceae, Crassulaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Mesembryanthemaceae.

Other vast range of different succulent plants include the unusual stone plants (Lithops and Conophytum), the Crassula Family, Haya, Ajave, Aloe, Eryshorbia/Spurges and Yucca.

Succulents are grown in almost all parts of the world, apart from the Arctic and Antarctic. However, some of the best areas for succulents are South Africa and Madagascar, as well as North and South America were there are native.

In several species of Euphorbia, persistent peduncles (flower stalks) can be confused with spines. Since succulents occur in many families, the flowers vary widely but often echo those of non-succulent plants. In the succulent genera Adenium and Pachypodium, the flowers are as large and brightly colored as any member of their family, which included the common oleander and periwinkle. In some instances, the flowers are greatly reduced in size, to conserve water and energy. The caudiciform genus Adenia (not related to Adenium) is closely related to the common passionflower vine; however, its flowers are dull and quite small in comparison. In the Cactaceae and Mesembryanthemaceae, the flowers are often relatively large and brightly colored. Producing large flowers requires a great deal of energy and the loss of precious water. To make the most of this expenditure, species have evolved the ability to flower simultaneously. Whole populations of the same species will flower together, often for a very short time. This ensures their mutual pollination and, for the onlooker, can create a magnificent spectacle. Succulent flowers are generally pollinated by insects, although some are visited by birds, and a few are wind pollinated.

The fruits and seeds of succulents vary even more widely than their flowers. The members of the Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae and Asteraceae have inedible fruit, containing seeds which bear many long, often downy, hairs and are borne away on the wind. Fruits in the Cactaceae are often edible and brightly colored when ripe. They are eaten by birds and mammals and the many small seeds they contain are dispersed. The fruits of the Mesembryanthemaceae are generally dry, many-celled capsules. They have hinged lids which, when moistened by a drop of water, open to the sky for the minute seeds to be splashed out by the next drop. Most species in the Euphorbiaceae produce three-celled fruits which explode when ripe, throwing the seeds up to 1m/1yd or more. The ripe fruits of the Crassulaceae and Portulacaceae are dry, open-ended capsules, held upright. As the wind whips the flower stalks about, the small seeds are thrown from the capsule.

George Engelmann published a lot of new species from the South Western USA. In 1902 William Trilease from Missouri Botanical Garden did review the Genus Yucca and then the largest work about the Genus Yucca was made in 1937 to 1947. Henry Shaw's birthday is July 24<sup>th</sup> and a building there is named after Linneaus a good friend of his.

“Pencil Cactus” or “Milkbush”, Euphorbia Tirucalli, “Indian Medicine aloe”  
 Aloe vera ehinensis, “Medicine Plant” or “Bitter Aloe”  
 Live Forever - Sedum Spectabile, Ajave Yucca – the Century Plant  
 “Snake Plant” – “Mother-in-LawPlant” –, Sansevieria Trifasciat

Euphorbia Tirucalli – “ Pencil Cactus” native to tropical Eastern Africa: Congo, Uganda, Tansania. A succulent shrub growing into a dense tree up to 10 feet high, the branches slender cylindrical and pencil-thick, glossy green and busting with poisonous milk. Narrow deciduous leaves. As a young plant with willowy stem and branches an excellent house decorative plant.

“Medicine Plant” “First Aid Plant” or “Bitter Aloe” or Indian M.P. Aloe vera/chinensis – Native to Cape Verde, Canary Island, Maderia, Barbados, India, Vietnam, Taiwan. Aloe (Liliaceae) handsome and decorative succulent of the lily family, usually forming rosettes, some small suckering rosettes with fleshy, dagger-shaped, channeled leaves bluish or gray-green. Cylindrical yellow flowers on usually unsearched (?) in florescence. The juicy pulp is used as a poultice to heal sore burns and cuts – sun burns.

Consider the larger – upright plants for the center of the pot/container for there attractive foliage or magnificent blossoms. Choose anything you personally like color, texture, boldness, which is your personal taste. Generally, Plants with long trailing stem are a favorite for the edge/border of the container/garden, but always feel free to experiment and be creative. Different colors of green can also work together to create different Styles; Mood and Energy. Similar colors can work together and react with each other in complimenting the surrounding environment or your container

Planning, Planting and caring for a garden or container Gaden can provide a keen sense of connection with nature in fact understanding there needs and of how to design and function separately and together will help you understand your garden that you will admire and enjoy. Getting to know your plants and what they do can be accomplish with using your own Children’s Garden Club Journal pages if you have run out of them please let me know and we can give you more

## 2008 – 2009 Children’s Garden Club Calendar

All meetings are at 9:00a.m. at different locations throughout St. Louis County & City. All are Free thanks to our Sponsors. No RSVP’s are required, everyone welcome, & Great for Scout troops. The Children’s Garden Club is designed to educate, as well as bring delight in gardening and horticulture with projects they start themselves and take home top continue to grow and enjoy.

November 1, 2008     A Fall project Sherwood’s Forest Nursery & Garden Center  
 December 6, 2008     Enjoying the Holiday Decorations Sherwood’s Forest

### 2009

January 3, 2009     Flower Arranging - Baisch & Skinner, Inc. – 2721 LaSalle  
 February 7, 2009     Fun Things to Do in the Garden Sappington Garden Center – 11530 Gravois  
 March 5 – 8, 2009     Builders Home & Garden Show - Flower Show & Club America’s Center –  
                                  Edward Jones Dome  
 March 7, 2009     Carnivorous plants Sherwood’s Forest Nursery & Garden Center –  
                                  2651 Barrett Station Road  
 April 4, 2009     *Great Perennial Divide – Bowl Garden – Sherwood’s Forest & Nursery Garden Center*  
                                  – 2651 Barrett Station Rd.  
 May 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2009     *Vegetables – Plant a Row for the Hungry – Community Days*  
                                  *Museum of Transportation 3015 Barrett Station Road*

June 6, 2009 – July 11, 2009 – August 1, 2009  
 September 12, 2009 – October 3, 2009 – November 7, 2009 – December 5 , 2009

**Growing into the Future**  
**Let me know your thoughts**

*What is a Children's Garden (definition) \_\_\_\_\_*

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*What are things you like about the Children's Garden Club  
(topics & or crafts etc.) \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Great Children's Garden Design include the following \_\_\_\_*

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*Things that don't work in Children's Garden Design  
include the following: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*The Essential Elements of a Children's Garden: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Recommendations of / for topics for future Children's  
Garden Club meetings: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Please fill out this sheet now or mail it in to Douglas R.  
Wolter, 1675 South Mason Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63131  
Or Email [dwolter@stlouisco.com](mailto:dwolter@stlouisco.com) Thanks...*

# Gourds - Succulents

J A D E F J D I L S W L I S X  
 S T I B R U C R U C M U D E S  
 S I K M U S Z C D F A F H Z S  
 H Y Y N H T C E E S L R G I T  
 W B H A S U W N C V T O H S U  
 N S P F L L B U O Q Y L R M T  
 E E E E A T D S R F A O F A R  
 S S N N I T E Q A M X C J P L  
 W T U U I R J U T O N V M C L  
 S Y R O U V Y A I V F X L K N  
 Z F J T H L D S O E R A J B U  
 M P X N D D N H N G O U R D S  
 N E Y O H C R Q S H B G K X V  
 T F M R P X S I G I V X H S O  
 K T S R C C U J B L W A Y A Q

BIRDHOUSE  
 DECORATIONS  
 GOURDS  
 SHAPES  
 SUCCULENTS

COLORFUL  
 FLORAL  
 JADE  
 SIZES  
 TEXTURE

CURCURBITS  
 FRUIT  
 SEDUM  
 SQUASH  
 VINES

15 of 15 words were placed into the puzzle.

Solution