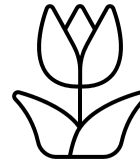
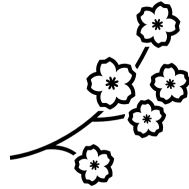

WHAT ARE OUR STAR GARDENERS DOING IN MARCH?



Paul Sisko:

I will be looking at plants that require winter pruning such as Roses and certain Hydrangeas and checking on my spring bulbs to see if they are safe from varmints. I especially like to get into the beds where there are a lot of plants close to each other and rake out any fallen spruce needles or cones. It is so much easier to take a leaf rake and go through the beds in a big sweep rather than taking a small 6 inch rake and going in-between them after they are coming up. Plus there is less chance of stepping on the new emerging buds. I'll be making notes on what else has to be done at later dates and try to put the jobs in chronological order.

Another first will be to get my seed starting shed cleaned and prepared for starting my veggie plants.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you along with Janet at the April meeting. We're finally getting some nice weather here so I hope to come back with a tan to make you jealous.

Stay well all my friends.
Paul

Marina Kunkera:

March is a shyster of a month. It is sneaky and unpredictable, yet when it is sunny and warm - all is forgiven - I embrace March with my yearning heart.

I have so much I would like to accomplish in my garden in March. My new project is a Winter Garden. I'm taking out lawn grass and prepping the soil for conifers and hellebore. I have a Fall Gold Raspberry plant to plant in my new Crop Cage and I'm transplanting the strawberries undercover. Desperately trying to keep chipmunks, squirrels and birds from eating my fruit. My new raised beds need to be filled with organic soil and my Cool Season seedlings planted; kale, spinach, radish, kohlrabi, and lettuce. I'll sow my Warm Season seeds; tomatoes, beans, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, and peppers.

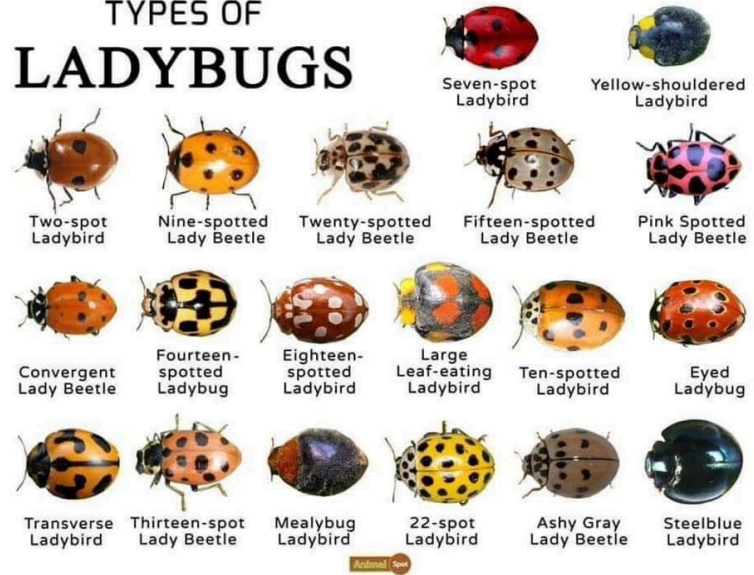
But the first thing I need to do is cut back my clematis and grasses, and clip the yews to form hedging. If I'm exceptionally diligent this year, I'll start mulching.

Sharon Ma:

At the last club meeting, Matthew Bickerton, the entomologist for Bergen County Department of Health taught us that the best way to control pests in our garden is to grow a healthy garden with many plants that attract beneficial insects and avoid using any insecticides because they will also kill beneficial insects.

Ladybugs are one of the beneficial insects that eat aphids, mealy bugs and other soft body insects. There are many kinds of ladybugs. They are all good for our garden.

TYPES OF LADYBUGS



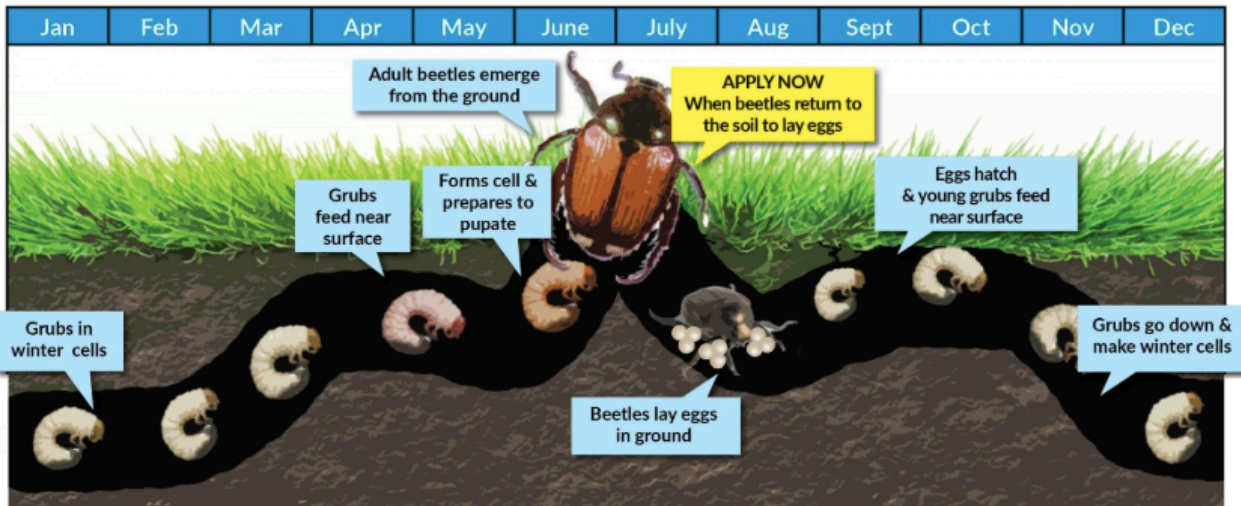
Worms don't like insulation and grease



To protect trees from worms or crawling pests, such as Spotted Lantern Fly, you can do home made traps by using duct tapes and insulation pad to circle the trunks, then apply vaseline on the tape surface.

At the meeting, we also talked about applying milky spores or *Bacillus Thuringiensis galleria* (Btg), a bio-insecticide, to control grubs. I used grubGone about 3 years ago and the grubs and Japanese beetles have dramatically reduced in the last few years. You may google the name and buy them online, or check with Roshlers, I think I have seen it available on their shelf last year. It is important to apply it either from April to mid May or mid Sept to Oct to be effective because that is the time when the larvae are near the top area, By the winter time, they will move down deep into the ground.

The picture below shows when the larvae return to the top area. I found this picture online. Please ignore the yellow instruction shown on the picture because that may be for a different product.



Just like everybody, I am getting ready to start sowing seeds for cool weather vegetables. Here is a chat that helps to guide us when to start which vegetables. Hope that helps.

Happy Spring!!!

| | | Start Seedlings Indoors | | | Plant/Transplant Outdoors | | | | Harvest | | |
|-----|-----|-------------------------|--------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|-----|---------|----------|-----|-----|
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| | | Kale | | | | | | | Kale | | |
| | | Lettuce | | | | | | Lettuce | | | |
| | | | Lettuce | | | | | Lettuce | | | |
| | | Onions | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Brussels Sprouts | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Cabbage | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Cauliflower | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Celery | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Spinach | | | | | | | Spinach | | |
| | | Spinach | | | | | | | Spinach | | |
| | | Broccoli | | | | | | | Broccoli | | |
| | | | Sweet Potato | | | | | | | | |
| | | Peas | | | | | | | Peas | | |
| | | Tomato | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Eggplant | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Pepper | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Winter Squash | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Summer Squash | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Beets | | | | | | | Beets | | |
| | | Carrots | | | | | | | Carrots | | |
| | | Carrots | | | | | | | Carrots | | |
| | | Potato | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Cucumber | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Melons | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Corn | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Beans | | | | | | | | | |

Frost Free Zone