

'Every time I talk to a savant, I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk with my gardener, I'm convinced of the opposite.'

BERTRAND RUSSELL
(1872-1970), British philosopher

TIPS FOR GARDENERS

SUMMER BREAK: Spring and early summer vegetables planted back last March, like snap beans, cucumbers, squash and tomatoes, often finish up in the next few weeks. When you remove them, you could plant a green manure crop in the bed to improve the soil over the summer. Peanuts and Southern peas make excellent green manure crops. Just as the young plants come into flower, chop them up and till them under. They

will enrich the soil with nitrogen and organic matter. Allow the bed to sit for several weeks while the organic matter decomposes, and you will be ready to plant your fall crops.

BEATING LEAF-ROLLERS: Cannas that have brown, deformed leaves with holes in them have been attacked by canna leaf-rollers, a caterpillar that is devastating to cannas in our area. Control is difficult and requires regular spraying all summer. If you decide to treat, a systemic insecticide such as acephate will generally work best.

EXTEND BLOOMING: Remove spent flowers from annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, gaillardia and rudbeckia to encourage them to continue blooming as long as possible.

PLAYED-OUT PETUNIAS: If you planted petunias this spring, don't be surprised if they begin to fade later this month or in July. Heat-tolerant petunias, such as the Wave petunias and Supertunias, can hold up until August. But many types of petunias do not tolerate the intense heat of mid- to late summer this far south. When they play out, pull them up and replace them with more heat-tolerant bedding plants, such as angelonia, blue daze, celosia, coleus, gaillardia, lantana, ornamental sweet potato, Profusion zinnia, marigold, melampodium, narrow-leaf zinnia, pentas, periwinkle, purslane, salvia, scaevola or torenia.

