

Family

Sweet corn makes great garden treat

As the season progresses, most of us agree that the best part of gardening is still to come.

Not very many of us have picked a big ripe tomato as yet. We're still waiting for those big ears of sweet corn to mature, and the cantaloupe are still a couple of weeks away from turning that nice tan color that indicates they are ready to slip from the vine.

Great garden days are coming soon!

Those horticulturists who know and study gardening habits report that sweet corn is the second most popular garden crop of all, next to tomatoes, of course. They also report that while sweet corn is popular, most gardeners depend on others for satisfying their need for a good supply of the crop. That is, very gardener really likes it, but depend on others to grow it.

Certainly, there is good reason for that. Sweet corn plantings are perceived as taking up too much space in the backyard garden, so people rely on farmers to supply them with enough to supply their appetite. Seems like most everybody has a farmer friend who plants a few rows of sweet corn somewhere near their field corn and seems to be most willing to share with friends or to provide a pickup load at harvest time for visitors to the Farmers Market.

For home gardeners who do plant and harvest their own sweet corn, seed selection is important. Sweet corn breeders have almost outdone themselves as they continue to provide us with a fantastic seed supply.

I can remember the time when it was important to have the pan of water boiling on the stove before you went out and picked the corn because the sweetness would be lost if we waited too long after picking.

Most of the newer varieties can



Kay Melia

The Gardener

be stored in the refrigerator for more than a week and still retain that perfect sweet-corn flavor. In my opinion, there has been more improvement in sweet corn breeding than any other garden crop. But you absolutely must know which "type" of corn you are planting to be successful.

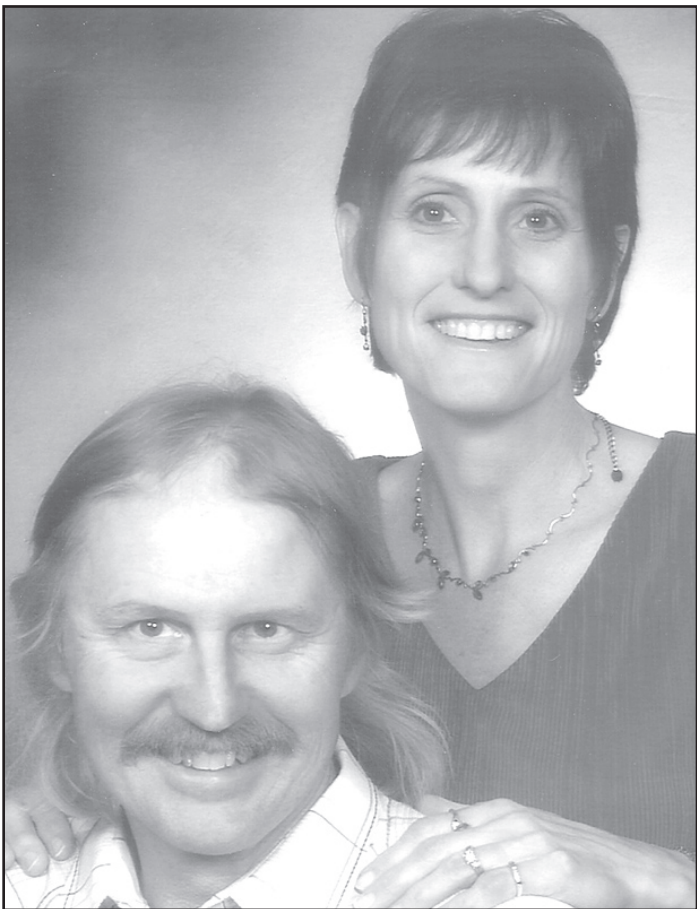
Here's why. Today's sweet corn varieties fall into several types or classes, each with it's own growth habit and even it's own taste. There are Sugary Enhanced types (SE), Normal Sugary Hybrids (SU), Supersweet Hybrids (SH2), Everlasting Hybrids (EH), Tablesweet (TSW) and the newer Xtra Tender types, most of which have only a number, not a name.

All types offer wonderful tasting sweet corn, but all offer their own challenges to the backyard gardener. But know this; you cannot go wrong by planting one of the many Sugar Enhanced varieties, those with the SE label. Some of the others must be isolated from each other because cross-pollination, will result in a starchy, undesirable kernel in both varieties.

I plant Ambrosia or Kandy Korn or Incredible, all sugar enhanced types, all wonderful producers, all with a bit of disease protection bred in, and all with unbelievable sweet flavor. There are dozens of others that are just wonderful and will give you an outstanding crop.

But study your variety selection a little closer next time you are ready to buy a packet of seed. It can make a huge difference.

Or just be sure to visit a Farmers Market near you at harvest time!



Leland Kreger and Jean Stewart

August rite planned by couple in Weskan

Jean Stewart and Leland Kreger of Weskan plan to marry on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at the Weskan Baptist Church.

The bride, daughter of Evelyn Sexson and the late Iley Sexson of Weskan, works for Eastern Colorado Bank in Cheyenne Wells, Colo. She is the mother of Jasmine Stewart of Colby; Trista Tuttle of Albert, Colo.,

and Dylan Stewart of Lenexa.

The groom, son of Lee and Marolyn Kreger of San Jose, Calif., is a farmer. He is the father of Scott Kreger, Dodge, and Joe Kreger, Shannon Kreger, Nick Kreger and Brian Kreger, all of the home.

The couple plan to live north of Weskan.

His name causes confusion

CINCINNATI (AP) — Sharing a name with someone who lives in your area isn't usually a big deal — unless your name is Neil Armstrong.

Thirty-eight-year-old Neil Allen Armstrong, a financial services professional from Symmes Township in suburban Cincinnati, says he constantly gets calls and

packages from autograph seekers, school kids and reporters. He tries to explain he's not the Neil Armstrong who was the first man to walk on the moon. But people don't always believe him.

Neil Alden Armstrong, the 78-year-old former astronaut, lives in nearby Indian Hills. He rarely appears in public.

Creative times open up this week

July 27 - August 2

Get your message out today if you have something important you want to say, when super social Venus slips into an easy trine to utopia-minded Uranus.

The moon's entrance into Scorpio on Tuesday will leave you feeling less confident about sharing and more inclined to dig for the answers you need. Even the dark Scorpio moon has a brighter side, and this is a time when it's easy for the most passionate, caring, profound and creative sides of your personality to emerge from the depths of your soul. Be on the lookout for any negative tendencies to be controlling through noon on Thursday.

Venus leaves the lightness of Gemini and plunges into the watery depths of Cancer on Friday.

On Saturday, Venus continues down a turbulent relationship road as it faces off with Pluto and, as usual, Pluto indicates that transformation is the only way out.



Shannon O'Brien

Weekly Horoscope

Even after the moon moves on to extremely flexible Sagittarius, you will have trouble being optimistic about some kind of dilemma.

On Sunday, Mercury throws its hat into the ring with its entry into Virgo. Mercury in Virgo is like having a butler who is at your service. You're likely to receive advice on how to handle or upgrade any situation for the next three weeks. The entrance of the moon into Capricorn adds even more practical know-how to the mix.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.57
Corn (bushel)	\$2.70
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.00
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.76

The family of
Morris Barnett
is requesting a
Card Shower
for his
84th Birthday
on August 1st.
Cards may be sent to:
Colby Care Center
105 E. College Drive
Colby, KS 67701

The Family of
Lindy Bretz

Is honoring Him with a
Card Shower for his 80th Birthday
on August 2nd
Send cards to:
Lindy Bretz
3005 Yucca Rd.
Wallace, KS 67761

Errant avian returns to nest

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Officials at the Philadelphia Zoo say they're happy that an AWOL avian has been found and is returning to its perch.

Zoo spokesman Bill Larson says a tropical bird that flew the coop two days ago was recaptured Saturday morning in the city's

Fairmount Park.

The juvenile sun conure (CON'yer) disappeared Thursday during the Festival of Flight bird show.

Larson says the zoo's animal department followed up more than 100 leads after putting out the word about bird, which is mostly yellow with a green tail.

Bridal Registry
Whitney Adams
and
Parker McKee
Wedding: August 1

Nicole Sommerfeld
and
Michael Brocklehurst
Wedding: July 25

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Sunday -Thursday 7:00

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE
PG 2 Hours 35 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:45
Sunday -Thursday 7:00

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12:00 noon @ Fike Park

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