

## Master Gardener Series March, 2008



**March 1 – Peanut Butter Lovers Day**  
**March 4 – National Pound Cake Day**  
**March 6 – Michaelangelo's Birthday**  
**March 6 - Oreo Cookie Day**  
**March 17 – St. Patrick's Day**

### Peanut Butter and Pine Cone Bird Feeders

Find a large pinecone. Tie a three to four foot piece of yarn around the top of the pinecone for the hanger.

Mix two tablespoons of peanut butter with two tablespoons of margarine. Spread the peanut butter and margarine mixture onto the pinecone.

Pour some birdseed onto a plate or shallow dish and roll the pinecone in it. Place the seed-covered pinecones in the freezer for about an hour or until it is firm. Hang it outside in a tree

### Irish Soda Bread

2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 egg  
¾ cup buttermilk  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¼ cup raisins (optional)

Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt; cut in the butter and mix to the texture of coarse crumbs. Beat the egg

into the butter and carefully stir into the flour mixture. Do not over mix or the bread will be tough. Fold in the raisins if desired.

Serve warm with butter.

### Indiana Garden Tips for March Purdue HO-91-W Excerpt

- Apply fertilizer to houseplants according to label directions as days grow brighter and longer and new growth begins. Foliage plants require a relatively high-nitrogen fertilizer, while blooming plants thrive on formulations that are higher in phosphorus.
- Remove spent leaves and flowers regularly to improve appearance and encourage more blooms.
- Start seeds of cool season plants for transplanting outdoors later in spring (early March for Northern Indiana, late February for Southern Indiana). Prune trees and shrubs while plants are still dormant. Those that bloom early in spring should be pruned after flowers fade.
- Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins, but wait until after soil temperatures have reached 40°F (usually in early March in Southern Indiana, and late March to early April in Northern Indiana). Two pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet should be broadcast over the entire root area.
- Remove winter coverings from roses as soon as new growth begins, but keep mulch nearby for protection from late freezes. Prune and fertilize as needed.
- Apply superior oil spray to control scale insects and mites on landscape plants and fruit trees when tips of leaves start to protrude from buds.

- Remove tree wrap from trunks to prevent scalding due to overheating of bark

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DREAM MENU

#### Breakfast:

Oatmeal Currant Scones with Lemon Curd and Devonshire Cream  
Steel Cut Oatmeal and Toasted Soda Bread  
Corned Beef Hash with Eggs  
Irish Bacon  
Coffee

#### Lunch:

Reuben Sandwiches  
Corned Beef and Sauerkraut on  
Pumpernickel Bread with Provolone Cheese;  
dressing on the side.  
Hand cut French Fries  
Guinness

#### Dinner:

Spinach Soup with Green Onions  
Irish Brown Bread  
Beef and Guinness Pie  
Chocolate Stout Cake  
Irish Coffee

### SHOULD I PLANT POTATOES ON GOOD FRIDAY?

This is an old wives tale. Good Friday falls at a different time each year and in some parts of the country, the ground would still be frozen on Good Friday. Potatoes tolerate cool weather, but do not have a lot of growth until it is warmer.

My mother's tip for potato beetle control is to swish them off into a pail of water to which a little oil has been added. This is her organic gardening method for dealing with both potato and Japanese beetles. A daily trip through the garden with her pail in hand is rather disgusting, but quite effective!  
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