

'GOING GREEN' THEME THING

Are you up to doing a bit of experimenting with growing your gourds?

On Earth Day I watched the Tube all day without let up. It was an end-to-end commentary on what people are doing to become "green".

One of the most intriguing articles was about using Bio-Char (charcoal) to enrich the soil and increase crop yields, something the Mayans had used long ago in their fields.

I've listed several links below for you to view and do some research on your own. I would at least urge you to watch the video clip on the first link.

An excellent video clip on the results of using Bio-Char
<http://www.kosmix.com/topic?q=terra+preta&searchSubmit>

Agricultural Charcoal - A great site for learning about and researching Bio-Char. This site has many links about Bio-Char and resources.
<http://sites.google.com/site/localresilience/Home/biochar>

Another good general site for your research of Bio-Char
<http://www.biochar.org/joomla/>

Learn how to make your plants grow faster
A short video clip tells it in sound and pictures.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7941852.stm>

This link is a 45 minute video clip on the historical aspects of a civilization that used Bio-Char. This video is downloadable. Hold your cursor about 1 inch to the left of the word "block" and just touch the top of the video panel.
<http://thenewgreeneconomy.com/news-information-a-innovation/food-a-agriculture/151-a-society-that-had-totally-mastered-its-environment>

So, try some Bio-Char on some of your gourds and see if you get the expected results. It might be easier to do this in a container experiment, but would not be absolutely necessary as you can see in the video clips.

Is it possible to be very active during the first year of application? Are your gourds going to be healthier and more productive? Check it out! Try it out! Let us know the results if you do experiment with Bio-Char in your gourd garden or your food garden.

Jesse Glessner

Gourd Happenings In Our Gourdgeous World

August 7—23, 2009 2009 Indiana State Fair. Year of Tomatoes. See next Tendril issue for important information concerning your entries into State Fair competition, both from the State Fair and from the Indiana Gourd Society. Extended time period covers three weekends! Volunteers needed to man the booth for the extra week. Dried gourd and gourd art competition
Gourd seeds and IGS Gourd Store, free demonstrations
Volunteers needed to help staff the booth, or do demonstrations. Four hours = free pass. For additional info: contact Jesse Glessner 765 348 0344, Loretta Pressel 574 586 2502, or Phil Moorhead 765 674 8088

September 11, 12, 13, 2009 Fall Illinois GS Festival (Friday thru Sunday)_ at the Chicago Botanic Garden, the 2nd most visited Botanic Garden in the US with 26 gardens and 385 acres. Check it out at Chicago-botanic.org ILGS members will be given first priority as vendors and teachers. ILGS membership is \$10. There will be space for 24 teachers and space for about 50 vendors

September 12, 13, 2009 North Carolina Gourd Society's 68th annual Gourd Arts and Crafts Festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Theme "By the Seashore." Historic gourds from around the world, workshops, kids' craft table, vendors of gourds, gourd

craft, craft supplies. Kerr Scott Building, North Carolina State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, N.C. Adults \$4, ages 12-17 \$2, younger than 12 free, seniors \$3. Information: Festival Chair: Kate Mahony at tolecat@nc.rr.com, (910) 639-4577, www.ncgourdsociety.org/festival.htm

September 27 & 28, 2009 – OHIO GOURD SHOW - Show hours: Saturday / Sunday 9 AM to 5 PM "Four Gourds and Seven Years Ago" (A Tribute to 9/11) Pre-show Activities Friday, September 26, 2008 – 9 AM to 5 PM - at the Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, Ohio

October 16-18, 2009 - 14th Annual Lone Star Gourd Festival in Fredericksburg, Texas. Held at the Gillespie Country Fairground in the Pedernales River Valley of the Texas Hill Country. Workshops, Demonstrations, Judged Competition & a Kids Kraft Korner. Visit www.TexasGourdSociety.org for further details and updates. Rebecca Wise, 2009 Show Chair - 817-726-6653 Cell

Nov 7, 2009 IGS Fall Festival Saturday 9:00AM to 3:00PM, Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. Free admission, open to the public. Vendors, IGS Gourd Store, Gourd Seeds, Demonstrations, mini craft and dried gourd exhibition, music, kids booth, Auction. Membership meeting 3:00 pm. Mid-morning snacks and lunch.

Bill Freihofer, Festival Chair - wfreihofer@yahoo.com