



Garden Seeds

Life began in a garden; (Genesis 1:11)



We had a late **DONATION** received for our Auction FUNdraiser which we'd like to acknowledge and thank. ^^^

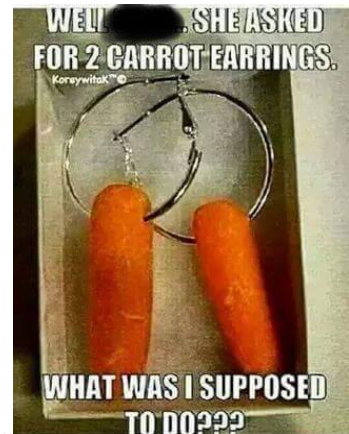
We have Shade cloth installed now on the Pergola to, well, provide shade for the warmer months ☺



Once again the Garden board thanks Jim and Ellie for their garden association with Noah' Ark. In April the kids learned about Vermicomposting (worms) and in May they did plants for Mother's Day. The schools' garden beds are also producing which is another learning tool for the kids as well. We have recently learned of efforts to get garden beds into other school programs directly as a result of our programs. Thanks Jill.



Our first big harvest of the spring/summer 90pounds!!! We were able to donate to the food bank as well as use as teaching aids with the kids at Noah's Ark.



BTW ...

TOTATOES - Part 2 (of 4) What's in a Name? ...*Source - Planet Natural*

Continuing from Part 1 in April →

Why did tomatoes have such a bad reputation early in our history? The answer lies first in appearances and then in names. For starters, the close resemblance of tomatoes to deadly nightshade (so close that the two were occasionally mistaken for each other) did not encourage equanimity. Because of that resemblance, many early botanists recognized the relationship of tomatoes to the Solanaceae family, the name deriving from the Latin Solanum for “the nightshade plant;” Solanum itself became a finer division (what was later called a genus) under Solanaceae. Then came perhaps the first formal botanic classification, in 1692, by Joseph Pitton de Tournefort, who accepted the general classification Solanaceae but disputed that tomatoes belonged to solanum, because the fruits had more inner divisions than was normal in those plants.

Tournefort's classification, far from redeeming the tomato from the taint of bad company, simply changed that company. He placed tomatoes in a new grouping of plants within Solanaceae, a classification he called Lycopersicon, meaning “wolf peach,” still not a name to conjure up the warm and fuzzies. This Greek term appears to follow an old German word for tomato, wolpfirsich, which also translates into English as “wolf peach.” Exactly how old this word was, and how common, is hard to ascertain; like many “facts” in tomato history, considerable fog surrounds this one, and many sources remain either silent or contradictory on numerous points of interest.

Tomato Gardening Supplies Be that as it may, in this oft-repeated version the name wolpfirsich referred to the tomato's round shape, reminiscent of a peach, while the “wolf” modifier derived from the Germanic folk belief that werewolves could be called up using other members of the Solanaceae family, such as nightshade and wolf bane. Many members of this family are indeed poisonous or hallucinogenic or both. That the family also contains many edible members (potatoes, chili peppers, and eggplants among them) did not help the tomato's reputation, because of these only the eggplant was familiar to Europeans in the 16th century. The others, like the tomato, came from the New World and, like it, were suspect.

The cause was not advanced by the great botanist Carl Linnaeus, father of the six-level taxonomy still in use today (kingdom, phylum, order, family, genus, species), and of the double-barreled Latinate naming system we all know and love, which gives first the genus and then the species. In 1753 Linnaeus rejected Tournefort's separate genus Lycopersicon and placed tomatoes back in Solanum, calling the cultivated tomato the familiar *S. Lycopersicon* — both poison and wolves.

Just to seal the tomato's fate, all parts of the plant, with the exception of its fruit, actually are poisonous. Perhaps to emphasize that exception, more recent botanists have backpedaled, adding esculentum (edible) to the beleaguered tomato's name to give us *Lycopersicon esculentum*, or “edible wolf peach.” Unfortunately, this rear-guard action came too late to redeem the tomato for our Colonial forbears.

An entirely different theory for why the tomato got off to a rocky start in the US also focuses on names. This time, though, the names involved are the earliest European ones, such as the Italian “pomi d'oro” (golden apple) or the even more evocative French “pommed'amour” (love apple). Such names, goes this theory, were hardly of the sort to make Puritans feel at ease with the tomato (see *Tomatoes are Evil*). ----→ next month...redemption☺

“It's SPRING” We're so exited we wet our plants ☺