



Newsletter

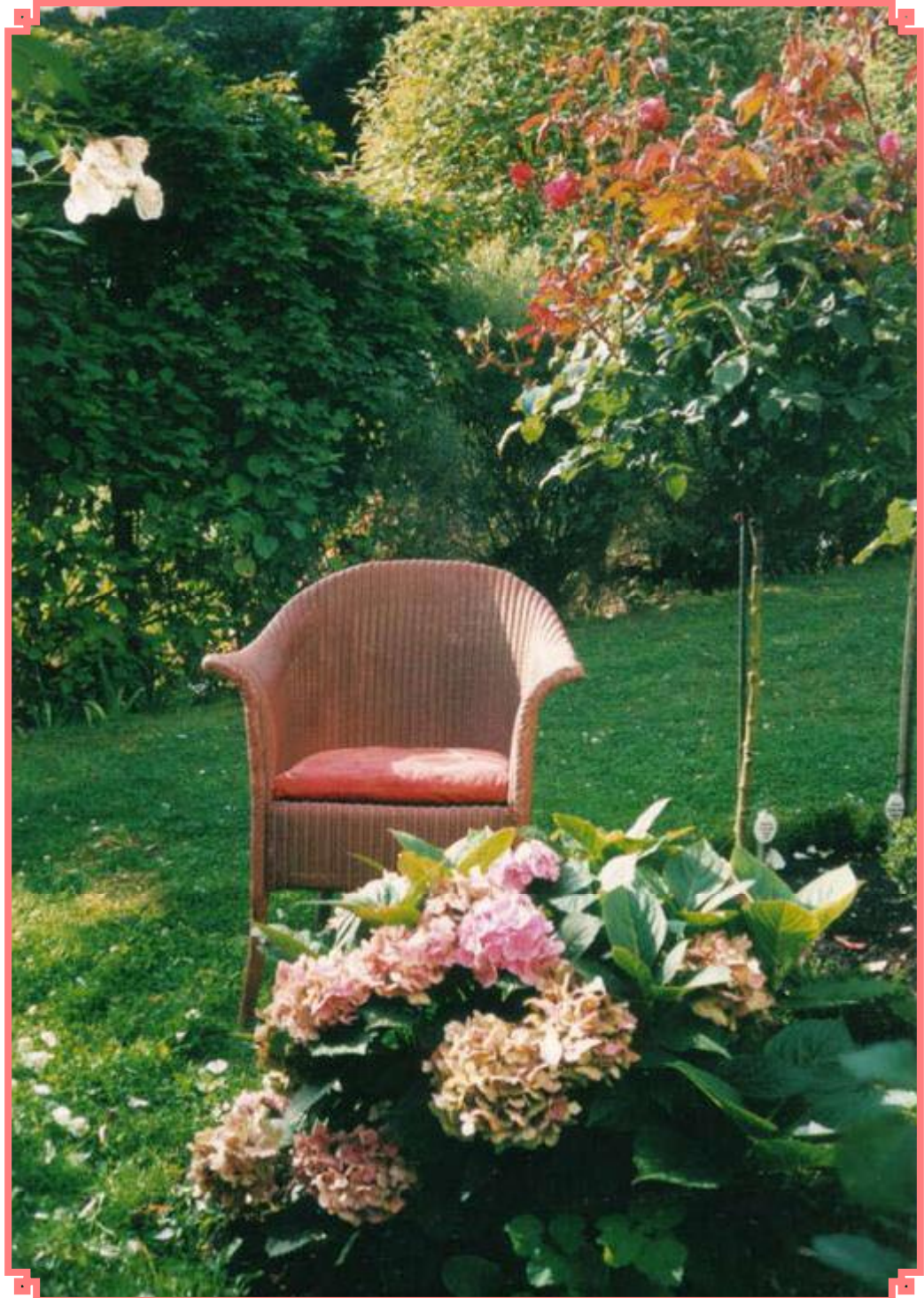
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AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUB of the TAUNUS e.V.

Serving the Frankfurt Area



*A garden of delights awaits you this issue —
starting Page 16.*

Did you know...?



Ines Gierlich and Helga Pfeifer have been involved in gardening in one way or another for more than 30 years. Through planning and creating gardens as well as decorating them for festive occasions, they have accumulated a wealth of knowledge. Care of plants – both indoor and outdoor – has been a particular responsibility of theirs for years in connection with their Homesitting Taunus service. Nothing wrong with theory, but practice is what makes gardening perfect!

They would like to share with you many AWCT garden-lovers some useful tips, addresses and ideas, so your own gardens, terraces, balconies or indoor plants will have a more individual touch – and you just might get a greener thumb, too!



Ines tending roses



Helga bedding down



Did you know there is a noble landscape garden in Bad Homburg? And that there are guided tours called *Auf den Wegen der Landgrafen* (also in English) that will show you the palace garden, the former English Garden, the Kleine Tannenwald (small pine forest), the Große Tannenwald (great pine forest) with its Gothic House and deer park and much more. bad-homburg.de

Did you know there are two very experienced tour operators, among others, specialized in garden tours throughout Europe, Asia and North America? Laade Gartenreisen Naturreisen 48683 Ahaus, 02561-971613 gartenreisen-laade.de

TRAVELHOUSE, Karsten Ratzke 61455 Königstein, 06174-22029 travel-house.de (cultural and garden tours since 1992, also tour operator this year for SUNFLOWER's special garden tours)

Did you know Steinfurth/Bad Nauheim is the oldest Rosendorf (rose village) in Germany?

And that a *Rosenfest* (rose festival), whose fame extends well beyond Hessen, takes place in even-numbered years? This year, 16-19 Jul, more than 40 resident rose growers will present their roses of all shapes and colours in a glorious parade. By the way, many of these rose nurseries are also open weekends during the gardening season. steinfurth.de

Did you know there is a wonderful Royal Garden Academy in Berlin that also offers lectures and seminars for private gardeners in English?

The German naturalistic planting movement: Theory and practice is a 5-day event

running from Fri, 17 Aug, through Tue, 31 Aug, with two days spent in lectures and discussion and the other three days out visiting gardens in and around Berlin. For more info, contact 030-832209014 or email ivg@koenigliche-gartenakademie.de

Did you know that in addition to TOOM Market for general gardening things, there are some specialists we heartily recommend for specific gardening items?

SUNFLOWER Gartencenter 60437 Frankfurt, 069-50004933 sunflower-gartencenter.de Exceptional pottery, huge variety of plants, mouth-watering grocery section

Baumschule Peselmann 61350 Bad Homburg, 06172-31716 baumschule-peselmann.de All types of bushes (e.g. buxus, hydrangea, rhododendron), aquatic plants, trees. They are also specialists in garden planning. This year there will be two Open Sundays (10am-5pm): 9 May *Rhododendrons in Bloom* and 10 Oct *Indian Summer*.

Last, but not least, did you know...

that you should cut down your old rhododendron growth right after it has been in bloom (around mid-June) so that it will grow even greener next year and, of course, blossom again.



Photos by Ines Gierlich and Helga Pfeifer.

**Did you know that there are...
many famous garden exhibitions throughout Hessen?**

- 01 May – 02 May **Hessenpark/Neu-Anspach, Plant Market**
Come discover a variety of colorful plants of all shapes and sizes against an inviting backdrop of picturesque half-timbered houses. Mediterranean potted plants as well as regional plants for flower beds and balconies round out the palette.
- 21 May – 24 May **Eichenzell/Fulda, A Princely Garden Party at Schloss Fasanerie**
Once again this Whitsun, the gardens and park of Hessen's most beautiful Barock palace will be open to lovers of wonderful gardening ideas.
das-fuerstliche-gartenfest.de
- 12 Jun – 13 Jun **Hessen, Open Garden Gates**
Some 50 private, exceptionally interesting gardens in Hessen will be opening their gates. Local highlights include the Rhein-Main area, the Bergstraße/Odenwald, Darmstadt and Wiesbaden/ Rheingau. A list of gardens by name will be posted in May on offene-gartenpforte-hessen.de or call 06722-502861
- 09 Sep – 12 Sep **Büdingen, Outing to Schloss Büdingen**
This year's motto *Carneval in Venice* promises to be particularly attractive. The idyllic backdrop of the palace provides a romantic frame for exhibitors from throughout Germany. A very well-organized event with specially selected vendors. (an insider tip from Homesitting Taunus)
- 17 Sep – 19 Sep **Langen/Frankfurt, Another Princely Garden Party**
Forgotten Garden Treasures – Vintage Species, Technics and Traditions is the motto of this year's garden party in Schloss Wolfsgarten, the private residence of Moritz Landgraf von Hessen, which is otherwise not open to the public.



**Think you don't have a green thumb? Don't despair!
Ines has some winning combinations for you.**

Carnation-Herb Mix (left): this gorgeous arrangement is suitable for both sunny and partially shady spots. It is made up of deep red and pink carnations/*Dianthus*, catnip/*Nepeta*, and tricolor and purple sage. Plant in a wood or clay pot and you'll soon have a delightful display of leaves and flowers.

Blue-White Scent Sensation (right): this fragrant arrangement combines white *Lantana*, white sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*), blue mealy cup sage (*Salvia farinacea*) and blue *Lobelia*. Put two of each plant in a box 80cm long. Perfect as a flower box on a balcony or as a terrace border.

Urlaub in Balkonien

Ask a German where she is going for vacation, and if she says she will spend her Urlaub in Balkonien, that means she doesn't plan to go anywhere. With a balcony like this, who would want to leave home? Ines Gierlich tells us how to make our own little paradise (and she took this gorgeous photo, too).



Mini-gardens in the form of wonderfully designed balconies and terraces are easy to care for and can be looked after with no problem by a friendly neighbor while you are away. From our many years of experience, we know which plants are particularly well-suited to pots, boxes and small flower beds on terraces. Even plant lovers who don't have a green thumb can create a little paradise, as you have seen on Page 19.

You might choose to decorate your balcony or terrace with combination pots, herbs or evergreens.

Herbs for full sun (south facing)

To develop their full aroma, these herbs need a lot of warmth. Plants with small, thin leaves that minimize evaporation are most suitable: lavender, oregano, rosemary, sage and thyme. Light, limy soil will suffice for pots and boxes as well as small beds. Water pots and boxes regularly but moderately; for the beds, less water is best.

Tip: Plastic pots may hold water better, but get too hot in the full sun. That's why we recommend clay pots, despite the heavier weight (make sure there is a hole in the bottom). To avoid stagnant water, put some Seramis or Styrofoam on the bottom for drainage.

Herbs for partial shade (southwest facing)

Light and sun are basic requirements for herbs to flourish. Lemon balm (spreads like crazy), peppermint, parsley and chives are all ideal for pots.

Tip: Herbs are susceptible to winds and therefore prosper exceptionally well when placed in the protection of house walls.

Prefer evergreens? Try rhododendrons (fantastic blossoms in May/June), box trees (shaped as spheres, cones or pyramids), or hydrangea (attractive flowers from the end of June until well into fall).

Gardening Tips for Main Taunus

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body: behind the knees, ankles, armpits and crotch areas. They are not particularly dangerous to health, but are extremely irritating (and just the concept is really icky). I often spray myself with bug spray before delving into serious garden work. I also recommend spraying the kids before they go out to roll around in the grass. Drug stores sell a large variety of insect repellents. I use a "skin-friendly" product called Autan Family Care.

Ticks appear not only in the woods and fields of the MainTaunus area — they can thrive in parks and gardens too. They cannot fly, but manage to jump surprisingly long distances. These blood-sucking parasites can infect humans (and dogs) with the borrelia bacteria, which causes what is known as Lyme disease. If not treated in the early phases, it can be very, very dangerous. It is advisable to wear long pants

and sleeves when walking in the woods and fields. Spraying with bug repellent is a good idea, too (I usually spray the outside of my clothes). It is also wise, especially with small children, to check for ticks every night and, if found, to remove them immediately. (We always had a sign in the bathroom saying "DO TICK CHECK!!!")

To clarify any misunderstanding, there is a "tick-vaccination" called FSME-vaccination here in Germany. This vaccination protects only against tick-borne meningoencephalitis, which is a viral infection. The virus is rare in Hessen, but is quite prevalent in many regions of Austria and Bavaria. There is no approved vaccination against the bacterial tick-borne infections, like Lyme disease. The best advice is to be vigilant: wear the right clothing, use bug spray and check — all over — after you have been outside.