

**From:** Paul Parent Garden Club <newsletter@paulparentclub.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2013 10:22 AM  
**To:** rickmorin@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Paul Parent Club News for March 29, 2013

[Please click here to read online if newsletter is not displayed below](#)

Edition 13.13	Paul Parent Garden Club News	March 29, 2013
---------------	------------------------------	----------------



**FEATURED QUOTE :**

"Plants give us oxygen for the lungs and for the soul."  
~Linda Solegato

The Paul Parent Garden Club is pleased to announce that we have a new radio station on beautiful Cape Cod!

WXTK Cape Cod, MA FM 95.1 8 TO 10 a.m. EST

We are very happy to be back on Cape Cod. We've missed you!

**A.M. Leonard  
Horticultural Tool and Supply Company**

Since 1885, when Ashbel Merrel Leonard started a nursery in his backyard in Piqua, Ohio, A.M. Leonard has grown to be the leader in horticultural tools and supplies. With our line of over 240 A.M. Leonard brand tools, they offer the quality and features that most manufacturers aren't willing to make--all at a price that saves money and delivers a great value to you!

A. M. Leonard, Inc. continues today with an emphasis on doing business the "old fashioned way." With their huge selection of over 8,000 items, all in-stock items, ordered by 4 PM weekdays, ship that same day! A.M. Leonard understands customers have a choice on where to shop and pledges to continue its tradition of exceptional products and service. [Try them today, and see the great deal they are offering on their tool of the week!](#)

When I went To College at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts--many years ago--I wanted to learn about flowers. I was fascinated by how every holiday had its own flowers and how it was possible to get them to bloom for that special day.

The week I learned how to grow Easter lilies was one I will never forget, because my teacher asked my college roommate Bruce Dunlop, whose family were florists and greenhouse growers in central Massachusetts this question: "Mr. Dunlop, how do you grow Easter lilies?" He answered, to our surprise, "In a wheelbarrow." The teacher said, "Please explain, for those here who have never grown Easter lilies before."

Bruce explained that if the flowers were not opening up fast enough he had to put them on a wheelbarrow and move them to a warmer greenhouse so they

**Gifts for the Gardener**

[Here are some great ideas for gifts your favorite gardener will just love!](#)

**Contact Information:**

**E-Mail:**  
[Click to contact us.](#)

**Telephone:**  
(207) 985-6972  
(800) 259-9231 (Sunday 6 AM to 10 AM)

**Fax:**  
(207) 985-6972

**Address:**  
Paul Parent Garden Club  
2 Blueberry Pines Dr  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

**Regular Phone Hours:**  
Mon.-Sat. 8 AM to 6 PM  
Sunday: 10 AM to 6 PM

**Tell your friends about Paul! Send them a copy of Paul's latest newsletter.**

(Note: this will not subscribe them to the newsletter, nor retain their email - it will just send them a copy from you.)

Your e-mail

[     ]

Your name

[     ]

Their e-mail

[     ]

Their name

[     ]

[Send >>]

**Where can I find Paul on Sunday mornings?**

could grow and open faster. If they were opening too fast, he had to put them on the wheelbarrow and move them to a cooler greenhouse so they could slow down and look perfect for Easter. Because Easter is at a different time each year, it was the most difficult flower crop his family had to grow. Bruce loved all the flowers his family grew in their greenhouse but the Easter Lilies were his least favorite because of the wheelbarrow--and I do not blame him. You may not know this, but some years the Easter lilies are growing under the benches that the poinsettias are growing on top of; it depends on the month that Easter falls on.

The **Easter lily** is the number one selling flowering plant for Easter by far. You may not remember this but less than 40 years ago Easter lilies were tall--well over 3 feet tall--when your parents purchased them. Today, because of growth regulators, lilies come in all sizes. At that time when you purchased a lily, the pot had three ferns growing in it; because of the height of the plant, the florist had problems keeping all the foliage on the lower part of the stem of the plant. To keep them looking nice they grew ferns in with the lilies--but today, because of hybrids, ferns are not needed.

Lilies are perennials and they will do very well in your gardens, so do not throw them away after the holiday--plant them in your garden. Lilies are unique plants because they have two sets of roots, one under the bulb like most plants have--but as they grow through the soil, they will develop a second root system for support, as this plant does grow tall 3 to 5 feet and needs the extra support. When you plant your lily, be sure to set it 6 to 8 inches deeper in the ground so this second root system develops to hold the stem straight up in your garden. When your flowers open in your home, be sure to pick off the yellow pollen sacs that form in the trumpet flower, as this will help the flowers bloom 2 extra days for you. Keep the soil moist in the pot--never wet--or your bulb will rot. Just dig into the soil to the depth of two knuckles, and if the soil is moist, leave it alone for an additional day. As the flowers fade, remove them and keep the plant inside until the weather warms up and becomes frost-free (early to mid-May) before planting. Next year the plant will flower in July, its normal flowering time in nature.

**Tulips** are number two, and closing in on first place quickly, as many younger people think of lilies as old fashioned--too bad. The tulips of today are all forced into bloom like the lilies but the varieties chosen are normal late-April flowering varieties, because they are shorter growing and need little to no staking. The flower color selection is wide and there are many with unusual foliage. They also require less time in a refrigerated cooler to grow. Keep tulips out of the sun and as cool as possible in your home; the flowers will last much longer and the flower color will be deeper. When the flowers fade, cut the stems to the foliage and plant as a single clump in your garden; do not separate. Plant 3 inches deeper and condition the soil in your garden before planting. This way the plant can rebuild the energy it took to make those flowers and bloom in your garden next year.

**Daffodils** are next because of the beautiful nodding flowers. If your florist or garden center did a good job, you will be able to choose plants with buds still not open along with those fully open. Daffodils--especially the regular tall growing varieties--will need staking in a warm home and that is why most shops add stakes and string in the pots. Once only yellow, daffodils now come in two-tone white and yellow and the new shades of pale pink. If you just want something in a small pot look for the miniature daffodil called 'Tête-à-Tête,' a wonderful yellow flower that will fit perfectly on the coffee table. All daffodils are very hardy and can be planted outside when the flowers fade. Cut back the faded flower to the base of the stem and when you plant (like other flowering bulbs) set in the garden 3 inches deeper.

**Hyacinths** are the king for fragrance for Easter. This amazing spring-flowering bulb comes in white, pink, and deep purple. When young, the flower buds resemble a pineapple because of all of all the tight buds. Hyacinths must be supported with stakes and string when fully opened as the flower is so large and heavy it will fall over in the pot. The flower cluster is made up of 25 or more individual flowers that are shaped like trumpets, and that is perfect

[Click here to find Paul Parent Garden Club™ radio stations.](#)

Have a Look  
Around Our Website:



Subscribe to our newsletter!

[Click here to subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address.](#)

[A.M. Leonard](#)

[Clear Choice](#)

[Tick Tubes](#)

[Fafard](#)

because these flowers are sending out a wonderful fragrance that will fill your home for many days. If you want a small pot, look for the dwarf type called grape hyacinths, and you can enjoy 3 inch tall flowers resembling drum sticks in deep purple or white--and they are long lasting. Both types can be planted in your garden when the flowers fade--and please remove the flowers and plant 3 inches deeper in the garden.

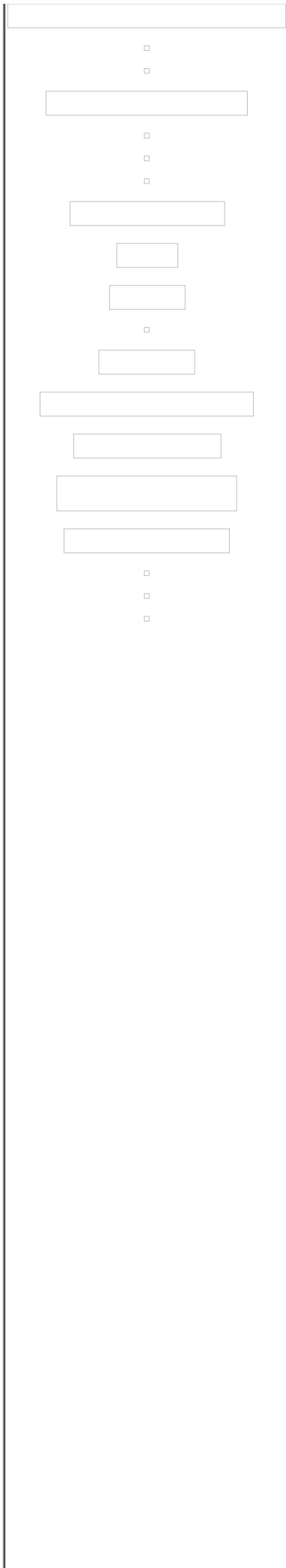
At number 5 is the **florist's hydrangea** and I stress florist, because these wonderful plants are not winter hardy if planted in your garden if you live in Northern New England. You can re-pot them in larger containers when the flowers fade and grow them on your deck for the summer and watch them grow larger. In the fall, place the potted plant in your garage or cool basement for the winter after the foliage has fallen from the plant. In February or March bring in the plant, water, and fertilize and watch it wake up and bloom in your home.

I love this plant because it develops large flowers on strong stems; each flower can be as large as 10 to 12 inches in diameter. The individual flowers have 4 petals in the shape of a cross and each flower cluster can have 25 or more flowers to create this ball shaped bloom. The flower color is wonderful with shades of blue, pink, and lavender. The new hybrids can have several shades of that color on the same flower and some will have both blue and pink on them. Pick plants that still have some flowers that have green flowers on them as you can enjoy the changing colors as they mature. Florist hydrangeas will last in your home for 4 to 8 weeks--a real plus when choosing flowering plants. These hydrangea plants will dry out easily so check daily and water as often as the plant requires it; dry plants will show flowers that wilt but will respond quickly when watered.

**Florist azaleas**--not to be confused with the hardy azaleas in your yard--are next. These plants are truly a sign of spring. If you can keep them cool, they will flower in your home for a month if you select them with buds still not opened; choose them with buds and a few open flowers when possible. Great dark green foliage and flowers in shades of white, pink, red and many new variegated bi-color flowers also. Like the florist hydrangea re-pot them in larger pots when they finish flowering; keep on your deck for summer, and in the fall place in your garage when the weather gets cold. I have had great results bringing in an azalea during Christmas and watching it bloom for the holidays--or any time during the winter.

New the last few years are the **Oriental lilies**. These are wonderful, with the many unusual flower colors. Many varieties to choose from: white with yellow spotting, white with pink spotting, soft pink with deep pink spotting or deep pink with almost red spotting. The flowers, when open, are large--up to 10 inch trumpet shaped flowers that look intricate with all the spotting in them. The single strong stem can contain 5 to 9 flower buds and flowers on it, so choose the plant with mostly buds so you can enjoy them as they open. Pick off the pollen sacs to extend the flowering time and remove the faded flowers to keep the plant looking beautiful. Oriental lilies can also be planted in your garden when the flowers fade --you must plant them 6 to 8 inches deeper than they are in the pot right now. They will flower again next year during July-August in your garden; like the Easter lily they are very hardy. I almost forgot that they are very fragrant--a wonderful bonus to enjoy in your home this Easter.

**Martha Washington geraniums** are hybrid geraniums that flower during early spring to mid-summer. This plant blooms during short day periods and when the temperatures are on the cool side. When the weather warms up and the days get longer they will grow foliage and prepare for next year. They begin to flower in February and last well into June, with multi-colored petals. The flowers come on short stems, in clusters and can get as large as two inches each, making that flower cluster up to 6 inches in diameter. The flower does not look like the traditional geranium, nor does the foliage, as the foliage is more gray-green and is ruffled. This is a great flowering plant if you have a sunny window and a cool house. Many different flower colors are available, and the flowers are two-toned with shades of white, pink, crimson, purple, and lavender.



**Reiger begonias** are wonderful plants that you can keep well after Easter and plant in your garden to enjoy flowers right up until frost. Use in planters, window boxes, hanging baskets, or plant in the ground. The foliage is medium to dark green and shiny, and the flowers develop on stems that grow 6 to 8 inches long on top of the plant, making them very visible and showy. Flowers come in shades of white, pink, red, yellow, and lavender. The flowers develop on this strong stem like a chain of flowers and they open one at a time often covering the plant. As they fade pick them off and if you can fertilize the regularly the flower will continue to develop all year long. Caution--if you keep them inside as potted plants, never spray water on the foliage or a white powdery fungus will form on the foliage. Outside, the rain is not a problem. In the pot inside keep the plant moist and never wet or the stems can rot at the soil line; outside is not a problem. This begonia is a great flowering plant, with wonderful flowers that will last a long time in or outside of your home.

**Calla Lilies** are fairly new to the potted spring collection of Easter plants and they are wonderful, easy to care for and flower for several weeks. The bulbs are not winter hardy so if you plant in your garden they must be dug up and stored in your basement for the winter. I prefer to keep them in pots during the summer months, allow them to die back in the fall with a frost and stored in the basement in the pot for the winter. In March bring those back upstairs, water, and fertilizer and watch them come back to life for you to bloom during June and July on your deck or patio.

This plant looks much different than the traditional lily, as there is no main stem. A cluster of elongated foliage that grows about a foot tall will emerge from the pot and it is clean looking and shiny. Individual flowers will form at the base of the foliage and grow just as tall as the foliage on strong stems. The flowers look like a cupped hand with a little surprise inside. Once just white and beautiful, the new hybrids come in shades of pink, white, yellow and lavender. This flower is a bit wavy looking and almost cup shaped. There are also some new hybrids with variegated foliage and taller growing varieties with larger flowers. The Easter varieties are small types and fit just right on your dining room or coffee table. As the flowers fade remove them and fertilize the plant regularly to give it energy to make new buds for next year.

---

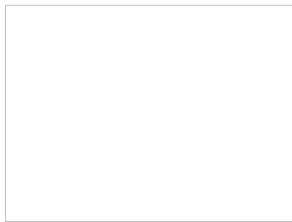
During the holiday, enjoy the potted plants in the foil or plastic pot cover that they come in as they should be water proof and prevent damage to your tables. Be sure to water the plants OUT of the pot cover in your sink and allow it to drain completely, as a pot cover with water in it can rot the roots of the plant. Once the holiday is over and all the company has left, dispose of the pot cover, as it will block the sunlight from hitting the foliage and this foliage will turn yellow or brown. All bulb plants to be set outside should go out 2 to 3 weeks after flowering to give the plant time to use the energy from the sun to mature the foliage and help it make buds for next year, especially if the weather outside is cold.. Plant and fertilize with Osmocote and care for like any perennial you have in your garden now. Plants that aren't bulbs should be fertilized monthly during the growing season in your home or on your deck.

Enjoy the holiday, and after the feast take a walk around your yard and talk to the spring flowers that are now beginning to emerging from your garden. Encourage them to come out and make your garden as beautiful as the dinner table was. Enjoy Easter, from our family to yours.

[Click to print this article.](#)

The big three are: the hemlock wooly adelgid, the emerald ash borer, and the asian long-horned beetle. They are hungry for your trees. These are illegal aliens that snuck into our country in untreated wooden pallets, packing material, and untreated materials used to protect equipment shipped from the mid-East, despite tight laws and regulations set by our government.

Ken Kukorowski, Ph.D. from Bayer Advanced, is worried that more new insects will enter our country as we expand our partnership with other underdeveloped countries who do not understand the life cycle of invasive insects, especially when they come into our country where natural predators are non-existent. If our government is not ready to set up strict inspection of shipments leaving those countries we will be in for big problems in the years to come with more invasive insects that will threaten our forest and home landscaping. I am letting you know that if the three pests are left unchecked, we will lose *millions* of valuable trees in this country--and I'm not talking about the future, I'm talking about now!

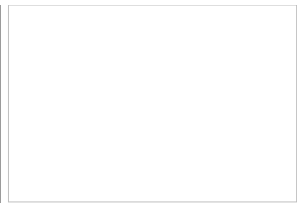


The **emerald ash borer** started as a pest of the Great Lakes and Michigan but it has quickly spread to PA, NY, MA, and CT, killing millions of ash trees as it moves, everywhere it establishes itself. This pest can and does kill an established mature tree in just 3 years--and I'm talking trees 2 to 3 feet in diameter and larger--75 to 100 feet

tall. The spreading of the insect over the last 10 years happened because we unknowingly moved infected firewood from state to state; then when the pupae emerged to become adults they established themselves in a new location far away from the original site of the problem--our fault!

We can stop it--or at least slow it down--if we don't move the food the larvae feeds on; living wood tissue. We also don't move the food the adults feed on in the summer--ash leaves. The only way to prevent this from happening if you're using the dead trees for firewood is to treat it like lumber and heat the firewood in a kiln; the same way all building lumber is dried for construction use. Untreated wood should NEVER be moved out of infected areas and sold as firewood! You can help by not bringing firewood with you on vacation or to a camp or cottage when you travel; buy the firewood locally when you get to your destination.

If you have ash tree(s) on your property, look for a thinning of the canopy, foliage and then whole branches that begin to die in mid-summer. The tree will try to stay alive and clusters of sucker branches will develop all over the trees like suckers form on the stump of a fallen tree. It's futile and soon the tree will die. It's not going to stop spreading and killing ash trees if we do nothing to stop it now! Once the trees are gone, the insect will also be gone but we will have no ash trees in our forest and yards, total elimination of the tree species **IS** possible. The only way you can protect your ash trees is with Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub insecticide used as a soil drench around the base of the tree at the first sign of a problem developing on the tree. Testing by University scientists has shown that it will control the problem of the insect when it is in the tree--and treated trees will survive. If you think you have a problem, contact your local tree warden or county agriculture agent in the town or county where you live.



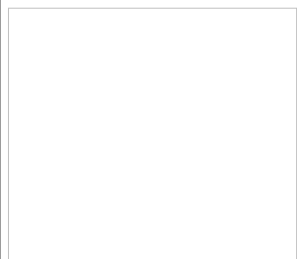
The second pest is the hemlock wooly adelgid; it affects only Eastern hemlock and Canadian hemlock. This pest is easy to spot on your plants, as it is found on the ends or tips of the branches of the tree where the new growth was made the previous year. It is found on the underside of the needles and is a small white

cottony-looking sucking pest similar to aphids, but it masses in large groups on these branches. The hemlock wooly adelgids will kill the tree in just a few years once established on the tree, even trees 75 feet tall or larger cannot fight off this pest and will die.

If you live in the Northeast down to Virginia, hemlock will make up a large percentage of your forest, and is also found growing as privacy hedges around many homes. Wooly adelgid sucks the plant's juices from the new growth, preventing new foliage from developing and stopping bud formation for future foliage. Look for yellowing of the foliage, thinning of the foliage, and entire branches dying with no needles on them, eventually killing the entire tree.

Check your trees NOW! Don't wait until they begin to look sick--again check your trees NOW for possible problems, and if you find these pests on your plants take action immediately! Use Bayer Tree and Shrub in water at the base of the tree and the roots will move the product up the tree to protect it for a 12 month period.

If you do nothing you will lose your trees; it's up to you. You will have to do it every year to keep them protected against this pest once they move into your area. Today hemlock trees can no longer be shipped from state to state as a way to stop or limit movement of this problem insect. You can still purchase hemlocks at your favorite nursery but they are grown in your state where you live only. Vigorous state inspection keeps these plants free of the problem or they are destroyed at the wholesale nursery at the first sign of a problem.



The third insect is a much bigger problem because it feeds on several varieties of trees--unlike the first two who feed on only one tree variety! The Asian long-horned beetle is a beetle that lays eggs on trees. The hatching larva bores into the tree and feeds on the living cambium tissue, and when the population builds up to a high level, the larvae feeding on the cambium

tissue kill the tree. The Asian Long-Horned beetle damage will show signs of leaf thinning, many clusters of water sprouts, shoots all over the tree branches and the tree trunk and then it dies. You will see this beetle crawling on your trees; it can be as large as one of your thumbs. It's shiny black with white spots and markings over its body and has very long antennae. The insect is much larger than the emerald ash borer and kills trees faster. The big problem with this pest is that it feeds on and kills all types of maples, elms, willows, and many other types of native growing or cultivated trees. Look for holes on the trunk of the tree the size of a pencil and foliage problems on the tree.

Treat the problem trees with Bayer Tree and Shrub at the first sign of a problem. If you have many trees on your property it would be a good idea to have them inspected yearly by a certified arborist to protect your property from becoming treeless and you losing all that wonderful shade the trees provide your property with. No trees mean hotter temperatures in your home during the summer months and more costly air-conditioning for your home. If you find this pest in one tree, there is a good chance that it has also moved into others in your yard. This is a real bad insect, and if you see the beetles catch one and have it identified by your local nursery, arborist, or county agriculture agent quickly. If you hesitate or think they will just go away you will pay the price, believe me. In just 2 to 3 years there will be no shade trees on your property. The city of Worcester, Massachusetts lost over 28,000 trees in the last few years--still think it can't happen to you? Think about it, it can--and it will if you do not check your trees on a regular basis, like **NOW**.

So let's all thank scientist a like Ken Kukorowski Ph.D. from Bayer Advanced

for this information, for this warning and this education on invasive insects that are threatening our homes and forest today. Knowledge is our future to save our forest!

[Click to print this article.](#)

Alaska trip

**Paul Parent will be hosting a tour that includes:**

- Vancouver, BC
- Butchart Gardens--55 acres of floral display!
- Cruising the Inside Passage:
- Ketchikan
- Icy Strait Point
- Juneau
- Skagway
- Hubbard Glacier Cruising
- Seward
- Scenic Drive to Anchorage
- Denali National Park
- Fairbanks City Tour, a tour of the Gold Dredge # 8 and a cruise down the Chena river on the Riverboat Discovery Sternwheeler.

[Click here for more information.](#)



**This Week's Question**

Which of the following countries is the *second* leading producer of tomatoes?

- A. Argentina
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Turkey
- E. USA

**This Week's Prize:**

Bio-tone® Starter Plus  
All Natural Plant Food Enhanced with Bacteria and Mycorrhizae

- Microbe-enhanced all natural plant food
- Includes both endo and ecto mycorrhizae
- Grows larger root mass to help plants establish fast
- Promotes bigger blooms
- Reduces transplant loss



For more information, [see the Espoma site.](#)

[Click Here to Answer](#)

**Last Week's Question:**

Which of the following is **not** a member of the nightshade (Solanaceae) family?

- A. angel's trumpet
- B. eggplant
- C. pepper
- D. petunia
- E. sweet potato

**Last Week's Winner:**

Walter Goettlich

**Last Week's Answer:**

E. sweet potato

**Last Week's Prize:**

Bio-tone® Starter Plus

One winner per question - we choose winners from the list of those who answer correctly. Winners must be newsletter subscribers. We'll ship you your prize, so be sure to put your address in the form in case you win!

Are you looking for a great gift for a gardener (or yourself)? This garden journal helps make planning and organizing easy. This journal, *autographed personally by Paul*, makes a perfect gift for gardeners. The cover holds a 5x7 or 4x6 photo and a heavy-duty D-ring binder.

Also included:

- 8 tabbed sections
- 5 garden details sections with pockets for seeds, tags...
- Weather records page
- 6 three year journal pages
- Insect & diseases page - 3 project pages
- 3 annual checklist pages
- Plant wish list page
- 2 large pocket pages
- Sheet of garden labels
- 5 garden detail sheets
- 5 graph paper pages for layouts
- 5 photo pages, each holding four 4x6 photos in landscape or portrait format

[Click here to order online.](#)



## Featured Recipe: Easy, Heart-Healthy Rosemary Tilapia

**What You'll Need:**

- 4 eight-ounce frozen tilapia fillets
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary (if not available, use rosemary spice)
- Olive oil
- Black pepper



- Aluminum foil
- Fresh lemon

**Step by Step:**

- Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.
- In separate foil pieces (one for each fillet) place fillet in center of foil.
- Drizzle with olive oil, black pepper and add a sprig of rosemary.
- Seal foil on both ends and top.
- Place fillets in the preheated oven for 55 minutes, or until done.
- Drizzle with lemon before serving. Enjoy!

Yield: 4 servings



 [click here for a printer friendly version of this page](#)



Written content © 2004-2011 Garden Partners LLC, or respective authors. All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#). All written content contained in this site is protected by United States copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published, or broadcast without prior written permission of Garden Partners, LLC. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice from copies of the content. Would you like a newsletter like this for your nursery or garden center? Please feel free to look at what we have to offer and contact us for your [garden center marketing](#) solutions.