

Windstorm damages of August 9, 2009



Shown above are a few of the trees that survived the storm last August. This picture was taken looking south down Third Avenue in front of the Lundberg home on Bridge Street. One of the trees is only a trunk at power line level, but what you don't see is a dozen trees that went down and had to be removed. Many trees did not recover from the sheared top damage and are destined to fall in the future.



This tree, like many pines, was nipped off at the top. This particular one went through the roof of the shelter at Pomona Park. If you have pictures to share from this storm, make a note of your experience and drop them off at Fruitport Area News for possible future publication. This is part of our history. Photos taken 4/18/10 by Mariann Cooper

Spring fever and the garden challenge

By Charlene Lozicki

Mr. Squirrel barely made it up the tree today before my mighty little dog almost caught up to him. A lady at the grocery store today said her tulips were already popping up out of the ground. This week's newspaper ads are full of gardening projects and ideas for mixing flowers and vegetables in with current landscaping. This means the snow is almost gone, and gardeners need to be ready. Not too ready, though, starting those little seedlings indoors with central heating, just never worked very well for me.

Growing a few flowers and edibles challenges me every spring and summer. Mother Nature calls me to plant in the spring, and in the summer I realize there could have been better planning. In the spring the sun is shining and the soil works up so easily, and the greenhouses have easy-to-grow plants of all sizes, and colors. Grandpa always said to plant your garden on Memorial Day. He said the moon was right then. I plant a week before to get a head start, but I noticed the growth really starts the weekend of Memorial Day. Then the leaves come out on the trees, and my poor plants have no sun. I realize plants need sun, so I have tried pots on my porch where there is warm sun a few hours a day, if I move them around. Pots in hot sun need watering several times a day. I like my flowers and edibles, but making sure I am available for pots several times a day can really make a person a real homebody. I have tried growing pole beans up my porch railing and that works well if I can nurture them enough, until they get tall enough to reach the sunshine. My husband just shakes his head.

Two years ago a few trees were taken down in our front yard. I never grew vegetables in the front yard before, but I was desperate. I planted three tomato plants and tried to make them look like part of the landscape, and they produced beautiful fruit. Last year I tried the same thing, and the wildlife of the area enjoyed green tomatoes.

Last summer Mother Nature did some tree trimming behind a fence with a windstorm. I am going to check the area out for sunshine, and give it a try. I know I will be visiting the farmer's market this summer, but it's always fun to say I grew one of those. •

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