

The Lawn and Garden Gazette

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"**Bottle of wine**, fruit of the vine, when you gonna let me get sober." OK, so it wasn't that bad, but it is amazing how those little tastes they pour can add up. For two weeks we toured the wine country with great friends and tasted some great wines. How bad could that be... **Good to be back**, but what the heck happened to the humidity while we were gone? I thought we must've made a wrong turn on the way to DIA. Been muggy ever since. In fact today feels more like Chicago than anything... **How much a factor** that humidity is I'm not sure, but I'm seeing *Ascochyta Leaf Blight* in a number of lawns. It's a stress related fungus that develops when the lawn experiences wild swings in weather. Like our current hot spell on the heels of a cool, wet spring. Good news is it does not typically kill the grass, so the lawn will recover as temperatures drop. A little extra water applied in the AM (no PM watering, please) will also help. Let me know if you'd



like more info... **Before we left** we noticed our cherry tree was literally crawling with aphids, and not a ladybug in sight. It turns out you can buy the little gals at local nurseries for less than a bottle of chemicals. By the time we returned, no more aphids. And I never got a chance to thank them...**I realize spiders** are a necessary evil, but I do hate walking thru their webs. I keep thinking for the next hour one is crawling on me. They seem to have arrived en masse while I was gone. But trust me, nothing close to what we saw in the area around Clear Lake

CA. We're talking science fiction quantities. Fortunately, they seemed to be related to daddy longlegs, and did stay outdoors for the most part...**We apparently**



got a bit of hail while we were gone, but most plants seem to be healthy enough to pull thru eventually. If yours did, don't hesitate to prune any damaged branches... **I'm still waiting impatiently** for the

first slicing tomato. (Don't worry, I don't plan on raiding any gardens.) Although the plants look good, so maybe it won't be too much longer. The beds do smell divine tho..

We are picking cherry tomatoes. Trust me folks, if you plant one cherry tomato plant next year, make it a Sun Sugar. Sweet uncooked, but still nice acid for a quick tomato sauce. Mmmm, where's the garlic bread... **Better to remain silent** and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt." Honest Abe no doubt had in mind more than a few in DC during the recent debt ceiling debate. I'll leave it to you to decide which ones...**But the bright spot** was when a particular Rep returned to the Capitol and uttered the words at the bottom. Name him/her to get into this month's drawing... **Last month's answer** was Willie Nelson, and the winner is



Mary Pilkington...It's sweet corn time! In fact the Farmer's Markets are chocked full of all sorts of wonderful, locally produced produce...**We should have the next fertilizer** applied before the end of the month...**That's it, I've run out of**

"The Capitol looks beautiful and I am honored to be at work tonight."