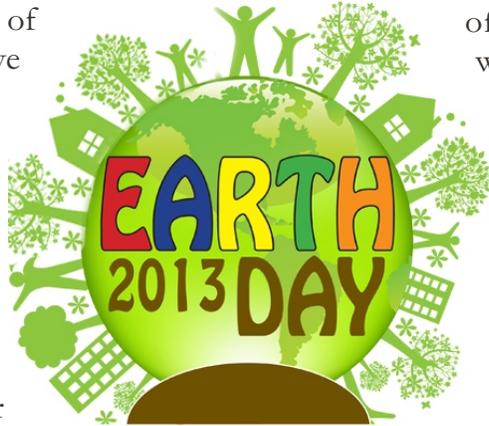


From the Chairman's Desk

'Federal Reserves' of Biodiversity

Earth Day of 2013 will arrive amidst widespread droughts not only in Maharashtra and other parts of India but even in super rich and super power countries like USA and Canada. 36 of the 50 states of USA face the drought conditions, which are likely to continue in 2013. The losses there run into hundreds of billions of dollars. Does it give us consolation and comfort that even rich countries are facing famine? That complacency would be the most disastrous consequence of the famine that we are facing in Maharashtra.

In Rome, headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is holding just before the Earth Day, a high level meeting of experts to discuss the crucial link of biodiversity on our Earth to the Food Security that we need. Till now biodiversity was considered to be the subject limited to saving the plant and animal species and protecting the natural reserves and parks. It is much more than that. As the climate change issue increasingly dominates our life and as 7 billion strong members



of Earth family would soon be growing to 9 billion in next few decades, the life support system provided by the biodiversity on the Earth is emerging as sine qua non of our sustainable development.

The sad contrast is that many existing food production activities themselves negatively impact on this supporting biodiversity, such as man made chemical fertilizers drained into ecosystem pose a threat to the diverse life in lakes, rivers and coastal areas and contribute to reduced food productivity. Deforestation and pesticide contamination of lands adjacent to farmland degrade "off-farm biodiversity", impacting pollinators and natural pest control of crops. While the problems are many and varied, there are solutions. The path to these solutions start with awareness that biodiversity has a value that need to be preserved for future food security. No country however rich can ensure security without creating the 'federal reserves' of biodiversity.

Rajendra Shende
Chairman, TERRE



**Why did the Gardener plant a light bulb ???
She wanted to grow a power plant...**

History of Earth Day

Ever wondered how Earth Day started? This observance arose from an interest in gathering national support for environmental issues. In 1970, San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. McConnell chose the spring equinox (March 21, 1970) and Nelson chose April 22. Millions of people participated, and today Earth Day continues to be widely celebrated with events on both dates. The most common practice of celebration is to plant new trees for Earth Day.



As the weather change is taking a toll over water , we need to save the plants and environment around to keep it green....

Take these steps to keep your garden moist and water wisely.

Improve the Soil



Rainwater sluices through pure sand at the rate of 20 inches per hour or even faster, taking with it everything plants need to survive. Soil with lots of organic matter slows the transition of water from the soil to the subsoil, giving plants a chance to take in what they need. To help retain moisture, mix lots of peat moss and compost into the soil at planting time.

Plan a Smaller Garden

Take stock of what you really need to grow and don't exceed your calculations. For example, two or three hills of zucchini and cucumbers will easily meet the needs of a family of four.



Choose Bush Varieties

Plants that grow low to the soil will

lose less water through transpiration than those that spread rampantly. Check descriptions from local gardeners for varieties that need little space and can tolerate dry conditions.



Use a Drip System



Drip irrigation provides greater water savings than sprinklers. If you install a drip system, allow for different beds or separate parts of the garden to be on separate sets of commands. The water needs of plants differ widely, and a system that delivers one rate of water to your entire plot can be wasteful.

Mulch Well

Mulch prevents moisture from

evaporating directly from the soil surface, and it can greatly reduce weeds. Use whatever you have at hand—newspaper; black plastic; old carpet; large, flat stones—and apply it when the soil is wet. Don't mulch with peat moss; it dries out and forms a mat on the top of the soil that easily sheds water. Instead, work peat moss well into the soil.



Weed Diligently

Smother weeds or pull them out—roots and all. Don't make your plants compete with weeds for moisture.

Place Plants Close Together

Leaves from neighboring plants will shade the soil, helping to conserve surface moisture and reduce weed growth. Plant beans about an inch apart, tomatoes about 18 inches apart.



On Earth Day, enjoy the tonic of fresh air, touch of the soil, and companionship with the nature!

Walk through the woods in search of emerging wild flowers and green moss. Go outside, no matter what the weather! To make this earth day, nearer to the environment and , there are some ideas to keep your garden green and colourful with flowers in this scorching heat....

Fortunately, there are many great options available, many of which are very inexpensive. Flowers that will bloom all season are almost by definition very hardy, which means these flowers can be excellent choices for even beginning gardeners and in most cases require only minimal care.

Geraniums



Full of tiny blooms and big green leaves, geraniums are a favorite choice for hanging baskets.

These heat and cold tolerant beauties can survive under most conditions with only minimal effort.

A perfect choice for a potted plant or for a flower bed, geraniums come in a variety of colors, ranging from white to bright red.

Go for it, this summer, add colour to your garden



Hibiscus

As long as a hibiscus is in direct sunlight, it will bloom and grow all season long, and come up strong year after year.

A perfect choice for all sort of climate zones, though best at cold climate.

These gorgeous flowers are often associated with the tropics because of their lush, full bodies blooms. Hibiscus plants can get quite big, so plant them in an area where they'll have plenty of room to grow.

Petunia



Petunias grow as if they are weeds and can take over an entire flower bed in a matter of weeks.

Petunias start small, but not for long; in a few weeks, it will need ample room to grow, so space them rather far apart.

These flowers also tend to grow out rather than up, making them perfect ground cover, but also further necessitating the need to space Petunias relatively far apart.

Black-eyed Susans

Add a pool of sunshine to the garden with a massed planting of black-eyed Susan.



From midsummer, these tough native plants bloom their golden heads off in sun or light shade and mix well with other perennials, annuals, and shrubs.

Add black-eyed Susans to wildflower meadows or native plant gardens for a naturalized look.

Dianthus



Average soil is sufficient for black-eyed Susans, but it should be able to hold moisture fairly well.

Dianthus are hardy, herbaceous, perennial plants that produce bright, fragrant blooms.

Depending on the type of pink, flowers appear in spring or summer and tend to be pink, red, white, rose, or lavender, but come in nearly all shades except true blue.

These flowers typically bloom for about two months, but with some deadheading will bloom most of the season.

The evergreen foliage and the long flowering season allows for interesting year-around displays of foliage in the winter and flowers in



