

Spring Green
To the Prairie Writers, March 17, 2012, by Steven C. Buren

Green fields came early this year with February flowers and clumps of green grasses. Green leaves of the perennial strawberries sprouted in the garden and catch the eye in anticipation of the crimson berries. Then soon the Maples will sprout the amazing fruit that flies in the breezes and covers the ground. Even most of the old-timers are unaware that the green Maple Samara seeds make a glorious salad that is naturally sweetened and savory, and the seedpods are still good for weeks after the whirligigs have dried. The squirrels know about this, for the sweet pods make them frisky, and what a charge it is to watch them make chase around the base of a tree.

Green sprouts signal the time for re-planting the fruits, grains and bearing roots in our gardens. The joyful labor of planting allows us to work out the body kinks and added padding that settled in the winter slumbers. When the soil is tilled and seeded, our sense of accomplishment can encourage our spirits as richly as a well-ripened harvest. And soon we can expect the abundance to add variety to our kitchen routines.

The Lord blesses each year with the arrival of spring green for the pleasures and renewal of life, and encourages us to celebrate with unleavened bread and sharing our fruits with our friends. Gather your neighbors and teach them these feasts, for the changes affect even the construction world, as it seems to crawl from a dormant cocoon to welcome the green when the weather warms the days. New building and re-building projects decorate our streets with renovations that change the landscape each year. The transformations even prosper the wintered and stagnant cities in spring by simply shading the walkways in use with tables and signs showing patrons that the stores are still alive.

Green buds are shrouding the trees, and the bees are already buzzing the blossoms throughout the park. While biking the streets and trails, the fragrance is notable from the Magnolia and Cherry trees, yet kids in the park rarely notice the changes. Their world has a narrow scope that enjoys the bounds of climbing, sliding, and things that move, if they haven't been besieged with standing water. An introduction to a Frisbee can entertain some for about ten minutes, but small minds have a quickly changing focus. The novelty of a new toy can easily be overwhelmed by the noises of a distant group of kids. These are the gracious charms of a spring outing in the cities park. Then later we can expect the sun-baked picnics of outdoor feasting and playing with water sports of swimming and boating.

Green landscapes attract the seasonal birds that toil to gather their nesting. This is also the time when the hypochondriacs with their aches and pains, suddenly turn into athletes and acrobats. When the lands are green and warm, then we are comforted with life and sport in all species, a beautiful change from the chilling gray of a winter's bitter day. Serve me the green again, for such a wonder fascinates with pleasure in every year.

Where were you, when the green came into view?