

garden time

July 2012

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Hydrangeas

Snowballs in the
Summertime

PHOTO CREDIT: HYDRANGEAS PLUS

Hydrangea
paniculata
brussel's lace

**TRYON CREEK
STATE NATURAL AREA**
Deer-Resistant Plants

Drake's 7 Dees'
Lynn & Drake Snodgrass

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-Jeff Gustin, President

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Lovely Lavender and So Much More

Welcome to summer. It seems like it would never get here. I have definitely enjoyed this spring far more than last year. We have had some pretty nice weekends so far and I'm looking forward to a long and toasty summer. I know a lot of people don't like it to get too hot, but I have found that, over time, I can't seem to get enough heat (and neither can my tomatoes). The hot days of summer either just make me want to lie on the hammock in the backyard, or motivate me to get out of the valley and travel to other parts of the state. The coolness of the mountains or the coast always invigorates me and lets me see more of our great state.

Speaking of the state of Oregon; we recently traveled to Burns in Eastern Oregon to visit a business that reclaims wild juniper and makes boards, fence posts, and furniture out of it. The juniper is a native plant in eastern Oregon, but has become invasive. Wild fires which used to control it are gone and so it has taken over parts of the state. We saw how this small company is making a difference in returning land to its native state by thinning these trees and providing local jobs at same time. Some of this wood is ending up in a new line of cabinets offered by Neil Kelly. The land returns to normal and the wildlife love it, including the deer and antelope. You can check out the story that we recently featured on the Fusion TV show. [\[VIDEO LINK\]](#) It shows the kind of caring that people feel about our state and what they are willing to do to make it better. If the wildlife loves your garden a little too much, we have a story in our Backyard section this month on Deer Resistant plants. Some of these tips were also covered in a recent story of the Garden Time show [\[VIDEO LINK\]](#)

I have labeled this month's editorial as 'Lovely Lavender' because July is the time for lavender in Oregon and SW Washington. The Oregon Lavender Festival (<http://www.oregonlavenderdestinations.com>) is coming up on the 14th and 15th of July. This year dozens of lavender locations around the state are open to the public with art, tours and lots of fragrant lavender. The 'so much more...' part of the editorial revolves around some of the other festivals that are happening this month. We will soon have the Water Lily Festival and Art Show, The Cracked Pots Recycled Art show at McMenamins Edgefield, and the Oregon Berry Festival at the Eco Trust Building. Summer doesn't take a break from fun festivals and neither should you. The Water Lily Festival (<http://www.hugheswatergardens.com/2012festival.html>) is a 10 day event that kicks off with Bloom night on the 20th at Hughes Water Gardens. You can see the huge, night blooming Victoria Lily. The Cracked Pots Art (<http://www.crackedpots.org>) show is on the 24th and 25th and is dedicated to the ideas of art from recycled materials. It is fun and quirky, and a 'must see'. For the fresh fruit lovers in the Portland metro area we have the Oregon Berry Festival (<http://www.oregonberryfestival.com>) on the 20th and 21st. You can taste Oregon berries and see all the products that are made from berries. See, there are lots of things to do this summer and it is only starting. Enjoy this issue of the magazine and don't forget your sun screen!

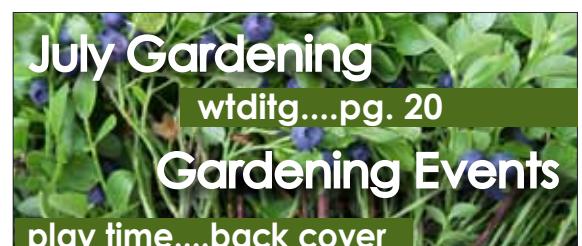
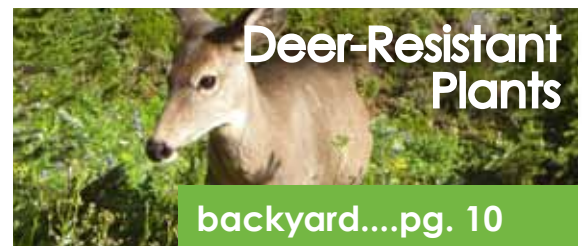
Enjoy your early summer and Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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In this issue...



Snowballs in the Summertime

Loved for its wintery look in the summer heat, a Northwest favorite shows its true colors.

by Sarah Gustin

Hydrangeas are a beautiful staple of the Northwest garden, and they've come a long way! Most hydrangea varieties can be found in miniature, shrub, or tree form. They come in colors like red, pink, purple, blue, white and green. Three of our favorites here at GTO are Mophead, Lacecap, and Paniculata. Macrophylla mophead is what most people think of when they think of hydrangeas. They have the distinctive round "snowball" blooms. Macrophylla lacecaps are very similar to the mophead. Lacecaps have small, fertile flowers surrounded by larger sterile florets. They are not globes, but more of a flat shape. Mopheads and lacecaps are most commonly grown as large shrubs (up to about 5 feet tall), however it is not difficult to find them in dwarf form. Paniculata is



Hydrangea 'Vetchii' Lacecap

a beautiful white or lime green plant that loves sun, and will grow quite tall, up to ten feet! It flowers in a distinctive cone shape, much like a lilac. They are originally native to Japan and China.

When planting any hydrangea, there are some things to bear in mind. You want to wait to plant (or replant) your hydrangea until there is no more chance of frost, and you are certain that your area is not expecting an imminent heat wave, you don't want your plant to be stressed under extreme conditions while it is trying to establish a solid root system. Choose a place that will not get any hot afternoon sun. Though hydrangeas can handle sun once established, they will not react well when they are



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Nikko Blue'



Hydrangea macrophylla
'Nikko Blue' Mophead

new. When planting hydrangeas, soil drainage is important. Before beginning to plant, test your soil for proper drainage. Some good tests can be found in the "hints and tips" section of hydrangeasplus.com. Dig your hole about two to three times larger than your root ball. If your soil has failed your drainage tests, adding some compost may help. The goal is to make the soil surrounding your new plant as ideal as possible. When you have finished planting your hydrangea, the root ball should be exposed about an inch above the surface of the soil.

To change the color of a hydrangea's blooms, it is important to understand some things. First, a white hydrangea will not change color. Second, it is easier to change a hydrangea from pink to blue than it is to change it from blue to pink. The coloring of a hydrangea is determined by several factors; genetics, climate, pH of the soil and the aluminum content of the soil. As a generalization, the greater the aluminum content of the soil, the bluer your hydrangea will be. In order to turn your hydrangea pink, you have to keep the natural aluminum in the soil away from the hydrangea's system. Raising the pH level of the soil will help to inhibit the plant's ability to absorb aluminum. Try using a phosphorus rich fertilizer, and using a soil-less potting mix.

The best way to grow pink hydrangeas is in pots, which will give you total control over the pH and aluminum levels of the soil. To make your hydrangeas blue, you need to lower the pH level of the surrounding soil, and make sure aluminum is available to the system. You may wish to add aluminum sulphate to the soil, as well as a fertilizer that is low in phosphorus and high in potassium.

If you are ever in need of more information, contact your favorite local garden center. Or visit hydrangeasplus.com.



Hydrangea macrophylla 'Kardinal'

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The Getaway Next Door

Just minutes from the metro hustle and bustle, Tryon Creek State Natural Area is both nearby and far away.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Central Park in New York City, Grant Park in Chicago, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco... these are all very famous urban green spaces. Oregon is on par with these famous parks, plus our own Tryon Creek State Natural Area is a State Park, the only state park totally within a major urban area. Not being a native Oregonian, I have enjoyed experiencing the state as an adult.

I don't have the memories of being a kid discovering the first blooming Trilliums of springtime, the sounds of a creek nearby, the chirping of frogs or just mud puddles, but I have experienced all these sensations on a hike through Tryon Creek State Natural Area. I had a great time!

Oregonians are very lucky to have numerous urban parks around our cities. Tryon Creek State Natural Area is bordered by Lake Oswego and Portland. It's a quick drive from the hustle and bustle of a big city to arrive in a serene and beautiful place. It's amazing how close the park is but how far away it feels once you get there.

The history of the park is full of twists and turns. In 1969, the land where the park now stands was almost lost to a housing development. Neighbors banded together and became the Friends of Tryon Creek. They petitioned Multnomah County to buy the 45 acres in jeopardy of being lost. In 1970, the state of Oregon brought the park into the state park system and



Kids on a guided hike

PHOTO CREDIT: FRIENDS OF TRYON CREEK

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**Friends of Tryon Creek
www.tryonfriends.org**



Tryon Creek

continued to purchase more land until the park totalled 645 acres. Today, Tryon Creek State Natural Area totals 677 acres. 'The Friends' agreed to continue being an active partner with the park. They chose to develop and fund the Nature Center as a thanks to the community for their support.

In 2002, the Nature Center was remodeled to house the ever expanding programs at the park. The Friends of Tryon Creek is a non profit organization that receives no state funding.

"The mission of the Friends of Tryon Creek is to conserve and enhance the natural resources and promote educational, interpretive and recreational programs of Tryon Creek State Natural Area". Today, over 1700 volunteers log in over 13,000 hours in the park each year.

There are so many ways to contribute as a volunteer. If you have the time, they have a project for you.

The Canyon within the park was logged in the 1880's but since then has regrown with a bounty of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns. While walking, biking or riding a horse on the many miles of trails you



Kids checking insects



Thimbleberry flower

will be surrounded by a canopy of trees like Red Alder, Douglas Fir, Big Leaf Maples and Western Red Cedar. Living in this beautiful woodland community are over 200 species of birds, amphibians and small mammals. The creek itself is one of the remaining open tributaries to the Willamette River. With 14 miles of trails throughout the park, it is a wooded wonderland of natural beauty.

Besides just absorbing nature on a walk, there are countless other ways to be educated about the natural area of the park. The trend to get kids back outdoors is not new to the programs at the park. The Friends have an extensive schedule of programs for all ages from guided hikes to working with teachers and schools. This month it seems there is an activity every day of the week. If the kids are complaining there is nothing to do, click on www.tryonfriends.org and check out the Programs page. There is a multitude of activities to join from Day Camp to Junior Rangers activities.

For us oldies, the "Wednesday Evening Nature Walks" or the Saturday night "Forest Music Series" sound like great ideas.

So enough talking about taking a walk in the woods. Get on your sturdy shoes, get out your water bottle and take a hike!



Families on a guided hike

PHOTO CREDIT: FRIENDS OF TRYON CREEK



Trillium

PHOTO CREDIT: FRIENDS OF TRYON CREEK



Visitor's center

PHOTO CREDIT: FRIENDS OF TRYON CREEK



OH DEER!

**It's exciting to have
Bambi in your backyard...
until he starts munching
on your plants.**

by Sarah Gustin

The Pacific Northwest is an incredible place to live. There are beaches, deserts, mountains, forests, beautiful views, and wildlife in your backyard. Unfortunately, the majestic wildlife can sometimes be as bothersome as it is beautiful. As exciting as it may be at first to have Bambi in your own backyard, the novelty wears when you catch them munching your favorite plants! It's not their fault really; they just can't resist those delicious plants that you chose. Here's a list of some plants that those dear deer won't find quite as decadent.

Many people are under the impression that a deer resistant plant needs to be ugly, thorny, or uncommon to resist deer. That is not the case. There are many beautiful, widely available plants that are considered deer resistant, some of which you may already have in your yard. Bleeding heart, daylily, clematis, tulip and iris are some. Hellebore, delphinium, and foxglove are also unappetizing or poisonous to deer.

Deer tend to avoid herbs and ornamental grasses. Chives, lavender, mint, rosemary and thyme are all delicious for you and not for deer. Start an herb garden and feed yourself! Ornamental grasses are beautiful, and pampas grass, maiden grass, and fountain grass are a few that the deer in your area will leave alone.

Trees can be irresistible to deer, especially fruit bearing trees like apple or pear. Consider choosing a lilac for its beautiful flowers, a fig for its exotic fruit, a Japanese maple for its stunning foliage, or a fir for its shade. All of these trees are deer resistant. Keep in mind that a tree should be at least four feet tall before it will be able to withstand a deer. Until then it is recommended that you pick up an individual plant deer proof fence from your local garden center.

When landscaping with deer in mind, traditional groundcovers may not cut it. Some herbs may be a good idea. Some other groundcovers to consider are snow in summer, bishop's hat, periwinkle, or oxalis.

This is, of course, a list of deer resistant plants. As a friend said, "A deer proof plant is one you enclose in chicken wire." Deer will find some plants less appetizing,



Blue Delphinium



plants with thorns, spicy tasting ones, or tall plants, for example. However, depending on the availability of food and the deer in your area, they may still munch even the hottest peppers, tallest trees, and thorniest roses. If the deer problem in your area has become a larger issue, perhaps you should consider breaking down and putting up a fence. If you are unwilling to fence your entire yard, many northwest nurseries provide smaller protective barriers to place around plants until they are strong enough to stand their ground against deer.

Garland Nursery and Portland Nursery have a plethora of online information on deer resistant plants. Both websites have their extensive plant lists organized by trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, grasses, herbs, vines, shade and sun.

For more information about deer resistant Northwest plants, visit:

http://www.garlandnursery.com/deer_resistant_plants.html

<http://www.portlandnursery.com/docs/birds-deer-bees/deer-resistant.pdf>



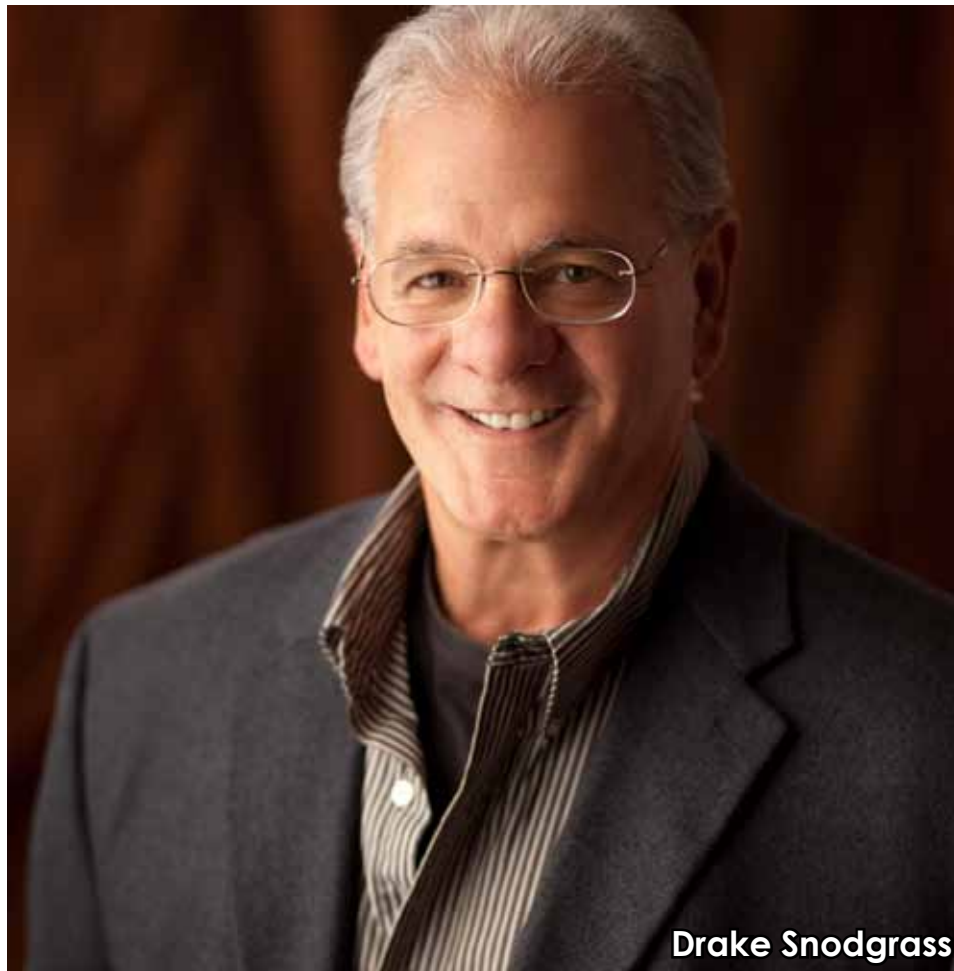
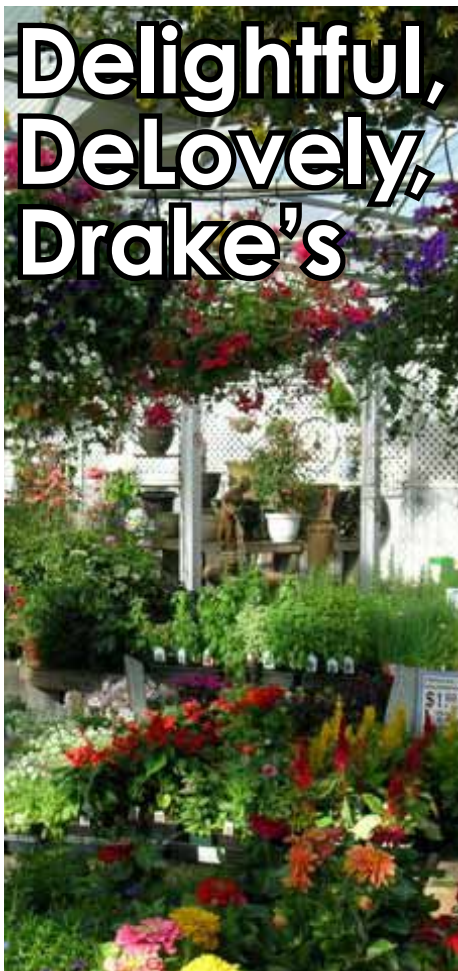
Clematis



Foxglove



Iris



To Lynn and Drake Snodgrass, family, business and community involvement are a way of life.
by Judy Alleruzzo

Love of family, natural beauty and community are the inherent tenants of Lynn and Drake Snodgrass. The present owners of Drake's 7 Dees are busy people but they make the time to live these tenets every day. They balance creating outdoor beauty for people to enjoy at their homes and still make time to enjoy their family and be active members of their community.

In 1956, Drake's Mom & Dad, Meryle and Bob began their nursery business and named it after their children, six sons and one daughter whose names all start with a "D".

The Stark Street location was the second garden center of 7 Dees and purchased in the early '60s. At the time, this nursery was the very edge of Portland's city limits. Nowadays it's surrounded

by neighborhoods of people that have their very own gardening haven.

After completing a business and horticulture degree at OSU, Drake decided to strike out on his own in the nursery business. In 1974, Drake purchased the Stark Street location and the name was changed to Drake's 7 Dees Landscaping and Garden Center.

Lynn and Drake have been married almost 38 years and have two daughters, Jenne and Megan and 7 grandchildren. Their daughters and spouses have all worked at the nursery at one time or another. They have moved on to other jobs but enjoy gardening at their homes.

Drake and Lynn work hard to care for their community and

the land. This compassion shows through in their business practices. Their mission statement is "To make gardening a significant and positive part of our customers' lives." They are a certified ecological business through The Eco-Biz Certification from the city of Portland. This certification recognizes Drake's 7 Dees as having a "high standard in environmental protection." The whole company strives to minimize solid waste, air and water pollution.

Always thinking of their customers, the Stark Street store was remodeled several years ago to make the garden center experience more comfortable and to increase areas for larger product diversity. A more extensive gift and home decor area was added as was tropical houseplants. New this year is Drake's 7 Dees' food-line of jams, jellies, mustards



Lynn Snodgrass and grandson, Davis



and sauces, of which 90% are Oregon products. The outdoor areas of the garden center display high quality plants in a pleasant atmosphere for customers to stroll. Lynn says they are "in the happy business."

She enjoys seeing them smile as they pick out plants. Customers shop at Drake's to make their own gardens beautiful. She knows that her business helps customers be happier people by enriching their own lives through gardening.

The other side of Drake's 7 Dees is the Landscape division which specializes in the Design/Build concept. Drake or another designer meet with clients to understand what a new landscape can look like. Drake's favorite part is working directly with the home owner and brainstorming ideas for the new project. He wants to make the client's wish list come to life.

From patios to waterfalls, front yard or backyard landscapes, Drake's team has extensive ex-

perience. Lynn and Drake believe that they are stewards of the land and want to ensure their designs work in tandem with good environmental practices. They educate their customers in these same practices for the future care of the new landscape.

In 2009, Lynn and Drake decided to expand their business and bought Langdown Florist in SW Portland. This neighborhood garden center was brought into the Drake's 7 Dees fold.

The westside location has become the gem of the neighborhood where customers enjoy the selection of plants and linger in the renovated greenhouse. The old fashioned style greenhouse showcases gift items, houseplants, furniture and water features. There are beautiful display vignettes around every corner. Neighborhood customers are happy they have a nursery right in their backyard.

Beyond being active in their garden center, Lynn and Drake are heavily involved in many groups

throughout the Portland and Gresham communities. Drake is an Advisory Board Member of the Salvation Army, and both are on the Gresham Chamber of Commerce.

Lynn is a former State Representative and was the Speaker of the House during the late 1990s to early 2000. Used to being a very busy person, Lynn's new "job" is radio personality. She hosts 'Garden Living' on Saturday from 1 to 2 PM on AM860 KPAM.

She teases that the program is geared to "the Master Gardener and those of us who aren't". This hour program has recurring segments plus her favorite, "Diggin' with Davis", Lynn and Drake's 10 year old Grandson. He is a wonderful foil to Gramma Lynn. The two chat about a gardening project or garden subject he has researched. One project was planting purple potatoes in a garbage bin. Isn't getting kids outdoors all of our goal?

So here is a kid telling how much fun gardening is, especially with

his Gramma.

It's perfect!

Other segments include "Garden To Grill" and "Landscape Helpers" co-hosted by Drake. He chooses a topic of the day and he and Lynn discuss it during the segment. It's a great insight into landscape planning or maintenance.

The entire Snodgrass family have a love of gardening started by their parents, Meryle and Bob. Lynn and Drake followed through on this passion of gardening and passed it down through their daughters and grandchildren. To Lynn and Drake, their family, business and community involvement are a way of life. Above all, they enjoy being in the gardening business.

To end with a quote from Lynn about her customers says it all, "No matter what level of gardening ability they have, they come happy and leave happier."



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How Sweet it is!

Trying to cut down on sugar?
Here's a honey of a plant
you can grow yourself.

by David Musial, Fusion co-host

sweet compounds at such high levels.

The Guarani Indians of Paraguay have used Stevia as a sweetener for centuries. They also believed it had medicinal properties and used it to treat various diseases. It was called CAA-HEE which translates to honey leaf. In the sixteenth century, Spanish Conquistadors were introduced to Stevia by the Guarani Indians and called it yerba dulce or sweet herb. Early European settlers used the leaf as a sweetener for their food and drink.

Although the compounds that produce the sweetness in Stevia had been isolated in 1931, it wasn't until the 1970s that the Japanese began marketing it as a sweetener to replace artificial sweeteners. China is currently the largest producer of stevioside, the sweet compound that is extracted from the Stevia leaves. These compounds are up to 300 times sweeter than table sugar.

Stevia can be found in dry leaf, liquid and powdered form. In addition to having a sweet taste, some detect a mint and/or bitter taste at high levels. Recipes have been created to use Stevia in almost anything that contains sugar, but baking with Stevia can be a challenge.

A moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips. Those words have been repeated since the first cream puff was eaten and started the search for a calorie free, safe and natural sugar substitute. Well search no further than your local garden center for Stevia rebaudiana. The leaves are 30-40 times sweeter than table sugar, safe to eat and can be grown in your garden.

Stevia rebaudiana, commonly known as sweet leaf, is native to Paraguay. It is one of over 200 known species of Stevia that grow in the semi-tropical and tropical regions of the Americas. However, only Stevia rebaudiana produces the

Stevia rebaudiana is a semi-tropical perennial, but can be easily grown in the Northwest as an annual. Seed is not readily available or easy to germinate, so check with your local garden center for plant availability. Mail order is also an option.



Stevia Simple Syrup

Yield: 2 cups

½ cup fresh Stevia leaves minced
or 8 teaspoons dry Stevia leaves crushed
2 cups boiling water

Place the minced Stevia leaves in a heat proof bowl and add the boiling water. Cover and steep for twelve hours. Strain and store in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to seven days.

The two cups of syrup will equal about two to three cups of sugar and is a great replacement for sugar in drinks such as iced tea. Since the sweetness varies greatly from plant to plant, you will need to use trial and error to determine how much simple syrup to use.

Raspberry Iced Tea

Yield: 2 quarts

Two summer favorites are Raspberries and Iced Tea. Put together they create a refreshing ruby

red drink that is just right for lounging in the hammock.

The number of tea bags and steeping time will vary with how strong you like your tea. Just don't steep for over five minutes to avoid a bitter tea.

Ingredients

6-8 bags black tea (Lipton is the go to standard)
6 oz fresh raspberries (frozen can be substituted)
Stevia simple syrup to taste
Sliced lemon

Bring one quart of water to a boil in a pan. Remove from the heat and add the tea bags. Steep for three to five minutes and then remove the tea bags. While the tea is still hot, add the raspberries and let steep. Once the tea has cooled, lightly mash the raspberries to release more flavor. Strain into a two quart pitcher, add one quart of cold water and Stevia simple syrup to taste.

Serve over ice with a squeeze of lemon.

For a clearer tea, you can skip the mashing step or strain through a coffee filter.

Stevia requires the same sandy loam that you use in your vegetable garden and full sun positioning. Plants prefer moist soil, but not 'wet feet', so raised beds are ideal. If fertilizer is used, be sure to use low nitrogen all purpose fertilizer, preferably organic. Pinching the tips once after established will result in a stronger, fuller plant.

Since the plant will not winter over, harvesting of the leaves should be done before flowering or the first frost, whichever comes first. Collected leaves can be dried in a food dehydrator or on a screen outside in a well ventilated and dry area. Once dried, the leaves can be stored whole or crushed in an airtight container for future use.

Recipes for using Stevia leaves can be found on the internet, but to get you started, I've included a recipe for Stevia Simple Syrup and Raspberry Iced Tea; replacing the sugar with Stevia simple syrup.

Stevia... calorie free, safe and natural. How sweet it is.

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The advertisement features a central collage of various meat products including sausages, salami, and ham. To the right is the Gartner's Meats logo, which is a shield-shaped emblem with a crown on top and the text 'GARTNER'S German Style' inside. Below the main text are four small images showing different types of meat: a plate of sausage, a plate of salami, a plate of ham, and a plate of meat with vegetables.

Wayward Home for Pampered Pets

fusion
home

If you have a pet, big or small, you know how easily they can takeover your home. Here's how to keep a leash on the clutter.

by
Robin Burke,
Fusion co-host

Who knew hamsters came with so much stuff? The newest additions to our family, Rosie and Poppy, are tiny (dwarf actually), but like the rest of us, cats included, they have toys. Of course, they have two kinds of food, treats and bedding, too. Keeping it all corralled can be like running round and round on a wheel (that's supposed to be silent, but is decidedly not.)

If you have a pet, big or small, you know how easily they can take over the place. In fact, a dog trainer once told me that if you're not constantly stepping on your puppy's chew toys, you don't have enough of them. That's great, until you have company or need to vacuum. If you like some semblance of order in your home, you need a place just for the pet paraphernalia.

Dog lovers seem to be the biggest clutter hounds, with cat fanciers a close second. It's not that dogs need so much more than other pets it's just that everything is so darn cute now, we think we

need more of it! Designer rain slickers, eco-friendly chew toys, leashes and collars in every color, memory foam beds—it's all got to go somewhere. Here are a few ideas to help keep a tight leash on Trixie's treasures.

Toys

Wicker baskets and plastic tubs work great as a "home base" for toys, brushes, and other pet related must-haves. Leave the chosen container out in a corner and your pet can even retrieve his favorite toy when he feels like playing. Even my cats know where to go when they feel the need to pounce on something. You can quickly pick up everything and throw it back in its place at the end of the day or send the kids around with the basket to collect it all. Then when you want it out of sight, hide the container in a closet or cupboard.

Etc.

For the rest of your pet's goods that aren't used daily—wipes,

shampoos, nail clippers, medicines, etc.—a plastic tote with a lid is perfect and won't take up drawer space. Keep it in a coat closet, laundry room or garage.

For leashes, harnesses and collars, hang a designated hook in an inconspicuous spot such as a coat closet or garage. Next to the door in a mudroom is a great place to hang them, but if you don't have a mudroom, keep them out of sight.

Pet Food

"Transferring your dog or cat food to an airtight container with a rubber seal is a great idea," says Piotr Orloff, owner of the Bark Market on NW Barnes Road. "It means your food will stay fresh for three or four months." At the very least, Orloff advises rolling down an opened bag of food and securing it with a clip or rubber band.

Pet food containers come in all shapes and sizes plus, if cabinet space is at a premium you can

convert just about anything to fit your décor. Cat food can be kept in a big glass cookie jar and you won't forget to buy replacement food. Orvis has a handsome, hamper-like food storage solution for 20-pounds of dry food. Ballard Designs offers a neutral black and white aluminum container, and Ikea has a bin that looks like a trash can, but could be the perfect solution for attractive pet food storage. The possibilities are endless really, even a recycled container could work, just be sure it has a tightly fitted lid.

Food and water bowls don't have to be typical either. Whether cute

or industrial, choose ones that look good in your home. An attractive mat under the bowls will keep food from scattering and spilled water from ruining your flooring.

Crates

Large, ugly dog crates are often a necessary evil, not only to train your dog, but also to protect your home when Cujo's left alone. Like most pet products, crates have come a long way. Some are even, I dare say, "attractive". Many perform two functions; an end table and crate; a plant stand and a crate; a bedside table and a crate.



Bottom line, this is one thing you need to get creative with if you don't want a big, unsightly crate to be the focal point in your family room. One idea is to drape fabric that coordinates with your décor over the crate and strategically place a piece of finished wood on top to create a small table. The enclosure will give your pet a sense of safety, as well. The absolute best remedy to the ugly crate problem that I've seen belongs to my neighbor, Putter. The miniature dachshund has the best doggy digs around—a built in "crate" in the end of the island between the kitchen and family room. It even has lights!

Beds

Down-filled, cedar shaving filled, memory-foam filled—just a small sampling of what you can find inside a dog bed these days. They also come with all kinds of covers including designer fabrics, and stain and chew resistant options. To make them blend in with the public areas of your home, choose one with a wood or wrought iron frame. They look good and work great for smaller dogs who like to curl up in a ball.

Paperwork

Yes, pets come with paperwork, too. Keep a separate file or notebook for your pet's papers such as license info, vaccination and medical records, receipts, veterinarian, sitter contacts and ER information. Keeping it all in organized in one spot saves time which can be crucial in an emergency.

Your pet is a member of the family and you have all got to get along. Use these tips to get your home stylishly organized and keep it from going to the dogs. Oh, come on, you knew that was coming...

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WTDITG

OK, July is officially summer... even if it is cool and rainy on some days. Be sure to take time to enjoy your yard. You've been working hard since January. Now, relax and soak in the beauty of a space you can call your own. Invite a few friends over, too, and let them see what a great job you've done!

PLANNING



~ Plan to take time to have fun out in the garden now that most of the harder work is done! Maybe have a garden party to help celebrate all you were able to get done this spring. In other words, enjoy your garden and take time to relax out in it.

~ If the first flower baskets were a flop because you went away for a few days and no one watered them, there are always more. So if for some rea-

son the ones you got earlier are not looking too great, give them a haircut, let them re-grow and in the meantime hang up some new fresh color just in time for the BBQ's!



~ Time for a little Garden Journal writing? Take the time to sit out in your garden and make lots of notes now, so next year you'll be ready for even more gardening successes.

PLANTING

~ Annual flowers are still plentiful this time of year, so you can pop in as much color as you'd like for the summertime display.



Add planters to decks and patios for that lush saturation of color you can get from annual flowers. Always

use a good quality potting soil in planters.

~ Summer and fall blooming perennials are always avail-

able this time of year and great to add some super color punch to the garden. We recommend you plant perennials in groups of 3-5 or more instead of onesie twosies.

~ Planting landscape trees and shrubs now is OK. It may be a bit harder to keep the young plants watered as often as they need this time of year but be assured that most of the time you can plant year-round. The rules are if you can dig the soil (not frozen) you can plant. Work in organic compost to the planting area and then make sure you mulch the

plants with compost or bark to help conserve precious moisture at the root zone.



~ Look for blueberries and other fruit bearing plants to plant. As tasty as blueberries

are its hard to grasp they are so good for us too. Wouldn't it be fun to have a red, white and blue dessert with your own fresh strawberries, whipped cream and blueberries on the 4th of July?

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

~ Check on your watering... are you watering deep enough or just getting the top of the soil damp? Dig down a little into the soil and make sure the water is getting down into the root zone. Morning

is the best time to water, not evening. If you have to water in the evening, just water the soil leaving the foliage dry overnight to reduce possibility of diseases.

What To Do In The Garden JULY

~ Are you watering too often?



Plants roots need to come up for air, unless it's a water lily! You should water deeply when you water and then let the

top of the soil dry out a bit.

~ Give your hanging baskets a mid-season haircut, cutting half of the long growth off, and shaving off the top 3-5" of growth. ~ Keep the hanging baskets going strong with regular feeding. Apply fertilizer every other watering.

~ Do a weed patrol around the landscape and vegetable garden. Taking care to get them while

they are small is a much easier task. Do a light hoeing, frequently and if possible just before a sunny day. The exposure to the sun kills small weed seedlings quickly.

~ Stake the taller perennials like delphinium and hollyhock and check the tomato plants. Staking allows for better air circulation and less chance of disease.



~ If you're growing asparagus and rhubarb get any weeding in the beds done this month, then apply an organic fertilizer. Then apply fresh topdressing of mulch.

~ Keep a lookout for notched leaves on rhododendrons, azaleas and other broadleaf evergreen shrubs which is evidence of Root Weevils feeding on the plants leaves. The adult does the visible damage but their grubs are much more lethal. You could use a chemical spray labeled for root weevils or get the organic answer, Beneficial Nematodes.

~ Spider mite infestations favor dryer warm weather so it's time to start looking for the telltale signs: Dusty looking plants with grey dull looking leaves. The spider mites like dry, dusty, undisturbed plants. Often just keeping the plants cleaner with garden hose water wash downs will do the trick.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

~ Don't overhead water tomatoes! (or potatoes) Unfortunately, we have a problem disease here in the northwest and it affects tomatoes and potatoes severely; the dreaded late blight. The disease development is favored by cool, rainy weather and may be more severe under sprinkler irrigation.

Avoid overhead watering and stake the plants up to



allow good air circulation. Remember to rotate crops around so that tomatoes or potatoes are not in the same spot in the garden for at least three years. Pick off any affected leaves and spray plants with an approved fungicide if desired.

~ There are plenty of herb starts and seeds available this time of year. Sowing more seed for basil and cilantro for instance, will keep crops coming on for fresh picking all summer.

~ Mound the soil up around potatoes plants. Snitch a few of the young 'new' potatoes from the bed to cook up while you're there.

~ Time to do some mid-season planting by seed for late season harvest. This is a great time to plant by seed; beets, bush beans, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cilantro, collards, broccoli, collards, fava beans, lettuce, kale, parsnips, peas, radishes, rutabaga, spinach and turnips. These crops will grow and produce good crops well into fall & winter!

~ Check on the garlic crop - it's harvest time! Garlic is best planted in the fall and then harvested the following summer, in July. If you had planted your crop last fall then this month you should stop watering the garlic bed. Your signal will be that the leaves start to die back. Time to stop watering and when the leaves are dead a 3rd to 1/2 way down then harvest time is here.



~ Cover the blueberry bushes with netting. Birds will let you know when they are ripe as you'll see them raiding the patch! This year get a head start on the marauders by getting the netting set up before the fruit is ripe. Yum!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Al's Garden Center

Butterfly Beach Bucket Planters

Saturday July 7, 2012 • 11:00am • Woodburn

Saturday July 14, 2012 • 11:00am • Sherwood

Saturday July 21, 2012 • 11:00am • Gresham

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham

Summer is here and many beautiful butterflies are starting to emerge with the warmer weather. Plant a colorful beach bucket with fun plants that attract butterflies! You won't want to miss this Al's exclusive class!

Northwest Natives with Brent Ward of Portland Nursery

Sunday July 8, 2012 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

The Pacific Northwest offers a wide variety of plants for the gardener's palette. Whether you want to plant an all-native garden, provide wildlife habitat, or just meet some of the colorful locals, Brent will get you excited about natives.

Troubleshooting in the Vegetable Garden

Sunday July 8, 2012 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Is some creature or bug eating your greens? Do you have splotches, spots, powdery coatings, or other worrisome markings on your edibles? Join Jolie Grindstaff, Portland Nursery staff, to learn how to troubleshoot what might be affecting your veggie garden. She will provide great tips and techniques on how to identify and treat common pest, fungus and disease problems in the veggie garden.

Plant Diagnostics

Saturday July 14, 2012 • 11:00am-3:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Drop in anytime between 11:00 and 3:00 and bring us your plant problems. We will be here to answer your questions about plant disease and pests problems that might be troubling you. Please feel to bring in your specimens in order for us to give you as complete a diagnosis as possible.

Flower Arrangements Using Roses

Saturday July 14, 2012

Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR

Bring a favorite vase and share in hands-on arranging using roses from our gardens as the main flower.

Regional Water Providers Consortium Presents:

Save Water, Time and Money

Saturday July 14, 2012 • 10:00am-2:00pm • Gresham

Saturday July 21, 2012 • 10:00am-2:00pm • Sherwood

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn & Sherwood, OR

If you want to learn how to save water, time and money this summer, stop by the table of the regional water providers consortium. Most people don't know how much water their landscape really needs, so visit the RWPC table and learn how to water efficiently. Members from the Regional Water Providers Consortium will be available in the garden center to answer your questions and offer tips between 10am and 2pm. Registration is not required.

Waterlily Festival & Art Show

July 20 - 29, 2012

Hughes Water Gardens, Tualatin, OR

Please join us at Hughes Water Gardens for our Annual Waterlily Festival and Invitational Art Show. This event also features Victoria and tropical waterlilies, display ponds and gardens, music and much much more. Opening Night, July 20th, 6:30 to 9pm.

Pickling & Canning Class

Saturday July 21, 2012 • 1:00pm

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Please give us a call or email to RSVP!

Herbs

Saturday July 21, 2012 • 1:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Let's explore the wonderful world of herbs. We will talk about the good ones, the ones that behave themselves and the ones that tend to "run away". How to use them in your landscape and some fun things you can create.

Art in the Garden

Saturday & Sunday July 28 & 29, 2012 • 10:00am-4pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Art show - thirty vendors for a great selection! Garland Nursery is excited to host their 13th annual Art & Wine in the Garden July 28th and July 29th from 10am to 4pm. This year's most popular and talked about event will feature over 20 artists and crafters displaying and selling their wares, including watercolors, fused glass, unique jewelry, sculptures, mosaics and much more. The artists are joined by three wonderful local vineyards: Coeur de Terre of McMinnville, and Noble Estate Vineyard of Eugene and Territorial Vineyard also of Eugene. Wine tasting will be available both days from noon to 4pm.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

continued next column