



September 2012

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Fall
GardenPalooza
A Spring Classic
Re-Blooms in Autumn

QUINCE *Layering Bulbs*

Dinsdale Landscape's
Alfred Dinsdale

Avid shoppers
browse the plants at
GardenPalooza's
Spring event last April.

"Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

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A Fresh Start for Fall...

We are approaching the change of seasons again. It just seems like it was a few short weeks ago when I was writing about my anticipation for the upcoming spring and summer, and now we are approaching fall. During the ramp-up to spring I talked about a fresh start. Everything seems new and clean in March, April and May. Even the flowers look brighter. But fall can also be a time for a fresh start. For years we have heard that fall is the time for planting, and it's true. Taking a few minutes now can set the stage for a great garden next year. Last fall we had some of the 'Plant Picks' from Skagit Gardens sent to us to try out in our garden. We put them in our front garden and enjoyed the final blooms they were sharing for the fall and then this summer they went wild and gave us a great show! They were able to thrive because we gave them that extra time to establish their roots. That is also true with your spring flowering bulbs. In this month's issue, Therese shares with us some of the tips for layering bulbs in a container for waves of spring color that will look great until early summer. You can also check out our story on bulb layering from last year to get more tips. [\[VIDEO\]](#) Fall is also a great time for late summer fruits and vegetables. This month we feature one of the most unusual ones that we can grow here in the Northwest, the quince. William tells us why this is a great plant for the garden and why he loves this 'golden apple of the ancients' so much.

This fall also marks a fresh start for *GardenPalooza*. A lot of people are familiar with our Spring GardenPalooza (www.GardenPalooza.com) event at Fir Point Farms and in the past couple of years we have also had an event called *GardenPalooza: the Tour*. That was a self-directed tour of participating garden centers and nurseries. A lot of people were frustrated because they couldn't get to all the venues and so this year we wanted to get back to the basics. The *Fall GardenPalooza* event will be held at our favorite place, Fir Point Farms in Aurora, on the 22nd of September from 8:00am-4:00pm. Over 25 local nurseries and growers will have thousands of plants to choose from, and for the first time this year we are working on having beer and wine-tasting at the event. It should be a great time for everyone. Be sure to check out the story in this issue for more details.

Finally, our last 'fresh start' of the fall. Starting the 15th of this month we will be moving the *Fusion TV* show to a new time. In the Portland market on KOIN TV, Fusion will start airing at 9:00am. We had kept the show at 8:00am for most of the 4 years it has been on the air. This meant we had more shows and less preemptions for network programming like sports. Still, we kept hearing from viewers that the show was too early in the morning, so we moved it. This doesn't change the times that it is seen in other markets, this is just on the CBS station here in Portland. This should be easier for everyone to get a dose of 'home' with their weekly 'garden' fix.

We would like to wish everyone a great Labor Day weekend and a safe start to the new school year.

See you in the garden!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Fall GardenPalooza

A spring classic
re-blooms in Autumn.

by Therese Gustin



Fall GardenPalooza

**Saturday September 22, 2012
8:00am-4:00pm
Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR
www.GardenPalooza.com**

We've all heard that the best time to plant perennials, shrubs and trees is in the fall. Not only are the temperatures cooler to work in, but nature does the watering for you. In the Pacific Northwest, our milder temperatures allow root growth all winter long so in the spring your newly transplanted plants are ready to grow.

So what better way to fill those empty spaces in your fall garden than to visit our Fall GardenPalooza event! If you like GardenPalooza in the Spring, you will love our brand-new Autumn event!

Join us Saturday, September 22nd from 8 am to 4 pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora. Come early and shop from over 25 local nursery and garden art vendors. Stay for some beer and wine tasting in the glass greenhouse from 11 am until 3:30 pm. Meet the hosts of Garden Time, Judy Alleruzzo and William McClenathan!

GardenPalooza offers a plant holding area so you can shop 'til you drop. When you are finished with your shopping you can drive your vehicle around to the plant holding area and pick up your purchases. Not all vendors take credit and debit cards so bring your checkbooks just in case. There will also be an

ATM machine on site.

Plants, tools, garden art and more, all in one location! It can all be more than one gardening heart can take. Plus you can bring the whole family. If you get tired of shopping the plants you can take a break, pet some farm animals, sip some wine or beer and snack on a yummy treat or two. Fir Point Farm owners, Jessica and Jack Romaine, owners of Country Grains, will have delicious sandwiches and homemade cinnamon rolls. I'm sure you'll find something to satisfy your appetite and keep you going.

One of the best parts of this adventure is that it is free to attend. There is plenty of free parking so all that savings can go right back to supporting your plant addiction!

Click on www.GardenPalooza.com, where you can get directions, check out the parking situation, view pictures from last spring's event and see what vendors will be participating.

Don't miss 2012's Fall GardenPalooza, sponsored by Garden Time and Fir Point Farms. Hope to see you there!

LAYER UPON LAYER

Growing bulbs in containers is a great way to add color to your deck or patio.

by Therese Gustin



2

After a cold wet winter, I really look forward to early spring when the bulbs poke up from the ground and promise a burst of color to wash away the grays of winter! Some of the earliest flowers in the spring come from bulbs including snowdrops, crocuses, early tulips and daffodils. When I see the daffodils emerge I know spring has arrived!



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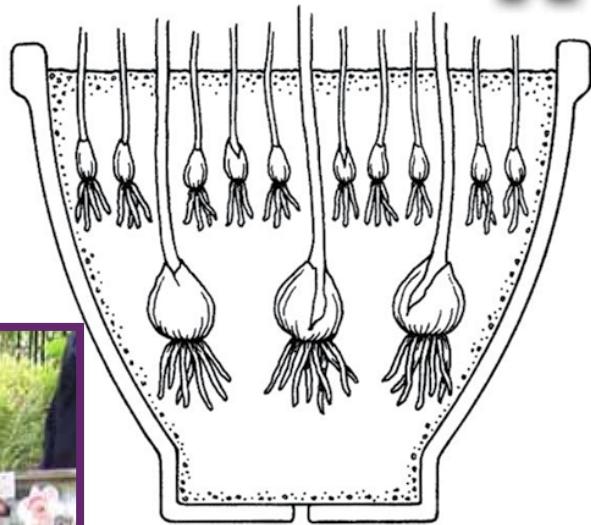


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4

Whether you have an acre to garden in or a small patio, you can delight in these early harbingers of spring! Growing bulbs in containers is a great way to add color to your deck or patio. Anyone can do it and even if you only have a tiny balcony you can still enjoy the beauty of daf-

fodils, tulips and crocus come spring.

For a burst of color all at once you can plant one variety of bulb in a container, but for continual bloom throughout the spring, why not try layering several varieties of bulbs in one container. This

Tete-a-Tete Daffodil

method guarantees a surprise every few weeks through the spring.

To get started, use a large pot with a drainage hole. Fill the pot a little over halfway with a good potting soil. We use Black Gold Natural and Organic. Don't use soil from your garden as it is too heavy and can contain insects or diseases. One thing bulbs require is very good draining soil. After filling the pot about half way, add a layer of tulip bulbs (pointy side up) to the middle of the pot. Leave an inch or two between bulbs. Next add another couple inches of soil and your next layer of bulbs. I like to use large daffodils. They can be placed towards the middle and out a bit towards the edges of the pot. Add another layer of soil and add a layer of smaller daffodil bulbs (like tete-a-tete or Jack Snipe). Place these towards the outer edges of the pot. Add one more layer of soil and then add your crocus bulbs. Crocuses generally are the first bulbs up in the spring. At this point you can water your container and just let it go until spring. You could also plant some fall pansies over the top to give your pot

For more ideas in bulb layering, take a look at the 'Layering Bulbs' story from Garden Time.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/LSoeLLtL_Bo

some color while you wait for your bulbs to emerge. You can even plant perennials with fall interest over the top of your bulbs to enjoy a beautiful container into the winter months. Don't worry...the bulbs will make their way up through the plants.

In caring for your bulb container, you don't need to fertilize. Bulbs already contain everything they need to grow. Using a good potting soil with compost will ensure the healthy growth of your bulbs. If your container is under the eaves away from the winter rains, be sure to occasionally water it. No need to water if it is exposed to the rain. When selecting your bulbs, make sure they are firm and free of mold.

Soft bulbs are showing signs of rot and will not perform well. Have fun with your selection! Pick similar colors or a wide variety of hues! Wooden Shoe Bulb Company (www.woodenshoe.com) offers wonderful varieties and the choices are endless at independent garden centers. Just a little work this fall will provide you with a bounty of color to delight you next spring!

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In Perfect Harmony

For Alfred Dinsdale, success in business and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Alfred Dinsdale is a landscape designer, nursery plant grower and blueberry farmer. He is all that but more so a man that loves and respects the natural world around him. He strives to be successful in all his businesses by using solid agricultural practices that are harmonious with the Earth. Alfred sees, "Sustainable landscapes are the future. As resources such as water, transportation and nutrients become more expensive, high input (maintenance) gardens are becoming less feasible." He uses these beliefs as a standard for all his businesses and his personal life.

Alfred grew up on a dairy farm that bordered the Tualatin River. He was a busy kid but made time to swim in the river during the summertime.

Over the years Alfred saw the river decline to little water flow by the late fall due to urban and farming impact. These memories stuck with him for many years and culminated in an "a-ha!" moment when studying political science, history and social science. He now connected all the dots to see what policies and human practices were doing to the environ-





ment. Alfred realized, "As someone who has always worked with the land, I decided that farming and good environmental stewardship did not have to be mutually exclusive. In fact the two can be joined for mutual benefit and sustainability. To that end I have steadily moved my nursery and landscaping business in a sustainable direction; realizing that we need an adequate supply of clean water and a healthy environment to raise my family, my plants and to provide aesthetics in our landscape projects." He has been very successful in creating well

thought out landscapes for people to enjoy just steps out their front or back door. Through his designs, he has passed on good gardening advice and solid environmental practices to his clients. Alfred draws design inspiration from the natural world around him.

He enjoys being out of doors and strives to bring the natural design of Mother Nature to his clients landscapes. His favorite plants to use in his designs are Northwest natives. He knows they will grow well and have low water needs

once established.

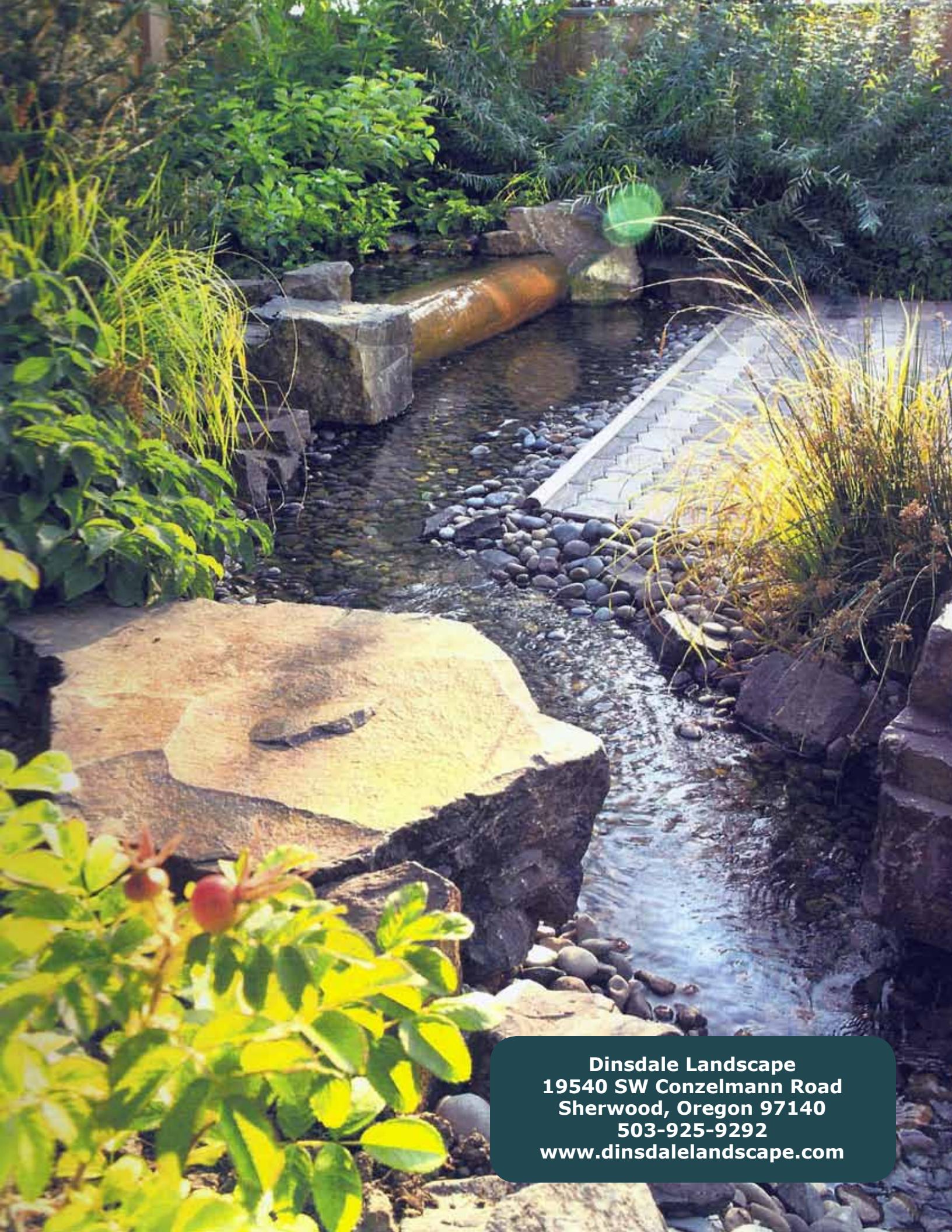
The plants will thrive on seasonal rainfall, be more disease resistant and have low fertilizer needs. All of these attributes make for a lower maintenance landscape and one that is more environmentally friendly.

Dinsdale Landscape Contractors is a full service company working in the Portland area for over 20 years. They install beautifully designed landscapes, patios, garden structures and water features. Their specialties are using native plants and designing rain gardens. Using sustainable plant materials and practices are the standard in their designs.

Alfred started Dinsdale Nursery about 10 years ago as he wanted to have the plants available that he needed for his designs. His nursery grows a wide selection of native and woodland plants plus other ornamental plants that are well suited to the Pacific Northwest and to his tenets of sustainable landscapes.

Alfred is adamant about being a caretaker to the environment in his businesses and in his personal life. In the late '90s, he and his wife moved their family to 12 acres near a creek and the rolling hills of the Sherwood, Oregon area. They are surrounded by the natural beauty of the rural landscape. Once again living near a creek, Alfred knew he wanted to help protect waterways by helping educate people of the importance of being "good stewards of the land."

He is involved in just the right organization to help get the word out, Raindrops to Refuge. Alfred became president in 2010 and in his letter to members he writes of his goals for his tenure. "My hope as president of Raindrops to Refuge is to help push an agenda of environmental education, restoration, and sustainability." He is having fun in all these goals.



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Barbara Simon of Barbara Simon Landscape Designs, has worked with Alfred on many projects. Most notably are the very cool designs for display gardens at the annual *Yard, Garden & Patio Show* in Portland. Barbara was also the driving force to publish one of their landscape designs in *Sunset* magazine.

The residential project was a design that incorporated plants and features with the flavor of an alpine setting. Plant selection included small conifers and ornamental grasses to give the design a woodland feel. A meandering 20 foot stream flows through the landscape and is reinforced with concrete so the clients can wade through it.

Barbara and Alfred used these three main ideas in this design:

- **Imitating natural settings** – Bringing the look and feel of the natural world to a residential back yard.
- **Echo colors of hardscape and plant materials** – This design technique brings the whole setting together with a common color palette.

• **Safety around water features** - The stream can be played in but also be drained back to an underground 800 gallon holding tank when not in use.

The complete landscape is just perfect not only for the client's lifestyle and enjoyment but harmonious with the surrounding environment.

Not a man to stand around idle, Alfred decided to diversify to one more business. He is growing blueberries and has started out with 13 acres that will be ready to harvest next summer. Blueberries are a hot crop to plant as recent research has shown that they are high in antioxidants, help boost the immune system and keep memory sharp. Blueberries are all this plus wonderfully delicious! He will be expanding to 80 acres when his plan is completed.

Alfred Dinsdale is a man of strong beliefs of using sustainable practices to protect the earth when designing beautiful landscapes, growing blueberries and living his life with his family. He knows this is the right way to be a good steward of the land for his family and all of us.





Someday My Quince Will Come

**After decades out
of the spotlight, the
“Golden Apple” of
the ancients” stages
a comeback.**

by William McClenathan

Various types of fruit tend to fall in and out of favor just as many plants do. Inevitably they always come back around for their moment in the sun again. This month's choice for *Eats* is one such fruit; the edible quince. Although it has never been terrifically popular in the USA, in the late 19th century it certainly was. This was most likely because people that migrated to America brought seeds with them and for many people the world over this fruit was a staple for both eating and preserving.

But after a few decades of being out of the spotlight, quince is making a big comeback as the plants are becoming more and more available at garden centers.

Not to be confused with its flowering cousin, *Chaeomeles*, which is a genus of three species of deciduous spiny shrubs, usually 1–3 m tall, in the family Rosaceae, which are native to eastern Asia in Japan, China and Korea, the edible quince is actually *Cydonia oblonga*.

I love this report I found in *The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste* of 1849, “The quince of Persia attains a weight of 1.5 kilos (more than 3 pounds), ripens on the tree or in the store, and can be eaten like a soft ripe pear.”

That description hardly fits the quince known in

America today, or rather the quince which is hardly known today. During Colonial times a quince tree was a staple in the gardens of wealthy Americans. The fruit—always cooked—was an important source of pectin for food preservation, and a fragrant addition to jams, juices, pies, and candies. However, by the early twentieth century quince production declined as the value of apples and pears increased. Today's consumers prefer the immediate gratification provided by sweet, ready-to-eat fruits. After Charles Knox introduced powdered gelatin in the 1890s the use of quince pectin for making jams and jellies declined. But this ancient fruit's history goes back much further than the youthful days of a young nation named America.

“The quince, the ‘Golden Apple’ of the ancients, once dedicated to deities and looked upon as the emblem of love and happiness, for centuries the favorite pome, is now neglected and the least esteemed of commonly cultivated tree fruits.” Sounds like something written today eh? But no. This was written by Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick in 1922.

Luther Burbank took credit for transforming this neglected fruit from a commodity that was “altogether inedible before cooking” into a crop he likened to the best apple. He half-jokingly cited a formula to make quince fruits edible prior to his breeding efforts: “Take one quince, one barrel of sugar, and

Quince Butter

Ingredients

3lb quince
(for 4 cups pulp)
2 cups sugar to taste
lemon juice as needed
water

Cooking Directions

Wash the quince, rubbing them as you wash to remove their fur.

Remove the stem and blossom ends. Core the quince and remove gritty parts.

Place them in a large pot with half as much water as fruit.

Bring to a boil then reduce heat to medium and cook until the quince can be pierced easily with a fork.

Run through a food mill and measure 4 cups pulp. Return to high heat and add sugar and lemon juice.

Once mixture boils, reduce the heat to very low and cook until the mixture no longer weeps juice around its edges when placed on a plate or until it mounds slightly on a spoon.

Store in the fridge.



sufficient water..." (Whitson et al. 1914). Burbank released several improved cultivars in the 1890s that he hoped would raise the status of the fruit. Two Burbank cultivars, 'Van Deman' and 'Pineapple', are important commercially in California today, but overall, quince fruit production in the United States is so small that it is not even tracked by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (McCabe 1996; USDA 2009b). While underappreciated here, these Burbank quinces have found their way to other parts of the world where they are among the handful of cultivars considered worthy of production (Campbell 2008).

The history goes back even further though to ancient Greek and Romans. Even some Biblical scholars assert that the vilified fruit that Eve tasted was not an apple but a 'Golden Quince'.

Most of the ornamental Chaenomoles produce fruits also but they are hard and nearly inedible, though they have a high pectin content and are occasionally mixed with other fruits in jellies and preserves."



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Quince on the tree.

There are many discussions on the difference between the edible and ornamental quinces and their fruit, such as this one from University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, excerpted here:

"The big fuzzy fruit are the real quinces (*Cydonia*) and is the only member of its genus. The flowering quinces (eg. *Chaenomeles*) were once classified with the *Cydonia* quince trees. I think some *Chaenomeles* were called 'Japonica', but the 'flowering quince' name seems the norm now. Unfortunately the abundance of *Chaenomeles*, and use of the name 'quince' for the *Chaenomeles* contributes to the under appreciation of the quince tree and its fruit."

Another excerpt, from a nursery source: "Like apricot and peach pits, European quince seeds contain cyanide... Most people know that they must never cook apricot or peach pits when making jam or jelly, but most do not know that this also applies to true quince seed. Although often called Flowering Quince, *Chaenomeles japonica* is a very different plant, and it is these fruits that most North Americans are familiar with, although the flavor of the fruit is nowhere near as rich and aromatic as that of the true quince. The seeds of the flowering quince are not particularly dangerous, and may be cooked with the fruit, but I still would not recommend doing so".

If you are lucky enough to grow the edible ones, they are easy to maintain. Sometimes, weather conditions conspire to create a smaller yield of fruit in a given year. You might have fewer bees and other pollinators. There could have been rain or cold weather and frost at the same time that the plant was in flower, and this could have disrupted pollination. Other factors might be a change in the amount of sun exposure, or an excess of nitrogen-heavy fertilizer which will result in lots of leafy growth and few flowers and fruit. But overall these historical fruits are worth the effort indeed.

Last year I found some real beauties for sale at Red Ridge Farms. Their fragrance was intoxicating, they were huge and their rich golden color was beautiful. After I let them sit in the kitchen for a few days, filling that space with their heady fragrance, I cooked them and had them over ice cream.

The internet is filled with recipes for quince and I think they are certainly worth investigating. The one on the previous page reminds me of Grandma and is an easy one to try.

Buying good, fresh quince makes all the difference when cooking with them. They should be golden in color with an amazing fragrance. Or, you could plant your own tree and see why this delicious fruit has been eaten by humans around the world throughout history.



When decorating a room, the little things can make or break a look.

It's in the Accessories

by Robin Burke, Fusion co-host

Decorating a room is a lot like getting dressed in the morning. Start with the foundation; top, bottoms and shoes. Everything else is accessory.

The same rule applies to dressing a room. Once you have the foundation in place -- wall color, flooring and window coverings -- it's time to put on the belt, necktie, earrings, and scarf, so to speak.

The little things that bring the outfit together, or the room, can make or break a look. The good news is there's more leeway when your accessorizing a room, but there's also more space to cover. Walls, shelves, tabletops and open spaces can be daunting canvases. Not enough and your home can look as warm and personal as a motel room. Too much, and it all



runs together and simply screams "Clutter!".

Clear it Out!

I don't know who said it first, but it has become a mantra for designers: "Don't Add Until You Subtract." It's actually easier to start with a clean slate, so the first step is to clear out everything, and not only what you consider clutter -- everything! It will be less overwhelming to start the new accessorizing if the old accessories aren't sitting in a preconceived location.

Remove picture frames, vases, plants, books, candles, everything considered "decorative". Put it all on a table in the next room, then shop your own stuff! It sounds sort of fun, but choosing what

fusion
home



goes back, and what doesn't, can be difficult.

Function

Most designers and organizers say, "Function first". The important accessories are ones that serve a purpose, such as a cute little lamp for reading, a tray to contain magazines, a basket to corral stray toys, or a decorative box that doubles as a remote control holder.

Next, add things you really love. It could be a gift, a family heirloom, a vase or picture frame you picked up on a trip or a funky flea market find that reflects your personality.

Now, tie those two things together with items that coordinate either by color, height or collection. Sounds easy, right? Well, keep these things in mind:



Less is more. If you have every surface covered, then nothing stands out. It will just look cluttered.

Groupings. Many designers subscribe to the belief that things look better grouped in odd numbers, usually threes and fives. It's pleasing to the eye, but it's not a law. Pairs look good, too and they don't have to flank either side of anything. Two identical vases or two candlesticks the same height can stand right next to each other for an orderly visual effect.



If you're decorating a mantle, there's an age-old rule of "three plus one". Group three similar things, such as candlesticks, narrow vases or picture frames on one side of the mantle and one thing on the other side. The "one" thing should stand twice as tall, or be as wide, as the "three" together.

If you have the type of personality that likes the neatness of identical objects flanking a mirror, or picture, you're not alone. But, sometimes it's worth a try to think outside this strict box and use similar things that aren't identical. However, you should strive to keep the height as even as possible.

Shelving—can't live without 'em, can't decorate 'em.

I have found that shelves can be the most overwhelming to accessorize. After pouring through magazines, touring show homes, and copying neighbors' ideas, I finally came to the realization that I couldn't

do it alone. I didn't have much confidence in my choices and kept second-guessing everything. So, I asked for help. A friend with decorating experience responded to my S.O.S. She arrived to a blank canvas of shelves and used only accessories I already owned. She got to work and prominently displayed things I was going to chuck into storage, placed large items at eye level that I had relegated to the floor, and hung pictures and decorations in ways I couldn't have possibly arranged. She suggested I keep my eye out for a few things when shopping, but didn't leave gaps for them. In a little over an hour and a cup of tea later, all of my fretting was over. Lots of people can "do it themselves" but sometimes you need a little help from your friends.

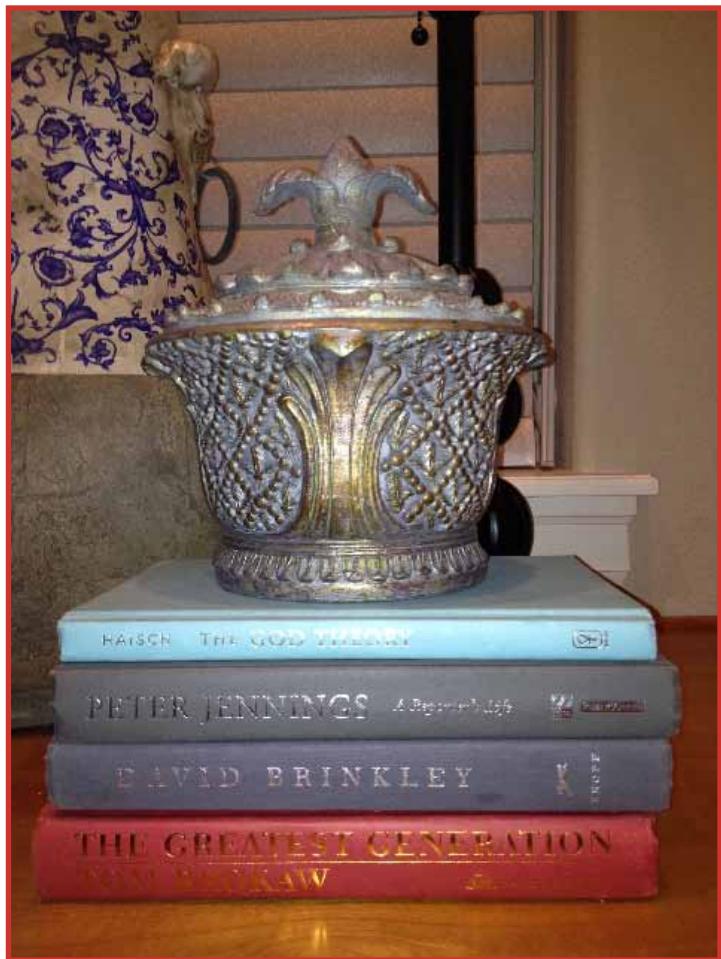
If you don't have a friend with decorating experience, find one! Many home décor stores have in-house designers who can help. For example, Kathii Wiebe of *Terra Casa* in Damascus is a decorator who will come to your home and accessorize for you. If that's not in the budget, she suggests bringing in the items you want to use, with a picture and the measurements of where it will go. Anyone in the store can help you find coordinating accessories. She also has some good tips when decorating it yourself.

- Elevate items with books. Take the dust jackets off your favorites and coordinate the colors with your accessories.
- If you like to create vignettes, don't overdo it. The eye follows a design up to only 36 inches wide or long.
- Follow a color story or theme when decorating the tops of kitchen cabinets or armoires.
- Use easels to display special or decorative platters, plates and bowls. (I use them to display platters I use, but have no room for in the cupboard!)

For a fresh update without re-doing your room, simply replace decorative pillows, add a vibrant-colored table lamp or lampshade, and throw some fresh flowers into a vase or fresh fruit into a pretty bowl. You'll get an instant update without too much fuss.

One last tip, when accessorizing your room take advice from the legendary Coco Chanel: "*Before leaving the house, a lady should stop, look in the mirror, and remove one piece of jewelry.*" The same can be said for a room. Stand back and remove one, or a few accessories. Just like you, a newly accessorized room should look "put together," not decorated.

You can find more *Fusion* tips, recipes and streaming videos on our website,
www.FusionNW.com



Diary of a Late Bloomer

**Easy to maintain,
sweet of fragrance
and attractive
to bees, the Mint
Shrub is worth
the wait.**

by William McClenathan



Each year as summer fades into fall I search for great late season blooming plants to help soften the blow of the garden getting ready to go into its winter hibernation.

One of the hardest working and most favorite plants to accomplish this is *Elsholtzia stauntonii*. With the common name of Mint Shrub, this labiate carries the same hard-working characteristics as its other relatives in the mint family.

It is a semi woody deciduous shrub that carries the sweet mint fragrance in the leaves of its family. There are many qualities I love about this plant. One of the top reasons is that it seldom even begins to bloom until mid-August. And then often into November, there will be some blooms that remain. It also is a bee magnet and long after other flowers have faded away, this workhorse continues to supply nectar for those late season, industrious bees.

It loves full sun too and once established is quite drought tolerant, which is a boon if you are thinking about saving money and watering less.

As for maintenance, it couldn't be easier. I personally wait until late winter to prune it back each year to afford winter wildlife somewhere to forage. But you can just as easily prune it in the early winter, or not at all. My experience with it un-pruned though is that it can get very floppy.

It ranges in size from three to five feet tall and wide. The size will depend on how you prune it. I have also found that if the seeds are left on the plant it can reseed itself. It is a prolific bloomer too. And a hard pruning each year will not deter that as it blooms on the end of new growth so the more branching it does, the greater its blooming ability.

And those blooms... stunning. Each fall, spires of pink-lavender to light blue-purple flowers appear. They can reach up to 8" tall and literally cover the shrub. The blooms also do well in potpourris and dried arrangements.

Elsholtzia is hardy to -20 degrees (zones 4-8) and prefers a dry climate, so make sure that it has a well-draining soil to thrive in our wet winters. And although it is a native to China, the Japanese highly regard this plant as a cure for a hangover!

Another great thing about it is that it really has no known pest or disease concerns either, which makes it even less work in the garden.

We all want plants that will continue blooming as late into the season as possible and no other plant does this with such passion like *Elsholzzia stauntonii*.



WTDTG

The time goes so fast! With Summer winding down, it's time to enjoy the last warm days of the year, and turn our focus to Fall. September is a good month to plant, and it's a great time to start planning your garden for next year. With Fall rains coming, new plants will get established before the cold weather arrives.

PLANNING

~ Plan some new color for spring by figuring out where to plant some spring bulbs. Creating pots with 'layers' of bulbs would be fun. A cluster of



bright yellow daffodils planted at the base of a tree or three will really liven the yard up in the early months. Daffodils aren't eaten by squirrels or deer so they should remain intact for years giving you more color every spring.

~ Check on the vegetables to be harvested. This is an important time to check on the crops, picking them before the veggies lose their flavor.

~ Since September is a good month to plant and there are usually sales now on nursery stock, why not do a little landscape renovation? If you need help, bring some photos and notes into your local independent garden center. They can help you put together some good ideas of what to plant and where.

PLANTING

~ It's time for shopping and planting spring bulbs! As the weather cools, that should be your signal to purchase some bulbs for a spring display of sunny color. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus can be found now. You'll have up until late October to plant them, but

selection of the coolest bulbs is gone early so don't delay.

~ Fall is an exceptional time to plant landscape trees and shrubs! With the rains coming on soon and the soil being so warm from the summer sun, the plant's root systems take right off this

time of year. Most likely there are sales to take advantage of, so the savings make it even more enticing.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

~ Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage. Root weevil adults do the damage above ground that is visible so you'll know if they are around. The grubs below ground are the killers, girdling the trunk, besides eating the majority of the roots. Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic creatures that hunt out and destroy these pests and 229 more species of insects, but are not harmful at all to earthworms, humans or pets. They are active for two years in the soil too!

~ Be on the lookout for slugs and their eggs. Fall is egg laying time again for the slimy creatures. Eggs



are easy to spot and get rid of, if you know what they look like. Slugs lay eggs under stones, pavers, boards, plant debris or wherever they can find a hiding spot. The eggs are usually clustered in groups and look like little BB's, but are a creamy color. By finding and destroying these eggs before they hatch, you will take care of hundreds of the slimy leaf-chompers before they can get to your plants.

~ Begin to get plants ready for winter by holding

What To Do In The Garden SEPTEMBER

back on the watering and stop any fertilizing this month. The plants need to get toughened up for the coming winter. If watered frequently and fed too late in the season the leaves are more tender and apt to freeze or be severely damaged.



~ September is an excellent month to start a lawn from scratch or over seed a thin lawn. In fact this time of year is about the best and fastest time to start a lawn.

~ Fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so for a couple of months. With the cooler weather and rains on the way you will notice the lawns becoming greener and thicker again, naturally.

~ Pull up begonia tubers before it gets too cold or at least move the pot into a garage or shed. Let foliage die down naturally, then remove foliage, lift bulb out of the soil and store the begonia tubers separately in paper bags (breathable!) in a protected cool, not cold, environment like a basement or a chilly room.



wash the clump) then allow the clump of tubers to cure or dry for a few days before being stored

indoors in a cool dark area. Check stored tubers occasionally for any rot developing. You will divide and replant them next May.

~ Dahlias: to dig or not to dig? If you dig up the dahlias to store them, and then divide and replant in the spring, they will continue to come up bigger and better every year. If left in the ground eventually they will poop out, getting many smaller stems and fewer flowers.

Dig the tubers at least one week after a frost and after the stalks have died down. Dahlias dug too early will not store well. Cut the stalks down to 6-8", shake the loose soil off the clumps (don't

~ This is a great month to divide iris and other spring and early summer blooming perennials. Iris and other perennials can become overcrowded and that slows down on its flowering show. By lifting the clumps, cutting out the old centers or mushy parts and then replanting the leading growing edge of the clump immediately back into the garden, the perennials can again take off and give you additional years of flowers.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

~ You can still seed these crops right into the garden: Arugula, beets, cabbage (for spring harvest), carrots, endive, fava beans, garlic cloves, lettuce, kale, mache, onion sets, radish, salad greens and shallot bulbs.

~ Mulch the mature carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips for winter harvesting. By applying good 3-5" thick mulch you can store these veggies right out in the garden. Pull some up whenever you want to fix some for a meal.

~ Harvest the winter squash when the 'ground spot' turns from white to a cream or gold color. (The ground spot is just what it sounds like, the part of the squash fruit that lay on the ground.) Winter squash can be harvested whenever the fruits have turned a deeper color and the rind is hard. Harvest the main part of the crop in September or October, before the heavy frosts. Cut squash from the vines

carefully, leaving two inches of stem attached if possible. Squash that is not fully mature, has been injured, or had their stems knocked off, or has been subjected to heavy frost will not keep.

~ Harvest potatoes when the tops die down and before the first frost. Dig up the tubers, being careful not to nick the spuds with the shovel. Any tubers that have a damaged spot from digging should be cooked up and not stored. By hand remove any soil clinging to the potatoes and then leave them on top of the soil for a few hours to dry out - if they are stored damp, they will rot. Leaving them on the soil surface in the sun will harden the skin slightly, doubling the storage time.

~ Protect the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant from early frost. Drape the plants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover. Pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if cold weather threatens.



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Annual Orchid Show and Sale

Saturday September 1, 2012 • 10:00am-4:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, Newport, OR

The Central Coast Orchid Society will host its annual Orchid Show and Sale on Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Newport, Oregon at the First Presbyterian Church, 227 NE 12th Street (turn east on Highway 101 at the Super Oscar's Mexican Restaurant). Growers from the coast and the valley will have plants on display and for sale. There will be a "plant hotel" where purchases can be left while shopping. Growers and club members will be available to give advice on growing orchids. There is no admission charge.

Annual Dahlia Festival

Saturday-Monday September 1-3, 2012

Swan Island Dahlias, Canby, OR

Indoor display hours 10 am to 6pm. Field hours 8am to 6pm Free admission, free parking, handicap accessible, rainbow of color.

Oregon Trail Iris Society Sale

Saturday September 8, 2012 • 9:00am-3:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, OR

Join us in Woodburn as the Oregon Trail Iris Society sells Iris rhizomes at special prices. It's the right time to buy your Iris rhizomes and get them planted in time for spring bloom. Registration is not required. This event is free and open to the public.

Bamboo 101: Maintenance & Uses

Sunday September 9, 2012 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Bamboo is a stunning and versatile landscape plant with many uses in the garden. With proper maintenance and care, it can quickly become a landscape favorite. And believe us when we say that your neighbors will thank you!! Join bamboo expert Ian Conner, of Connor Bamboo, to learn great tips and techniques for growing and maintaining healthy and well-behaved bamboo. Ian will also discuss the many useful and artistic ways to use your home-grown bamboo poles in your home and garden.

Senior Gardening Day

Wednesday September 12, 2012

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Free events for all!

Impact NW Fundraiser Annual Garden Party & Auction

Saturday September 15, 2012

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Planting and Transplanting Techniques

Saturday September 15, 2012

Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR

Learn techniques for moving all types of roses and the best way to replant a rose to ensure health and lasting beauty.

Fall Gardenpalooza

Saturday September 22, 2012 • 8:00am-4:00pm

Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

Nursery and garden art vendors, wine and beer tasting, farm animals... fun for the whole family! Free admission and free parking! Details at www.GardenPalooza.com.

Potting Party

Saturday September 29, 2012 • 11:00am-3:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

It's "Potting Time". Bring your containers and let's create! We will provide the soil, fertilizer and the hands-on to help create some beautiful containers for your patio, deck or entry. Let us help liven up those tired containers for the coming holiday season. Price will vary according to plants and materials used.

Fall Wreath Workshop

Saturday September 29, 2012 • 11:00am

The Garden Corner, Tualatin, OR

Celebrate the change of the seasons and join us for a hands on workshop where together we will create a spectacular Fall display for your front door. No workshop fee to worry about, simply pay for your chosen embellishments.

Workshop: Indoor Fairy Gardens

Sunday September 30, 2012 • 1:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood and Gresham, OR

Want to create a little magic? Join us for this hands-on workshop and create an indoor Fairy Garden of your own. Al's experts will help you plant your own pixie paradise. This is a hands-on workshop, so bring your gloves if you'd like. Registration is required, to register call the store location where you will attend. Cost: The workshop costs \$38. Each person will receive a kit including a basket container, 3-small houseplants, fairy garden accessories, soil and decorative stones.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar

www.gardentime.tv/events.htm