

October 2012

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Corokia
Get Thee to a Shrubbery!

Asian Pears
Bringing
Houseplants
Back Indoors

J. Frank Schmidt & Sons's
Nancy Buley

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-Jeff Gustin, President

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Harvest Time

Fall has arrived to the Pacific Northwest and that means the return of the cooler weather, but it also means so much more! The fall is a season of major transition. The spring and summer slowly change and they progress. The weather in spring slowly improves as the plants slowly grow and go through their life cycle. But in the fall, everything seems to fast-forward. We can have a cold snap, perhaps an early frost and everything changes drastically! I love the fall. The colors are so bright and the air is crisp again. Unfortunately, the colors are here for only a short time! Fall, the season of dramatic changes!

For us, this fall was about changes as well. This year we hosted our first *Fall GardenPalooza*. The past couple of years we have sponsored *GardenPalooza: The Tour*. This self-guided tour allowed people to travel on their own around the valley to visit garden centers, large and small. The problem was that the distances were very large and people spent most of their time driving between locations. So, along came changes! We approached the owners of Fir Point Farms, Jack and Jessica Romaine, and asked them if they would be interested in co-hosting a new fall event, and the *Fall GardenPalooza* was born on September 22nd. We had a great turnout and the weather cooperated as well. We would like to thank everyone that came out and visited with us. Plans are under way for our 11th annual spring GardenPalooza event and for our second annual event next fall. You can always find out more at www.GardenPalooza.com

Another big change for us was the change of time for the *Fusion* TV show on KOIN Local 6 in Portland. The move to the 9am hour has made a lot of viewers happy since they don't have to get up so early! We will have a couple of pre-emptions for sporting events, something we didn't need to worry about at the earlier time, but overall the response has been great!

And one more thing... Fall is the time for harvesting. We recently did a story with Jan McNeilan about all the different ways of preserving your garden bounty (<http://youtu.be/4oUG95Yo1XI>), and recently on the *Garden Time* show we even walked you through the steps for canning tomatoes (<http://youtu.be/3cy71AyLUQc>). If you are trying to save your harvest and are thinking about canning or preserving, be sure to check out the OSU Extension website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu> or you can call the Food Safety and Preservation Hotline at 1-800-354-7319.

Happy Gardening,

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Get Thee to a Shrubbery!

The scent of chocolate, tiny foliage, and a unique texture are just the most obvious virtues of this unusual shrub.

by Judy Alleruzzo

I remember the first time I saw Corokia shrubs. It was a warm summer day and I was in a garden center cruising the aisles for cool plants. I walked by a display of gnarly, gray colored branched shrubs and thought, "Oh No, someone forgot to water!"

Was my face red when I saw on the tag that it was a display of Corokia cotoneaster and that is the normal look of the shrub. I'm glad I didn't say anything to the owner. That was a long time ago and I have seen many unusual plants in my travels to garden centers and nurseries. These trips are usually with William as he simply adores unusual plants.

Corokias are native to New Zealand. The Kiwi's common name for it is "Ghost Plant" as when the plant moves in the wind, the white undersides of the tiny foliage shows off. Corokias are related to Dogwoods.

I love Corokias because they are so unique but still so easy to care for in a landscape or container. I planted one in my "Desert Garden" which faces southwest but does get some late afternoon shade. It is planted right next to hardy agaves, sedums and succulents. I love the texture and form the Corokia adds to this desert scene.

This spring I noticed my Corokia was in bloom with small yellow, star-shaped flowers. I had never seen the blooms before this year. William and I had a discussion on what they smelled like and he came up with Cadbury Chocolate Easter Eggs. They do have a chocolatey fragrance, but I'm not totally sold on the Cadbury

brand choice. Sometimes the plants produce small red berries in the fall.

Another attribute of Corokia is using the branches in flower arrangements or wreaths. The plants are easy to prune so you can easily be creative. The unusual texture and color of the branches add interest to any artwork.

If you are looking for an easy care, unique evergreen shrub, Corokia is for you. It looks great any season of the year plus in spring, you can have the scent of chocolate right out your back door.

The two most commonly found Corokia at your favorite garden center are: Corokia cotoneaster and Corokia x virgata 'Sunsplash'.

Corokia cotoneaster: Wire Netting Bush. Height 4-7 ft by 8 ft wide, can be pruned to keep in bounds. Plant in Full Sun or Morning Sun with Afternoon Shade. Evergreen Foliage. Fragrant, tiny yellow flowers in spring. Needs good drainage and regular watering. Use in the landscape or in containers. Hardy to 10F.

Corokia x virgata 'Sunsplash': Variegated Wire Netting Bush. Twisted greyish stems with evergreen foliage of yellow with green and cream splashes. This foliage is a bit larger than C. cotoneaster. Height 4-8 ft tall by 3 ft wide, can be pruned to keep in bounds. Plant in Full Sun or Morning Sun with Afternoon Shade. Evergreen Foliage. Fragrant, tiny yellow flowers in spring. Needs good drainage and regular watering. Use in the landscape or in containers. Hardy to 10F.



Corokia cotoneaster



Corokia x virgata 'Sunsplash'

The Plant Who Came in from the Cold

It's time to welcome your fair-weather friends back in to the house.

by Judy Alleruzzo



By October, when night time temperatures start to dip down to 45 degrees, houseplants that have been adorning our decks and patios need to be brought back into the house. There are a few basic steps to make this a successful transition.

Step 1 is to inspect the plants for any insects on the foliage. Insects to look for are Mealy Bugs, Scale and Spider Mites. All of these insects suck out the plant juices.

Mealy Bugs are easy to spot as you can see white cottony masses on new foliage, the undersides of leaves or on the stems. The insect is actually under the white cottony mass. Scale is a brownish hard shell found on the undersides of leaves usually by the center leaf rib or near the area where the leaf attaches to the stem. The scale insect is underneath this shell covering. If you find just a few Mealy Bugs or Scales, you can touch them with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol. This will kill the insect on contact.

Thoroughly clean the foliage with a solution of 1 part mild dish washing soap to 10 parts water. Apply this weak solution to leaf foliage with a paper towel. By gently wiping all leaf surfaces and stems you will remove any other insects that may have been missed. Do not use this method on fuzzy leaved plants. For added plant protection, spray the plant with Safer's Soap or Neem Oil or apply a Sys-

temic Insecticide labeled for houseplants. If your plant has fuzzy leaves, use a Systemic Insecticide application. Systemics are applied to the soil and are absorbed through the root system and make the plant toxic to any insects sucking on the foliage. Repeat applications may be needed. As with any chemical use, read all instructions carefully before application.

Spider Mites are very small spiders that are very difficult to see. Usually we see the symptoms of washed out green color to the foliage or webbing on the undersides of the leaves. If you suspect Spider Mites are attacking the plant, place a white piece of paper under the affected leaves and gently tap the foliage to dislodge the potential mites. Specks will appear on the paper that look like pepper and will move! These are the Mites. The first control for this insect is to wash down the entire plant with the garden hose. This will rid the plant of hundreds of the Spider Mites. Use particular attention to the undersides of the leaves.

For added Mite control, spray the plant with Neem Oil or Safer's Soap. Repeat the spray according to directions even after the plant has returned to its winter indoor home.

Make sure you clean the containers and check the bottom of them for insects or even slugs. It is also a good idea to segregate these plants

from other indoor plants for a few weeks. This ensures that possible insects still hanging on the foliage will not transfer to other plants in your home.

Step 2 is to gradually acclimatize the plants to the lower light levels and drier indoor conditions. This is attained by bringing the plants inside overnight and leaving outside in a shady site each day. The plants get a slow conversion to being indoors. They will be less stressed by this method than by moving them indoors in only 1 day.

Step 3 is the change to the plants indoor watering schedule. Fall days are getting shorter and the sun is less strong, so your plants will not be absorbing as much sun indoors. Make sure you check the plants every few days to know when to water them. After a few weeks, you will be able to be on a regular watering schedule. You may want to mist the plants daily or place them on a pebble tray filled with water.

Make sure the plant does not sit in the water. The water in the tray will evaporate and give the air surrounding the plant additional humidity.

An exception to the rule of bringing plants indoors for winter, is the Improved Meyer Lemon plants. They enjoy the cooler outdoor temperatures of fall and even winter. I leave my lemon tree outside except for days or nights when temps go down to 35 degrees F. The plant is on my side deck out of daily winds and rain. I think it is happier in this sheltered site than it would be in my dry, dark home all winter long. If you are so lucky to have a greenhouse, it would be happy in it all winter long. Just watch the night time temperatures inside your greenhouse.

By following these few steps, your plants will be healthier in their move back indoors for the winter. You will be happier too by having an indoor tropical paradise during the gray days of winter.



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PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.PORTLANDMAZE.COM

Prepare to be A-MAIZE-D!

Test your mettle in a
field of corny dreams.

by Therese Gustin

MODIFIED PORTLANDIA IMAGE © 1985 RAYMOND KASKEY

Looking for a fun and challenging adventure this fall? Look no further than The Pumpkin Patch on Sauvie Island in Portland. For the past 14 years, the Pumpkin Patch has transformed a five acre cornfield into an exceptionally complex maze. OK... exceptionally complex and challenging for me! A few years ago when I had the opportunity to try the maze with my Youth Group, I ended up back at the entrance 4

times, then got so lost I had to use my cell phone to get one of the kids to find me! The funny thing is... none of the Junior High kids seemed to have any trouble navigating the maze. I'm just 'directionally challenged', I guess!

Every year the pattern of the maze is unique and frequently represents a current local theme. This year is no different. With the popular IFC show "Port-

landia" making headlines, it's only fitting that this year's theme reflects the popular show. Not only does it contain the Raymond Kanske 'Portlandia' sculpture, it also has a tribute to the "Portlandia" show with the 'Portlandia' sculpture 'Putting a Bird' on top of a pumpkin.

For a scarier experience, the spooky Haunted MAiZE is for you! Make your way through a

dark four-acre cornfield interspersed with haunted special effects. Test your mettle against ghostly costumed actors, creepy animatronics, swamp goblins and other scary sights! This maze is especially designed for those thrill seekers who like a scary experience!

If losing yourself in a maze is too much for you, there are all sorts of family friendly activities at The Pumpkin Patch through the month of October. You and your family can enjoy:

Free daily hayrides to the pumpkin fields.
Hayride times: Mon-Fri 12-6. Sat, Sun 10-6.

Free daily Giant Hay Pyramid, Haymaze, and The Big Red Animal Barn
Professional Portraits, October.
Ride the Cow Train, Daily!!
Face Painting, weekends.

You can also enjoy farm fresh fruits and vegetables, pick up some Halloween décor in the Pumpkin Cottage Gift Shop, and feed those hunger pangs with delicious burgers, sausages, corn-on-the-cob, nachos and much more! My personal favorite is their caramel apple! Check out their website for field trip information and all their many activities. www.portlandmaze.com.

Portlandia's Corn MAiZE hours are:
October Sunday thru Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
October: 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 & 31st
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
The Haunted MAiZE:
October: 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 & 31st
Friday and Saturday: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Many of their activities are free but if you'd like tickets to the Portlandia Corn Maize and or The Haunted Maize, prices are as follows:
The MAiZE
Adults 13 yrs & up: \$7.00
Children 6 to 12 yrs:

\$5.00
Seniors: \$5.00
5 & under: FREE!
The Haunted MAiZE
\$10.00 (may not be suitable for ages 6 and under)
Combo Ticket-Main MAiZE and Haunted MAiZE
Adult: \$15
Children 6 to 12 years: \$13

It's easy to get The Pumpkin Patch. It's located on Sauvie's Island, 15 minutes northwest of Portland, OR. From Portland, take Highway 30 west towards Scappoose to the Sauvie Island bridge. Cross the bridge, circle to the left and loop back under the bridge. Follow Gillihan Road to the farm. Head straight 2 miles until you see the signs.

They can be reached at 503-621-3874 and are open 9 AM and 6 PM, June through October. Their Email address is: info@thepumpkinpatch.com.

So head up to Sauvie Island this month for a truly remarkable adventure and 'get lost' in Portland's original MAiZE!



A Peach of a Pear!

With the shape and consistency of an apple, Asian Pears are quickly becoming popular in the U.S.

by Sarah Gustin

Asian pears originated in East Asia, and are still common in that region. The beautiful fruit blossoms are a sure sign that spring has sprung. It has also been known as the nashi pear, Japanese pear, Korean pear, or sand pear, most likely due to the sandy color and texture of its peel.

Asian pears are sometimes called apple-pears, though they are their own variety of pear, not an actual apple-pear hybrid. They combine the texture and consistency of an apple with the flavor of a pear. Varieties of this fruit are found around Asia, and it recently

has become popular in the U.S.

If you are in the market for an Asian pear tree you can call your local garden center, or head out to Portland Nursery or Al's Garden Center and have one of their friendly and educated staff help you pick out the variety that is right for your yard.

A good time to plant your recently purchased pear tree would be summer or late fall. Pick a spot for the tree in full sun. The hole for the tree should be moistened when you are placing the tree. If you are planting multiple Asian

pear trees they should be placed at least ten feet apart. Be sure that the soil will have some drainage, but it is necessary for water to reach the entire root system so an extended slow watering will work best. Use a light amount of fruit tree fertilizer in early spring and summer, be sure not to over fertilize. Like apples, most varieties of Asian pears will ripen about mid-September. They are unlike pears in that they can be eaten straight from the tree as soon as they are firm and able to be easily removed. Most pears have to be put in a refrigerator for a time so they will ripen evenly.



Asian Pear Crisp

5 cups of peeled, sliced Asian pears
3 Tablespoons granulated sugar
½ cup rolled oats
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup flour
½ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ cup butter

Mix pears and granulated sugar. Place in a greased 2-quart baking dish. In a medium bowl combine oats, brown sugar, flour, and spices; Cut in butter until the mixture becomes coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over the pears. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes or until the pears are fork-tender and the topping is golden-brown.



PHOTO VIA FLICKR BY SEE-MING LEE

A disease called fireblight is a problem for Asian pears in moist climates. There is not cure for this disease, and infected areas must be cut back 6 inches to a foot below affected parts of the tree. Fireblight resistant varieties of Asian pear are available and should be a consideration for picking a tree.

Asian pears are all fabulous for baking. In fact, they can be used in place of apples in any recipe. Use them to add a twist to your favorite apple recipe, like in our Asian Pear Crisp.



PHOTO VIA FLICKR BY COW COP TIM

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A Tree Grows in Boring

And when it does, you can bet that Nancy Buley is selling, promoting or writing about it.

by William McClenathan

helped to create her second memory from childhood about gardening; her father removing the roses from their yard because of too much shade from all those trees!

How wonderfully unique that in childhood, trees would affect her young memories of life in the garden, just as they eventually would as an adult. But that would not happen until much later.

Nancy did go to college and received her degree in Journalism, minoring in Horticulture. She did this because her husband at the time also was involved in the Horticulture business as a landscape contractor.

She remembers writing articles for the Digger magazine (the Oregon Association of Nursery's monthly offering) spotlighting Horticulturists in the mid '70s. She also wrote for a community newspaper. And yes, she dabbled in the occasional nursery jobs as well. But it was not until her husband got a job as the Superintendent for a Golf Course in Santa Barbara that life began to really draw her into Horticulture.

Because they needed grass seed for the golf course, they started brokering it from Oregon.



Swooning over Venus Dogwoods in bloom, at Treephoria.

Each month we spotlight a Hortie, someone in the Industry that has a great effect on us, but perhaps the public might not know very well, or at all.

This month's Hortie is Nancy Buley, the Director of Communications for J. Frank Schmidt & Sons, the largest grower of shade, ornamental and flowering trees in the country. Let's get to know this amazing woman better.

Nancy does not have countless memories of gardening from her childhood, in fact, she has only a couple. One, which so many of us who grew up in the Willamette Valley share, was berry picking. The other was when her family lived in Troutdale, right on the Sandy River. This means there were trees... a lot of trees, which means shade. This also

Nancy had gone to Reynolds High School with Frank Schmidt III, so she was aware that his family owned and sold trees nationwide. She contacted them about getting trees for the golf course in Santa Barbara as they could not find a good selection in their area. Once the trees started arriving and being planted, people loved them and wanted to know where they could purchase them. So she and her husband started selling more trees to people for their homes and to other businesses in the area that were looking for great trees, but not finding them in Santa Barbara.

Nancy gave birth to her daughter Heather in 1979 and in 1984, their second child Neil, had expanded the Buley family to a quartet. A few years later, the job ended at the golf course and the family Buley returned to Oregon. It was now the early '90s and Nancy began looking for a writing job. It just so happened that *J. Frank Schmidt & Sons* was looking for a writer to help in writing info on trees for their catalog. This was supposed to be a summer job



Looking adorable at the Snowdrop Cotillion.



With her parents, Jo and Vaden Callister at a Friends of Trees planting.



With son Neil, who manages Treephoria.



Photographing trees is part of her job at J. Frank Schmidt.

only, but 18 years later, Nancy is still there writing about, promoting and selling trees at this same company.

In 2006 on her 2 acres in Boring, Nancy began Treephoria; A specialty nursery for small and unique trees, with her son Neil. She says this was to facilitate paying for college tuitions. Eventually Neil took over the business with, as Nancy puts it, "some occasional help from me."

That is not all that has changed though. Going from a writer of tree descriptions to Director of Communication has opened up venues that Nancy could have never dreamed of. She states that working for J. Frank Schmidt's is



Researching tree root behavior near Multnomah Falls.

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Showing off the flowers beneath the trees at Treephoria.

"such a delight because they allow her to do some amazing outreach programs." She now works with landscape designers, landscape architects and urban foresters to enhance and promote the use of trees. She is also on the Board of Directors of Friends of Trees.

But the last decade has really spotlighted her passion with so many awards and recognitions it rather boggles the mind.

I would be remiss to not mention two of them; Honorary Lifetime Member of ASLA in 2004. In 2010, Oregon Community Trees and the Oregon Department of Forestry recognized her with an award in the Professional Category for her "years of tireless advocacy for trees."

She now has a true friendship with Earl Blumenauer, whom she met in Washington DC when he awarded her with one of her many awards. Now he and his staff have

an 'open door policy' to work for the advocacy of trees nationally, making several trips to Washington DC in the process.

As Nancy chatted about her life under the grand canopy of trees at her home, she realizes now how much she likes to garden. But better yet, as she scans her patio, she tells me that 'this plant was given to me by so and so', and "I love this one! It was a gift from a friend," realizing how blessed her life has become.

She is unassuming, intelligent and passionate. She can now clearly see how trees have always been in and affected her life. Trees have influenced her path, creating her memories and defining who she is. She is ever thankful for J. Frank Schmidt and their commitment to trees by allowing her to advocate for them nationwide.

But mostly, she just loves trees... and it shows.



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Need to repair something? This American icon really fits the bill.

DUCK AND COVER

by David Musial, *Fusion* co-host

In the words of G. Weilacher, "One only needs two tools in life: WD-40 to make things go, and Duct tape to make them stop." Having covered WD-40 in a previous article, we now turn to duct tape as promised.

Like WD-40, duct tape is steeped in American culture and surrounded by myth and fact. The name alone is cause for confusion as growing up, many of us believed it was called duck tape, not duct tape. Oddly enough, without even knowing, we were half right.

Duct tape got its start in the 1940s when the military was looking for a tape that would seal ammunition boxes. It needed to be strong, flexible and waterproof. The Permacel Division of Johnson and Johnson Company rose to the challenge creating a three layer tape that fit the bill. The top layer was a resilient plastic, the

middle a fabric mesh and the bottom layer a strong rubber based adhesive. Put the three layers together and 'duck' tape was born.

Yes, you read that right. Originally the new tape was called duck tape. Two theories exist on the name. First, since the tape repelled water like water on a duck, military personnel dubbed it duck tape. The second theory is based on the fact that the middle layer was made of a material called cotton duck.

The tape was originally Army green and the military used it for everything from repairing guns to aircraft. After the war was over, a

new use was found for duck tape in housing construction. Sealing heating and air conditioning ducts. With the new use came a new name: 'duct' tape. The color was changed from Army green to silver and the new name stuck.

Duct tape hasn't changed much over the years. It's still waterproof, rips easily and has an extremely strong adhesive. What has changed is the look and use of duct tape. It is now available in wide variety of colors and patterns; everything from pink for the lady's toolbox to camouflage for the outdoor enthusiast. You can even find it with your favorite college team. Show your team spirit with Oregon or Oregon State duct tape. Go Ducks and Beavers!

The uses range from the functional, to the novel and the unusual. However, don't use standard duct tape on your ducts as it is no lon-

fusion
home

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



OK, OK... we get the message!



DUCK TAPE PHOTOS CREDIT: DUCK TAPE® WEBSITE, WWW.DUCKBRAND.COM

ger considered to be code.

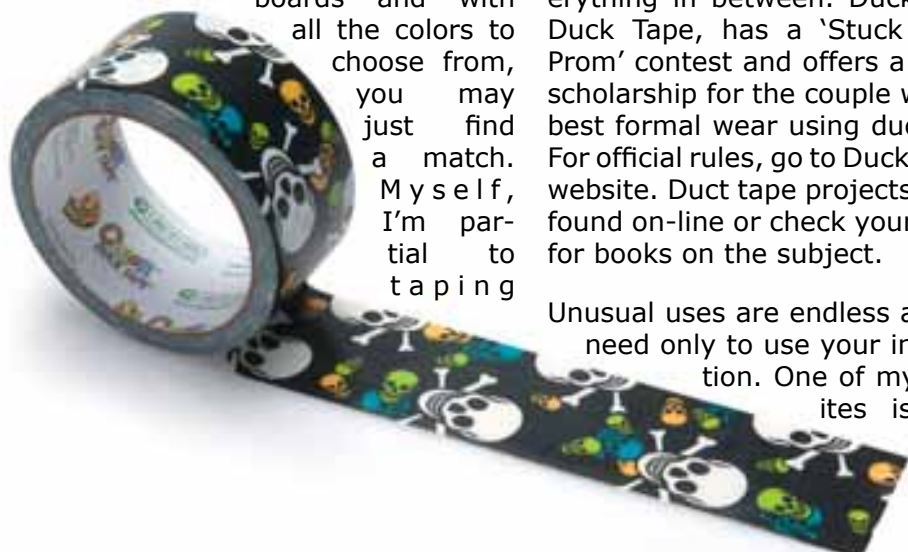
The functional use of duct tape mostly surrounds repairing holes and tears. The outdoorsmen will use it to patch holes in a tent or a tarp. Around the house use it to repair a torn screen or a leaky vacuum hose. Although not necessarily attractive, it is great at mending tears on vinyl car seats and dashboards and with

up leaky rubber work boots and repairing tears in my greenhouse plastic.

Novel uses have grown over the years and are more about creating things, rather than making things stop. It started with simple creations, like a duct tape wallet or belt. The current rage is fashion pieces; from hats to shoes and everything in between. Duck Brand Duck Tape, has a 'Stuck at the Prom' contest and offers a college scholarship for the couple with the best formal wear using duct tape. For official rules, go to Duck Brands website. Duct tape projects can be found on-line or check your library for books on the subject.

duct tape to restrain unruly prisoners. My question is how did you duct tape them if they were being unruly? See the two photos above for a couple of other ideas or Google 'duct tape uses' for hours of practical and mindless uses.

In closing, remember, the next time you need something to stop, grab a roll of duct tape. Or is that duck tape?



Unusual uses are endless and you need only to use your imagination. One of my favorites is using

WTDITG

Ah, the shades of Autumn. Just when you think all the color is leaving your garden, Fall arrives and we're presented with a brand new palette of hues. It's also a reminder that time is running out to prepare your plants for winter. Take advantage of the longer daylight hours and make sure your plants are ready for the cold days ahead.

PLANNING

~ Start to plan next year's vegetable garden. Take your notes from this year while everything is fresh in your mind and create the plan for next year's garden. Rotate the spaces where crops were this year to help control disease and insect problems.



~ Garden Journal catch-up

time. There is no time like the present for getting caught up. This will help with the plan for next year's vegetable garden.

~ Check out any conifer sales and plan the live Christmas tree purchase early. Starting a green tradition of planting a live tree after Christmas is something to get the entire family involved in. Plant the 'seed' early this year to get the family excited about the new yearly tradition!

PLANTING

~ The best time to plant anything into the landscape is actually all winter long! You can move plants around in the yard now and plant in any new acquisitions to the landscape. With the rain coming on you won't have to worry about watering them until next spring sometime.

~ Move the plants that are stuck beneath the house overhang under the eaves where rain doesn't reach.

~ There are about two weeks left to plant a new lawn or over-seed an existing one. Lawns started in the fall start quickly but don't wait until the frosts are here or you won't have good results.

~ Plant spring bulbs starting this month through December. There is no better time to get your spring bulbs in the ground for next year's bloom. This includes tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus. Choose a sunny loca-

tion with well-draining soil. Add compost to the soil by spading it in with a fertilizer.

~ Bulb tip! Keep the squirrels and deer from eating the tulips by placing a tablespoon of Bonide's 'Molemax' into the planting hole before the bulb goes in.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

~ Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons.

~ Watch for Crane Fly infestations in the lawn. Using Beneficial Nematodes in the soil can safely kill these lawn destroyers before they eat it all, however you can actually have 25 grubs per square foot of lawn without seeing a lot of damage if the lawn is healthy and thick. Fertilize the lawn, apply Calpril lime yearly, aerate and dethatch every so often and mow the grass taller to help create

a lush thick grass lawn the Crane Fly grubs can't destroy.



~ Compost excess leaves and garden debris. Composting is a great way to recycle all the yard waste back to the Earth. Mow the leaves to chop them up and add to the compost pile with greens like grass clippings to aid the breakdown of the

What To Do In The Garden OCTOBER

leaves. Think layer cake when doing compost; a layer of wet green grass clippings followed by a layer of dry brown leaves.

Saving bags of dry leaves for next summer's compost pile is not too hard to do and helps provide



the 'brown' needed in the compost layer cake. You probably found out when it's all green grass clippings it quickly be-

comes a smelly pile of guck. Good compost smells like good earth, not stinky at all. Turning the pile every other week helps to introduce oxygen into the mix, much needed by the microbes breaking down the material. More oxygen means faster breakdown. Do a little research and start composting!

~ Don't compost diseased leaves from fruit trees. Burn them or send to municipal composting

facilities.

~ Get garden plants ready for winter, but don't prune back hard. Too often folks are eager to cut back their plants hard in the fall. Not a good idea. Plants get ready for winter weather from the top down, so if you cut off the top then the plant will be more susceptible to cold damage. It is more prudent to leave the plants tall and even with spent flowers on them (birds will thank you) and then pile on the leaves from the yard to cover the soil. Leaves are good insulation against the cold coming in winter. If you have to clean everything up then come back with a thick topdressing of organic compost or bark.



~ Slugs patrol for eggs or adults. Use safe slug controls like Slug Magic which is just iron phosphate. As this

product breaks down the plants

get the benefit of the extra iron. Eggs look like little off-white BBs. Gather them up and toss them in the garbage. Look under rocks, boards, garden debris; wherever the mama slug found a protected spot to lay her egg stash.

~ Watering, especially under the house eaves, getting ready for colder weather. Plants that go into cold weather with dry roots are extremely susceptible to cold damage. Just like our skin, plants can take the cold better when hydrated. Water plants deeply this fall if the rains are not getting to the roots; like under evergreen trees and eaves of the house.

~ Winterize the more tender plants you want to save for next year like the hanging fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Bring them into a protected environment before the frost gets them. Treating them as a houseplant can give you a head start on next year's flower gardens.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



~ Be sure to pick the crops as they mature before they lose their best flavor. Some crops can stay in the ground over winter and pulled up when wanting to prepare them for a meal; like beets, carrots, parsnips & turnips. Mulch them in good with a thick layer of leaves or compost.

~ Planting cover crops to help fight weeds in winter and add back nutrients to the soil for next years crops. Give back to the soil the nutrition that your plants took out as they grew. Cover crops are the bee's knees when it comes to adding back some nitrogen plus other nutrients and adds lots of organic

matter back to the soil when you spade it under to rot next spring.



~ Plant Garlic cloves You still have time to plant some garlic this fall. Be sure to purchase some heads soon or they'll be gone before you get yours! Garlic gets planted in the fall and sends up a green sprout soon afterward. The cloves need months

to mature so you should get them in soon. After it sprouts you can pop a layer of compost over them to protect them this winter. Then mark your calendar for next July to harvest the best tasting garlic ever-your own crop!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Harvest Festival 2012 **Thru October 31, 2012**

French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

Tues-Sat 9a.m. - 6p.m., Sun 10a.m. - 5p.m., Closed Monday.

Workshop: Build your own Terrarium **Saturday, October 6, 2012 • 11:00am**

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, Woodburn, Gresham, OR

Build your own terrarium. Class is limited to 20 people. Cost is \$25.00 per terrarium kit. Kit includes: a glass container, 3 small houseplants, soil, and decorative stones. Call the store you'd like to attend to register.

2012 Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off! **Saturday, October 6, 2012 • 1:00pm**

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Registration at 8:30am. Popular radio hosts, Daria, Mitch, and Ted from 105.1 the Buzz will all compete in an apple cannon shootout to raise money for charity. A representative from the winning charity will be chosen to drop the giant pumpkin into our pool FULL of ducks!

The 17th Annual Kids Bulb Day **Saturday October 13, 2012 • 9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm**

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

Register your kids and help them plant a pot of spring tulip bulbs. Kids have fun planting their tulip bulbs while learning basic gardening skills. Don't miss the fun of planting with your kids on this special day at the 17th Annual Kids Bulb Day. Registration is required. Kids Bulb Day is free and is open to the public.

Perfect Time to Plant Sale **Saturday October 13, 2012 • 10:00am-5:00pm**

Garden Thyme Nursery, Silverton, OR

Cascade Nursery Trail presents Fall is the Perfect Time to Plant Sale featuring grower favorites from five local specialty nurseries in one location. There will be emphasis on fall and winter interest plants: grower plant picks lists, displays, demonstrations, seminars and fall specials. Free refreshments and an incredible selection of plants to choose from!

Little Sprouts: Pumpkin Painting **Saturday October 13, 2012 • 11:00am**

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

At this month's Little Sprouts, it's time to dig in and get those pumpkins painted! Each child will be given a small pumpkin to paint and take home after class. Since we will be working with paints, we recommend children come dressed prepared for this. Registration required. Cost: \$5 per child.

Fall Clean-up and Winter Pruning **Saturday October 20, 2012 • 10:00am** **Heirloom Roses**

Hands-on training in the gardens with step-by-step instructions.

Fall Willow Furniture Workshop **Saturday October 20, 2012 • 10:00am-4:00pm** **Farmington Gardens**

You choose the project you'd like to make: garden bench; garden chair; fern stand; end table; garden plant trough; or garden trellis. Brian and Samantha will bring all the tools and materials needed – and you are guaranteed to take home a finished project. \$10 registration fee, and the materials and instruction fee of \$125 is payable directly to The Willow Station on class day.

Make Your Own Outdoor Bonsai **Sunday October 21, 2012 • 10:00am-12:00pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Create and bring home your own outdoor bonsai! George Bowman will walk you through plant selection, repotting, trimming and training. Cost: \$30 (all materials included). Please bring hand pruners, if you have them. Class limited to 12.

Topiary Workshop **Saturday October 27, 2012 • 11:00am** **Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Brian Tsugawa will be demonstrating how to create and maintain a spiral topiary from a 4-5' tall moonglow juniper or an emerald green arborvitae of your choice. Bring your garden gloves and learn hands-on techniques and take home a beautiful topiary and a pair of pruners to keep your plant maintained. Class is limited to 15 participants and costs \$70.00.

Intro to Urban Fruit Trees **Saturday October 27, 2012 • 4:00pm-5:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Learn some great tips and techniques for successfully growing fruit trees. Monica Maggio will discuss site requirements and preparation, pollination needs, maintenance requirements, general care, maintenance, and common pests. Late fall is the perfect time to prepare your mind and your soil for fruit tree planting fun in the spring!

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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