



December 2012

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Stringin' in the Rain (or Snow!)

How to Decorate
an Outdoor Tree

**Providence
Festival of Trees**

Juniper Berries

Cedarglen Floral Company's
Cherie Siegmund

"Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

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A Jolly Holiday...

The break has arrived! We have just recently finished our 4th season of Fusion and our 7th season of Garden Time, and not a moment too soon. It seems that a head cold has hit the staff of Gustin Creative Group! Instead of planning for the next episodes of both shows, we are now spending our time just trying to breathe and get rid of that achy feeling. Still, we are sad to have wrapped up another season. We always look forward to shooting those new stories every week. We have already started to talk about stories that we want to cover in 2013. Not only that, we are planning for other events as well. Just today we picked up 2 pallets of freebies that we will be giving away at the 11th annual GardenPalooza event on April 6th. If this keeps up we will have the best GardenPalooza ever!

This time of year we also want to thank all our viewers and readers for their support this past season. As many of you know the shows are funded and produced by Gustin Creative Group, which is pretty much a small handful of people. We buy the time from the TV stations where the shows air, then have to fill that time every week. We have some truly terrific partners with all our advertisers and local TV stations. The TV stations, KOIN in Portland, KWVT in Salem/Portland and KEVU in Eugene, have been big supporters and are giving us a great price so we can continue the shows year after year, but it is the advertisers that really make the shows possible. When you see their commercials, remember that they are covering the cost of putting these shows on the air. When you are shopping at one of the advertisers make sure you tell them thanks for the sponsorship they provide. It costs a lot of money to build and air locally produced programs and that is why you don't see more programs like ours on the air. We love our advertisers!!!

Now back to the holiday theme... The reason for my 'jolly' mood is the fact that I have really been happy and thankful recently. As gardeners and home owners, we live in one of most beautiful places on the planet. The weather is never too bad and we can grow anything! I'm also thankful for all the people around me. David Musial recently lost his father, Stan, to cancer and it has made me appreciate those around me more. This season is a time for all of us to take some time and remember the good things in life. Speaking of the jolly holiday, it is also the time for holiday decorating. In this month's issue we talk about the holiday tree with a trip to the Festival of Trees in our 'Adventure' section and décor for your outdoor tree in the 'Backyard' section. Robin from the Fusion show also shows us how to decorate that holiday table. The holiday season is also the time for gift giving. Recently we did a story on gifts for the gardener (<http://youtu.be/gGtOQe6ms0M>) on the Garden Time TV show which should help if you have a 'difficult to buy-for' green thumb on your list.

Another possible gift is a t-shirt from the Garden Time store! We are now offering Garden Time emblazoned t-shirts that will make any gardener happy. Be sure to check out the Garden Time home page for links on how you can get one for yourself. We will also be adding other Garden Time stuff as time goes on, so keep checking back!

Finally, we would like to wish you and your family the best holiday season ever, no matter what holiday you are celebrating!

Happy Gardening and we will see you in the new year,

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

GardenTimeMagazine•December2012•Volume4, No.12, Issue#45

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Stringin' in the Rain

The holidays are a time of glitz and glamour. A time to dress to impress. Why shouldn't your outdoor trees do the same? For some, outdoor tree decoration is a necessity brought on by allergies. Sneezing all summer from those darn plants, why would I bring one inside!? For others it is tradition. And for still more it is outdoor excess inspired by a healthy competition.

The key with outdoor tree décor is that it must be able to withstand our Northwest winters. Let's start with the classic: lights. Good outdoor holiday lighting is so much a part of this season that people will go out of their way just to drive down a street with good lights! You needn't go to that extreme, but there are some things to keep in mind when you are searching for your holiday lights. First, it may be time to toss those tangled old strands. It's time to invest in LED. Yes, they are more expensive than incandescent lights, but they will last longer and use less power. Also, in order to avoid overloading the wires and the strings on your lights you must remember that for each string of lights only a limited number may be consecutively strung together. That number will be printed on the materials that come with your lights. Safety first, y'all!

The type of lighting you choose will depend on the type of tree you are decorating. A very full, more traditional evergreen will take string lights, as will a taller tree with exposed branches. Though it may be lots of work, twisting a string of blue or white lights along the trunk and branches of your trees will give your yard a beautiful icy ethereal feel.

Another decorative plastic friend is plastic ribbon. It is durable, forgiving, festive and affordable! Found at your local craft or garden store, mesh ribbon is a great option to decorate your outdoor trees. Twist and wrap it around your trees for a classic rustic feel.

Your holiday decorating should include dressing up the outside, as well.

by Sarah Gustin



Or go with a solid ribbon. Twist a red ribbon around the exposed trunk and branches of your trees to create a candy cane forest!

This year, I'm thinking of going quirky. I caught a glimpse of some fairy doors at Al's Garden Center last year and I'm so happy to say that they're back! I plan to pick one up soon and have a little elf door on my outdoor tree. When I'm out at my favorite garden centers in wintertime, I am always on the lookout for whimsical and fun decorations!

I will also be heading down to my local garden center to check out all of the new things that they will have in this season! So let us raise a glass of local wine to all those sensitive to allergens, to all those holiday crazies, and to all those people who must one-up their neighbors. We salute you. Whatever the reason, your yards are fabulous and inspire the rest of us to get up and throw together something in our own yards. This year I may even go ahead and put lights up. Or at least a tiny elf door...



Claus and a Cause

The Providence Festival of Trees will ignite your holiday spirit and the spirit of giving.

by Judy Alleruzzo

PHOTO COURTESY PROVIDENCE FESTIVAL OF TREES

This Christmas season is the 30th year for The Providence Festival of Trees in Portland. What a wonderful way to celebrate the spirit of the Christmas holidays by enjoying this event and contributing to Providence Hospital's programs. There are three events scheduled in Oregon. The largest display of Christmas trees, mini trees, wreaths and holiday displays is in Portland at The Oregon Convention Center on November 29th, 30th and December 1st.

Two other Festivals are scheduled in Medford, OR. on November 28th through December 2nd, and Seaside OR. on December 7th and 8th.

Each site is bursting at the seams with Christmas decorations for everyone to enjoy. The Portland event was started in 1982, and has raised over 10 million dollars over the last 29 years. This money has benefited Specialized Children's Services, Cancer Research and Support Services and Medication Assistance for the Elderly.

At The Oregon Convention Center, picture yourself walking among artfully decorated Christmas trees and holiday decorations. Each tree and display is carefully put together by teams of over 100 professional and amateur decorators and 1200 vol-

unteers working thousands of hours all year long planning for the event. Over 40 members of the Festival Auxiliary Committee keep everyone organized and on track to make The Festival beautiful for all the visitors and a huge success for the Providence programs it supports. It's a huge team effort.

The kick off to the Christmas season fun begins on Thursday, Nov 29th at The Festival of Trees Gala. The evening includes a live and silent auction of holiday items plus the decorated trees. Each Christmas tree is unique and created within a theme of color and style. The designs are well thought out to dazzle the eyes of all who visit The Festival. A gift package is included in the Christmas tree auction. The gift packages may include an enticing trip or collectable toys. The evening is rounded out with a delicious dinner while being surrounded by the essence of the Christmas Holiday! The generosity during this lovely evening is legend. It truly represents the spirit of the gift of giving at Christmas time. Tickets are available on line.

On Friday night, November 30th, a new event is being unveiled at The Portland Festival. Dancing in The Trees is sure to become a well-attended event during The Festival. The party features dancing to



a live band complete with drinks, appetizers and dessert available. Chances to win one of 3 themed Christmas trees and other prizes make this a magical start to the Christmas season. The evening is one more way to enjoy the beautiful holiday displays and to help support Providence Hospital programs.

Daytime on Friday, November 30th is chock full of events. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

- 10:30am to 12:30pm "Little Elves" (5 and under)
- 1:30pm to 4:00pm "Honored Citizens" (Ages 55 & over)

Finally on Saturday December 1st, it's the BIG day with everyone invited to partake in the Providence Festival of Trees in Portland. Everyone is welcome to join in the 30th year of this holiday tradition. There are over 100 decorated trees, mini trees and holiday displays. Bring your Christmas cheer and a camera to capture all of the smiles of family and friends.

Roam around the Christmas displays and stop to enjoy the 4th annual Gingerbread House Competition bringing amateur and professional bakers together to show off their talents on this holiday tradition. Visitors to The Festival can vote for their favorite Gingerbread House that looks good enough to taste!

One of the most endearing activities at The Festival is the Teddy Bear "No Pokes" Hospital. Children under the age of 12 can experience a hospital environment in a very non threatening way. Each child receives a Teddy Bear who serves as a patient to escort through the hospital.

Volunteer doctors, nurses and caregivers help to educate the children while they accompany their Teddy Bear through the many aspects of a hospital including, a doctor's office, operating room and emergency room.





The volunteer hospital staff gently cares for the Teddy Bears and thusly reinforces the helpful services a hospital does for their patients.

Another long time Festival activity is a visit with Santa Claus complete with a photo opportunity. After talking with the Big Guy, children can wander through Santa's workshop and create holiday crafts to take home. Volunteer elves help children enjoy these hands-on activities. Even Mrs. Claus joins in the fun with cookie decorating in her kitchen.

After these crafty activities, it's time to resume the tour around the holiday decorations. The model train display is a favorite at The Festival. This train set up is a sentimental time for many to remember the train set under their own Christmas tree. It's a toss up of who is enjoying the train more, the grown-ups or the kids. Hours are 9:00am to 6:00pm. Tickets are available at the door.



If you miss the dates of the Portland Festival, there are two more opportunities to enjoy The Providence Festival of Trees in Medford and Seaside, Oregon.

This Christmas season, plan to be with your family and friends and help support Providence Hospital's programs in your community.



30th Annual Providence Festival of Trees – Portland
November 29th to December 1st
Oregon Convention Center Hall A
777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR

<http://oregon.providence.org/patients/programs/providence-festival-of-trees-portland>

21st Annual Providence Festival of Trees - Medford
November 28th to December 2nd
Medford Armory
1701 S. Pacific Highway
Medford, OR

<http://oregon.providence.org/patients/programs/providence-festival-of-trees-medford>

15th Annual Providence Festival of Trees - Seaside
December 7th & 8th
Seaside Civic & Convention Center
415 First Ave.
Seaside, OR

<http://oregon.providence.org/patients/programs/providence-festival-of-trees-seaside>



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY PROVIDENCE FESTIVAL OF TREES



The Color of Winter

Wissel's Saguaro is the perfect way to add some color to your winter garden.

by Therese Gustin

Several years ago, while I looked out my window on a gray, rainy, dreary, winter's day, I couldn't help but notice a lack of color and structure in my garden. Oh, I had plenty of bare-branched deciduous trees and shrubs and they did add some structural interest but what my garden was missing was color. I set out to enhance the view from my window with conifers that would not only add interesting structure to my stark winter garden but beautiful color as well.

While shooting a segment for the *Garden Time* show at Garland Nursery in Corvallis, I noticed a striking narrow upright conifer planted in one of their beds. It turned out to be a 'Wissel's Saguaro' *Chamaecyparis* and I was hooked! With its rich blue green color and saguaro cactus shaped branching habit, I knew I wanted one to hold a prominent place in my winter garden. I came across the sculptural conifer at several other garden centers and soon took one home with me. And lucky for me, being evergreen, I enjoy the beauty of this conifer all year long.

This slow growing coniferous beauty was named for the Dutch nurseryman F. van der Wissel from Epe, Netherlands in 1888. Its upright narrow habit is perfect as a vertical accent for small spaces. Wissel's Saguaro has a



pencil-like habit and in about 10 years grows to a height of about 8-9 feet. Hardy to zone 5, this notable conifer loves full sun, well drained soil and, once established, very little water.

In addition to adorning a garden bed, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Wissel's Saguaro' lends itself to container plantings as well. Its semi-twisted arms develop that signature 'saguaro' look over time. This unique shape and its stunning blue green color make this an ideal shrub for adding vertical drama to your mixed planters. Just imagine a container with a 'Wissel's Saguaro' *Chamaecyparis* in the center with vines cascading over the edge against the back drop of a painted exterior or solid fence.

Whether adding stature to a mixed container or interest to your winter garden, consider adding a *Chamaecyparis* 'Wissel's Saguaro' as an accent to your landscape.

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FRONT

BACK

Steeped in History

The Juniper berry has a unique flavor and an impressive résumé.

by David Musial

Juniper berries are steeped in religion, steeped in myth, steeped in medicine, steeped in tea and my personal favorite, steeped in alcohol; but mostly they are steeped in history.

Juniperus communis or the common juniper produces the spice known as juniper berry. An evergreen shrub or small tree, it is native to the United States, Europe and Asia. An adaptable plant, it can be found in the rocky soils of the mountains to the sandy coastal dunes. In the garden it is grown as an ornamental, and prefers sun and does well in poor soil. Generally wider than tall, site conditions will determine ultimate growth. On average, it will reach 5-10' tall and 8-12' wide. Nurseries carry the species as well as several popular cultivars.

The berry or fruit of the common juniper is actually a seed cone and used as a spice when dried. They are blue-green when immature and dark purple or black when ripe. It takes two to three years for the ripening and the harvested berry is dried prior to use. Since not all junipers have edible berries, it is not advisable to collect in the wild unless you have



PHOTO CREDIT:
RASBAK AT NL.WIKIPEDIA

been properly trained in plant identification.

Steeped in religion, the juniper is mentioned in the bible in several places. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah takes refuge and slept under a juniper. Also, it is believed that the Holy Family hid behind juniper branches when fleeing King Herod.

Steeped in myth, junipers were planted near the front door, during medieval times, as it was believed to ward off evil spirits and witches.

Steeped in medicine, juniper berries have been revered for their medicinal properties since ancient times. Primary uses were for urinary and digestive issues. Native Americans used the berries steeped in a tea for a variety of conditions, such as colds and arthritis. Pregnant women and those with kidney disease should not use juniper berries due to their chemical properties.

Steeped in alcohol, it's all about juniper berries use in gin and traditional beer brewing. It is believed that the first gins were developed as a digestive aid. Bring on the spicy food and the remedy. And talking about gin, here in the Northwest, we have some of the best small batch gin you can find.

The culinary use of juniper berries goes much further than gin and beer. Available in dried form, the berries have a bitter or pungent taste, and are very aromatic and slightly piney. In savory dishes, it has been paired with game or strong meats for centuries. It has also been used with cabbage for years and was probably added not just for flavor, but its ability to help digest the cabbage. One of the most well known cabbage dishes is braised cabbage and I share a recipe below.

It is an ingredient in some Court Bouillons (cooking broth) as well as meat rubs and marinades. In Scandinavia, the deseeded berries are made into a jam. If you are at a restaurant and see the cooking terms a la liegeoise and a l'ardennaise, they refer to cooking with juniper berries and alcohol, and game cooked with juniper berries or juniper-flavored alcohol respectively.

So let's get started with a traditional dish and once it is in the oven, feel free to make yourself a Gin and Tonic or a Martini. It just might help with digestion!



Ripe and
Unripe
Berries

PHOTO CREDIT: RASBAK AT NL.WIKIPEDIA

Braised Red Cabbage

Makes 8-10 Servings

2 slices bacon, diced
1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced
1 tart apple, peeled, cored and medium diced
3 tablespoons hard apple cider (or apple juice)
3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
½ cup water
2 tablespoons sugar
1 bay leaf
½ cinnamon stick
2 cloves
3 juniper berries
1 small head (about 2 pounds) of red cabbage, cored, quartered and thinly sliced
Salt and pepper to taste

Make a sachet for the bay leaf, cinnamon stick, cloves and juniper berries with cheese cloth. Cook the bacon in a large, heavy pot or straight

sided sauté pan until the fat is rendered and the bacon starts to turn brown. Add the onions and apple to the pot, and cook while stirring, over medium heat until the onions are translucent.

Add the hard cider, vinegar and water to deglaze the pan. Next add the sugar and stir to dissolve. Place the cabbage and sachet in the pan, and stir well. Cover and place in a 350° oven for 15-20 minutes. Check periodically to be sure the liquid has not evaporated. If additional liquid is required, add a small amount of water at a time.

When cooked, the cabbage should be tender yet retain a little crunch and be slightly acidic. If too acidic, add a little sugar and if not acidic enough, add a small amount of apple cider vinegar. Lastly, add salt and pepper to taste.

Serve immediately with pork chops or a roast.

Recipe by David Musial



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Quality is Job 1

**But for Cherie Siegmund,
it is just the beginning.**

by William McClenathan



If I had to choose one word to describe Cherie Siegmund, it would have to be quality. As the owner of Cedarglen Floral Company, it is the word one must use to define both Cherie and her delightful company.

Cedarglen Floral Company was started in 1988 by Cherie's partner, Eric. When it first opened, they grew mostly 4-inch and gallon perennials, and while Cherie worked at a local independent garden center as a full time plant buyer, Eric ran their new company.

Because of Cedarglen's growth, and the desire of Cherie to be at home with their growing children, she started working full time at Cedarglen around 1990.

Like so many of us in the horticulture industry, Che-

rie has a rich and varied path that always seemed to include gardening. As a child of 10, she remembers her Grandmother's Victory Garden in Tennessee. She fondly recalls Grandma sending her out to the gardens with a "list" of things to gather... 2 okra, 1 tomato, whatever Grandma required for that evening's meal.

When Cherie became a young lady, she was living in Las Vegas and tried to replicate the gardens she loved so much at her Grandmother's. This was much less successful than she had hoped for because Las Vegas is a drastically different climate than Tennessee, but that did not thwart her efforts.

And those efforts have been rewarded with the success of Cedarglen. She always tries to remain relevant and current, realizing the need to change and always be ahead of trends. So a few years ago, Cedarglen began growing quality annuals.

Cherie explains how they grow their plants with less heat so they are better suited for our cooler climate in the Northwest. This gives the plants more strength and sturdiness. The quality of the finished product is checked by her before shipping to the garden centers, or if she is away, by two employees to make sure what is shipped out meets the company's unrelenting standards.

An avid reader and researcher of current trends, Cherie realized that the market was changing. People desired more finished products. (Finished product in this reference means color combo pots,



Christmas Baskets



**Winter
Hanging Basket**

planted wall hangings and hanging baskets, things a customer can buy and place on a patio or in the garden immediately when they arrive home.)

Cedarglen also does Christmas... BIG. The company decorates countless commercial places in the Portland area with trees, holiday greens and lights. If that was not enough to keep them busy, they also make Christmas swags, wreaths and some of the loveliest holiday decorations, which they sell to independent garden centers all over the NW. Even with the holiday products, Cherie tries to be creative and new. She uses old branches to create wonderful wreaths festooned with moss, shells and rocks, adding a country charm to the traditional wreath. They do this because it keeps them running in the slow time of year and allows them to keep their great staff working year round.

Cherie says the thing she misses most about retail is the interaction with the customer. That is why she is always willing to go to a garden center and give a class or a talk about plants. Sometimes she shows up at an event just to help out the store, because to Cherie, plants really are about people and the thrill of both those that are just starting out and those that have been gardening for years.

Always trending ahead, always looking for what is new and will delight the customer, and always aware of quality, Cherie Siegmund and Cedarglen Floral Company are exactly why we who love to garden can continue to create our own great garden spaces at home, and why she is our Hortie of the month.

**Cedarglen Floral
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(Even the gardener who has everything doesn't have everything we have)

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Set the Table, Holiday Style

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Impress your holiday guests with a festive dinner table.

by Robin Burke, Fusion co-host

Growing up in a family of five kids, dinnertime was always interesting. I was number four in the lineup and it was my job to set the table. We each had our

own "spots" in which to sit and the seating chart never wavered.

On a regular evening, plates were placed on the large round table,

cups filled with milk, and silverware put on top of paper napkins. It was pretty ordinary except when it came to the placement of the utensils. Where you found your fork was determined by which hand you preferred to use. Butter knives, forks and spoons were all placed on the left side of the plate for the three lefthanders, and all on the right side for the four right-handed eaters. Mom let this little oddity slide so I always thought that was how a table was set. My older brother taught me.

I was set straight one Thanksgiving when my aunt and her fam-

TERRA CASA



French Table Linens

fusion
ho-ho-home

ily joined us for a big traditional dinner. When I asked which hand they used so I could set the table, I got some funny looks. My mom laughed, and my aunt took over teaching me how to properly place the utensils—fork on the left, knife and spoon on the right. I thought that wasn't very efficient.

All grown up now, I see the worth in stepping it up to reach past casual rituals and really "set a table", especially a holiday table. It's a special meal and the table should look the part, too. So let's start with the placement of things.

This diagram from "Setting a Table for Dummies" includes a dessert spoon set above the dinner plate; a salad plate just above the forks (the small one is a salad fork); a bread plate and butter knife just above and slightly to the right of the salad plate. Drinks are on the right above the knife and spoon, which makes perfect sense to me. I'm right-handed.

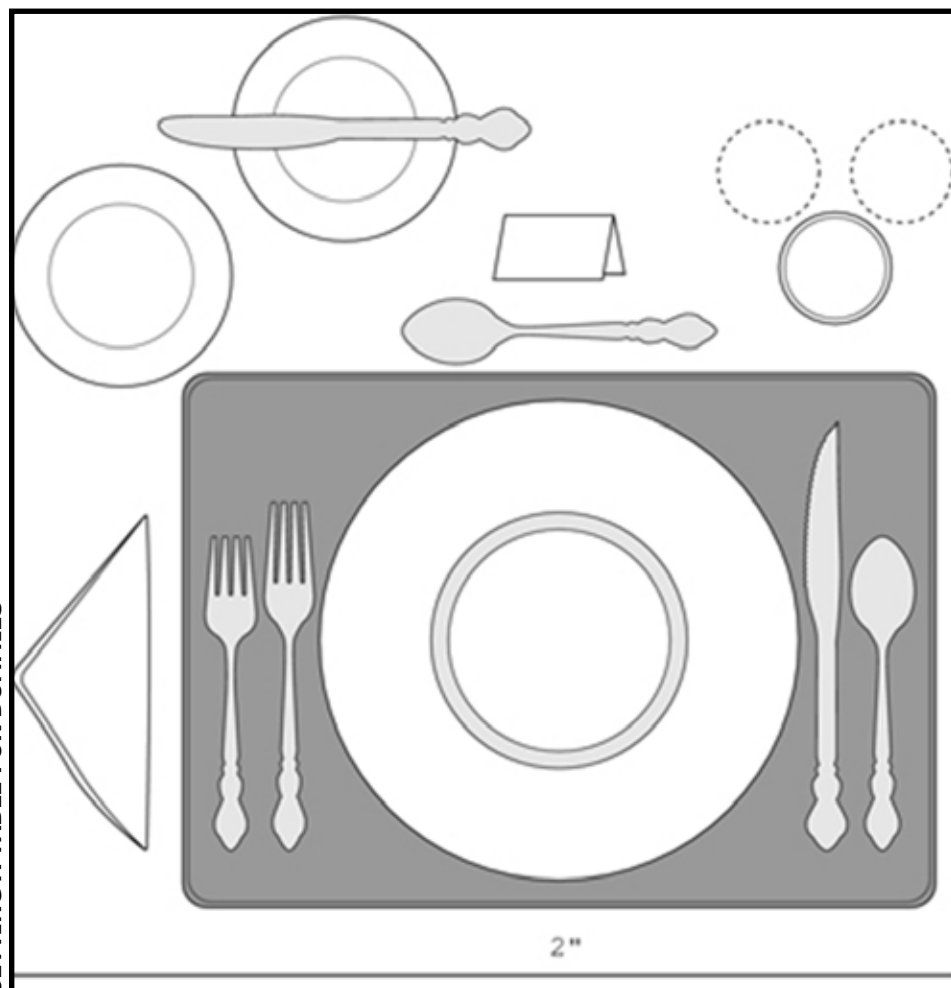


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That is the "simple" table setting. We could go on and on with cocktail forks, soup spoons (which would go to the right of the smaller spoon), but keeping it as simple as possible is best. To further

cut down on the clutter, if you are serving the salad before the main entrée, you could put the salad plate on top of the dinner plate. Also, it's perfectly fine to have the napkin under the forks or even on the plate to save space.



Now that function is out of the way, let's talk pretty. Placemats, tablecloths, runners, place cards, and centerpieces really make the table something to behold. Your guests, even if they're just your children, should feel excited about sitting down to the table and being part of the beauty of it all.

The best way to keep Aunt Snooty in check is to ask an expert. Diana Helm, owner of Terra Casa in Damascus, Oregon, knows how to create a dining experience. She recently shared some of her tips beginning with the table linens.

"Tablecloths in general should have about a 10" drape. I use both a tablecloth and placemats at a formal setting. Sometimes it's fun to turn the placemats vertically and allow them to hang off the table along with the tablecloth. Also, some shorter table runners look great going perpendicular to the table. In other words, drape them across the narrow part of



Paper Placemats

the table, not length-wise. "

Using a runner and placemats rarely works because most tables are not wide enough. Remember, you don't want your table to look too cluttered, so choosing two of the three-- tablecloth, placemats, or runner-- is a good rule of thumb.

Chargers (those plates under your dinner plates that are not for eating off of) are beautiful and can really enhance a plain china plate. But, Diana uses them for another reason, too.

"They actually help keep the tablecloth cleaner from spills, crumbs, etc. Plus, chargers add an element of elegance and ambiance to a meal and make the table look more festive. I leave them up for the entire meal, including dessert."

Centerpieces are called that for a reason. They are the focal point of the table, which also means it

can be easy to get carried away. A monstrous floral arrangement can be glamorous, but it can also stifle conversation.

"Centerpieces should not block the

view from people sitting across the table from each other. They should either be low-- or high enough to talk and see through. A floral arrangement that is low and linear looks great if you have the room when all of your food is on the table. I use unscented votives in a beautiful mercury glass that adds a shimmer to the table without a fragrance or impeding the view. I place them randomly around the table so they are easy to move in case food gets passed and needs a home."

Place cards can seem a tad controlling, but the truth is, mixing up the seating arrangement can keep the annual dinner from getting routine.

"I do use place cards. Otherwise, people tend to sit next to the same family or friends year after year. We often have guests at our Thanksgiving table who are not relatives, so we mix it up each year so that we all get a chance to



Individual Salt & Pepper

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visit with someone we don't see all the time," says Helm.

A new trend combines placemats and place cards. They're made of paper so you can write your guests name directly on the placemats! "Use a gold or silver metallic pen for even more elegance," advises Helm. The versions you see here are available at Terra Casa. They're great for easy clean up and for the kids table, too!

If you're hosting a large gathering for the first time, or it's been a while, Diana has some final tips to make it easier on you and on your guests:

- "Have two dishes of the same food at each end of the table for less passing." (To the right!)
- "Use mini salt and pepper shakers at each place setting."
- "Use water glasses and set a pitcher of ice water at each end of the table."
- "Sit closest to the kitchen so you have easier access to those things you forget - and I always forget something!"

Your holiday table should reflect your personality and sense of style. If you want to keep it simple, look for twigs, branches, and pinecones for a natural centerpiece. If you want to go super fancy but are on a budget, fill a pretty bowl with shiny ornaments and light votive candles. A little extra effort will make your holiday table festive and unforgettable.



Beautiful Runner

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Easy Centerpiece

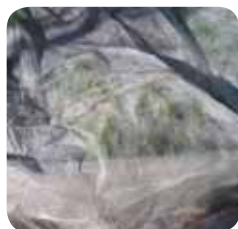
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WTDITG

Wow! Where did the time go? Another year over. The holiday season is always a busy time, and many of us find it hard to fit in a little work in the yard. But our plants need us, especially now. Carve out a few hours during December to make sure your plants are safe and warm for the Winter. It will be the best present you can give them.

PLANNING

~ Be ready for a cold snap. In case the temperature drops fast you'll want to be prepared to cover the plants. Using the Harvest Guard Protective Yard & Garden Cloth (AKA 'reemay') will protect the plants against severe cold temperatures. Cover only in



the cold spells, remove when temperatures rise again. Multiple layers will protect to lower temperatures.



~ Plan a family trip to choose a live Christmas tree for this year's holiday. Live trees are just the best idea when thinking

green; a tree you can plant with the family after the holidays; a tradition that will grow with the family!

Some of you think it is better to use artificial trees as they are good for the environment. Nope! Artificial trees are generally made in China, pollute the atmosphere when being manufactured, fill up landfills and contain harmful chemicals. Instead of a fake tree this year, adopt a real one. Share the gift of life with the family with a live tree you can enjoy for decades.



~ Organize your garden journal. Go over the notes from the year and set some goals and plans for next year.

PLANTING

~ If you find your spring bulbs in a sack in the shed, get them planted! They are not going to sprout roots and grow in



the sack and yes it's late but there is still time to get them in the ground. If you don't plant them this month, it really will be too late.

~ OK to plant trees and shrubs now. In our part of the world, if you can dig a hole in the soil,

you can still plant. Roots will still grow a little all winter long, so getting them in now will allow some root development during winter.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

~ Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons and get the condo system ready for the new season.

~ Turn the compost pile. Adding oxygen to the pile

when you turn it over helps to break down the organic matter faster. Keep the pile from getting too waterlogged with a tarp or cover.

~ Make sure that weeds are pulled away from the

What To Do In The Garden DECEMBER

base of trees and that bark or mulch is not too deep around trunks. Rodents like to chew on the bark and the hiding places the weeds or mulch provides should be eliminated.



~ Make sure that any plant underneath big thirsty conifers or under the eave of the house is getting a good deep drink

of water once every 4-6 weeks. Plants can take more severe cold weather with hydrated cells than dehydrated cells.

~ You can fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so in the last two months. Lawns are still growing roots during the winter and you can improve the green color by applying a lawn food now. Using one with a moss killer will help kill off the moss over the winter. Apply a dose of dolomite lime to the lawn if none has been applied for a year. Don't use a weed-n-feed now, the weeds will just grow, not die. The chemicals in the weed killer need much warmer temperatures to work.

~ Don't walk on frozen grass until it thaws. You will see your footprints on the turf in the spring otherwise.

~ Watch for aphids on spruce trees. Often in the winter the spruces can get attacked by aphids. We don't usually notice until it's too late in the spring when all the old foliage falls off. Hose the trees off with a strong stream of water to knock any aphids from the needles. You can check and see if they are on the trees by holding white paper under a branch end and tap hard. Check for infestations by holding white paper under various branches and tapping. If they are present you'll see some on the paper.



~ Dormant spray the fruit trees as needed for control of overwintering insects and diseases. However, no spray is needed

if no disease or insect problem was detected this past season. Dormant Spray Oil is used to smother the overwintering insects

and Copper Sprays are good for disease control. Spray according to directions on the label.



~ Pruning: It is not time to prune but time to STUDY UP on the subject! Pruning fruit trees is discussed in great detail in many books

and articles. We highly recommend reading up on the subject before making cuts that you can't glue back on the tree. Read up and take good care of your trees. You'll get much more production from them if you do.

~ Get after any weeds that are growing now before they go to seed.



Covering the beds with thick mulch after the weed pulling can help deter them further.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



~ Do a recap of the successes and the failures. Start to plan what you want to grow next year and begin the process of finding out what grows best together in regards to companion planting.

~ Check on the veggies you are wintering over. Make sure the

compost mulch is nice and thick over the crops you are storing in the ground.

~ Make out your wish list of things you'd like from Santa, like seed starting supplies, pruners, gardening tools and gloves.



Maybe some beautiful outdoor pottery to feature pretty flowers near the front entry for guests. Or a big fat gift certificate so you can come pick out what you want this next year!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Christmas Festival of Lights

Thru Sunday December 30, 2012 • 5:00-9:30pm

The Grotto, Portland, OR

Tickets are available at the entry gate or may be purchased in advance at The Grotto's Gift Shop before 4:00pm daily.

Zoolights

Thru Monday December 31, 2012

The Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR

Sunday-Thursday hours: ZooLights gates are open from 5-8 pm. Guests may stay on grounds until 9pm.

Friday-Saturday hours: ZooLights gates are open from 5-8:30 pm. Guests may stay on grounds until 9:30pm.

Train: Train will begin running around 5:15pm.

Dark: There will be no ZooLights on Monday, Dec. 24. The Zoo is closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25.

Holiday Open House

Saturday December 1, 2012 • 8:00am

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Please Join Us for Bauman's Holiday Open House to celebrate the Season!

OPEN HOUSE SPECIALS:

- Free Jar of Jam with any Gift Pack over \$25
- \$1.00 12oz. Hot Caramel Apple Cider
- 20% off all Holiday Decorations (excl. consignment items)
- 20% off all Holiday Greens, trees and Wreaths

Ladies Day Out

Saturday December 1, 2012 • 1:00pm-4:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Trunk Show, demos, local wines, greens arrangement workshop and more.

'Twas a Night of Good Cheer

Saturday December 1, 2012 • 5:00pm-7:00pm

Smith Berry Barn, Hillsboro, OR

Join us for our annual celebration of great food, friends and community spirit!

• Gourmet Food Sampling

Complimentary Wine Tasting & Hot Apple Cider

Special Shopping Discounts • Raffle Drawing

Kid's Club: Flower Ball Ornaments

Saturday December 1(W), 8(S), 15(G) 2012 • 11:00am

Al's GardenCenter, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

Even though it may be snowing outside, we can still enjoy the beauty and scent of flowers indoors. Make a beautiful Flower Ball Ornament to commemorate another fun year of Al's Kids Club.

Wreaths Are Not Always Round Workshop

Sunday December 9, 2012 • 1:00pm

The Garden Corner, Tualatin, OR

Who says your wreath has to be round? Join us for a festive workshop where you will decorate one of our uniquely shaped wreaths to display during the holidays and leave with a creation that is sure to deck your doors with Falalala Fabulous Fun! No Bah-Humbug fees here, simply pay for supplies and whatever embellishments you choose.

Create Your Own Bonsai Workshop

Saturday December 15, 2012 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

If you like the idea of having a plant in miniature but have no idea of how it can be done then this is the workshop for you. Just about any plant can become a bonsai. Our Tsugawa Bonsai staff and experienced members of Tsugawa Bonsai Group will be on hand to show how the process begins. Workshop includes all materials necessary to create a bonsai. Please come early to pick out your supplies. Class is limited to 10 participants. Fee of \$35.00 for supplies.

Attracting Wild Birds to the Winter Garden

Saturday December 15, 2012 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Bring your winter garden to life! Join bird expert Tom Combs and discover the fun of attracting wild birds to your garden. Tom will talk about feeding mixes, the specific birds they attract, various styles of bird feeders, and plants that can provide food and habitat for your new feathered friends. He will also discuss squirrel feeding, how to attract hummingbirds, and the basics of keeping your new wildlife friends happy throughout the year.

Make Your Own Outdoor Bonsai

Sunday December 16, 2012 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

In this workshop you will create and bring home your own outdoor bonsai! Join George Bowman, Store Manager at Portland Nursery-Division, to learn the basics of growing outdoor bonsai. With over 12 years of experience, George 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.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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