

April 2013

garden time

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GardenPalooza Flower Power!

Impatiens

Garlic

Little Prince of Oregon's
Ketch de Kanter

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April Showers?

The warm(ish?) rains have returned and that is signaling the return of spring! April is the time when you can truly see and feel the seasons changing. The first of the festivals, the Daffodil festival in Amity, is done and the Tulip Festival at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm is in full swing. The color in the fields can be amazing! Another sign of spring is the GardenPalooza event! This annual one-day event is happening on April 6th this year. This year we are celebrating 11 years with the addition of Dramm as a presenting sponsor! Dramm is known for its great watering and garden tools, and its wonderful Drammatic line of fertilizers. You can find their colorful displays at your local independent garden center and at Ace Hardware, True Value, and Do It Best stores as well as many online sources including Amazon.com. For many people our GardenPalooza event is the first shopping event of the season. Why? Well, as one person told us years ago, 'You have free parking and free admission, and that gives me more money to buy plants!'

The start of April has another surprise in store. Starting with the April 6th show, Garden Time will become a full hour show for about 3 months. The spring is just too busy for a half hour show, so we are adding some extra time. This longer show will allow us to also add a couple of 'Home and Entertainment' stories each week. We hope you are as excited as we are for this move. It should keep all of our green thumb fans very happy.

Another thing that keeps us happy is spring color. In this issue Judy talks about the science of color planting. Thinking about what colors and where to place them, can change the way that people look at and think about your garden. We at Garden Time are not out to scare anyone, but in this month's 'Got to Have It' William tells us about a disease called downy mildew that is devastating certain varieties of impatiens around the country. William separates the facts from fiction and fills us in on the varieties that are resistant to this disease. Growers around the country are working hard to come up with some great plants to take the place of the impatiens. One of those growers is Ketch de Kanter of Little Prince of Oregon. He is one of the people that grow those great plants that you buy at your local garden center. He is always looking for the next new thing for the home gardener and Judy talks to him about his job and his passion for growing.

For those of you who have a taste for gardening. Sarah Gustin writes about garlic and why we love it so! We also pay a visit to Hippo Hardware. This is a must see place for the do it yourself remodeler. Robin shows us that Hippo is more than just 'salvaged goods'. Hippo is THE place for finding just about anything vintage for your home. They were recycling before it became a trend. They not only sell some great old stuff, but as in the case of electrical fixtures, they will help you install it.

So you see there are lots of reasons for being happy with the arrival of spring and those April showers. Just think of the fun in the sun yet to be had and the blooms yet to come!

Happy Gardening and we will see you at GardenPalooza!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Flower Power!

Spring GardenPalooza Returns

by Therese Gustin

Spring is here! Now's the time to get back out into the garden and get inspired for the season by visiting GardenPalooza! This spring's GardenPalooza is sponsored by Dramm (www.dramm.com), makers of those amazing colorful watering tools and fantastic fertilizers! It's the perfect place to find that special piece of garden art, unique plant or exceptional garden tool. Just take a short trip along I-5 into the Aurora countryside and you will find the ideal event that will fulfill all your gardening needs! Saturday, April 6, 2013 marks the 11th year of this much anticipated exciting and fun event! Spend the day from 8 am to 4 pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora.

If you've never attended, you are missing a great opportunity to visit some of the most unique nursery and garden art vendors in the Northwest all in one convenient location! Come early and

shop from over 45 local plant and garden art vendors who will tempt you with their gardening treasures. Be sure to check out all the vendors... there are some special ones you won't want to



11TH ANNUAL SPRING
GardenPalooza
PRESENTED BY **DRAMM**



miss in the tent behind the glass house! As always, Judy Alleruzzo and William McClenathan, the hosts of Garden Time will be there to meet and talk with you. Be sure to find them as they will be passing out boxes of Black Gold fertilizer while supplies last! Gartner's Meats will be there again sampling their delectable meats!

GardenPalooza offers a free plant holding area so you can shop 'til you drop. When you are all finished shopping, you can drive your vehicle around to the plant holding area and pick everything up! This year we have moved the expanded Plant Holding Area behind the glass house. Not all vendors take credit and debit cards so bring your checkbooks just in case. There will also be an ATM machine on site. If all that shopping wears you out, take a break and visit the farm animals or enjoy some delicious food provided by the new owners of Fir Point Farms, Country Grains. Between the delicious aroma of Gartner's Meats barbequing and the sweet smell of homemade cinnamon rolls filling the air, you'll find something to satisfy your appetite and keep you going.

One of the best parts of this family friendly 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! If you check out GardenPalooza.com, you can print out vendor coupons, get directions, check out the parking situation, view pictures from past year's event and see which vendors will be participating. Don't miss GardenPalooza 2013, sponsored by Damm, Garden Time and Fir Point Farms. Hope to see you there!



ALL PHOTOS CREDIT: HANNAH RAE PHOTOGRAPHY

11th Annual Spring GardenPalooza

Saturday April 6, 2013
8:00am-4:00pm
Fir Point Farms, Aurora
www.gardenpalooza.com

Impatiens are a Virtue

But this popular annual is also under attack by a new disease.

by William McClenathan

Our Got to Have It for this month is Impatiens. We chose these because there is a new disease out there, so we thought it would be a good idea to bring you the latest information, while also spotlighting this great family of plants.

Let's start with the bad news first. Impatiens downy mildew is not really something new. It is a strain of downy mildew that is specific to only one variety of Impatiens; walleriana. Sadly, this is also the most popular annual variety in production! In 2004 there was an outbreak in a few growing facilities but it was discovered and contained. This occurred back in the east and the southeast so most of us on the west coast were not even aware of it.



Impatiens new guinea

Because we at Garden Time are not fear-mongers, we did not want to just talk about a very toxic disease that is wiping out one of the world's most popular annuals. We also did not want to act as though this is not a great concern and ignore it.

How do you know if you have it? Warning signs of infection are stunted growth, off-color, light green leaves, leaf and flower drop, and, eventually, stem collapse.

Let's take a quick look at what this pathogen is. Scientifically, it is named *Plasmopara obducens*. Commonly it is called Impatiens downy mildew. Spreading of this disease occurs when sporangia (sac-like structures filled with zoospores) produced on the underside of infected leaves (the spores can be easily dislodged) are spread short distances by water splash, and longer distances by air currents. There are two main routes for entry into a greenhouse facility or your garden:

1. The grower used infected plant material to grow the plants (plugs, cuttings, liners)
2. Wind-dispersal; aerial spores from infected plants growing elsewhere (may travel on the order of hundreds of miles).



Sunpatiens

Because the symptoms do not show up for weeks, many times growers and retailers are not even aware they have infected plants.

You can, if you so desire, spray the plants. But these are very strong chemicals like Adorn and if however, the plant already has the spores, nothing on the market kills it (nor does it make the plant immune) but rather contains it. You would also need to continue to spray every two weeks throughout the growing season, which seems like an awful lot of extra work!

- Remember, it is specific to *Impatiens walleriana*. It does not affect New Guinea impatiens, SunPatiens or other varieties of Impatiens.

- The pathogen cannot infect other garden plants.

- There's no evidence the pathogen is transmitted to the plant by infected seed.

- The pathogen also produces survival spores that can persist in the soil. They are released into the soil when infected leaves drop or stems collapse, which is one reason why it is important to promptly remove infected plants from landscape beds.

- Because of the possibility of survival spores in the soil, it's a good idea to not plant impatiens walleriana in a bed this year where infected or suspicious-looking plants of impatiens walleriana were planted last year. Plant pathologists have no idea how long the survival spores could live in the soil. The spores could survive at least five to eight years in the soil based on studies of other downy mildews.

- Geography plays a role in where the disease takes hold. Favorable conditions usually occur in early spring or late fall when temperatures drop at night and there is excessive moisture from rain or humidity. These are the conditions that existed in the upper Midwest when the disease was detected in the United States last fall.

This is the latest info at the time this was written.



Impatiens arguta



Impatiens omeiana

So are there options? Yes! There are several Impatiens on the market currently that are immune to this strain of downy mildew. The Rose Balsam (*impatiens balsamina*) is a beautiful lady in the garden. *Impatiens omeiana* is a perennial impatiens, SunPatiens, and *Impatiens arguta* are just a few of the varieties in this family of plants. So don't give up on Impatiens... just make sure you have the knowledge of which ones to plant this year in your garden.



Impatiens downy mildew



Rose balsam bush

Hue Are So Beautiful...

Choosing the right colors can change your garden's mood... and your own.

by Judy Alleruzzo



If you've ever hired an interior designer to help select paint for your home, you've been exposed to the psychology of color. The color of our rooms helps to enhance a mood. Blue in a bedroom helps to calm and relax us to have a good night's rest. You may think a sunny-yellow kitchen is a cheerful color idea, but it may inspire a food fight! Research shows it may be nice for a while but yellow heightens anxious and aggressive behavior.

Many a psychological article deals with the effect of color on our moods. The relationship between color in our interior surroundings spills out into our gardens. That idea of mood enhancement makes sense even outdoors where we spend time in warm

weather.

White Gardens - If you love to relax in your garden during the twilight of a summer evening, increase the use of white flowers and silver foliage plants. These glow in the waning light of the day. In the daytime, you will feel calm in this serene setting.

Green Gardens - You may say all gardens are filled with the color green. So true, but oh there are so many shades and textures of green available to plant between colorful flowers. Green gives rest to the eye when viewing a colorful garden and strings the whole scene together. Without green, the color scheme would be a jumble and not a pleasant place





to visit.

Red and Orange Gardens - This setting's color combination creates a mood of excitement, warmth, love and optimism. Think of a tropical setting. That garden sets the mood we all would love to be in especially at this time of year! Big and bold splashes of color make this a fun garden to explore.

Blue Gardens - In our chaotic lives, a blue garden is the answer. Blue flowers and foliage suggest peaceful and tranquil emotions. This color is also thought to enhance artistic and verbal expression. If you want to channel your inner artist or poet, plant a blue garden.

Pink Gardens - In following that same mood, pink flowers can be planted in the blue garden. Pink is also a calming color but brings with it the mood of love and romance. Who doesn't need a little romance in the garden?

What about a *Yellow Garden*? Earlier, I mentioned how the color yellow can be a double-edged sword of mood enhancement. Although it sounds like the bright spot to be on a sunny day, those Sunflowers and Black-Eyed Susans planted enmasse can cause trouble. Studies have shown that yellow can create eye strain and may evoke feelings of frustration and anger. I've never heard of a riot in a Sunflower field, but maybe it could happen. Well, at least I know the





bees are happy and having fun!

Purple Gardens – Purple symbolizes wealth and royalty, wisdom and spirituality. We should all meditate among purple flowers to gain enlightenment. Or, maybe that elusive Money Tree has purple flowers?

Black Gardens – This garden sounds like an oxymoron to a gardener. Black colored flowers and foliage does evoke other feelings than just dead plants. Think of the unique flowers and foliage of black flowered Hellebores and Pansies, Black Mondo Grass and Corokia.

These plants paired with other lighter colors, especially chartreuse, show a formal and sophisticated

mood. It is a chic urban look in a modern setting.

Color in the garden is an interesting subject. You can tell a lot about the gardener if you pay attention to their plant and flower choices. I thought about making notes of my friend's color choices in their gardens but decided all the notes would end up being the same. For many of my plant geek friends, love of plants supersedes the meanings of color in the garden.

They plant their "favorite plants of the day" in its correct site, of course and call it good. They enjoy their gardens of all shades of color. Maybe I'll start paying attention to the color of their garden art and see what that tells me.



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Garlic.
Sarah Gustin
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The Power of Clove

From warding off vampires to fighting the common cold, garlic is truly the spice of life.

by Sarah Gustin

Cooking, pickling, or warding off vampires, whatever your reason, you're in luck. Garlic is very easy to grow here in the Pacific Northwest! And that is good news for me, a beginning gardener and garlic lover. As it so happens, garlic is so easy to grow that you pretty much plant it and forget about it!

Garlic has been around since the pyramids. For centuries it has been used as both a delicious food as well as a medicine. In Korean legend it is a sacred food. There is some evidence to suggest that garlic can lower cholesterol, fight the common cold, and perform as an antiseptic. In World War's I and II garlic was used as an antiseptic to prevent gangrene!

You will find two main groups of garlic, softneck and hardneck. The softneck varieties have no flowering stalks, and are traditionally braided for storage. Hardneck varieties will have a firm stalk that will generally support a bloom. Commonly, people consider elephant garlic to be a third variety of garlic specimen. Actually, elephant garlic is just a garlic imposter! It is more closely related to the leek than garlic!

Garlic is generally planted from cloves in fall. Here in the Northwest we do tend to have some warm days during the wintertime. In general, you don't have to worry about the survival of your garlic through the winter. If your sprouts are only an inch or two tall, you may see some yellowing at the tips of the leaves. This is normal and will not affect your garlic bulbs. If your sprouts have already reached several inches, you may consider putting some mulch around to protect your plants from heavy frost or

snow.

Garlic seed will generally be sold in full heads. It is best to find your seed garlic at your local garden center or farmers market, that way you know it will grow well in your area. These experts will also be able to help you navigate the hundreds of varieties of garlic available. When you are ready to plant your garlic separate your head into cloves. The largest cloves will grow the biggest heads of garlic. When planting your garlic in late September, make sure you start out with nicely tilled soil. Plant your cloves in their paper, pointy side up, about six inches apart and about two inches deep in soil. At this point, you get to pretty much forget about your garlic!

While maintaining your young garlic, the main concern will be weeds. Because of its minimal root system, garlic does not fare well in a competition for space. Keep an eye on your bed and pull weeds



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Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

This recipe is a two-fer! First you have to roast your garlic.

1 whole head of garlic
1 tbs olive oil
4 medium Yukon gold potatoes
3 tbs butter
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees F.

Remove most of the paper from your head of garlic. Cut about a half inch off the top of the head, exposing the cloves. Drizzle with oil and cover in tin foil. Roast in the oven for about 30 minutes.

At this point your house will smell fantastic!

While your garlic is roasting, peel and quarter your potatoes. Place them in a pot of salted water. Bring to a boil until the potatoes are fork tender. Drain and mash.

When your garlic is finished roasting, remove the

tin foil and press firmly at the root end. Your cloves will pop right out! Add them to the potatoes with the butter and salt and pepper to taste.



regularly. As the weather gets nicer, your garlic will begin to send up scapes. Scapes are thin and round with a pointy tip. Eventually these will grow blooms. Once you remove the scapes you can eat them! Remove the blooms and sauté the scapes in butter for a delicious early summer snack.

In mid-July your garlic will be ready to harvest! The stalks will be about three feet tall at this point and begin to flower. Simply pull the garlic out of the ground, dust it off, and leave it to dry for a few days. At this point, if you are growing softneck garlic you can braid it and leave it to dry. For hardneck varieties you should clip the stalk off just above the cloves. Store these in a cool dry area. Leaving your garlic for about a week will help to cure it and give it the best flavor. Softneck varieties can be stored for up to a year, and hardnecks will only last six months.

Now it's time to enjoy! Try our roasted garlic mashed potatoes recipe, or use your fresh grown garlic in your own recipes.

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Ketch, a Rising Star

**How taming a workhorse
turned a Little Prince into
the king of groundcovers.**

by Judy Alleruzzo

Ketch de Kanter

Each month Garden Time picks a "Plant Geek", an all out "Plantaholic" person to highlight for the Hortie of the Month. Now don't get me wrong, Ketch de Kanter of Little Prince of Oregon (LPO) loves plants, but more importantly he loves to grow plants to make gardeners successful!

"We are committed to contributing to our customer's success." This tag line is on every email his wholesale nursery sends to plant buyers.

LPO grows a huge assortment of plants for independent garden centers, Fred Meyers, landscapers and city planners in Oregon and Washington. More on the plants just a bit later.

Ketch is an Oregon native and has a marketing degree from Oregon State University. After graduating he started Beaver Lake Nursery in 1993 as a business opportunity. Ketch had worked in the

landscape trade and couldn't find a wide assortment of ground covers for his landscape clients. He saw the potential of specializing in plants that are the unsung workhorses of landscapes. He wanted to be the plant source for landscapers, retailers and ultimately gardeners. Little Prince of Oregon was started in 1997 to capitalize on the need for these types of plants.

For the name of his new company, Ketch thought back to the childhood nickname his father gave him many years ago. When being spoiled by his Mom, Ketch's Dad rang out "you are the Little Prince of Oregon". For a bit of whimsy, Ketch added the green frog with a crown on his head for a logo with the company name. The cute frog prince and company name are emblazoned on tags, t-shirts and even the delivery trucks. It has become widely known in the two-state delivery area and reminds gardeners of LPO's plant quality and large plant selection.

In the beginning, Ketch labeled a group of plants, Ground Control™ that did just that in the landscape. They broadened their plant line when they joined the Stepables™ program. Their list of garden center customers soared as they now grew a huge assortment of ground cover plants for diverse locations in gardens and landscapes. The plants labeled as Stepables™ are a huge hit with gardeners. Ketch

Little Prince of Oregon Nursery
15868 NE Eilers Road
Aurora, Oregon 97002
503-678-5687
www.littleprinceoforegon.com

smiles as he says "now kids can actually walk on plants! How fun is that?"

Over the years, Ketch has amassed a great team that makes up Little Prince of Oregon. Head Grower Mike Hicks is always looking for new and better plants to grow for gardeners.

Ryan Seely in the marketing department is that smiling voice on the phone that works with customers, plant orders and marketing. Reggie Hunter rounds out the team and takes care of the office duties. These wonderful people, together with the many other LPO staff, help make the company successful.

Ketch and the growers at LPO work on testing all these ground covers in the landscape. They want to know about the plants so they in turn can educate their customers. They all love beautiful landscapes and happy gardeners.

In learning what gardeners need and want, Ketch and LPO staff have added more categories of plant collections. You can find the cute green frog adorning a wide selection of plant collections. Blades of Glory™ earmarks their assortment of ornamental grasses. Water Misers™ showcase plants that are drought tolerant after they are established in the landscape. Native Ground™ plants are the best known native plants of the Pacific Northwest.

Each plant group bears a clever name describing the category. It's a bit of fun even for big kids! Ketch and LPO staff want to satisfy the gardening customer and make gardening enjoyable for the whole family.

Ketch and his wife have two children that are both at an age to work with Dad after school. They are seeing where Dad spends his day and earns the family's income.

Ketch loves having them with him at the greenhouses where they are learning how to plant cuttings and



Wife India and her two children

grow them on to mature plants. His week is busy with greenhouse walkabouts with staff but Friday afternoons with his "young staff" make him smile the most.

Every nursery plans new ideas for the new gardening season. This

year, Little Prince of Oregon will be seen in different locations selling plants in their "Road Show".

Stay tuned to the *Garden Time* Event Calendar, Little Prince of Oregon website or Facebook page for the dates and locations.

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Another new idea of 2013 is a new plant category called Ground Breakers™. This category will highlight ground covers to plant over spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs will shine for their bloom time and the ground covers will have year round interest.

Ground cover plants and bulbs will be displayed together to help gardeners make the best selections for their gardens. Watch for the new displays this coming fall.

One more new idea is the 10 inch x 10 inch Sedum Tiles. Sedums are one of Ketch's favorite plants. He is hard to pin down as to which Sedum he loves the most so maybe that is how he came up with the tile idea. This square foot of soil teems with assorted varieties of hardy Sedums. The tile can be cut up and used as plugs for a garden bed, rock garden or planted as a solid unit in a living wall or deck container. There are many creative ideas in that square foot

of plants.

It's going to be an interesting year for Ketch and Little Prince of Oregon. Many new ideas and plants will be showcasing the iconic Crowned Frog. Don't forget to check them out the next time you are at your favorite independent garden center and remember the other mission statement of Little Prince of Oregon, "Our Plants Won't Croak".



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**The fixtures of
the past are
alive and well
(and for sale) at
Hippo Hardware**

by Robin Burke

Maybe you've heard of it, but just never ventured inside Hippo Hardware on East Burnside. If that's the case, you are missing out! I know I was. It is a surprising treasure trove; a diamond in the rough; a jack-pot disguised as junk—you get the idea. There is no place like it. Others try, but are either too corporate and slick, or too dirty and disorganized. Hippo, on the other hand, is exactly what it's supposed to be: Authentic, Salvaged Goods.

This “hardware” store focuses on more than just the obvious door-knobs and drawer pulls. There's a lighting department that will knock your socks off. The selection is seemingly endless. The plumbing department has things I've seen only in old western films. And, the architecture department makes even the least handy itch to build something from the ground up.

For a first-timer, it's a truly a remarkable place where you walk around and can't help but think (or shout out loud), “*This is why I love Portland!*”



Hardware Dept.



Tank Covers

The store started out as an automobile. The owners, Steven Miller and Stephen Oppenheim, basically sold junk out of the bed of a pick up truck.

"Back in the 70's buildings were getting torn down and nothing was being saved so, they'd go and get doorknobs and old hardware and woodwork and stuff that wasn't being saved," says Morgan Miller, a second generation Hippo employee. "My dad says this all started before 'recycling' was a word. There just wasn't the concept of saving things and reselling it, so he started doing that—especially when all the old Victorians were being torn down."

Everywhere you turn in the Hippo store you see evidence of the past that fortunately isn't forgotten. Beautiful old radiators, claw foot bathtubs, gas light fixtures, elegant cut-glass doorknobs, etc. etc. You could get lost for hours before you realize there's a basement full of more to see.

For Morgan, who basically grew up in the Hippo store, it provided the best game of hide-n-seek a kid could ever hope for. "It was great," she remembers, "like having your own personal junk kingdom, running around and finding hiding places. I'd work sweeping up for a few dollars an hour when I was like eight years old, but I'd always get distracted." It's no wonder. Customers leave feeling as though they've just traveled back in time, or at least got a lesson in history.

"I learned how to do little bits and things like how to wire a little light fixture, or explain how to fix a lock." Morgan and the Hippo team are still doing those things and more. Customers become friends and their projects come to life at Hippo.

"We're dedicated to helping people figure out their problems. It isn't just about making money," Morgan says. "We try to be com-



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Radiators



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Pedestal Sink Replica



Andirones

petitively priced given the level of expertise we have and how far we go to help people."

The Departments

Have an old lamp that's never actually worked? The Lighting Department is also a UL certified lighting shop. They can rewire about anything and guarantee that it's up to current code standards. They love the unique and unusual. A sign on an old sugar cane crusher reads, "Anything can be a Lamp!"

Jim McDonald has worked in the lighting shop at Hippo for more than 30 years. He says, "It's a thrill when we have some little thing that a customer is looking for." He particularly loves to help people find early electrics and gas pieces. They don't make them like that anymore, which is why McMenamins commissions him to make some of their lighting fixtures.

The Plumbing Department offers fixtures in whole or in part. Got a cracked toilet tank cover? Find a replacement in white, pink, blue or yellow. Have you ever seen a claw foot tub that's only four feet long? Looking for a pedestal sink that isn't cracked or stained? Hippo offers beautiful replicas in the old style.

Doors, windows, mantels, and shutters are just a small sampling of what's available in the Architecture Department. Hippo finds and buys pieces that are in good enough shape to be reused or repurposed.

The Hardware Department has a vast variety of antique, retro and replica finds. Locks, knobs, mailboxes, hooks, hinges, latches, and the list could go on and on. Whether it's that lost detail you've been looking to replace or a style you're hoping to copy, it's most likely there!

Buy, Sell or Trade

While shopping, if you stumble upon that perfect chandelier or set of andirones, but don't have the cash to buy them, think about bartering. Maybe there's something in your garage that the Hippo team would love to get their hands on and would trade you for it.

"We take stuff on 'Hippo Chip'. So, we offer more on in-store trade than we do in cash. The trade credit is good on anything in the store. It doesn't have to be a di-



Blast from the Past



Lock Faces

rect trade, and you don't have to trade the same day because it's good forever," explains Morgan. "People bring in a bathtub and get their lamp rewired, or buy some hardware and get trade credit for a door."

You'll find a list of things that the experts are always looking for at hippohardware.com, such as: wood flooring, doorbells, sconces, and the kitchen sink. The ideal time period for Hippo merchandise is mid-1800s to about 1960.

Part of the magic of Hippo is spotting that unlikely gem, a surprise in the pile of whatever you may be hoping to find. Sometimes you have to dig, sometimes it's right there in the window waiting for you. You just have to look.

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f p t w y

WTDITG

April showers bring May flowers! They also make gardening a little trickier, when you have to dodge between the drops. If you prefer not to get wet, we recommend you invest in an inexpensive plastic poncho. Remember, your plants need you, rain or shine.

PLANNING

- Remember to make entries in your gardening journal!



- Plan on creating raised garden beds for veggies in spaces where the soil is hard to warm each spring or you have drainage problems.

- Observe the Mason Bees. Watch your bee population increase as more nesting block

tunnels are filled with bee eggs and sealed over with a mud plug. More bees equals more fruit! You still have time to put up nesting blocks this month

to attract native bees to take up residence and start working for you and your garden.

- Plan a visit or two or three to your local garden center as the weather warms and spring is sprouting out everywhere. There you will come across plenty of bulbs, flowers, veggies and herb starts, as well as all the trees and shrubs for any landscaping project you may have. This time of year, many garden centers will have new plants arriving daily, so plan to visit them often.



PLANTING

- Plant summer bulbs like dahlia, gladiola and lilies. Wait one more month to plant out begonias and cannas.



- Start planting perennials. Now is a great time

to start finding more and more

varieties available at your local nursery.

- April is a good month for planting, period. Edibles like blueberries and strawberries, landscape plants, ground covers, perennials or any other tree and shrub for the garden.

- Plant out glad bulbs and pot up dahlias if you want to pre-sprout the dahlias before May's planting. It is safe to plant lily bulbs

out now.

- Sow seed for alyssum, forget-me-nots, pansies, lobelia, portulaca aka Moss Rose and daisies this month just to name a few. Check the back of seed packages to see when the best time would be to sow your favorite flowers.

- If you have wintered over any fuchsias or geraniums now is the time to repot them into a larger pot with fresh potting soil.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Prepare garden beds for planting, adding organic compost to garden beds and work in if this hasn't been done yet this year.

- Check the plants under the eaves of the house for water needs.

- Monitor soil temperature with a soil thermometer. When garden soil is consistently above 60 degrees F, the warm season crops can be planted out.

- Fertilize cane berries, blueberries, currants and strawberries.

What To Do In The Garden

APRIL

- Spray apples and pears if needed to prevent scab. Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide is a good spray for the organic gardener for this purpose.



recommendations for the best food for the Northwest climate.

- Thatching and lawn aerating are great to do in months of April or May. Grass seed can be put down safely the last half of April, avoiding most frosts. May and June are also good months to seed or

- Fertilize your lawn with a good organic lawn food. Check your local garden center for their

overseed the lawn.

- Apply Calpril lime to the lawn. Lime raises the soil ph to a level the grass enjoys, helping it to grow thicker and greener.

- Watch for frosts and cover tender transplants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover.

- Prune evergreen conifers now. The months of April and May are great for pruning your various conifers. Cypress, spruce, junipers and cedars will respond to pruning by becoming fuller and bushier. Cut into only the green leafy part of the plants. Going back too far into the brown woody portions may mean that branch or section won't be able to re-grow more

foliage from that point.

- 'Candle pruning' pines are an easy way to control their height and width. As the new growth at branch tips in the form of a 'candle' lengthens, you can snap the new growth in half or even a little shorter. This type of pruning on pines is easy to do and won't leave visible scars.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Plant perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish now.

- April is a good month to plant seeds outdoors for peas, carrots, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, lima beans, onions, radishes, scarlet runner beans, spinach, swiss chard, parsnips and turnips.



- Artichoke plants can go in now.

- Seed potatoes can be planted now after they have been chitted. Refer to March planning section for an explanation on chitting or pick up an info sheet in the garden center on growing potatoes.

- Plant Walla Walla onion plant starts and red, yellow or white onion sets.

- The warmer weather crops like tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, corn and beans should not be

planted out until the soil temp is above 60 F consistently.

- Start indoors, or pick up plant starts next month at your local garden center: basil, cucumbers, melons, and pumpkins.

- Use a floating row cover like Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover to prevent insects like leaf miners, cabbage maggot flies and carrot rust fly from attacking the veggies.

- Harden-off any young plant started indoors, before planting outside, by setting the plants outdoors in a protected area, away from direct sun, for a few hours a day. Bring indoors at night. Increase time left out a half-hour each day, slowly exposing the seedlings to more sun, wind and rain. This helps to toughen up the leaves with a thicker cuticle and stronger stems.





PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

11th Annual Spring GardenPalooza **Saturday April 6, 2013 • 8:00am-4:00pm** **Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR**

Gardenpalooza presented by Dramm at Fir Point Farms. Over 45 plant and garden art vendors in one location. Free admission, Free parking. www.Gardenpalooza.com

Shedding Light on Successful Shade Gardening **Sunday April 7, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**


Patty Cassidy, horticultural therapist and author of The Illustrated Practical Guide to Gardening for Seniors, will talk about how gardening with little sunlight can be rewarding both in creating a beautiful environment and keeping you a cool and refreshed gardener. Learn how to assess your shady areas in order to select the right plant for the right spot. Many selections of shade-loving plants will be discussed as well as planting techniques and year-round maintenance advice.

Let's Get Hopping, Not Your Ordinary Gardening Class **Sunday April 7, 2013 • 1:00pm** **Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Chris Lee from Eshraghi Nurseries will be sharing this while brewing a Northwest IPA on site! Different varieties of hops produce different tastes. Smell and handle a variety of dried hops and discuss their pros and cons while he adds them at various times in the brewing process. Get the facts about IBUs, HBUs and Alpha Acids.

Fruit Tree Pest & Disease **Sunday April 7, 2013 • 3:00pm-4:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Learn about some of the common fruit tree pests and diseases and what to do about them with Monica Maggio, of Core Home Fruit Services LLC. Monica will explain life-cycles of common pests/diseases, how to effectively address and prevent them, and how a "right **continued next page**



Check out our website
to see all of our upcoming
gardening events. >>

GROW SOMETHING DELICIOUS

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plant/right place/right care" approach to growing fruit in the Pacific Northwest can save a you ton of stress and better ensure a healthy harvest.

The Basket Buffet & Benefit

Friday-Sunday April 12-14, 2013 • 9:00am-7:00pm

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

Slide your basket down the "buffet" and choose from a selection of specially grown annuals to create your hanging basket. Al's experts will help you plant your baskets and the soil and fertilizer is supplied by Al's.

Gardens of Eatin': Edible Landscaping

Sunday April 14, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Get the skinny on blending edibles and ornamentals for a delicious, low-maintenance landscape with the experts from Metro. Discover salad-boosting herbs and flowers, fruit trees for small spaces and native plants that hide "berried" treasures. Learn easy organic care methods and best varieties for blueberries, strawberries, tree fruits, grapes, kiwis, culinary herbs and more.

Ask the Master Gardeners

Saturday, April 20, 2013 • 10:00am-12noon

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

Drop by the Master Gardeners table and ask any questions you have about growing fruits or vegetables in your garden. Grow a garden this spring with the help of the Master Gardeners.

Root-Pruning, Wiring and Re-potting Your Bonsai

Saturday April 20, 2013 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Your bonsai needs love and attention and now is the time for that oh-so-vital task of root-pruning. Greg will instruct you on how best to accomplish that task. He'll also teach you proper wiring and can help you get set up with a pot for transplanting if your bonsai needs it. Don't forget to bring your bonsai with you!

Edibles in the Landscape

Saturday, April 20, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

Drop by the table and see great choices for plants in the landscape that also provide delicious fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

Edibles in Containers

Saturday, April 20, 2013 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

Many edibles look great in containers. Drop by the container

bench and see some great ideas for including berries, veggies and herbs in containers. You don't need a huge yard to grow a great "home grown" meal.

76th Anniversary and Open House

Saturday-Sunday April 20-21, 2013

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Garland Nursery is decked out in all of its glory. There are plenty of fun events, treats, and deals to be had.

Annual Chrysanthemum Society Mum Sale

Sunday April 27, 2013

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

6th Annual Spring Potting Party

Saturday April 27, 2013 • 11:00am-5:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Hooray! It's time for the first Potting Party of the 2013 season! We will provide the soil, fertilizer and hands-on assistance to help you create some gorgeous containers for your home. All you have to do is show up with your containers (and maybe even some ideas of what you'd like). This will be an open house style event so you may come at any time from 11 – 5.

Growing Culinary Herbs

Sunday April 28, 2013 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Fragrant delicious herbs awaken all our senses and enliven our culinary creations. In this informative workshop, Portland Nursery's Jolie Grindstaff, herb gardening enthusiast, will introduce you to a diverse palette of culinary herbs and what they need to grow successfully in your garden. We will explore site selection and soil preparation, growing herbs in containers, harvesting, preservation and cooking tips.

Rose Care Made Easy

Sunday April 28, 2013 • 1:00pm

Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR

Jenna Bayer from Garden Bootcamp will demystify roses and their care. From choosing the type of rose that matches your gardening style to planting basics, she will have it covered. Knowing where and how to plant roses is half the battle. The other is following a simple routine of watering and fertilizing with a once a year pruning. Come learn the how's and why's of rose care.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

continued next column

"Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

Cutting back on your advertising budget during a recession may seem like an effective cost-saving strategy, but the reality is far different. Studies show that businesses that reduce their advertising fall behind their competitors who maintain or increase their budgets, and take longer to recover when the economy rebounds.

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