

March 2014

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

**Tulipfest**  
A Bloom with a View

**Urban Apples**

**Ferns**

OSU Berry Crop Specialist  
**Bernadine Strik**



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## The Green, Green Grass of Home?

The winter is slowly loosening its grip on my garden. It was just a few weeks ago that we were digging out of the snow and ice. Now, instead of thinking about snow, we are making plans for the tulip festival and spring break. Now that I'm getting outside more, I'm noticing how bad my lawn is looking after the cold winter months. It seems like I have more moss each year. A couple of years ago we even pulled out some grass and made a bigger flower bed. It looks like we are going to do it again this year. More flowers, less mowing, happy homeowner. Still, I have to have a little bit of grass to run through. We'll see how it goes.

Speaking of the tulip fest. Our own star assistant producer Therese will be taking us on a tour of the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival in Woodburn in this month's issue. They work to make it a bigger and better event every year, and this year is no exception. It is also time to think about the produce of the summer. This month William shares some of the urban apples that are available to the home gardener. These apples are designed for the smaller garden and some of them can even be grown in containers.

For those of you that are dreaming of the summer months ahead and a possible vacation, why not consider a garden tour? On June 18th through the 22nd, Garden Time will be hosting a tour to Victoria, British Columbia in Canada. This 5 day, 4 night tour will visit a wonderful combination of private and public gardens including the wonderful Butchart Gardens. William and Judy will host this trip which includes a train ride and ferry to Victoria, all your hotel nights and 8 of your meals. Professional guides will lead the tour and provide some local history as well. If you would like to join us for this tour, check out the link at [www.Garden-Time.tv](http://www.Garden-Time.tv). There are limited seats, so sign up early.

Of course, if you are looking for a 'garden fix' a little sooner than June, check out the our special TV program from the Yard, Garden and Patio show at the Oregon Convention Center on March 1st on KOIN-TV at 9am. This half hour special will follow our first episode of our 9th season. After watching both shows you can print out a discount coupon from the Garden Time website and head to the show.

It has been a long cold winter, let's get ready to garden (and get that green grass back again)!

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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Wooden Shoe Tulipfest

# A Bloom with a View

by Therese Gustin

As I write this month's article, I am sitting in my toasty warm family room watching a beautiful snowfall blanket the Portland area; A rare occurrence in these parts. The spring daffodils and tulips are hidden under several inches of snow but are guaranteed to emerge in early spring to remind us that a new season is in bloom. There is no better place to experience the beauty of these bright colorful bulbs than at the Wooden Shoe Tulipfest in Woodburn, Oregon.





The Iverson family started the tulip farm in 1983 and opened up the fields to visitors in 1985. Each year they have added activities and improvements to make the Tulipfest a 'must see' annual event. This destination farm is family friendly and offers fun activities for kids and adults of all ages! You can even bring your well-behaved dogs if they are on a leash!

If you plan your visit during the week, you can experience the tulip fields, pick your favorite varieties from the beautiful display gar-

den, enjoy the duck races, slides and swings in the children's play area, take pictures of the little ones in the photo cut-out boards, pick up bouquets of tulips at the Tulip Market, grab a bite to eat at the onsite food court or take a ride through the fields in the Cow Train (\$2 per person). Don't forget to visit the gift shop and pick up any number of tulip themed items!

Weekend visits offer all the week-day activities as well as a Crafters Market Place, authentic Mexican Food, Dutch sausage provided by: Mt. Angel Sausage Company,

Wooden Shoe making demonstrations, you-pick tulip area and Hauer of the Dauen wine tasting. Weather permitting there will be pony rides (\$5-under 80 lbs), steam tractors and Activities run by MADJEK- Jump Tents & Events Jump Tents, Bungee Jumper, Pony Rides, Rock Wall, & Zip Line (\$3-\$7).

New this year, the Iverson's are working on a Dutch façade for their Wooden Shoe makers. The plan is to give their craft area a Dutch feel by putting a front on the Wooden Shoe tent, lemonade stand and their own farm store (where they sell items made on the farm-sculptures, wooden shoes, etc.)

They have added a second double cow train which allows parents to ride along side their children. They are also adding an "adult" train with bench seats to allow the not-so-young-crowd to get a smoother, more comfortable ride around the field.





They plan to run their archery tag from their fall event. This is a lot of fun. You shoot at each other and the arrows have what looks like giant marshmallows on the end but they are well balanced and the bow is easy to use.

If all goes well they are planning on introducing their alvarhino wine in April.

I asked Barb Iverson what she loved most about the Tulipfest, "My favorite part is early in the morning at sunrise, when we get those beautiful sunrises and the field is in full bloom. The colors, picture, birds, flowers are just amazing and I love to go out and take pictures.

The sunrise is around Mt. Hood in April so you get to see it move north a little each morning. Sunsets are good too but don't hold the promise of a great day like a beautiful morning, in the middle of the field on a beautiful spring day. There is really nothing like it."

You can go to the website [woodenshoe.com](http://woodenshoe.com) and check out the daily field conditions before traveling to the fields. They also have directions and activities posted.

So bring your camera, pack up your family and make a day of it this spring and see tulips in all their glory at the Wooden Shoe Tulipfest!







### **Festival Hours**

**March 28th - May 4th:  
Daily 9 am - 6 pm**

**Gift shop open daily**

**March 1st - March 28th: 10 am - 5 pm**

**During Tulip Festival:**

**March 29th - May 4th: 9 am - 6 pm**

**Address:**

**33814 S. Meridian Rd.  
Woodburn, OR 97071**

**Phone (503) 634-2243  
FAX (503) 634-2710**

**For more information:  
1-800-711-2006**

**Email: [office@woodenshoe.com](mailto:office@woodenshoe.com)**





# Fronds in Low Places

**Ferns grow in almost any climate with very little care. So, why don't we see them in more gardens?**

**by William McClenathan**

**Ostrich Ferns**

Few plants in the plant kingdom give us as many shades of green as the fern family does. Mingle that with the astounding amount of shapes and textures, and I think it is one of the most under-used plants in the garden.

Now sure, other colors can slip into this family; blue, orange, red and grey. But overall, when you think of a fern, you think some shade of green.

Factor in that there are species which will grow in almost any climate with very little care once established and you have one of the easiest plants to grow as well.

So why do we not see them in more gardens?

I have asked this question consistently in each place I have lived; Texas, Florida and now here in Oregon. Each of these climates has great ferns that are readily available and do well. But it is rare to see amazing stands of ferns in the common gardens of any of these locations.

I have come up with a few answers to this over the years.

First of all...the names. I think few species are as confusing (even for horticulturists) as the fern

family is. And difficult to pronounce? Boy howdy... I often get tongue tied with their names, when I can even remember them completely! With a few varieties, the common names can help, but even some of them seem difficult. We are intimidated by them.

Second, as an industry, we tend to sell one or two at a time to a customer. Ferns true glory is in a mass planting, or intermingled with like environmental friends like Hosta's and Dicentra's (Bleeding hearts). The combined textures often turn into something glorious for the eye to view.

Lastly, the cost. Ferns are no longer cheap. But generally they last a lifetime when once established, meaning you never need to spend money on them again.

To write an article on ferns is difficult. There are many, entire books written on the subject. So I decided to pick a few favorites of my own which I have had great luck with in this area.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our native sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*). It is without a doubt one of my favorites. Evergreen and statuesque, it should be a staple in almost every



garden. It can get large in height with time, anywhere from 2' to 4' tall and very large around. As it clumps, each stand becomes both mother and child. They do not require pruning, but in more formal gardens, one may wish to prune off last year's fronds as the new ones start to emerge in the spring. As the new fronds unfurl, it can have a beautiful draping effect. This is a great fern for inclines as well as flat areas...creating a fall of beautiful greenery. And, it is a native to the PNW which means it is comfortable once established with very wet winters and springs but still thrive in our summer droughts. It can handle shade or a surprisingly large amount of sun as well. Pests seem to not bother it at all.

Next would be Ostrich Ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*; see...who would even attempt saying that name???), which are fairly well known ornamental plants throughout much of the U.S. The biggest and most often unknown surprise however is that the small, tightly wound shoots (known as fiddleheads)



**Adiantum caudatum**



**Maidenhair Fern**

that pop up for a very short time each Spring are regional delicacies. The fiddleheads have a taste somewhere between nutty asparagus and broccoli. They thrive in shade and moist soils where many other plants fail to grow at all, or if they do thrive in that environment, they fail to produce an edible crop. Ostrich ferns' ability to act as a groundcover in dark, wet corners of a property makes it an excellent addition to many shady gardens. I have found that this fern requires time to reach its full glory in a garden. Few pests have ever bothered it and once established it tolerates a surprising amount of summer drought. Although it is not technically considered evergreen, it holds its frond well into late November and often into early December in our area. I love the new growth on this fern. Not only because you can eat it, but it is regal when the fronds first emerge forth, like sentries protecting the next plants to awaken from winter's slumber. And over time, each frond can get easily 6-8 inches wide. Soft and beautiful, it can also over time get rather tall...up to 5+ feet as the picture shows.



## Fiddlehead Ferns and Pasta



If you are feeling adventurous this spring...try this great recipe from 'Canadian House and Home'. There are some people who have had a bad reaction to eating fiddleheads raw, so unless you know you can eat them raw without harm, be sure to cook them first.

2 cups fresh fiddleheads, cleaned

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon minced garlic

2 cups wild mushrooms

salt and pepper

1 lb. orecchiette pasta

8 oz. soft goat cheese, crumbled

chopped fresh basil

In a steamer set over simmering water, steam fiddleheads 5 to 10 minutes, or until tender. Drain and plunge into ice water until cold. Drain.

Heat butter and oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook 1 minute. Increase heat to medium-high, add mushrooms and cook 3 to 5 minutes, or until softened. Add fiddleheads and cook another 3 to 5 minutes. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Meanwhile, cook pasta in boiling salted water until tender. Drain and add to fiddlehead mixture, tossing well. Divide into four bowls and top with goat cheese and fresh basil.





The last favorite I wanted to share with you all is the softly gentile, Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*) The name comes from Greek, meaning "not wetting", referring to the fronds' ability to shed water without becoming wet. Although many different varieties carry the common name 'maidenhair' this is the one I love the most. The dark brown to black stems adds such a dramatic quality to its wispy beauty. It can withstand a lot of sun as well. Over time it can reach almost 3 feet tall, slowly it creeps under the ground making a clump almost as wide. As with many ferns in our area, there are not many pest concerns either.



This is only 3 examples which I have had great luck with in the gardens. But just look at any garden center's shade area. You will find dozens of different ferns to choose from. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty and try some ferns. Their beauty in your garden will be its own reward.





# The Cardinal Rules of a Great Birdhouse

Creating a home for your feathered friends can be a quick and easy project.

by Sarah Gustin

Growing up in the Northwest, we always kept a nature guide ready to identify our feathered friends out in the yard. We would sit by the window watching them flit from fence to tree, and listen to them singing their pretty songs. It was always extra exciting when we would find a nest high up in an eave or a hanging planter! Encouraging birds to come into your yard is not only fun, it can also help your garden! Birds can both pollinate and keep down insects. To keep your eaves and planters safe this year, try building a birdhouse! There is something so enchanting about a birdhouse. Birdhouses are not only beautiful, but with the right measurements can be functional as well.

The recommended material for building a birdhouse from scratch is wood; any metal will likely get too hot during the summer. Cedar is best; do not use any pressure-treated wood. Most simple birdhouses can be built with a 1"x6"x6' board. You will also need a

measuring tape, screws, a hinge, a saw, a drill (with a 1/4" bit and others, depending on the size of your entrance hole), and the knowledge of the type of bird you are building a home for!

Building a birdhouse doesn't have to be fowl! Here are some important things to keep in mind before you get started. First, your birdhouse will not need a perch. Your fine feathered friends will likely not use it, and it will only provide a nice little leg up for predators. One of the neatest parts about having a birdhouse is being able to observe the nest at very brief intervals while the parents are away. For this and cleaning purposes, make sure you have a hinged portion of your birdhouse. For birds that lay more than once a season, clean out the old nesting material after the babies have left the nest for good to prevent parasites. The house should be constructed with screws, making it easy to disassemble in case of cleaning.



Make sure there is at least a 2"-3" overhang on your roof, to prevent the wind and rain from bombarding the entrance hole. Be sure also to drill holes in the bottom of your house for drainage and place your birdhouse facing away from gusting winds. Holes should also be drilled in the roof to allow heat and moisture to escape during the hot summer months.

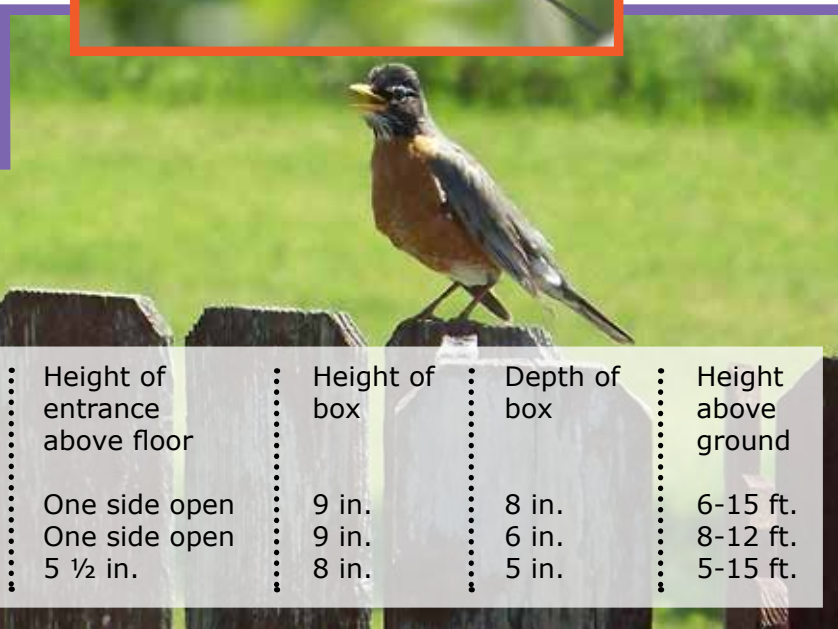
The location of your house can be as important as the house itself. If you are planning to place more than one birdhouse in your yard, be careful to space them apart. Oftentimes birds are territorial, so separate those houses if you want to keep garden harmony!

The type of box you build greatly depends on the type of bird you wish to attract. The entrance hole or opening will greatly vary depending upon the size and nesting style of the bird. For instance: robins and swallows will often nest under the eaves of houses or gutters. When building a birdhouse to attract these birds, you should not have an entrance hole, but an entire open side. Think of it as building more of a shelter than a house. However, sparrows will nest in a more traditionally enclosed "house". When building this style of birdhouse, it is sometimes recommended to groove or texturize the front inside wall of the house to help baby birds have a leg up to the entrance. Be sure to check out the chart for specific measurements.

You will enjoy your bird watching so much more once you've spent the time and energy on building a special house for your birdie pals. Keep in mind, these are just the basics for a solid home, you may want to get creative with your house. With time and a little planning, your backyard can become a bird paradise!



PHOTO CREDIT: CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE VIA FLICKR/FAR CLOSER



	Floor	Entrance hole diameter	Height of entrance above floor	Height of box	Depth of box	Height above ground
Robins	6x8 in.	One side open	One side open	9 in.	8 in.	6-15 ft.
Swallows	6x6 in.	One side open	One side open	9 in.	6 in.	8-12 ft.
Sparrows	5x3 in.	1 ¼ in.	5 ½ in.	8 in.	5 in.	5-15 ft.



# The Specialist

**OSU teacher/researcher Dr. Bernadine Strik has been berry berry good to Northwest farmers.**

by Judy Alleruzzo



**Bernadine Strik at the NWREC Open House**

PHOTO CREDIT: K. JACOBSEN

Berry Crop Specialist---This job title brings to mind a person whose job it is to know ALL about Blueberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Strawberries, Cranberries and Hardy Kiwi. Whew! Doesn't that sound like an intense career?

Our Hortie of the month; Dr. Bernadine C. Strik, who has been a member of the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University for over 25 years. She is currently a Professor for the Department and The Berry Crop Specialist. She completes research on all these fruit varieties plus teaches at OSU and the Master Gardener program and consults with farmers and researchers in the NW and all over the world!

She is a busy person.

Oregon is lucky to have her teach-

ing and researching at OSU and she loves being in Oregon. She told me "the Willamette Valley has the ideal climate for growing berries with warm days and cool nights leading to great yields and quality."

Dr. Strik spent her early years in The Netherlands. She and her family then moved to Australia and by her late teens, they moved to Vancouver Island, Canada, where they owned a retail nursery. She attended the University





of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, where she graduated with a B.S. in Botany.

For her advanced degree, Dr Strik attended the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada where her PhD work was in Strawberry Physiology. (Physiology is the study of the fundamental function of the plant, yield, and quality etc of the fruit) She came back west to work at OSU where she is so involved in education and research. She is also the Berry Crop Leader at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC), the OSU Research Station in Aurora, Oregon.

She doesn't play favorites and works on research projects on all berry crops. She states, "The best ideas come from growers. I love to work with them." Her many research projects have focused on improving yield and fruit quality, machine harvest efficiency, alternative production, plant nutrition, cold hardiness and organic production systems. Several years ago she and her colleagues worked on improving Blueberry production by decreasing plant spacing and using a trellis system for the plants. The research of a trellis system showed "reduced machine harvest losses of 3-8% of total yield per year in mature plants." The plant density research trialed plants spaced 1.5 to 3ft apart verses the standard 4ft spacing. This reduced spacing increased productivity by 5 tons per acre.

Funding for her research comes from many sources including, Berry Crop Commission Funds, Direct Industry and Federal Funding sources.

Dr Strik has published over 100 scientific papers and has written at least 12 book chapters. Over 50 of her OSU Extension Publications can be accessed through the OSU website, <http://extension.oregon-state.edu/gardening>

We, at Garden Time use this website as research based gardening

information is the best.

She does love all aspects of teaching, from her students at OSU to all of us gardeners. She has written 8 Home Garden Berry Crop publications and usually teaches several Master Gardener classes each year.

Dr. Strik is also involved in many professional groups, including being a member of The Executive Board of the International Society for Horticulture Science.

Over her career, she has received many awards including Outstanding Leader in the Blueberry Industry presented by the Oregon Growers Association.

But, with all these responsibilities and accolades, Bernadine Strik is a practical gardener and farmer at heart. She and husband Neil Bell, take the time from their busy schedules to garden at their home. As Neil told us last March when he was featured as GT's Hortie of the Month, their daughters are getting into the cooking of the produce from the garden. Maybe this is the year they will be into the growing of the berries and vegetables.

In the world of commercial berries, growers are usually the first



PHOTO CREDIT: OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

with High Density Blues

to get all the new fruit variety plants. Then, a few years later, these new varieties are available to the home gardener. I asked Dr. Strik to name a few of her new favorites that are available now or very soon for the home gardener. She was quick to say she is not a breeder but helps get the varieties to market. She works with



Bernadine, Neil, Shannon and Nicole





with BCS Organic Blues



many people including Dr Chad Finn, OSU and Berry Crop Breeder USDA/ARS at NWREC to bring new fruit to market.

Check with your favorite garden center for availability of these varieties.

**Blackberry 'Black Diamond'** - Tasty fruit, Thornless canes with a bit larger and firmer fruit than Marion Berries.

**Blackberry 'Columbia Star'** - Easy to pick, large good flavor fruit, thornless canes.

**Blackberry 'Obsidian'** - Good flavor but canes have thorns.

**Strawberry 'Sweet Bliss'** - June Bearing (Short day), large fruit, sweet, full Strawberry flavor.

**Strawberry 'Sweet Sunrise'** - Mid Season bearing, Medium to Large fruit with deep red internal color, full, balanced sweet to acid flavored fruit.

**Strawberry 'Tillamook'** - Tip for this variety is to leave berries on plants to ripen. It has very large fruit.

**Red Raspberry 'Vintage'** - Late season bright red, sweet berries, 30-35% larger berries than 'Heritage' Red Raspberry.

New Blueberry variety coming soon! Stay tuned....

Every summer at NWREC in Aurora, there are berry-tasting events called Field Days. Keep watch on Garden Time's Event Calendar for the dates.

Strawberry Field Day is in early June and Blueberry/Caneberry Field Day is in early July.

After talking to and reading about Dr Strik, I realized how lucky we really are to have her working at OSU. She is passionate about helping farmers grow better fruit, get more for their crops, be bet-

ter stewards of the land and get more tasty fruit to the commercial markets. She wants her research to make a difference for all of us.

So next time you are enjoying delicious Oregon berries, remember all the hard work, Dr Bernadine Strik and her colleagues are doing to help make those berries be such a tasty treat!

#### Sources

<http://hortsci.ashspublications.org/content/46/12/1701.full>

<http://oregonstate.technology-publisher.com/technology/12381>



MG grape pruning workshop in Marion County



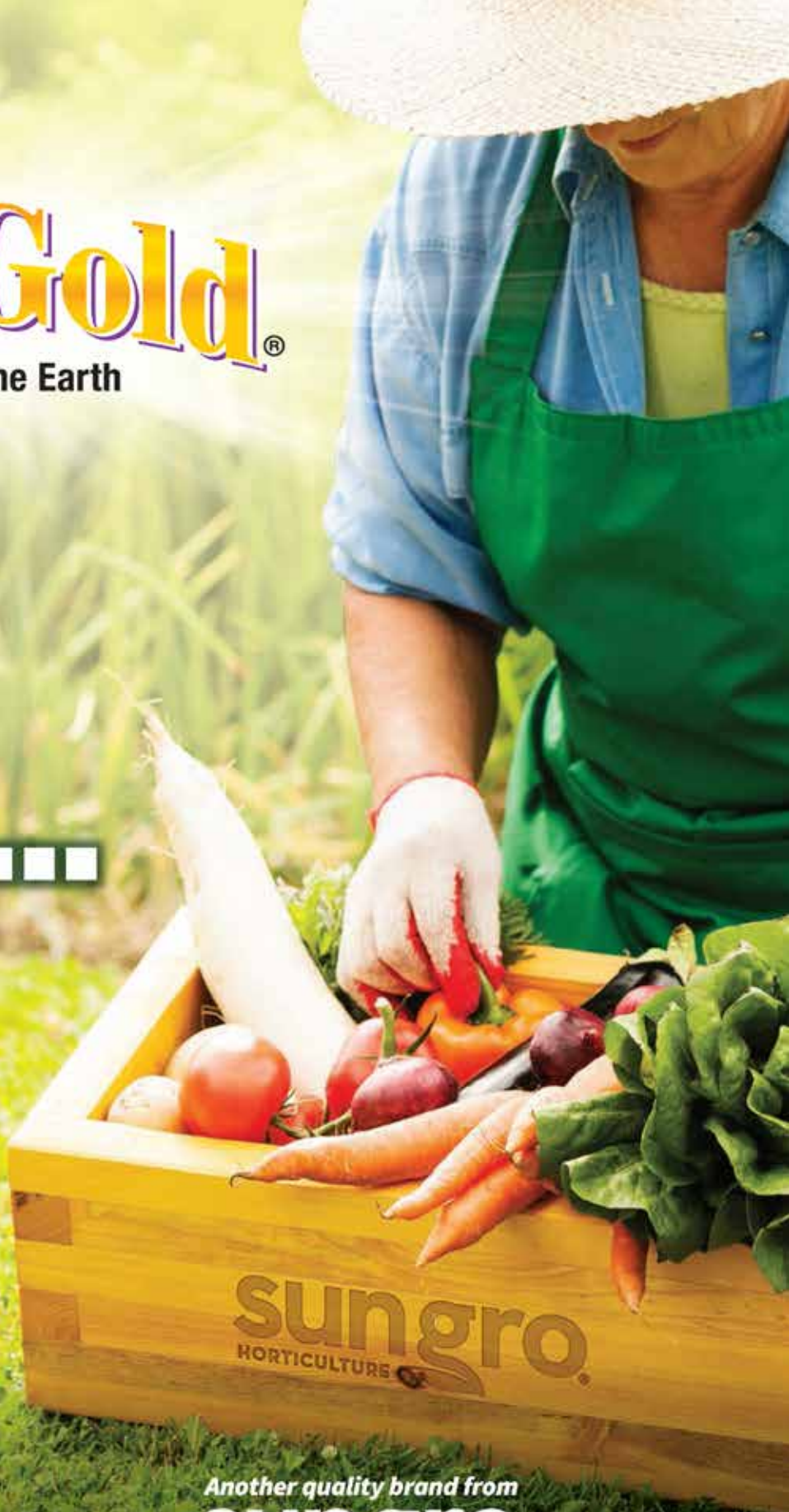
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Golden Treat™

# Urban Growth Bounty

How to get a slice of a big apple into a small yard.

by William McClenathan



Tangy Green™

The trend to garden in smaller and smaller space has become ubiquitous. Each year, the green industry tries to appeal to those people in smaller spaces with plants that can delight our senses while still providing great crops, in a much smaller space.

The Urban Apple® Series, Blushing Delight™, Golden Treat™, Tasty Red™ and Tangy Green™, accomplish this by yielding good taste in a very small amount of space. Now it's easy to produce delicious, full-sized apples on slender, vertical trees that grow in large pots on sunny decks or balconies.

Urban Apple® trees are loaded with fruiting spurs along the main leader, and branches are short and upright, producing straight, upright-growing, cylindrical apple trees. Plant Urban Apples® in the ground, or transplant to large containers coordinated with home and architecture and enjoy moving them around as desired.

Romantic apple blossoms in spring will enchant homeowners, apartment dwellers, condo owners, suburbanites and those short on space. Urban Apple® trees mature at 8 to 10 feet tall but less than two feet in diameter,

and are extremely healthy and disease resistant. When grown in full sun expect full-sized fruit the first year from planting, so long as there are two or more varieties for cross pollination. As trees mature, the yield of apples will increase. Be sure to maintain fertility levels for good growth and yields.

The Urban Apple® Series was developed by Dr. Jaroslav Tupy of the Czech Republic, a member of the Garden Debut® consortium of growers, breeders, retailers and marketers. Tupy's choice of four varieties ensures a wide se-

lection of flavor, plus good cross-pollination and fruit set:

- **Tasty Red™** is a bright red apple with a sweet, juicy flavor
- **Blushing Delight™** produces a blush of reddish green fruit with a slightly sweeter taste.
- **Golden Treat™** greenish-gold apples are tart in early fall, but get sweeter the longer they are on the tree.
- **Tangy Green™** lime green apples add a crisp, tart flavor to the series.



Blushing Delight™

Here is some specific information on these new trees.

Mature Height: 8 to 10 feet

Mature Spread: 1 ½ to 2 feet

Mature Form: Extremely narrow, columnar form with multiple fruiting spurs on central leader

Growth Rate: Vigorous

Sun Exposure: Best grown in full sun

Soil Type: Garden loam, amended clay, soil-less potting mixes with good fertility

Soil Moisture: Moist, well-drained



soils

Chilling Requirement: 800 – 1200 hours for good bud set (number of hours the temperature is below 45 degrees F. but above 32 degrees F.)

Flower Color: Romantic pink and white apple blossoms on bare branches in early spring

Fruit Set and Yield: Two varieties are required for cross-pollination and good fruit set: expect full-sized fruit from the first year

Fruit: Four varieties in the Urban™ Apple Series provide a wide choice of taste and color on full-sized apples:

Summer Color: Apple green leaf color

Fall Color: Negligible

Zones: 4 – 9 (-30 degrees F or 23 Degrees C), well suited for most of the continental U.S.

I was not able to find information on whether these new introductions would cross pollinate with pre-existing apple trees. I am sure that they will, but the information seems unavailable, perhaps because we simply do not have it yet because they are so new.

Also, it should be mentioned that



these apple trees do not require pruning. I would think that would be one of the biggest selling features indeed. They have a life span (when considering good production) of around 20 years. That just means 20 years not having to prune an apple tree and still getting a great harvest each year! Do keep in mind that as with all new introductions, we cannot be sure about all the information until 20 years have passed.

However, there are many other apple trees that will fit the same requirements for being "urban".

Columnar apple trees have been around for many years. Although they may get taller than 10 feet, they do fit the very narrow growth rate of the Urban Apple®, but I have heard of them getting about 4' across instead of just 2'.

And let's not forget Espaliered apple trees. These often come with

2-4 varieties grafted onto one stem and can supply both pollination and ample harvest once established. Espaliered trees will require pruning.

One of the best aspects of the Urban Apple® series is how quickly they fruit. Any fruit tree that produces fruit in its first year is a delight in deed. This series promises to do just that.

So if you are one of the countless people who find they have a small garden, or even only a patio or balcony, try this new series of apple trees. They promise to yield great harvest in a small amount of space.

You can find this new introduction of apple trees at Al's Garden Centers <http://www.als-gardencenter.com/> and Drake's 7 Dees. <http://drakes7dees.com/>.

Or call your favorite garden center to see if they have them available.

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The advertisement features a central logo for Gartner's Meats, which is a shield-shaped emblem with a crown on top, containing the text 'GARTNER'S' and 'German Style'. Below the logo, there are four small inset images showing different types of meat products: a plate of sausages, a plate of sliced meats, a plate of a large sausage roll, and a plate of sliced meats with vegetables.



# Spring Fervor!

**Add some seasonal excitement to your party with a beautifully set table as the centerpiece.**

by Robin Burke

When spring is the air, something drifts into our senses and whispers: "Time to Celebrate."

Easter, Palm Sunday and Pass-over are ready-made spring holidays. Then, add bridal showers, baby showers, Mother's Day and good old-fashioned garden parties to the mix, and we can really kick it up a notch.

Most of these spring celebrations call for a beautifully set table as the centerpiece. If done right, the table will set the tone for the entire party. In fact, it could be the most memorable part of the event.

## Choose a Theme

Picking and choosing a theme is the perfect place to start, but sometimes that's not so easy. Let's say your theme is "Easter". About fifty things probably come to mind, which would be difficult to pull together a cohesive look. After all, there's eclectic and then there's Easter egg explosion.



MARTHASTEWART.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW MC CAUL

**Ribbon covered vase**

The narrower your theme, the easier it is to decorate. For instance, one particular color can be your theme. Then bring in interest with different shades



**Baby shower idea - just add white plates**



of the same color. A theme can start with a particular thing that you really love, like a cake stand, a vase, a figurine or even some simple ribbon.

### Plates

Often, the plates you use set the theme whether you want them to or not. They may not be the "centerpiece" of the table, but you certainly can't ignore them. If they're colorfully designed,

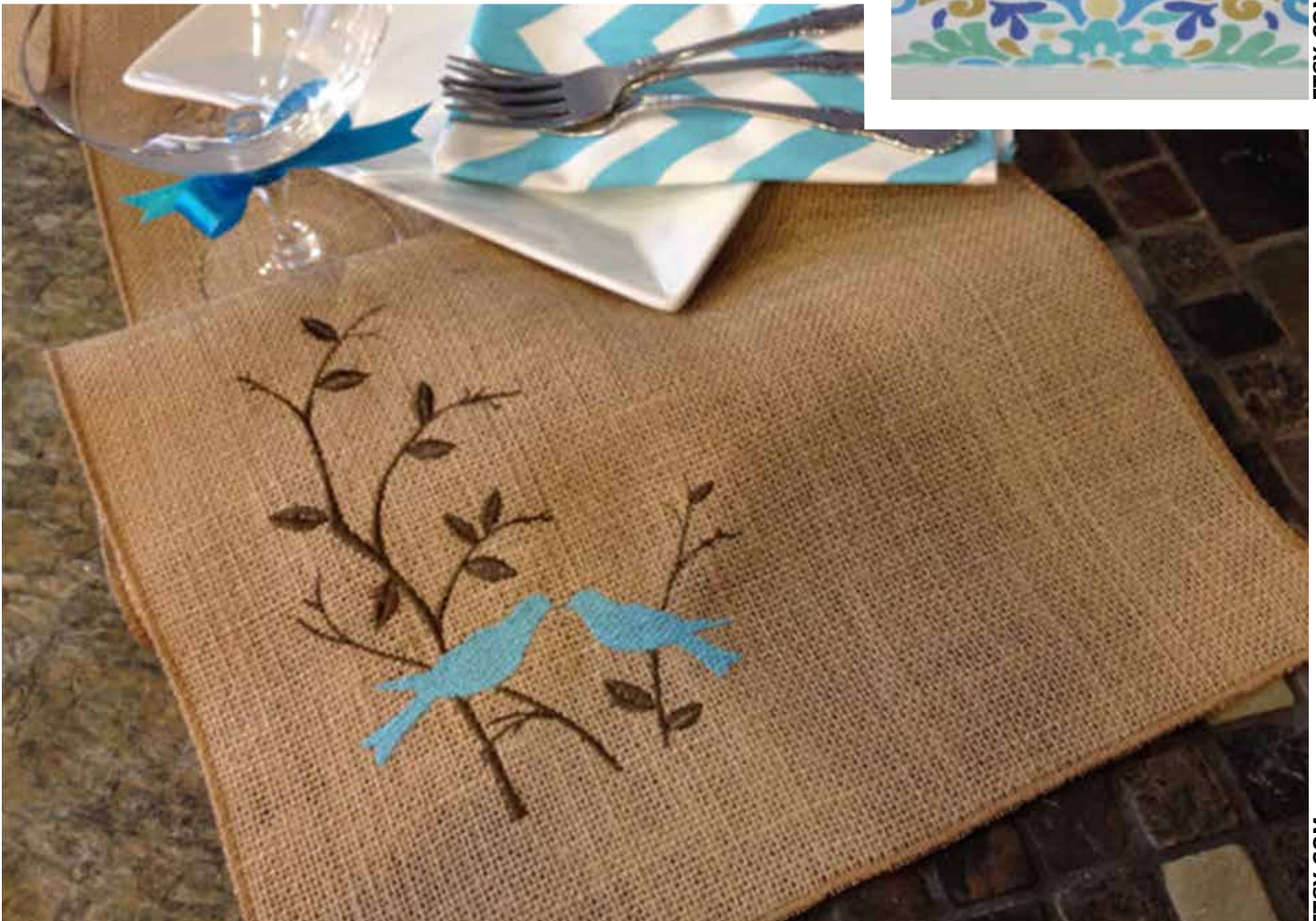
stick to solid color placemats or a plain or simply decorated tablecloth. White or solid colored plates give you more leeway to throw in patterns and different pops of color. Add texture and color with linens, plants and flowers, and fruit.

### Table Runners

Another rather easy jumping off point for your theme is a table runner. It's like decorating from

the floor on up.

There are guidelines to using table runners, but no rules. Run







Brussels sprout topiaries



Springtime white



one down the middle; two or three across the table; use with or without a tablecloth. It really shouldn't be wider than one-third the width of the table. A six-inch drop on either side from the edge is standard, but not absolute.

### Flowers

The amazing blooms this time of year are hard to resist. Use the most beautiful spring flowers you can find for your theme. Different kinds and colors of flowers can always be tied in one way or

another to your table setting. Flowers are the traditional centerpieces, and in the spring it's hard to argue. Mixed bouquets look festive and bright, while a single color can be simple and elegant.

### Food as Decoration

A popular theme for spring is as practical as it is pretty: edible centerpieces. Using fruits and vegetables keeps the look fresh, and they don't take too much work

### Focus on Dessert

Displaying your dessert course as a table theme works fabulously as long as your desserts are fabulous. (I'm sure these truffles fit the bill.) Use the colors from the cake, cupcakes or chocolate creations and decorate your table to coordinate. If they don't have





much color, add a ribbon, tissue paper or fresh flowers and greens.

### Get Creative

A favorite idea found on CountryLiving.com: Dig out some tin cans from the recycling bin and paint them for your spring table. Large and small soup cans and a coffee can turn into easy and inexpensive vases that the creative types at the table will appreciate! Just pop in your favorite flowers.

A few wooden letter cutouts from the craft store and your theme is spelled out.

Whether simple or over-the-top, do what feels comfortable for your style and stay within your budget. Add a few special touches and you'll "wow" your family members and impress your friends, whether it's a holiday or an impromptu celebration of a sunny day.



Centerpiece cake



Check out these Fusion stories for more great table-setting ideas.

**Small Changes-Big Impact**  
<https://www.youtube.com/v/0HAaznEDIRU>

**3 Spring Tablescapes**  
<https://www.youtube.com/v/-s28x3BnE1M>





# WTDITG

**They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But, for gardeners, March is more like a turtle: Slow and steady wins the race. Keep up with your gardening regimen, prune and fertilize--and stay ahead of the weeds. March is the month of Spring, and the bare branches of winter will soon be sprouting forth with color!**

## PLANNING

- Have you been making notes in your garden journal? It'll be fun to see what all you were able to accomplish this year when you look back on your notes!



- Do more vegetable garden planning to take advantage of all the space available. For instance, planting pole beans at the base of corn plants is a great combo! As the beans grow they have the corn to grow on for support and the beans add back to the soil ni-

trogen needed by the corn.

- We recommend you research some additional companion planting for your vegetable crops. By planting 'companion plants' together and keeping disagreeable plants apart, you can have the best production ever! If you can tweak your planting

plan to allow for these little natural friendships to develop, then your harvests will be more bountiful than ever!

Ed Hume's seed website has some good info on companion planting or you can find lots of companion planting information in a book by Louise Riotte, "Carrots Love Tomatoes".

Here are just three examples;

Beans like celery and cucumbers but do not like onions and fennel.

Corn lives happily with pumpkins, peas, beans and cucumber but does not like tomatoes!



Tomatoes like carrots, onions and parsley but don't plant them near cabbage or cauliflower.

## PLANTING

- This is a good 'general' planting and landscaping month, an excellent time to start looking at what's available to add color and drama to your landscaping. More stock will be available this time of year and the plants can get off to a great start as the soil begins to warm up.

- Your last chance to buy bare root fruit trees is this month. You want to get the bare root trees planted before they leaf out, so hurry in to your local garden center to see what's available.

- Plant berry crops: Strawber-



ries, blueberries and all the cane berries like raspberries and blackberries, currants and gooseberries.

## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up perennials and divide daylilies, hosta, asters, garden mums and other summer and fall blooming perennials. Cut back dormant perennial grasses to 2" above soil.

- Fertilize trees and shrubs, if you haven't yet, with an all purpose slow release fertilizer. This is the 'last chance' month to apply this six-month slow release formula. You want it to be used up by



# What To Do In The Garden

## MARCH

your plants by the end of July. This way your plants will have the months of August and September to get toughened up for winter.



- Prune roses if you haven't yet. Thin them out, spacing the branches you leave for best sun exposure. Fertilize roses with a granular slow release fertilizer to keep them strong and healthy, making the rose bush better able to resist disease and insects. Watch for aphids as they love the new growth on roses.

- Prune flowering trees and shrubs when they finish flower-

ing. After forsythia's blooms fade is when you should prune it. Cut out up to 1/3rd of the stems or branches all the way down to the ground. This allows for the new stems to grow that will bloom next season. Look up pruning tips for each plant you are thinking of working on. Your research now will payoff later in better looking trees and shrubs.

- Spread compost over the veggie garden and landscape beds to help enrich the soil.

- Early spring is a good time to apply a lawn fertilizer with extra iron for moss control. The seed germination inhibiting iron will be gone in time for your grass seedling in late April.

- Weeds? Remember that if weeds are allowed to go to seed, more and more work will be added to your garden. Keep up with this task by pulling them or covering the weeds with newspaper and compost, letting them rot beneath and then turning them into the soil once rotted.

- Watch for slugs. Use Bonide's slug bait called 'Slug Magic' to kill slugs safely with its active ingredient, iron phosphate.



## VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures often this month to see what can be planted out by seed. Refer back to the soil temperature chart (in our January issue) for planting vegetables by seed out into the garden. The chart also lists the best soil temperatures for planting young starts.



- Vegetable garden: Apply organic compost to the soil. Spade in this amendment or roto-till. (If soil is still too wet, just spade in amendments as spading is better for the soil structure anyway).

- Start plants indoors, using good organic seed starting soil; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chives, green onions, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

- Plant seeds outdoors, unless otherwise specified; beets, garden peas, fava beans, cabbage starts, cilantro, garlic cloves, green onion starts, onion sets, shallots, mustard greens, spinach, swiss chard and radishes.

Plant most of the perennial varieties of veggies now like asparagus crowns, artichokes horseradish and rhubarb. Plant carrot seeds at the end of the month.

- Plant Walla Walla onion set starts and the dry white, yellow or red onion sets.

- Pick up your seed potatoes this month as soon as they are available, since they should be chitted first before planting. (It's not a mistake, we do mean chit!) 'Chitting' potatoes is a term that means pre-sprouting seed potatoes. Place the seed spuds in a single layer, eyes facing up, in a cool frost free (no lower than 50F) but well-lit space. Good strong



light, even sun, is best for creating the plump, strong stubby sprouts, not any long weak sprouts you see from stored potatoes. When the sprouts are about 3/4"-1" long the tubers can be planted out in the garden. Chitting first helps with an earlier and larger harvest.





# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

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### **Saturday Rose Academy: Choosing the Right Rose** **Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 10:00am-12:00pm** **Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR**

All classes meet in the classroom next to the Sales Cottage and are scheduled 10:00 AM to Noon. To RSVP or for more information email [info@heirloomroses.com](mailto:info@heirloomroses.com) or call 800-820-0465. Registration is preferred but not mandatory.

### **Year-round Veggie Gardening: Beginner** **Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 1:00pm** **Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

with Polly Gottesman of Pumpkin Ridge Gardens  
Polly has been providing vegetables year round to her CSA subscribers for decades, and her seminar on planning year-round gardens in our area has been a perennially popular one here. Come learn about the best timing, dependable varieties and other tips so you can garden like you eat – 12 months a year. This is the first of two classes, and will present the outlines of four-season gardening in the northwest.

### **Mushroom Cultivation Made Easy** **Saturday, March 1, 2014 • 1:00pm-2:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Come and join Tony McMigas, Cultivation Group Co-Chair of the Oregon Mycological Society, and owner of McMigas Family Farm, on a mycological adventure. You will learn how mushrooms grow and more importantly, how to grow your own! Learn how to grow mushrooms on straw, logs, and in a perennial patch of wood chips. Starter kits will be available for purchase at the class, for \$20.00 each. Cash or check to instructor.

### **Saturday Rose Academy: Planting and Transplanting** **Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 10:00am-12:00pm** **Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR**

All classes meet in the classroom next to the Sales Cottage and are scheduled 10:00 AM to Noon. To RSVP or for more information email [info@heirloomroses.com](mailto:info@heirloomroses.com) or call 800-820-0465. Registration is preferred but not mandatory.

### **Conifers: Amazing Easy-Care Evergreens** **Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 10:00am-2:00pm** **Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, Woodburn & Gresham, OR**

Are you looking for some easy-care plants that look fantastic year round? Conifers are the answer. Join us and see unique conifers grown by specialty growers that are slow growing and gorgeous. Many of these plants are easy to care for and excellent for smaller spaces; some varieties growing less than 1 inch per year. Representatives from specialty growers will be at Al's in Woodburn and Sherwood. Specialty Conifers will be featured at display tables. At Al's in Sherwood a panel discussion at 12:30pm will focus on fun topics regarding co-

nifers. At all Al's locations enjoy 10% off all conifer purchases for the day and enter to win fun prizes including a \$100 Al's Gift Card. Registration is not required. The event is free and is open to the public.

Al's of Sherwood: Panel Discussion 12:30pm to 1:30pm,  
Specialty grower representatives and displays 10:00am-2:00pm.

Al's of Woodburn: Monrovia representative and displays, 10am-2pm.

Al's of Gresham, 7505 SE Hogan Rd 97080 Displays. 10:00am-2:00pm.

### **Espaliered Fruit Trees** **Saturday, March 8, 2014 • 3:00pm-4:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Looking for ways to fit even more fruit into your yard or better use your small space? Consider maximizing your square footage by growing espaliered fruit trees! Monica of Core Home Fruit Services, will guide you through which fruits make for good espalier subjects, and how to begin and maintain espaliered shapes in your own garden.

### **Designing Child Friendly Spaces into the Landscape** **Sunday, March 9, 2014 • 1:00pm** **Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

with Kristien Forness  
Join professional landscape designer, Kristien Forness, on an exploration of incorporating child friendly spaces into the landscape. Get a sneak peek into the dozens of gardens she has designed for pre-schools and residences. From boulder hopping through rain gardens to the evolution of a sandbox to fire pit in a contemporary landscape design, Kristien will discuss the wide-ranging ways to engage the entire family in the landscape.

### **Saturday Rose Academy: Care and Feeding** **Saturday, March 15, 2014 • 10:00am-12:00pm** **Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR**

All classes meet in the classroom next to the Sales Cottage and are scheduled 10:00 AM to Noon. To RSVP or for more information email [info@heirloomroses.com](mailto:info@heirloomroses.com) or call 800-820-0465. Registration is preferred but not mandatory.

### **Bats, Birds, & Bees** **Saturday, March 15, 2014 • 10:00am(G)** **Saturday, March 22, 2014 • 10:00am(W); 1:00pm(S)** **Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Woodburn, Sherwood, OR**

Naturalist Elaine Murphy, from Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, will explain how these little critters help in our gardens,





and how to provide a welcoming habitat for them in your yard. She'll share her 25+ years of experience & knowledge with you during this seminar. Registration is not required. The event is free and open to the public. Speakers: Elaine Murphy, Naturalist, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District.

### **The Ins and Outs of Insects and Insecticides**

**Saturday March 15, 2014 • 1:00 p.m.**

**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Insects, are they the heroes or the villains of our garden? Maybe a little of both. Join us as we share the various roles of insects in our garden's ecosystem, the proper use of insecticides, and some less-lethal options for protecting our plants.

### **How to Care for Your Lawn**

**Sunday, March 16, 2014 • 11:00am**  
**Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Lawns take a beating over the winter. How much or how little should be done now to get them as healthy as possible for the summer? Learn how and when to topdress your grass, tips on moss control and fertilizing, and timing for reseeding. A few steps taken now leads to a healthier greener lawn later. Cost: Free but please register. Email: [events@farmingtongardens.com](mailto:events@farmingtongardens.com). Phone: 503.649.4568.

### **G2T (Garden to Table): Pears, Blueberries, Potatoes and Leafy Greens**

**Sunday, March 16, 2014 • 1:00 p.m.**  
**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Spring is here and in this month's G2T, we will focus on pears, blueberries, potatoes and those yummy leafy greens. We will share how to prep, plant, harvest and bring this wonderful produce to your table.

### **Ladies Night Out: Spring Showcase**

**Thursday, March 20, 2014 • 5:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR**

Indulge in an evening of fun, food and friends! See what's new for spring at the fashion show, learn how to cook fantastic and healthy foods at the cooking demonstrations, and enjoy delicious food and wine for purchase while you relax to live music. Don't forget to enter to win one of several fun prizes! Registration: Registration is required. Register online at [alsgardencenter.com](http://alsgardencenter.com). The event is free and open to the public.

### **Saturday Rose Academy: Planting and Transplanting; Spring Clean Up**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014 • 10:00am-12:00pm**  
**Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR**

All classes meet in the classroom next to the Sales Cottage and are scheduled 10:00 AM to Noon. To RSVP or for more information email [info@heirloomroses.com](mailto:info@heirloomroses.com) or call 800-820-0465. Registration is preferred but not mandatory.

### **B.Y.O.B. – Bring Your Own Bonsai Workshop**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Sign up for a chance to bring in your own bonsai to work on with supervision by bonsai expert Greg Brenden. Drawing on his decades of experience, he'll help you gain confidence in repotting, rootwork and training your plant and be available to answer your questions regarding bonsai. Bring your tools or purchase new ones from our supply. Small fee for re-potting supplies – based on plant size. Class limited to 15.

### **Saturday Rose Academy: Care and Feeding**

**Saturday, March 29, 2014 • 10:00am-12:00pm**  
**Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR**

All classes meet in the classroom next to the Sales Cottage and are scheduled 10:00 AM to Noon. To RSVP or for more information email [info@heirloomroses.com](mailto:info@heirloomroses.com) or call 800-820-0465. Registration is preferred but not mandatory.

### **Container Gardening Class**

**Saturday, March 29, 2014 • 1:00pm-2:00pm**  
**Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR**

### **Oregon Camellia Society Exhibition**

**Saturday & Sunday, March 29 & 30, 2014 • 10:00am-4:00pm**

**Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

Pavilion Gallery. The Oregon Camellia Society will hold its Annual Spring Camellia Show with over 100 varieties of beautiful camellias and learn about their care, feeding, pruning, and identification. Included with Garden admission.

### **Annual Tulip Fest**

**March 29 - May 4, 2014 • Daily, 9:00am-6:00pm**  
**Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR**

Our favorite time of year is when the tulips bloom! There is nothing like the colors of our tulip fields in the spring. Every year the varieties are arranged differently in a new pattern of color as we rotate our tulip fields to a new location. Gift shop open daily. This spring bring your family, even the dog, and enjoy over 40 Acres of Tulips. Well-behaved dogs welcome on leashes. For more information call us toll free: 1-800-711-2006. Email us: [office@woodenshoe.com](mailto:office@woodenshoe.com)

### **LOOKING FOR MORE?**

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar  
[www.gardentime.tv/events.htm](http://www.gardentime.tv/events.htm)



# "Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

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