

April 2014

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home



GardenPalooza
Return of the Spring!

Build a PVC Trellis
Easter Eggs

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services'
Joshua Robben

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The Best Laid Plans...

Spring often brings this quote to mind when we are heading out into the garden. The full quote from Robert Burns is "the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray", meaning that no matter how much you plan, things can take a turn for the worse. Always have a back-up plan! This spring I had lots of plans for the garden and there was always something that was holding me up. Either I ran out of time, room in the yard debris bin or patience (there just seems to be too much to do!) I just have to remember that everything will get done and if it doesn't, so what!

This comes to mind with the approach of the GardenPalooza event. We seem to encounter wet and wild weather every few years and, as much as we plan, we still can run into some drenching rains or blustery winds. The best part for us is the hardy gardeners that come to the event. We joke about liquid sunshine, but when we see soaked gardeners walking out with broad smiles and arms full of plants, it always brings a ray of sunshine to the Garden Time crew. We try to make contingency plans for directing water away from booths, pulling cars out of the mud and renting tent walls to block the wind, but the success of the event really comes down to the great people that are our viewers who attend every year! In this month's issue we tell you about the upcoming GardenPalooza event and what is new and exciting for this year.

Even though your spring plans may go astray, you should still get your garden ready for the upcoming summer. To help you do that we always have our tips of the month at the back of each issue. In addition, we include easy 'to do' projects in each issue. This month William shows you how to build a simple PVC trellis for your vegetable garden. This one is great because when the season is done, you can just fold it up and put it away. You can also start planning for your upcoming Easter holiday with some tips for dying Easter eggs from Chef David Musial. He gives us a little history on why we color eggs and his recipe will also show you how to dye them naturally, with some unique patterns and colors.

Spring changes to the magazine this year include the addition of our Plant Pick of the week. Little Prince of Oregon has come on-board as the sponsor of the TV segment and we are now including them in the magazine with the plants that we have featured in the TV show over the past month. All of these plants are winners and would make great additions to your yard or garden.

One last note. The past month we have experienced some bumps in the road with the TV show. One week we were preempted by NCAA basketball and a couple of the other weeks we had problems with the TV listing services putting a cooking show in our time slot. Just to let everyone know, we are on the air every week until November (with exception of Labor Day and one day in October), so no matter what they print in your local TV channel guide, we should be there, at our regular time, every week! In fact, starting on April 12th we will be returning to our 1 hour long program until the end of June, so be looking for even more home and garden information!

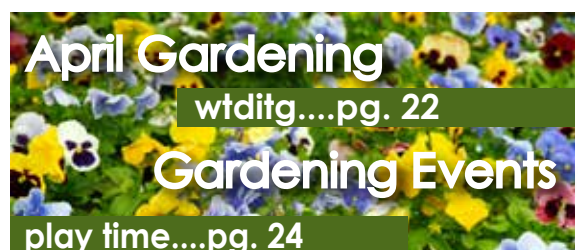
Happy Spring and see you all at GardenPalooza!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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In this issue...





GARDENPALOOZA 2014

RETURN OF THE SPRING!



**12th Annual Spring
GardenPalooza**

Saturday, April 5, 2014

8:00am-4:00pm

Fir Point Farms, Aurora

www.gardenpalooza.com

It's that time of year again to celebrate spring at the 12th annual GardenPalooza! This year's GardenPalooza is again sponsored by our friends at Dramm, (www.dramm.com) creators of those amazing high quality colorful watering tools, hoses, pruners and even fertilizer. GardenPalooza is the perfect place to find that perfect plant, tool or unique piece of garden art to enhance your home. There will be some new vendors and old favorites for your shopping pleasure. 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 desires! Saturday, April 5, 2014 marks the 12th year of this much anticipated exciting and fun event! Spend the day from 8 am to 4 pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora. Some of the most unique

nursery and garden art vendors in the Northwest are all together in one location. It's a great opportunity to get a jump on your gardening needs.

Come early and shop from over 45 local plant and garden art vendors who will tempt you with their gardening treasures. And be sure to visit the vendors behind the glass greenhouse. The hosts of the Garden Time TV show, William McClenathan and Judy Alleruzzo, will be inside the glass greenhouse 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) and offering a drawing for some of those great colorful tools provided by Dramm! Gartner's Meats will be tempting you with their delectable meat



samples as well!

In the tent behind the glass greenhouse you will find the free Plant Holding area where you can drop off your purchases, go back for more shopping and when you are finished, drive around and pick everything up! Not all of the vendors take credit and debit cards so bring your checkbooks just in case. There will also be an ATM machine on site for your convenience. If all that shopping wears you out, take a break and enjoy some delicious food provided by the owners of Fir Point Farms, Country Grains. Their cinnamon rolls, sandwiches, soups and salads are just the ticket to fill you up and energize you for an afternoon of shopping. If you bring your children, be sure to take a stroll and visit all the farm animals.



One of the best parts of this family friendly adventure is that it is free to attend. There is plenty of free parking on site so all that savings can go towards 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 events and see which vendors will be participating. Rain or shine, don your boots and don't miss GardenPalooza 2014, sponsored by Dramm, Garden Time and Fir Point Farms. Hope to see you there!



Love it? Hate it? Grow it. Try it!

Before you give up on cilantro, try growing your own.

by Therese Gustin

You either love it or hate it! That's what I frequently hear when it comes to cilantro. I happen to be in the "love it" camp so much of my Mexican and Asian cooking is sprinkled with the flavorful herb. Cilantro or *Coriandrum sativum* is actually considered an herb and a spice. The leafy part is commonly called cilantro while the seed is referred to as coriander.

This herb is considered native to regions of southern Europe and North Africa to southwestern Asia. Historically coriander seeds have been found in Israel and in Egyptian tombs. The ancient Egyptians considered coriander to be food for the departed in the afterlife. Ancient herbalists considered coriander to be an aphrodisiac. The ancient Greeks used coriander for the production of perfumes. They also used the seeds as a spice and the leaves as a flavorful herb. Coriander/cilantro made its way to North America in the late 1600's by way of European settlers.

Though cilantro is related to and resembles flat-leaved parsley, it can be distinguished from parsley by its pungent sometimes described as musky aroma. It is an annual plant unlike parsley which is a perennial plant.

Growing cilantro is quite easy. But the growing conditions are different based on how you want to



PHOTO CREDIT: HANNAH RAE PHOTOGRAPHY

use your cilantro/coriander. Temperature and day length influence the flowering and seed set. If you are growing cilantro for the leaves, direct seed into the coolest part of the garden from early spring through early summer and then again in early autumn. Plant 10 to 15 seeds per foot of row and cover the seeds with about ¼ to ½ inch of soil. Seeds will germinate when soil temperatures reach 55 to 68 degrees. Thin plants to about 8 inches apart with rows one to 1 ½ ft. apart. Cilantro plants can handle temperatures down to freezing. You can start to harvest your cilantro leaves when they reach 4 to 6 inches tall. By cutting the leaves off at harvest you can enjoy a second harvest just a few weeks later.

In warmer weather, cilantro has a tendency to bolt and form lacy flowers. If your intent is to harvest the 'coriander seed', then just let this bolting occur and within four to six weeks of seed sowing the plant should set seed.

You can also set out cilantro transplants, but remember cilantro has long roots which make it a little difficult to transplant.

The fresh leaves are used in many Indian foods such as salads and chutneys. It is used extensively in Mexican foods especially guacamole and salsas. It is also used in Thai and Chinese dishes and as a gar-



You can store fresh cilantro leaves upright in a glass of water in your refrigerator for up to a week.

Dried coriander seeds are a staple of Indian, central European, African and Asian cuisine.

Both the seeds and leaves of coriander have antioxidant properties which help prevent spoilage of the foods it is used in. Chemicals in the cilantro leaves have been found to contain antibacterial properties against *Salmonella choleraesuis*. Coriander has been used for the relief of anxiety and insomnia in Iran. Coriander seeds are also used in traditional Indian medicine as a diuretic by boiling equal amounts of coriander seeds and cumin seeds, then cooling and consuming the liquid. In holistic and traditional medicine, it is used as a digestive aid. Coriander has also been used as an insulin-releasing treatment for type 2 diabetes. Some people though have been found to have allergies to coriander. I am lucky enough to not have allergies and love adding cilantro to my favorite Pico de Gallo salsa recipe. Hope you enjoy it too!

nish in Russian and Indian cooking. Drying and freezing the ci-

lantro leaves tends to diminish the flavor so they are best used raw.

Pico de Gallo



2 cups fresh tomatoes chopped and drained (I use Campari tomatoes from Costco. If you can't use fresh tomatoes substitute 2-15 oz. cans of petite diced tomatoes.)

½ cup diced onion

1 4 oz. can diced green chiles

2 Tbs. chopped fresh cilantro

leaves

2 teas. Fresh lime juice

Salt (to taste- if desired)

Mix all ingredients together. Serve immediately with your favorite tortilla chips.

You can also mix with mashed avocado for an awesome gua-

camole. (One cup Pico de Gallo to one cup mashed avocado.)

Check out the Garden Time story with Rosie Sullivan from N&M Nursery on growing cilantro in a container.

<http://www.youtube.com/v/9ho34Z48iXo>

Pipe Dreams for Your Plants

With a little time, a little effort and a little over \$10, you can build a trellis for your garden.

by William McClenathan



For many gardeners, it seems our personal space is shrinking. We have been forced to come up with ideas which use vertical space instead of horizontal, while still considering the financial costs.

There are countless ways to build trellises that enhance our ability to use vertical space. But one of the easiest and least expensive ways to accomplish this is a PVC trellis.

The process is extremely simple. I will tell you how to build a 6' tall by 4' wide trellis. The beauty in this system is that it is limited only by your creativ-

ity and the PVC connectors.

They can be as small or large as you would like. Do remember though that extra support may be required for ones over 4' wide and taller than 6'. In fact, if you are planning to grow heavy produce like some squash or even larger cucumbers, an extra bar in the middle may be needed for support, even for the 4' x 6' trellis I will be telling you how to build in this article.

Let's get started! The first thing is to decide what you want to use it for. This will allow you to determine the size of your trellis. For this one, I know the list of supplies will be:

- 4 - 6' long pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC
- 3 - 4' long pieces of $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC
- 6 - $\frac{3}{4}$ " elbows
- 2 - T-connectors

The t-connectors must be 1" diameter on the horizontal 't' part and $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter on the vertical part. This is to allow the top $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC to slide comfortably through the t-connector, making it possible to easily fold the trellis flat for winter storage. Most hardware stores will make the cuts on the PVC pipes for you, often free of charge. Or, you can make the cuts at home.

And do not forget to buy the non-threaded elbows and t-connectors. You can also, after everything is put together correctly, choose to glue the elbows with PVC glue. I have not found this to be necessary as the weight of the produce or vines grown on the trellis holds it together very well. Just don't glue the t-connectors as you would not be able to fold it flat for winter storage.





Once all the pieces are ready, it is an easy task to assemble them. You make one rectangle out of two-6' and two-4' pieces, connecting them with 4 elbow connectors. This is one side of your trellis.



The other two-6' pieces are attached with the last two elbows to one of the 2 remaining 4' pieces of PVC.

The last 4' piece is attached by sliding the t-connectors onto it, then sliding the remaining two 6' sides of the trellis into the $\frac{3}{4}$ " part of the t-connector.

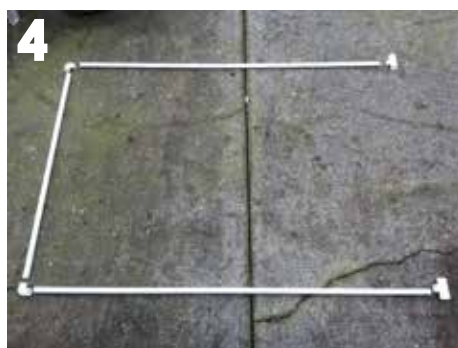
Next, take the previous 4' x 6'



you made, remove the two elbows from one of the 4' pieces and slide the new rectangle piece onto that 4' piece of pipe by using the 1" top of your t-connectors.

Replace the elbows and you are ready to set up your new trellis. Now you see why the diameter of the t-connectors had to be bigger (1") on the vertical part, so it could swing open and closed.

The last thing to add is some form of string so the vines have something to grow up. This is really up to the user. Hemp, twine, cotton string, fishing wire, even bird netting, can be used for this purpose. Do keep in mind that certain fibers will biodegrade more quickly than others, so you may have to replace those fibers each year. As long as you are aware of this, you can choose which ones will best serve your needs. By stringing wire across the base of the trellis a few inches up from the base of it, you can attach your string to the wire instead of the PVC and

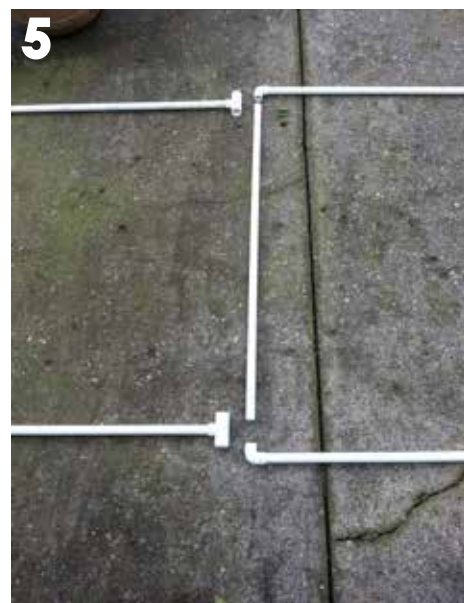


avoid contact with the soil. This should help certain forms of string last longer.

I like this project because it is easy and very cost effective. But even more so because you could really become very creative and make all kinds of cool trellising ideas from this.

I spent \$10.66 in parts and, counting the cutting of the PVC pipes, it took less than 30 minutes put together. If your garden is small, on a patio or you have a hundred acres to work with. Make yourself a trellis and grow upwards.

Garden in the earth, but reach for the stars.



Long May He Rain

Joshua Robben went from building river channels in his backyard to building rain gardens to protect the quality of our water.

by David Musial



Joshua Robben

While most boys were playing with GI Joe figures or Legos, young Josh Robben was building river channels in his yard. He used coffee cans as cisterns to collect his river water, which sourced from the end of a garden hose. It's no wonder that he wound up working for the City of Portland building rain gardens.

Growing up in Portland, Joshua loved learning how water flows and responds in different materials and conditions. He was always fascinated with water response to the urban

environment, which led to obtaining both a Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science in Physical Geography from Oregon State University.

After college, he worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry's Monitoring Program and in 2001, he joined the Bureau of Environmental Services, first working in the Willamette Watershed Program and then with the Stormwater Retrofit Program where he currently works. It is in his current position that he has the opportunity to apply the

principles learned as a youth: How water reacts to the built environment and how we can alter it to achieve the desired goals.

The Bureau of Environmental Service is Portland's wastewater and stormwater management utility and Joshua says its mission is to protect public health, water quality, and the environment. This is accomplished through providing sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to meet Portland's current and future needs. "We protect the



PHOTO COURTESY DINSDALE LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS, INC.

quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy watersheds”.

My introduction to Josh was through the construction of rain gardens. He explained that in Portland, we receive an average of 37 inches of rain a year and as this water falls on buildings, streets and other hard surfaces it creates stormwater runoff that flows into sewer pipes and natural waterways. This runoff can also transport dirt, oil and chemicals into rivers, streams and groundwater. The construction of rain gardens can help reduce the hazards of runoff and flooding.

For those not familiar with rain gardens, Josh says, “A rain garden is a shallow landscape depression that collects rainwater

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where it can be filtered and infiltrate the ground. They are often planted with native plants and can be designed to blend with existing landscapes. With proper site conditions, a rain garden is a great place to direct water from rooftops or paved areas.”

If you’re interested in learning more about the benefits of rain gardens or how to construct one, Josh suggests you visit the Environmental Services website at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/60886.

Building rain gardens helps the environment, but for Josh, the entire process is rewarding. He is involved from inception of a rain garden to completion. It includes, planning, design, plant selection and installation.

For Josh, free time is spent on home improvement projects, fishing and doing activities with his son. One activity they share is building Ok Go Machines (Rube Goldberg Machines) using household materials. These are machines that complete a simple task with an overcomplicated design, usually using a chain reaction. Think of the game Mouse Trap. Wonder if his son is destined to become an engineer....

When asked about future goals, Josh didn’t skip a beat and said he wants to capture Bigfoot. Well, if he’s as successful at that as he is at capturing runoff water, he is sure to have success. Look out Bigfoot, here comes Joshua Robben.

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Don't Give a Flying Fig About Figs?



You Should!

The next time you see one at a farmers' market, you should taste what you have been missing.

by Judy Alloruzzo

Figs are a delicious but an unusual looking fruit. They are misunderstood as they look strange and if you buy them in a grocery store, they taste like cardboard. To get the best tasting fig, grow your own or find them at your local farmers' market. Those are the best ways to get a truly sweet fig. The fruit is very perishable and needs to ripen on the trees. The soft flesh is difficult to transport and has a short shelf life at a produce store. They are also high in fiber, iron and a great source of potassium.

Native to the Middle East and Western Asia, fig trees can grow to over 30 feet tall and almost as wide. They have beautiful deeply lobed green leaves with fruit found in several colors including deep purple to black and chartreuse to

light green. The fruit's flesh is also in an assortment of colors from almost white to light pink to deep strawberry red depending on the fig variety.

To me they are all tasty! Fig history is a long one. You

may remember the biblical reference to Adam and Eve covering themselves with fig leaves? Fossil figs have been found 9400 to 9200 BC in the Jordan Valley, north of Jericho. This find predates human farm crops like wheat,





Grandpa and Grandma Miritello



barley and legumes. It is one of the oldest known fruits and probably used as a sweetener in ancient food preparation. Figs were noted during Roman times by Cato the Elder and were eaten as fresh fruit but also fed to geese to produce an early version of Foie Gras. In ancient Greece, it was illegal to export the fruit to other countries.

Historical evidence of figs has been found from Afghanistan to Portugal. Mediterranean people knew figs were a good food source. From the 15th century and onward in Northern Europe and even in the 'New World' of North America, figs were a part of the seasonal harvest.

Many cultures in many countries enjoy fresh and dried figs. My Grandma and Grandpa Miritello immigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. Grandpa missed the sweet figs that he grew in Central Sicily. He decided to plant a fig tree in Chicago

which is Zone 5(-20F). Because of the severe winters,

he buried the fig tree to protect it from freeze damage.

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Grandpa would loosen the roots and somehow bend the tree over horizontal with the ground. He then piled copious amounts of soil and leaves on the tree to insulate it for the winter. It was a lot of work but he was passionate about having fresh figs growing in his garden.

Of course, I planted fig trees at each of the houses I have lived. I even buried my tree when I lived in Chicago. It's a family tradition. I'm glad I don't have to do that now.

My Grandpa is not the only guy in Chicago to want fresh figs. This winter, I met a Palestinian man named Sagar. We started talking about gardening and he had to show me photos of his 5 Fig trees. He has planted them in huge containers and rolls them into the garage every winter for the past 4 years. He is nervous about them this winter as it has been abnormally cold. He has a variety called 'Chicago Hardy' or 'Bensonhurst Purple' with origins from Sicily. It is hardy to Zone 6 (-10 F) This fig variety dies back in the fall and re-sprouts in spring to 2-3ft each year. In northern gar-

dens, it is recommended to apply a heavy mulch of straw and leaves to insulate the tree from winter damage. The dusky-purple fruit ripens late summer to early fall. I wonder if this tree is the same variety my Grandpa had all those years ago.

In the valleys of the Pacific Northwest, we are lucky to be able to grow many varieties of fig trees without the trouble of burying the tree or over wintering them in a garage. Fig trees are self fertile so you do not need a second tree as a pollinator. They are vigorous trees that really want to grow like a multi-stemmed tree instead of a single trunk.

It is best to prune in early to mid summer. Fruit is born on last year's growth so leave plenty of "old wood" when trimming your tree. To keep fig trees from becoming too large in a smaller garden, cut back about 1/2 of the limbs to the desired height you would like. You will sacrifice the fruit on these limbs. Next year prune back the rest of the limbs. Be careful when pruning as branches exude a milky sap



Oregon Prolific



Negronne



that can be an irritant to exposed skin. Fig trees can be trained as an espaliered tree if you have limited space. They are pest and disease free if given full sun, good drainage and air circulation. Fertilizer is not necessary after using some when establishing the tree. Top dress with compost as needed.

If you are into trying new recipes with figs, check out the cookbook, 'Fig Heaven' by Marie Simmons. Marie has developed recipes using fresh or dried figs in appetizers, desserts, main dishes, jams and salads. One of my favorite very simple recipes is wrapping ripe fresh figs with prosciutto. Che Bella!

Figs need to be picked when ripe; they will not ripen once taken off a tree. Choose fruit that is soft with small cracks at base of the fruit. Gently twist stem of fig to separate it from the tree. Store in single layers on a paper lined tray in the refrigerator. Use within 3 days.

For Oregon and SW Washington, these are a few delicious varieties to grow. Even though

we do have warm summers, fig trees planted here usually do not get a ripened second crop that would occur in warmer climates.

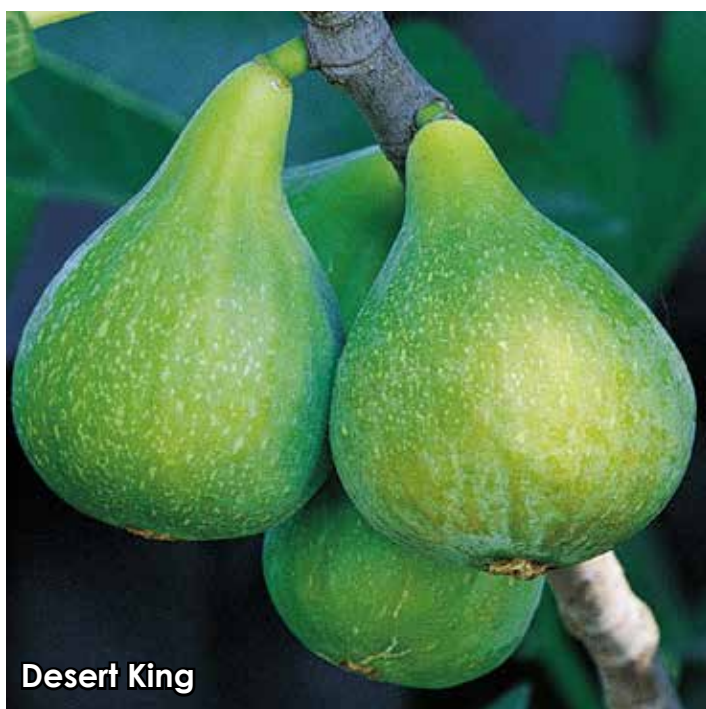
'Oregon Prolific' - Fruit has yellow skin with whitish flesh that ripens in late July.

'Desert King' or 'King' - Green fruit with pink- red flesh. Harvest fruit in August. Withstands late frost damage.

'Latterula' or 'White Italian Honey Fig' - Greenish-yellow fruit with light amber flesh. Fruit Ripens in June.

'Negronne' - Fruit has purple skin with red flesh. Good fig variety for a container. Ht 8-10ft. Perfect for a large container. Fruit ripens in late July.

If you love figs, plant an easy care tree to enjoy the fresh fruit right out your back door. If you've never tried one, take a chance the next time you are at a farmers' market and taste what you have been missing.



Desert King



Latterula

A Colorful History

Cracking the code behind those tinted springtime shells.

by David Musial

We have all pondered the age old question of which came first, the chicken or the egg. Well, I propose a different question... which came first the Easter Bunny or the Easter egg? Deep thoughts aside, Easter eggs have a colorful history and decorating them has delighted children for years and together we'll explore both.

The origin of the Easter egg has many theories and myths, but since it is a religious celebration, we will focus on the Christian roots.

The egg as a symbol has always represented spring and new life, and to Christians, the egg is thought to represent Christ's emergence from the tomb and the resurrection. So how do we go from there to decorating eggs?

Fasting from eggs, not eating them, during Lent has been practiced for hundreds of years. Families would use up eggs prior to the beginning of Lent, but would still have a surplus dur-

ing Lent that could be preserved. To celebrate the end of Lent and fasting, the eggs were decorated and eaten on Easter. Children received them as a prized Easter gift. In addition, it is said that, in 1290, King Edward I covered boiled eggs with gold leaf and distributed them to the royal household at Easter.

There are also a few myths that help establish why we decorate eggs. The first surrounds Mary Magdalene going to the tomb

of Christ. With her, she had a basket of cooked eggs for the journey. When she arrived at the tomb to see the stone rolled away, the eggs miraculously turned red.

There are two stories related to Mary, Jesus' mother, at the crucifixion with her carrying eggs. One has her tears fall on the eggs and spotted them red, the other story has blood from Christ fall on the eggs and turn them red. The coloring of eggs red in



Traditionally, Easter Eggs were dyed red to represent the blood of Christ.

PHOTO CREDIT: PICTUREHUNT.COM

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The choices of Paas Easter egg decorating kits seems endless.

these myths is why red has been the traditional color of Easter eggs.

Coloring Easter eggs has evolved over the years and has sure changed since I was kid. 'Back in the day', I remember there being only one or two options of egg coloring kits; both from the Paas® company. They cost about 19 cents and came with six color tablets, a copper wire egg holder and punch out decorative cardboard wraps to hold the eggs. As the youngest, I always got last pick on the wraps. If you're not sure what the decorative wraps were, I've included a photo.

That is a far cry from the number of products to color eggs that are available today. Now the options for Easter egg kits seem endless. Kits range from cartoon characters to elaborate designs. A quick search on Amazon.com turned up over 200 results, including the Angry Birds™ Easter Egg Decorating Kit. I'm thinking about

Garden Time's Plant Picks are from Little Prince. Your's should be, too.



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Click "Plant of the Week" on the Garden Time website for more information.



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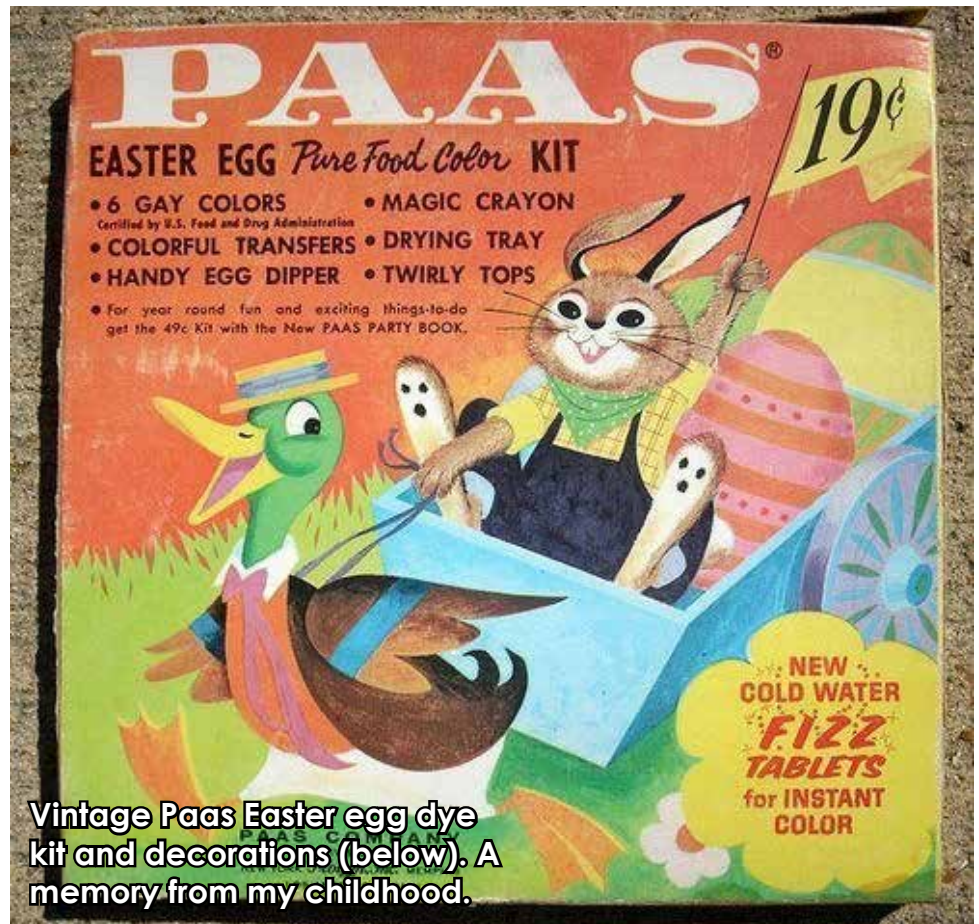
Check our website for one near you.

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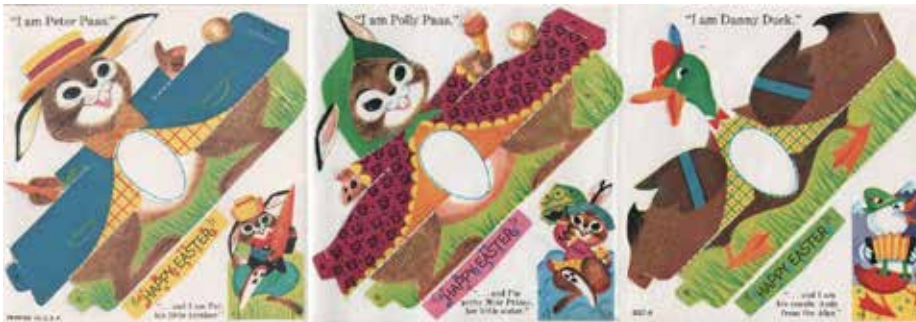
revisiting my youth and going for the Tie Dye Kit, and for the eggceptional (I made that word up) do-it-yourselfer we've even included a recipe for dying eggs naturally.

Even the Paas® company offers numerous kits. They have traditional, craft and theme categories and several kits available within each category. The themed kits include Volcano Eggspllosion, Egg Tats and Go Wild to name a few. They even have a line of egg-essories (I made that up too) that include the Grip 'n Dip™ to securely hold your egg. Hope it drops fewer eggs than the wire holder we used when I was a kid.

One last Easter egg tradition worth mentioning is how the White House got into the Easter egg spirit with egg rolling in the 1800's. Children originally held egg rolling events on the lawn of the new Capitol building. Since the egg rolling was damaging



Vintage Paas Easter egg dye kit and decorations (below). A memory from my childhood.



the lawn and funds to repair were lacking, Congress in their infinite wisdom passed a law forbidding using the Capitol grounds as a playground.

President Rutherford B. Hayes was asked by children if they could use the White House South Lawn for egg rolling. He agreed and the egg rolling has been held at the White House every Easter Monday, except for war times and bad weather. Egg rolling has given way to other events, but is still the highlight of the festivities. Children who are lucky to attend leave with memories of Easter at the White House as well as a wooden egg with the signature of the President and First Lady. If you happen to have an Easter egg from the White House, send a photo and tell us your story.

So which came first, the Easter Bunny or the Easter egg? I'm going with the Easter egg in the belief that after the Easter egg was developed, a delivery method was required...and along came Peter Cottontail!



Onion skin dyed eggs.

Onion Skin Dyed Eggs

You will need:

Fresh eggs
Onion skins
 (yellow or red, or a mix)
Cheesecloth
Rubber bands.



Directions:

1. Cut the cheesecloth into squares that will hold the eggs with enough fabric to tie and rubber band the egg.
2. Place a few layers of onion skin over the cloth and place an egg in the middle. Use one color or both red and yellow for a unique effect. The onion skins can be soaked in water prior to using to soften.
3. Grab the four corners of the cheesecloth and gently twist and tighten, being careful not to break the egg. The egg should now be surrounded by onion skins.

4. Rubber band to keep the ends together.
5. Place the eggs in a pot with cold water. Bring the water to a boil and reduce to a simmer. Cook covered for fifteen minutes.
6. Remove from the water and allow to cool slightly. Remove the rubber bands, cloth and onion skins. Give a quick rinse with water to remove any onion skin and refrigerate when completely cooled.

For a patterned egg, you can use a leaf placed against the egg, prior to wrapping in the onion skins. Fern and lace leaf maple leaves work well. Lastly, for a shiny appearance, rub a thin coat of vegetable oil on the egg.

GROW SOMETHING DELICIOUS

Whether you have a whole orchard or a container garden on your balcony, at Tsugawa Nursery we have the plants, seeds and supplies to help you grow something delicious. Backed by knowledgeable and friendly staff, we're here to help you be successful and inspire your gardening adventures.

PLANTS » GARDEN SUPPLIES & TOOLS » FRIENDLY STAFF



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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

12th Annual GardenPalooza **Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 8:00am-4:00pm** **Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR**

Over 45 Nursery and Garden Art Vendors in one location. Plenty of free parking and free admission.

Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Oregon Daffodil Society's Annual Show and Sale **Saturday & Sunday April 5 & 6, 2014 • 9:00am-5:00pm** **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR**

Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday. \$4 admission refunded on purchase of a rhododendron. To enter your own flowers in the show bring them to the exhibit hall 6:00pm-8:00pm Friday night or 7:00am-9:30am Saturday. More information: www.rhodies.org or 503-771-8386 Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society. The garden is located at 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland.

What to Do in the Garden in April **Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 11:00am** **Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Tsugawa Nursery's monthly seminar on maintenance in the landscape and garden. Spring has finally arrived and we're all jumping for joy! Now is the time to start setting out all sorts of new plants in the garden. Seeds to start and scatter, plants to fertilize, pruning to do! Bring pictures and samples for our staff to look at during the Q & A portion.

Al's Annual Basket Buffet & Benefit **Thursday-Sunday, April 10-13, 2014**

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 as you plant your baskets, and \$2.00 from every basket you plant goes to your choice of a local charity: SnowCap, The Silverton Health Foundation, or the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Pots, hangers, soil, and fertilizer are included in the price, along with a specified number of plants for the 10inch and for the 12 inch basket. Cost: Large \$16.99; Small \$12.99. Registration is not required.

Spring Open House **Saturday & Sunday April 12 & 13, 2014** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

We are so excited for the start of spring we are inviting the community to join us for our Spring Open House to celebrate. We have the weekend packed with great classes and amazing guests. Vivacity Spirits will be joining us, sampling their popular Cucumber Cocktails, recently featured in Flourish magazine, made with their Native Gin and vodka. We will also have music, sweet treats, great specials, and some exciting drawings.

Garden to Table: Cooking With Home Grown Herbs **Saturday April 12, 2014 • 10:30am** **Farmington Gardens**

Little Sprouts: Fairy Gardens **Saturday April 12, 2014 • 11:00am** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

We are not the only ones excited for spring. We have noticed a lot of mischievous happenings around the garden center. Items tipped over, sparkly things missing, and Corlie has been barking at seemingly nothing. This definitely means the fairies are here again and ready for our Little Sprouts to come and create new little gardens for them and to take them home. Call (541) 753-6601 to register. Cost: \$10 per child.

Floral Demo with Jim Somppi **Saturday April 12, 2014 • 1:00pm** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Fresh new blooms are coming. It would be wonderful to bring these home grown beauties indoors and to share them with your friends and family. We are delighted to have Jim Somppi, owner of The White Rose Custom Floral Design, back again to share how to best create unique fresh cut arrangements from your own garden.

Confidently Grow Conifers with Jock Demme **Sunday April 13, 2014 • 11:00am** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Conifers grow well in our excellent Northwest climate. With their diverse array of color, shapes, and textures they can be a dynamic addition to your landscape or container with a guarantee of 12 months of color. We are excited to have special guest Jock Demme from Iseli Nursery and world renowned grower of specialty conifers here to share the ins and outs of the care and maintenance of conifers and how to pick the best variety for your landscape and containers.

G2T (Garden to Table): Plums & Prunes, Currents & Gooseberries, and Brassicas **Sunday April 13, 2014 • 1:00pm** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

With spring here, it's time to start some of our favorites of nature's candies and brassicas. Not sure what brassicas are? We think you'll be surprised how often you eat them. In April we are focusing our Garden to Table class on plums, prunes, currents, gooseberries, and brassicas. We will share how to prep, plant, harvest and bring this wonderful produce to your table.

Creating Healthy Organic Soil with Randy Ritchie **Sunday April 13, 2014 • 2:00pm** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

The heart and building block of any garden or landscape is

continued next page



good healthy soil. There is no one better to help with creating healthy organic soil than our special guest, Randy Ritchie, founder of Malibu Compost. Randy will share how compost teas and composts work in the production of food on the garden. Randy will also explain the biology of the soil and types of organic ingredients in teas and soil mixes and how they work for your soil.

Totally Tasty Tomatoes!

Thursday, April 17, 2014 • 5:30pm

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

There is nothing quite as delicious as a homegrown tomato. Growing them is relatively easy – given a few basic requirements. Learn how to grow the best tomatoes either in containers or in the ground. Come choose from our great selection of tomato varieties. Cost: The seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts.

Lilac Days

April 19 - Mothers' Day, May 11, 2014 • 10:00am-4:00pm

Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

Plan to visit this historic internationally recognized Home and Gardens Grounds are wheelchair friendly. Hulda's Home is not wheelchair friendly. Video tour of the Historic Home is on display in Hulda's Potting Shed. No pets permitted in the Gardens. Free parking. Gardens located at 115 South Pekin Road, Woodland, Washington. Take exit #21 off I-5 and follow signs. Admission is \$3 with children under 12 free when accompanied by an adult.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 19, 2014 • 10:00am-2:00pm

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Hunts taking place every 30-60 minutes. Cost: \$4 per kid. Each child will hunt and find 12 eggs. The eggs will be empty when they collect them from the garden. Once they have collected all of their 12 eggs they will bring them back into the greenhouse where they will get to CHOOSE their candy and prizes. The ages for the hunt will stay the same as previous years, any child from 0-12 yrs is welcome to participate. Parents with children 3 & under will have the option to let their child go along with the older kids or to hunt with other small children. Tickets for the hunt will be \$4 per child to participate; kids are welcome to participate in the hunt at multiple times as long as they purchase an additional ticket. Tickets will be available to purchase in advance but you are by no means required to do so.

Oregon Garden Brewfest

Friday-Sunday, April 25-27, 2014

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Mark your calendar for our 10th annual Oregon Garden Brewfest, presented by Growl Movement. The festival will feature: 65 breweries, pouring 130 beers, ciders and meads from

continued next column

throughout Oregon and across the country. Great regional bands on two stages, Amazing food from local vendors. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (#ogbf) for the latest updates. And make plans to attend the Brewer's Tasting Dinner on Brewfest-eve, April 24th at 7pm, and the Brewfest Brunch at Seven Brides Brewing on April 25, 9am to 1pm.

Hours: Friday, April 25: noon to 11pm, Saturday, April 26: noon to 11pm, Sunday, April 27: noon to 5pm (minors welcome).

Applicable Mycology with Jordan Weiss

Saturday, April 26, 2014 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Jordan will teach you a few low-tech ways of growing mushrooms at home using companion planting strategies, hugelkulture, container gardening and mushroom composting. We will cover naturalized spawn, getting the most from your mushroom kit and a few ways to prepare your gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. Workshop attendees will receive a resource guide and growing instructions.

Gardens for Attracting Beneficial Bugs, Butterflies & Hummingbirds

Sunday, April 27, 2014 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Gardening Goddess Jolie Ann Donohue, shares her experience in attracting these beautiful and beneficial winged creatures to the garden and offers plant ideas and gardening techniques to help your garden buzz to life. Get ideas for what to plant for a long season of blooms sure to bring joy to you and the beneficial insects around you! Jolie draws from her skills as an Organic Gardening Consultant to offer advice on how to keep your pollinator attracting plants healthy and blooming and why you should draw them into your garden in the first place.

Container Gardening

Sunday, April 27, 2014 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Welcome spring with a bright, cheery container! Learn how to put together a container with long-lasting color display in this hands-on workshop led by Gardening Goddess, Jolie Ann Donohue. Jolie will cover the basics of container design, offer planting and maintenance tips, and guide you in your own creation of a 10" planter for sun or shade. Please bring gloves and a trowel. \$10 materials fee plus plants you choose to purchase. Class limited to 15.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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-Jeff Gustin, President

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