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The Bloom of a New Day

What a spring! Actually the spring has only been here a few days, but those last few weeks of winter really felt like the beginning of spring! We already have our garden cleaned up and ready for the season, almost. We now have a huge pile of debris in our veggie garden. I think that all gardeners should have a yard debris bin the size of a semi-truck to start the season. It will take us about 2 months to get everything into the compost bin week by week. All this warm weather had some people scared. 'What should we do if it freezes?' In our first show of the season we talked to Jan McNeilan and her answer was the same as every year, sit back, enjoy the warm weather, and don't worry about it. The garden is going to grow and there's no way to slow that down without some help from Mother Nature. The best we can do is not make things worse if a freeze comes along. You can do a little cleaning but don't clear too much of the mulch off your garden. That will help protect those tender buds. In fact, if you do clean up your yard or garden, consider giving Grimm's Fuel (http://www.grimmsfuel.com) a call and adding some fresh mulch to your beds. It will protect your plants and will also give them a boost of healthy soil to start the growing season.

Speaking of buds and blooms, we recently had the honor of having a brand new tulip named for Garden Time. The great folks at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm are helping us celebrate our 10th season with this beautiful bloom which is red with a yellow edge. You can order the bulb now through our website (go to our 'store') or through their website at http://www.woodenshoe.com/shop/triumph-tulips/garden-time/. We were able to meet the hybridizer, Leo Berbee, and we were there when he baptized the blooms. Baptizing the new varieties is a long tradition among breeders and it was an honor to see it happen for 'our' flower. We hope you get some bulbs to enjoy in your garden next spring and for many years to come.

If you love blooms, our 13th annual GardenPalooza event is blooming again in April. This is the kickoff to the gardening season for a lot of our viewers and readers. This early spring promises to be an outstanding one for growers and that means some outstanding plants for your garden. Another beautiful thing at this year's GardenPalooza is a planting bench. This bench, built by our own Judy Alleruzzo with lumber donated by Parr Lumber, is featured in the magazine this month. Judy shows you how easy it is to build even if you're not a carpenter! Be sure to save the date of April 11th for GardenPalooza, it's a great garden event, the perfect garnish to your spring! Speaking of garnish, I had the chance to do this month's article on parsley. This stuff is more than just the little green trees that come with your club sandwich and fries. This versatile herb, spice, vegetable is the most popular herb in the world and you will be as surprised as I was to see how many uses it has had through the years. Finally, Judy also introduces us to the DebRon series of Fuchsias and along with that reintroduces us to Ron and Debbie Monnier. They are old friends of the show and these new varieties that they have hybridized are all winners.

Time to enjoy the blooms of spring AND this new edition of Garden Time Magazine!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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In this issue...



















It's that time of year again to celebrate spring at the 13th annual GardenPalooza! This year's GardenPalooza is again sponsored by our friends at Dramm, (www.rainwand.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 11, 2015 marks the 13th year of this much anticipated exciting, fun and free event! Spend the day from 8 am to 4 pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora. Some of the most unique nurs-



ery 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. This year you will find a new permanent hoop house filled with plants and art treasures! The hosts of the Garden Time TV show, William Mc-Clenathan and Judy Alleruzzo can be found in this back hoop house and would love to meet and talk with you. Be sure to find them as they will be offering many drawings throughout the day. Dramm has provided lots of their great colorful watering wands, pruners,

> 13th Annual Spring **GardenPalooza**

Saturday April 11, 2015 8:00am-4:00pm Fir Point Farms, Aurora www.gardenpalooza.com













aprons and sprinklers to give away. We have 30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner kits to give away. You can also sign up for drawings of Al's Garden Center and Portland Nursery gift card giveaways throughout the day on the half hour. We will be giving away a potting bench built by our own Judy Alleruzzo with wood donated by Parr Lumber. Sign up at the Black Gold booth to win a \$500 Black Gold giveaway. And this year French Prairie Perennials is holding a drawing for a \$2,500 Visualscaping makeover. Be sure to sign up at French Prairie Perennials booth. William and Judy will also have signup sheets available at the Garden Time booth for both of these giveaways.

The Plant Holding area has been moved this year to the west side of the Country Grains/Fir Point Farms store. We moved it to make room for the new permanent hoop house behind the glass greenhouse. 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. 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 2015, sponsored by Dramm, Garden Time and Fir Point Farms. Hope to see you there!



Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events April 2015

Tulipfest Thru May 3, 2015 • 9:00am-6:00pm Daily Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

Stroll through 40 acres of stunning beauty, experience expansive views of vineyards, distant mountains, and a few mud puddles. Fresh flowers, food, and fun for the entire family!

• www.woodenshoe.com

13th Annual Spring GardenPalooza Sponsored by Dramm Saturday, April 11, 2015 • 8:00am-4:00pm Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

Over 45 local nurseries and garden art vendors will provide thousands of plants, tools and décor. The hosts of Garden Time, Judy Alleruzzo and William McClenathan will be there to meet and greet everyone and will be giving away Dramm products throughout the day, while supplies last! Free admission and parking.

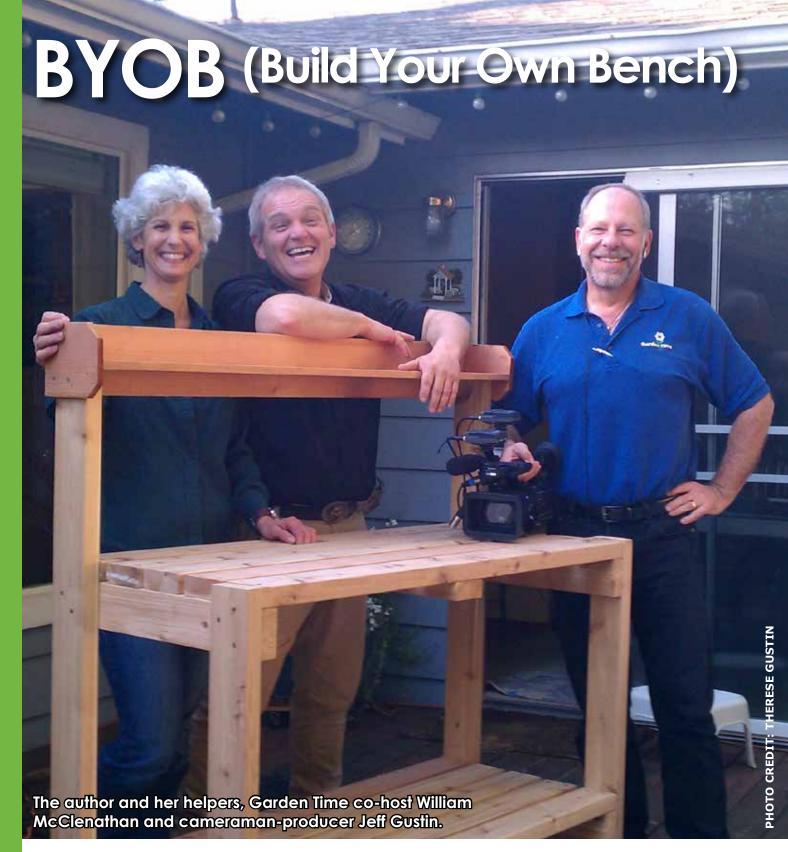
www.gardenpalooza.com

Earth Day Saturday, April 18, 2015 • 10:00am-4:00pm The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

The 16th annual Earth Day event, themed Green Footprints, and we hope you'll join us!

www.oregongarden.org





Having a space to pot-up plants

makes container gardening more organized and more enjoyable. All your supplies are right at hand as there is one place to store pottery, soil, watering cans fertilizer and tools.

Building this potting bench is an easy project. To make it even easier, stop by your local Parr Lumber Company, purchase the wood you need

and they will cut it for free.

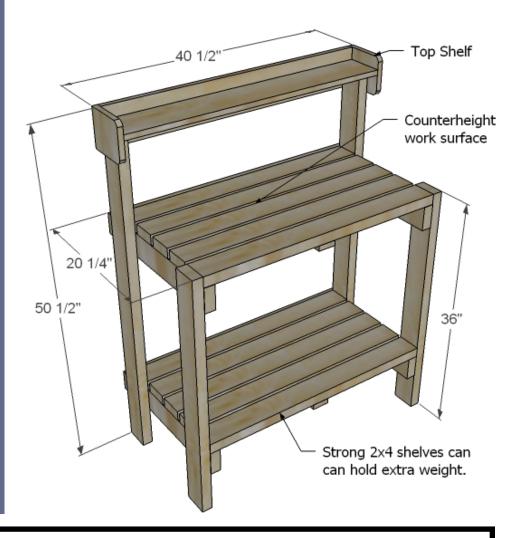
For additional ease, ask a few friends over to help you build this potting bench.

I owe a Big Thank You to Therese Gustin for taking these photos and William McClenathan and Jeff Gustin for their woodworking expertise and guidance!!

Make a potting bench? Yes you can, with the right tools, a little work and these instructions.

Invite a few friends to help, and you can celebrate afterward with a glass of wine!

by Judy Alleruzzo



Tools Needed

Drill

Electric Saw

Wood Drill Bits

Phillips Drill Bit

Level

Supply List For Potting Bench

9 - Tight Knot Cedar Boards 2 X 4 X 8ft

2 - Cedar Fence Boards with Notched Edge 6ft

2" Exterior Decking Screws

2 1/2" Exterior Decking Screws

Wood Stain, if preferred

Wood for this project was donated by

Parr Lumber

Multiple locations in the Portland Metro Area, Oregon and Washington.

Go to www.Parr.com for a store near you.

AVAILABLE AT LAST!

Our comprehensive **How-to** Build a Garden Bench Video! Step-by-step instructions show you how to build this beautiful willow bench like a pro!

DVD - includes free shipping!

Order online at www.WillowStation.com



Cutting the Wood

- Top Shelf 5pcs 48"
- Under Top Shelf Support 2pcs 20"
- Under Top Shelf Center Support 1 pc - 20"
- Horizontal Back Support for Upper Shelf 1 pc - 48"
- Bottom Shelf 5pcs 48"
- Under Bottom Shelf Support 2pcs 20"
- Under Bottom Shelf Center Support 1pc - 20"
- Horizontal Back Support for Bottom Shelf 1 pc - 48"
- Upper Narrow Shelf (Cedar Fence Board, save Notched edge for side piece) 1pc - 48"
- Back Stop of Narrow Shelf (Cedar Fence Board, save Notched edge for side piece) 1pc - 48"

Sign up to win this potting bench sponsored by Parr Lumber at GardenPalooza April 11, 2015 from 8:00am to 4:00pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora

See William and Judy at the Garden Time booth in the back hoop house for your chance to win!

- Back Stop Sides 2pcs X 4", Use Notched edges
- Back Vertical Supports 2pcs 50"
- Front Vertical Supports 2pcs 36"

Woodworking Tip--Pre-Drill all holes before using the outdoor decking screws

Cut all wood pieces according to the supply list.



Step 1

Top Shelf & Bottom Shelf

Attach 5 - 48" boards to the 2 bottom supports, one on each edge

Space Boards Equally and attach 2 screws per board



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE, CREDIT: THERESE GUSTIN

Step 2

Flip each shelf over and measure the center spot for Center Support, attach with screws

Steps 3 & 4

Measure 12" from bottom of the 2 Front 36" Vertical **Supports**

Attach the front sides of **Bottom Shelf to both Front Supports**

Attach the front sides of Top Shelf flush with top edge of Front Supports

Flip over the bench for next step



Steps 5 & 6

Measure 12" from bottom of the 2 Back 50" Vertical **Supports**

Attach the back sides of Bottom Shelf to both Back **Supports**

Measure 3ft from bottom **Back Vertical Supports**

Attach the back sides of Top Shelf to both Back **Supports**



Step 7

Attach a 48" Horizontal Support at the back of the Top and Bottom Shelves

Stand up the Potting Bench, Level all shelves and adjust as necessary

Step 8

Attach Upper Narrow Shelf to top of 50" Back Supports.

Use 2" Decking screws to attach Shelf



Step 9

Attach Backstop board to **Upper Narrow Shelf, using** 2" Decking Screws



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE, CREDIT: THERESE GUSTIN

Step 10

Attach Notched Side Backstop boards, using 2" **Decking Screws**

Step 11

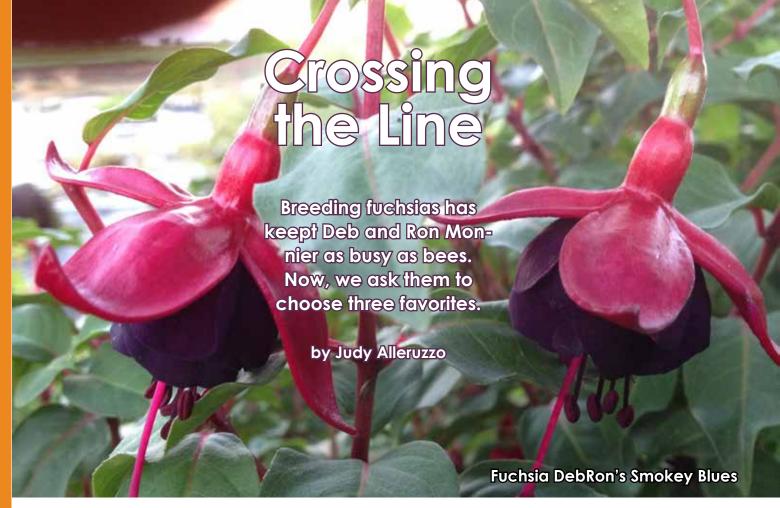
Smile and thank your friends for all their help!

WATCH THE VIDEO!

Check out the video of William and Judy building the potting bench on the April 4, 2015 episode of Garden Time. 9:00amonPDX-TV(Channel 49 or Channel 13 on cable) or on the website.

www.GardenTime.tv





I love fuchsias, plain and simple. I love fuchsias in hanging baskets and upright growing, landscape fuchsia plants. The flowers are pretty to look at plus they are hummingbird magnets which make them even more prized in my garden. I asked Garden Time's old friend, Ron Monnier to choose three fuchsias in the his 'DebRon's' Fuchsia series for this article. As hard as it to pick favorites, he gave me these three varieties to write about this month; Fuchsia 'DebRon's Black Cherry', F. 'DebRon's Smokey Blues' and F. 'DebRon's Snow Fairy'. Having met Deb & Ron Monnier when I first started working on the Garden Time TV show, I got to see many fuchsias that Ron hybridized at his nursery, Monnier's Country Gardens in Woodburn, Oregon. I love the back stories of how plant varieties have come to the garden market place. This story is even more interesting as I know the plant breeder.

Ron Monnier started hybridizing fuchsias in 2005. He was looking for "hardier landscape fuchsias" and unusual color combinations not yet seen in the gardening world.

He had an interest since 1993 and started to make the fuchsia crosses in 2005.

"Crosses" is the term used when a plant breeder takes the pollen from one plant and applies it to the stamens of another plant. In essence, the breeder is playing bee and trying to create a brand new plant with characteristics of both plants. The breeder then harvests the seed from that cross, grows the seedlings and determines if any of the new plants are worthy of further trialing.

Hopefully, the breeder will have a beautiful, unique new plant.

No viable seedlings came through that year but his interest and determination moved him to continue on with his work. Between 2005 and 2009, Ron was on a roll and he attempted 800 crosses.

One fuchsia berry can contain up to 100 seeds. In total, all of his crosses produced 50,000 plus



seeds. Fuchsia germination rate is about 70%, so at that time, 35,000 seedlings were growing at his greenhouses. The seedlings were meticulously watched over and "evaluated for growth habit, plant color and vigor". Ron selected 5,000 of these seedlings to go onto bloom trials.

Since blooms of red and purple are numerous in Fuchsia varieties, Ron passed over any of the seedling blooms with these flower colors. Other rejections included spindly and non upright plants unless the flower was gorgeous! He was determined to bring more striking fuchsia flowers to our gardens but he just couldn't pass up a pretty bloom.

Ron did get serious about paring down all those seedlings in the bloom trials. He chose and named 28 varieties in 2009. These named varieties stood up to Ron's mission for his Fuchsia breeding trials. Deb and

Fuchsia DebRon's **Black Cherry**

Ron named these Fuchsias the DebRon's series. The DebRon's Fuchsias for this month's "Gotta Have It" are three of their favorites from the series: 'DebRon's Black Cherry', 'DebRon's Smokey Blues' and 'DebRon's Snow Fairy'. As to the other 25 DebRon's in the series, Ron remembers,"We found it to be gratifying naming a fuchsia after somebody. We have plants named for 4 of our grandchildren and we honored both of our Mothers. It was always fun bouncing names back and forth in a crowd of people to come up with the names we gave to some of our plants like DebRon's Hokey Pokey, or DebRon's Little Piggies, or DebRon's Mangolita.... Plants named for people didn't sell as well with plants with fun names. The marketplace is where a plant succeds or fails. We found that plants with fun names always had an extra edge towards success".

Ron hints that there are even more unnamed varieties still being tested.

Ron Monnier's hybridizing goal was to produce a good landscape plant and to create a fuchsia with a black and white flower or an orange and black flower. In all of





his seedlings, Ron didn't find those colored flowers but he did hybridize many fuchsias that are good plants that will be beautiful in our gardens. Deb and Ron now live and garden in Milton-Freewater on the eastern edge of Oregon. Ron comments on their life in eastern Oregon, "We have been repeatedly suprised by what can grow here and also suprised at what we thought should grow here and doesn't. We have many fuchsias in our garden thriving after five years in the ground. We struggle with keeping fuchsias in containers and overwintered but it is still my strong desire to complete a working greenhouse so I can return to fuchsia hybridizing soon". Stay tuned for more fuchsias from Ron Monnier.

'DebRon's Black Cherry'

Ron states, "Black Cherry was an early success plant. It is a nice upright plant that blooms early in the landscape. It is very florific. The profusion of round dark maroon buds are reminiscent of a cherry tree that is ready to be picked. It has proven to be hardy as a landscape plant and is a plant that has survived several winters planted in the ground here in our north-east Oregon Fuchsia garden".

Ht 5ft x 4ft wide. Hardy to 10°F

Purple-black Fuchsia Cherries





Watch a Garden Time segment featuring DebRon Fuchsias.

http://youtu.be/kzTP_yhSsoY

Blooms late spring to frost

Fuchsia 'DebRon's Smokey Blues'

Ron says, "'Smokey Blues' is a plant that has been proven hardy in a number of locations. It has a maroon/dark purple blossom on a plant that has silvery-blue-green leaves".

Ht 30in X 18in wide. Hardy to 0°F

Sturdy stems

Fuchsia 'DebRon's Snow Fairy'

Ron relates, "'Snow Fairy' is a delightful little plant that loves to bloom. While it makes a fantastic container plant, it hasn't proven to me to be terrifically hardy in the landscape. It comes out of a cross



where I was attempting to get the black and white coloration. While the color didn't get close, we did get a pale pink blossom with pale purple stamens. In bloom it made Debbie think of a little fairy in a pale pink tutu and pale purple stockings".

Protect from hot afternoon sun

Ht 12-18in tall. Hardy to 10°F.

Small deep purple berries appear after blooms fade.

The berries add extra interest to the beauty of this Fuchsia.

Fuchsia Growing Tips

Ron and Deb Monnier had new ideas about growing fuchsias when I met them all those years ago. They planted their upright hardy fuchsias in trial beds in the full Willamette Valley sun.

They experimented with this new planting method and refined it to grow plants that perform better in our landscapes. These are the tips they learned:

- In a sunny site, plant the fuchsia crowns about 2-3 inches below grade
- Add more compost to increase drainage, especially during our long wet winters
- Top dress the garden bed with mulch to retain moisture
- Fertilize regularly all summer long
- · Keep evenly moist during the summer

Upright fuchsias in containers will need to be sited in Shade or Morning Sun/Afternoon Shade.

They don't like their roots to be heated up while in a container.









Our 'Hortie' this month didn't start his career in the business but he did grow up on a farm. Jim Parsons, owner of Oregon Palm Nursery is a true Oregon native. Born in the Walla Walla Valley and raised on a farm near Milton-Freewater, he was more familiar with crops like peas, wheat, corn and fruit trees than with plants more connected with the tropics.

Jim's background is in Educational Library Media. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of Oregon and received his Master's Degree in Educational Library Media from Portland State University. been working as a library media specialist in the Woodburn School District for 15 years. His experience in the library served him well as he ventured into another of his passions...growing palm trees, bamboo and bananas. His interest in tropical plants piqued when he taught overseas in Guam and Honduras for 4 years. All of his horticultural knowledge was learned by researching online, trial and error and visiting other nurseries. He's been growing cold hardy palms for over 15 years and has been selling them for over 10 years.

Palms are definitely his favorite plants as they are so versatile, beautiful, and majestic. He loves that they give the illusion that you are living somewhere like the tropics. He likes to use palms everywhere. Their structure makes a nice center piece or focal point that you can plant smaller things around like flowers, maples or ornamental shrubs.

Jim thinks they also look great planted in small groupings like three together for a more natural look.

When we think of palms though, we think tropical plants, typically found in Florida, Southern California and the Caribbean; but Jim says there are thousands of different species of palms and several tropical looking palms

that actually do well in our Pacific Northwest climate. For example, the Trachycarpus Fortunei or Windmill Palm is originally from the lower Himalayan region of China where it snows, which makes it very popular here. Other palm species that do ok here are: Trachycarpus Wagnerianus or Waggie Palm, Chamaerops Humilus or Mediterranean Palm, Chamaerops Humilus Cerifera or Blue Mediterranean Palm. Jim says that those species are the best for our climate, but there are many more that are more marginal and can thrive with some protection during our worst winters.

Jim isn't alone in his love for growing and selling cold hardy palms. His wife Evi co-owns the business and they have three children who help them at the palm nursery. Alia is 16, Autumn is 14, and Joaquin is 8.

Oregon Palm Nursery sells wholesale to landscapers, garden centers, and businesses. They also sell retail to the public from the nursery location in Woodburn. They have sold in the past to many small and large garden centers. Depending on the year and even the time of year, you might find them at Al's Garden Center or









Garden World. Little Baja has also sold their palms occasionally. For larger orders, it is best to come out to the nursery in Woodburn.

You can see their beautiful selection of hardy palms at GardenPalooza at Fir Point Farms on Saturday, April 11th. It's a great opportunity to meet Jim and have him help you pick out the perfect palm that will add a little bit of the tropics to your garden paradise!

"Everybody needs a Palm! They will brighten your world!"

Oregon Palm Nursery 10789 Crosby Rd. NE Woodburn, OR 97071 503-201-7347 www.oregonpalms.com

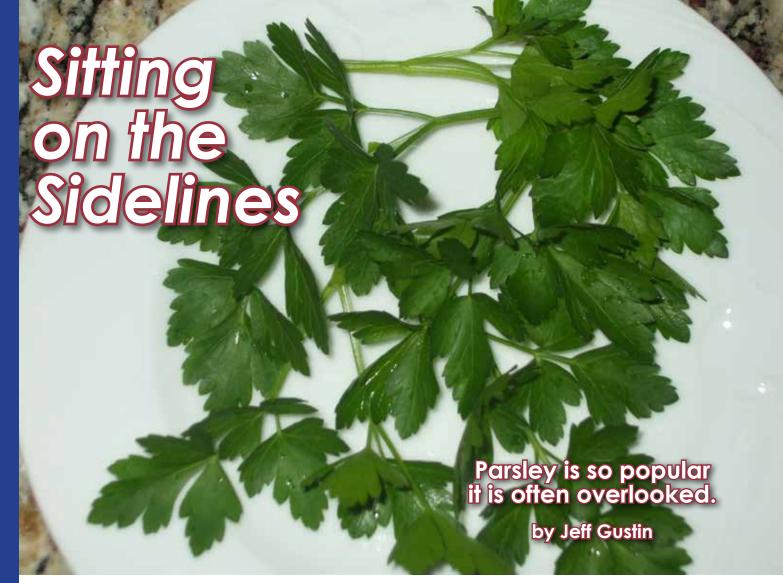












How can you win a popularity contest and still nobody knows who you are? Well if you are parsley, that's not hard. Did you know that parsley is the most popular herb in the world? The name 'parsley' is derived from a Greek word meaning 'rock celery'. It is a cousin to the celery and carrot plants and in the right conditions is a biennial plant returning to the Northwest garden year after year. In some cultures it is an herb, a spice, a vegetable, or all three!

For most of us, parsley is either the little green flecks in our favorite restaurant dishes or the little sprig of garnish on the side of our plates but it is also one the healthiest foods you can eat. Loaded with vitamins K, C and A, it also contains healthy volatile oils, folic acid and flavonoids. Unfortunately most of us only see this vegetable as the question-

able garnish in our favorite dishes. For other cultures parsley has a long culinary and medicinal history. Early Greeks saw this as a medicine long before it was considered a food. It was considered sacred and was given to victors of athletic events and used to adorn the graves of heroes. Some ancient stories actually claim that wreaths of parsley could ward off drunkenness. Some modern day health care providers say that you can use it for numerous intestinal problems including increasing your appetite and improving your digestion.

When planting parsley look for an area that gets lots of sun. Most varieties will need 6 to 8 hours of sun light and love a well-drained, fertile soil. Starting parsley from seeds can be frustrating since it is a slow grower. You can speed the process by soaking the seeds for

a day before you plant them. The benefit of starting from seed is the variety of different types you can grow. Most garden centers only carry one or two varieties in pots, but will usually carry more varieties in seed. Once your seeds germinate you will need to thin the plants by pulling out the extra, thin 'grass-like' shoots once they get their leaves. Wait until they are about 2 to 3 inches high before you thin them. Let these continue to grow indoors for 6 to 8 weeks before you transplant them outdoors. Wait until you are well after the frost date in your area to plant them. Keep these young seedlings about 10 inches apart in the garden. It is important to keep these little ones well watered until they start to establish in your garden. Look to grow fresh parsley every year since older plants can turn out to be bitter.

The most popular is the curly parsley, Petroselinium crispum. This variety is not only great in the kitchen is makes a great border or container plant since it forms dense clumps. The Italian flat-leaf parsley, Petroselinium neapolitanum, is also popular but can get pretty gangly in the garden so it doesn't look as pretty. It has a sweeter flavor and is popular in most recipes. There are also 2 lesser known varieties. One that is used in Europe for flavoring soups and a Japanese variety that looks like its Italian cousin but is a little more bitter and is used in Asian cooking. These are just the tip of the 'parsley plant' since there are more than 30 varieties available commercially.

If you are cooking with parsley try to use fresh stalks; this is more flavorful than dried or frozen. Look for parsley that is bright green and not wilting. When you are preparing it you should fill a bowl with water, swish the parsley around the bowl to dislodge any dirt, then empty the bowl, refill it with water and swish the parsley again to make sure it is clean. Pat the parsley dry in paper towels and then it is ready to use for cooking. You can store the excess parsley in your refrigerator wrapped in paper towels in a plastic bag for up to a week.

Parsley is a staple in some European and Middle Eastern recipes. In fact, we always order tabouli, a Lebanese salad, when we stop by Ya Hala restaurant (www.yahalarestaurant.com) or World Foods of Portland (www.worldfoodsportland.com). The tabouli there is made by our friend Mirna Attar and it's as close to Lebanese cooking as you can get without buying a plant ticket.

On the next page is a recipe we found that is similar to hers. Give it a try and then go see Mirna and see how yours compares. Then you can say 'we're number one' with the most popular herb in the world!



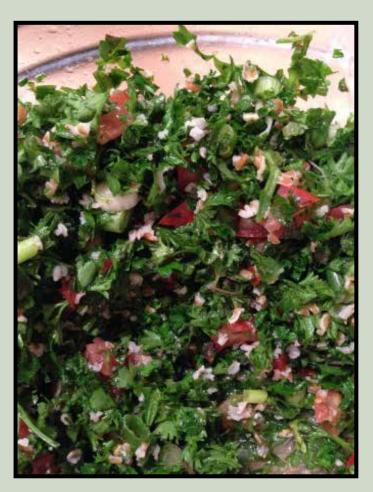




Tabouli Salad

Ingridients:

- 1 cup medium Bulgar wheat (#2)
- 2 -3 bunches parsley, stemmed and chopped, depending on size
- 1 -2 bunch fresh mint leaves, finely chopped, depending on size, more to taste
- 2 bunches green onions, chopped
- 4 -5 ripe firm tomatoes, partially seeded and chopped
- 3 -5 lemons, juice of, to taste
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, to taste salt & fresh ground pepper



Directions:

- 1. This recipe is a breeze if you have a food processor, a little more work if you don't.
- 2. If using a processor, chop parsley and mint together, using a pulsing action, to ensure that you don't end up pureeing them, and remove to a bowl.
- 3. Repeat with green onions, and add it bowl.
- 4. Chop tomatoes, preferably by hand, into about 1/4" dice, and add to bowl.
- 5. If you are making this for company, you might want to chop everything by hand.
- 6. It makes a much prettier dish than when made in the processor, but I never bother when it is for personal consumption; I just take a little care when using the processor.
- 7. Wash bulghur thoroughly, drain, and soak in fresh hot water for about 1 hour.
- 8. Drain and squeeze as dry as possible, and combine with vegetables.
- 9. Drizzle with lemon juice and olive oil.
- 10. Add salt and pepper to taste, and toss thoroughly.
- 11. You can be quite generous with the pepper.
- 12. Refrigerate for about an hour, taste, and adjust salt and pepper.
- 13. In addition to serving as a salad or part of a meza appetizer assortment, it is also good as dressing on a falafel or lamb sandwich in pita bread.

Recipe courtesy: Toby Jermain, Food.com

Spend a day away from the ordinary on the

Cascade Nursery Trail



Don't just shop for plants... have an adventure on The Cascade Nursery Trail! Visit 9 independent, family-owned specialty nurseries with treasures galore. See beautiful display gardens, talk with experienced owners and get personal attention and help with your plant questions. Come see our large selection of unique, locally-grown plants that do well in the Northwest.

Located on the east side of I-5 between Portland and Salem.







Learn more about these great nurseries at www.CascadeNurseryTrail.com

Sebright Gardens (503) 463-9615 www.SebrightGardens.com

> N Garden Thyme Nursery (503) 551-1875 www.GardenThymeNursery.com

NBP Nowlens Bridge Perennials (503) 829-8449 www.NowlensBridgePerennials.com OIGN Out in the Garden Nursery (503) 829-4141

www.OutInTheGardenNursery.com

SGG Secret Garden Growers (503) 651-2006 www.SecretGardenGrowers.com

> Highland Heather (503) 263-2428 www.HighlandHeather.com

MMG Miller's Manor Gardens (503) 277-3327 www.MillersManorGardens.com

FSN Fresh Start Nursery

(503) 616-8993

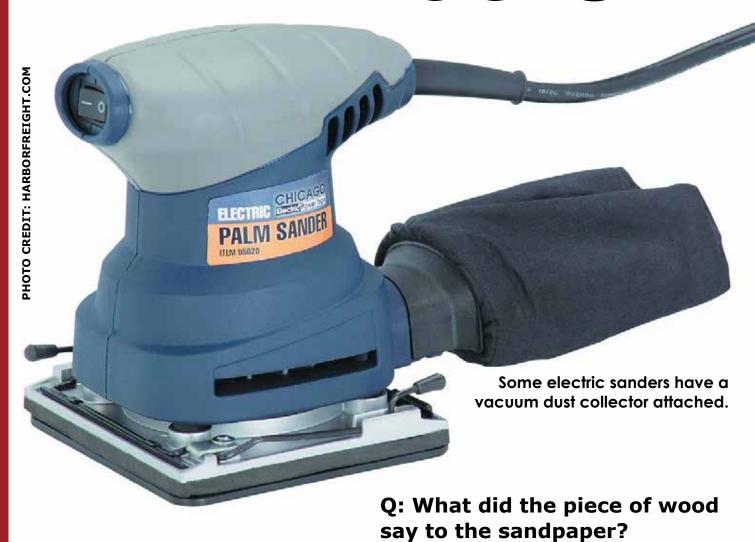
HP Hydrangeas Plus® (503) 651-2887 www.HydrangeasPlus.com



Follow the Trail for a Plant Adventure!

ome

True Grif



Sometimes you just have to go against the grain. However, when sanding wood it is advised that you always go with the grain.

Most of us probably don't think a lot about sandpaper. When we have a piece of wood that requires sanding, we look for the sandpaper at the bottom of the tool drawer and if it's not there, go buy some at the local hardware.

A: "You rub me the wrong way!"

There is, however, a lot more to sandpaper than meets the eye. It has a long history, is made with several different materials and has many uses, as you'll see.

From wood to stone, man has always had a need to make objects smoother and what we call sand-

When life gets rough, a little friction can make things smoother.

by David Musial

paper has been around since at least 13th century in China when the Chinese used crushed shells, seed and sand that were glued to parchment. Known as glasspaper in the 1800's, it was manufactured in England using glass as the abrasive, not sand. Glass was used for its sharp edges while sand has smooth edges making it an inferior product for sanding. Although sand was inferior, some manufacturers used sand and passed the 'sandpaper' off as glasspaper.

Manufacturing of glasspaper came to the United States when a patent was taken out in 1834. Since that time, common sandpaper has evolved into many different products used in commercial process-

These abrasive products are all a part of the coated abrasive family; products that use an abrasive grain bonded to another material, but we commonly refer to them all as sandpaper. For this article we will keep our discussion to coated abrasive or sandpaper products that a homeowner or hobbyist would use.

Sandpaper consists of three components: the abrasive grit, a bonding agent and a backing material to bond the abrasive grit. The type of abrasive and material to which it is bonded, determines the use of the sandpaper.

Sandpaper grit varies in both material and particle size. Common grits are garnet, quartz, aluminum oxide and silicon carbide.

- Garnet is natural rock that has been crushed. It is used for hand or machine sanding of wood and lasts longer than quartz sandpapers.
- Quartz granules are used to make an inexpensive sandpaper for wood and metal projects.
- Aluminum oxide is a manmade material and makes long lasting sandpaper that can be used to polish metal as well as sand wood.
- Silicon carbide is used for 'wet and dry' sandpaper. It can be used on wood, metal, plastic and glass.

Sandpaper is sold and labeled based on a numerical grit size and grade. The lower the number, the coarser sandpaper and the higher the number the finer. Coarse sandpaper removes more material when sanding and fine is for finishing and making your project smooth.

- 40-60 Coarse
- 80-100 Medium Coarse
- 120-150 Medium
- 180-220 Fine
- 240 up Very Fine

The two most common backing materials are paper and cloth. Like grit, each has attributes that dictate use.

> Paper is the most familiar backing material. Its flexibility allows it to contour to your project, but it is also the weakest backing material.





 Cotton, polyester and rayon are the most common cloth materials used for sandpaper. They make very strong and long lasting sandpaper.

The backing material is graded alphabetically for weight or strength.

- Paper sandpaper comes in weights A to F, with the strength increasing from A to F. Although an 'A' sandpaper is not as strong as an 'F', it will have more flexibility when needed.
- Cloth sandpaper weights from lightest to heaviest are J, X, Y, T and M.

Putting it all together, sandpaper is available in sheets, belts and discs. Sheets are normally 9"x11", while belts and discs come in sizes made for standard belt or disc sanders.

Armed with all this information

you're ready to head to the hardware store to purchase sandpaper. Remember to match the paper to the type of material that is being sanded. If in doubt read the packaging or enlist the help of a clerk. Lastly, you will require varying grades of sandpaper and you can buy individual packets of each grade or buy a package that contains coarse to fine sandpaper.

With all skills, practice and tips help create success and here are a few sanding tips.

- Sanding requires a progression of going from a coarse to a fine abrasive. Start with medium or coarse sandpaper and evaluate how much material is being removed. If too much, go to a finer grade, if too little change to a coarser paper.
- Let the abrasive in the sandpaper do the work.
 You do not need to apply a lot of pressure, which will

only clog the sandpaper with sanding particles and wear the sandpaper out faster. This is true for hand and machine sanding.

- Use a sanding block for flat surfaces to achieve faster results than just using your hand. It will also reduce hand fatigue.
- Do not use sandpaper made for hand sanding in an electrical sander. It is not designed to be used in power tools and will quickly wear out.
- When sanding wood, always sand with the grain.
- On projects that do not have a grain to follow, sand in a circular motion.

A note about safety, whether you are sanding by hand or machine, dust particles will be kicked up. This poses both a breathing and vision hazard, so remember to wear a dust mask and goggles.

This article would not be complete without sharing a few unusual uses for sandpaper, so here goes:

Do you have a new pair of leather soled shoes? Are you slipping everywhere you go? Use some coarse sandpaper to scuff up your

shoes for better traction.

If you have rusty tools, sandpaper can bring back new life. Be sure to work with a finer sandpaper to avoid leaving scratches.

To sharpen dull scissors, take some fine grain sandpaper and cut it with your scissors a few times. It will sharpen the blade and remove any residue that has built up over time.

Lastly and my favorite, use sandpaper to deter slugs from dinning in your flowerpots. Place sandpaper so that it just sticks out around the base of your pot. Just as we are not fond of walking barefoot on glass, slugs do not like crawling (or is that undulating or

In a pinch, a block of wood can be used as a sanding block.

PHOTO CREDIT: DIYNETWORK.COM

sliming) over sandpaper.

Hopefully this article was found helpful and not too abrasive. However, if it was, we recommend using a finer grit sandpaper. Happy sanding!



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, forgetme-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.

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

purpose.



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

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

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 chit-

ted. 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.



Tulipfest

Thru May 3, 2015 • 9:00am-6:00pm Daily Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

Check out: www.woodenshoe.com for activities.

Leach Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale Saturday April 4, 2015 • 9:00am-2:00pm Floyd Light Middle School, Portland, OR

You will find choice selection of trees, perennials, shrubs, and northwest natives from specialty nurseries and our own Leach Garden collection. Free parking and admission!

What to Do in the April Vegetable Garden Saturday, April 4, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Join Donna and Robyn, of Your Backyard Farmer, for a great refresher on what to do in the veggie garden for the month of April. They will cover topics such as seeding and planting seasonal crops, what to harvest, methods of planting, combating weeds, and organic techniques for dealing with various undesirable pests that might be invading your garden.

Mushroom Cultivation Saturday, April 4, 2015 • 2:30pm-4:00pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With co-founder of MycoCascadia, Nikhilesh Desai. Learn how mushrooms grow and how you can grow them, too from local mycologist and co-founder of MycoCascadia, Nikhilesh Desai. Beginning with a brief overview of how mushrooms do what they do, the class will cover methods of oyster and shiitake mushroom cultivation for the home grower and ideas on how to incorporate these delectable fungi into delicious dishes. (Starter kits MAY BE AVAILABLE for purchase at the class for \$20 each. Cash or check to the instructor.)

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 5, 2015 • 11:00am Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR

Call 503-649-4568 or email events@farmingtongardens. com to register for one or all of our free classes this month.

Celebrate the Spring Equinox Sunday, April 5, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Life-Cycle Celebrant Holly Pruett. During this season of resurrection, Life-Cycle Celebrant Holly Pruett, who led our popular Winter Solstice Rituals class, will

continued next column

teach you about Spring Equinox traditions around the world. She'll then help you to set your intentions for the life you wish to nurture as you build a springtime altar swag. Swag construction will be led by Portland Nursery landscape designer Terrie Burdette. Join us in welcoming Spring! Class limited to 12 students. Please bring hand pruners, gloves and any elements you'd like to incorporate into your altar swag. \$10 materials fee.

Grow Up! Using Trellises in the Vegetable Garden Sunday, April 5, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Marc Scheidecker. Year-round vegetable gardener and scholar Marc Scheidecker will talk about increasing your garden square footage with the use of garden trellises. Did you know you can increase a 4X4 raised bed (16 sq. ft.) to 56 sq. ft. and to 76 sq. ft. if using a double trellis! And, wouldn't it be nice to increase the available sunlight in the same 4X4 bed by almost 700%! Learn the benefits and methods of using trellises in your vegetable raised beds.

The Basket Buffet & Benefit Thurs.-Sat., April 9-11, 2015 • 9:00am-7:00pm Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR

The popular Basket Buffet & Benefit is your opportunity to create custom hanging baskets with specially grown annuals, and to help your community. We provide the basket, hanger, soil, fertilizer, and a specified number of plants for the small or large basket from the 'buffet'. For every basket purchased Al's will donate \$2.00 to your choice of one of these local charities: SnowCap, The Silverton Health Foundation, or the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Al's Experts will be available to help you choose the right plants for your location, and to provide tips for beautiful, healthy baskets. Cost: 12" Basket \$16.99, 10"Basket \$12.99. Registration is not required.

13TH ANNUAL SPRING GARDENPALOOZA Sponsored by Dramm Saturday, April 11, 2015 • 8:00am-4:00pm Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

Spring GardenPalooza is back again at Fir Point Farms in Aurora! Over 45 local nurseries and garden art vendors will provide thousands of plants, tools and décor to thousands of anxious gardeners during this colorful one day spring ritual! The 13th annual GardenPalooza will take place in the beauti-

continued next page



ful tree-lined setting of Country Grains at Fir Point Farms just south of Portland in Aurora on Saturday, April 11th from 8 am to 4 pm. The hosts of Garden Time, Judy Alleruzzo and William McClenathan will be there to meet and greet everyone and will be giving away Dramm products throughout the day, while supplies last! Every year the event draws thousands of gardeners (rain or shine) to support their plant addiction. One of the best parts of this adventure is that it is free to attend and there is plenty of free parking. 14601 Arndt Road, Aurora, OR. More details, booth maps and vendor coupons available at www.gardenpalooza.com.

Rhododendron & Daffodil Show & Sale Saturday & Sunday, April 11-12, 2015 • 9:00am-5:00pm Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden will host the Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's Annual Show and Sale The garden is located at: 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland Free Admission Show opens at 12:00 pm on Saturday. 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.crystalspringsgarden. org or 503 771-8386. Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society.

Tomato Time! Thursday, April 16, 2015 • 5:30pm

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR Homegrown tomatoes picked fresh from your own plants are a favorite of gardeners. To get those sweet, juicy tomatoes ready for you to eat this summer, start with healthy plants, some basic supplies, and good advice about growing tomatoes. You'll find all of this plus a great selection of tomato varieties at Al's annual seminar about growing tomatoes. Come learn about the different varieties, and how to plant, fertilize, and irrigate tomatoes for the best results. Get ready to enjoy your own taste of summer with garden-fresh tomatoes! Cost: Seminar is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Speaker: Al's Experts

Lilac Days 2015 April 18-May 10, 2015 • 10:00am-4:00pm Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens, Woodland, WA

Gardens open all year from 10am-4pm; \$3 entry fee. 115 South Pekin Road, Woodland, Washington 98674. www.lilacgardens.com

continued next column

Earth Day Saturday, April 18, 2015 • 10:00am-4:00pm The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

The 16th annual Earth Day event, themed Green Footprints, will be held at The Oregon Garden on April 18, 2015 from 10am to 4pm and we hope you'll join us! www.oregongarden.org.

Garden to Table Saturday, April 18, 2015 • 10:30am

Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR Call 503-649-4568 or email events@farmingtongardens. com to register for one or all of our free classes this month.

Bonsai! Saturday, April 18, 2015 • 11:00am Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join us for this informative class all about bonsai. All levels are invited. We look forward to seeing you! Free.

Cooking Seasonally with Medicinal Herbs Saturday, April 18, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Felicia Ferruzza, of Alberta Healing Arts Center and Mano Verde Herbals. A Certified Herbalist with Western and Eastern herbalism training, Felicia Ferruzza, of Alberta Healing Arts Center and Mano Verde Herbals, joins us to talk about diet therapy integrating Chinese and Western medicinal herbs with seasonal foods. She'll discuss how to use your own backyard culinary and medicinal weeds in your delicious cooking! She will also speak about 5 element theory and how it relates to the seasons, body systems, flavors, and colors in your diet.

Raised Bed Planting Sunday, April 19, 2015 • 11:00am Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR

Call 503-649-4568 or email events@farmingtongardens. com to register for one or all of our free classes this month.

Get to Know Your Lettuce Varieties Sunday, April 19, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Marc Scheidecker. Many gardeners say that their lettuce is their favorite vegetable! Year-round vegetable gardener, Marc Scheidecker will discuss which varieties are sweet and which ones offer a delicious bitter contrast with the sweeter varieties. He'll help you decontinued on page 35





termine which ones to plant in early spring and fall and when to harvest them. Of course there will be a tasting!

Spring Container Design Workshop Sunday, April 19, 2015 • 3:00pm-4:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With landscape designer, Terrie Burdette. 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 landscape designer, Terrie Burdette. Terrie 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. Class Fee: \$10 materials fee plus cost of plants you choose. Class limited to 15 students - register now!

Proper Tree Planting Tuesday, April 22, 2015 • 11:00am Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR

Call 503-649-4568 or email events@farmingtongardens. com to register for one or all of our free classes this month.

Lake Grove Garden Club 90th Plant Sale Saturday, April 25, 2015 • 9:00am-12:00pm 330 First Street, Lake Oswego, OR

Herbs from N&M nursery, hanging baskets from Garden Corner, annuals from Shady Lady. Transplanted starts from member gardens, veggie starts.

Annual Bare Root Tree, Shrub & Perennial Sale Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26, 2015 • 10:00am-3:00pm Wildlife Botanical Gardens, Brush Prairie, WA

This is the organization's largest fundraiser, held in cooperation with students from the adjacent Center for Agriculture, Science, and Environmental Education who will be selling landscaping plants as well as vegetable starts. www.naturescaping.org

8th Bi-Annual Potting Party Saturday, April 25, 2015 • 10:00am-5:00pm Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Hooray! It's time for the first Potting Party of the 2015 season! We will provide the soil, ferfilizer and hands-on assistance to help you create some exciting and colorful planted containers for your home. All you have to do is show up with your containers (and some ideas of what you'd like). We look forward to getting creative with you. This will be an "open house" event, so please come any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Free** and open to the public. Soil, fertilizer and hands-on assistance included in the event. Fee dependent upon additional materials used.

Planning & Planting for Year-Round Harvests Saturday, April 25, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Tim Lanfri, of Community Garden Creators. If you are interested in harvesting fresh vegetables every month of the year, this class is for you! Join Tim Lanfri, of Community Garden Creators, to learn great planning and planting techniques for growing food year round! Tim will discuss making a planting plan, timing your plantings, succession planting, and how to maximize your harvest without a greenhouse.

Vegetable Gardening 102: **Crop Rotation & Companion Planting** Sunday, April 26, 2015 • 11:00am-12:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Gardening Goddess, Jolie Donohue. Take your vegetable garden to the next level. This is a great class for gardeners with a few years under their belt now wanting to dig deeper! Join Gardening Goddess, Jolie Donohue and learn the benefits of practicing crop rotation and companion planting for the healthiest, happiest plants possible. Drawing from a decade of gardening experience, Jolie will discuss tips and techniques for crop rotation, great crop combinations and methods for interplanting, and strategize about how to rotate crops in urban garden plots.

Natural Perfume & Essential Oil Distillation Sunday, April 26, 2015 • 1:00pm-2:30pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Jessica Ring of Ring Botanicals. Join Jessica Ring of Ring Botanicals as she creates a natural Northwest Spring perfume with her distillations of native and local herbs, flowers, and trees. Don't miss this chance to purchase synthetic-free botanical perfumes and local essential oils!

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar

www.gardentime.tv/events.htm



These are just some of the companies we've produced videos for:

Benson High School • Central City Concern • Malarkey Roofing Lewis and Clark Law School • Muscular Distrophy Association Oregon Cancer SkiOut • Regional Water Providers Consortium SOLV • Salem Hospital • Team Oregon • Willow Station

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