

May 2017

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

## International Rose Test Gardens A Century of Scents

**Choosing a Deck**

**Eggplant**

**GIANT PUMPKIN GROWER**

**Jim Sherwood**

The International Rose Test  
Gardens in Portland, Oregon



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## May I...?

...replace those dead plants? Prune back some of my perennials? Finally have Spring??? All of these are burning questions in the minds of gardeners. There are even more questions in every gardener's mind, what are we to do? The spring weather is not cooperating with all our garden plans, but that is the joy and pain of gardening. Every year is different. Still that doesn't make all this rain any more welcome. May is the time for spring showers, but this year that means so much more, this has become a deluge! Our gardens are taking the brunt of the weather and if you have been outside you can see that they are struggling to fight through the rain and cold and be as normal as possible. But soon we will be drying out and the garden will beckon again. Then we'll all be outside, moods will improve and the sun shall reign supreme again... until fall, and isn't that what makes gardening so much fun! Don't worry about the weather; we have a lot of topical stories in this month's issue to get you ready for the summer yet to come.

First, we get your taste buds ready with a great story on eggplant. This rather unique looking vegetable is fast becoming a favorite with gardeners and home chefs. There's a little history about this fruit and also some recipes for using it in your kitchen. Speaking of veggies, it's Judy versus Goliath! She educates us about giant vegetables, how to grow them and how the competition can get fierce when you are growing vegetables the size of a car for awards and prizes. Then, with Memorial Day approaching, we also learn more about memorial plants. These are plants that you can use in your garden to remember and honor loved ones who served in the military. Finally, I get a chance to do a little extra writing this month with a story on decks. The outdoor entertaining of the summer months is getting close and the family deck is the center of most of it. If you are thinking of building, or replacing a deck, then this story may help. I'll look at the benefits and drawbacks of wood, composite and plastic options in decking materials.

For those of you who watch the TV program in the Portland area, we will have some possible changes in May. KPDX, our home station in Portland, will be carrying German league soccer on the 13th and 20th. As you all know, sometimes sports can go longer than anticipated. That means our show may not start exactly at 9am on those 2 weekends. If the soccer match runs long, our show will start right after it. So if you don't see us there, wait a few minutes and we will show up. Thanks for your patience!

**Happy Gardening!**

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

**Garden Time Magazine • May 2017 • Volume 9, No. 5, Issue #98**

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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



# Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

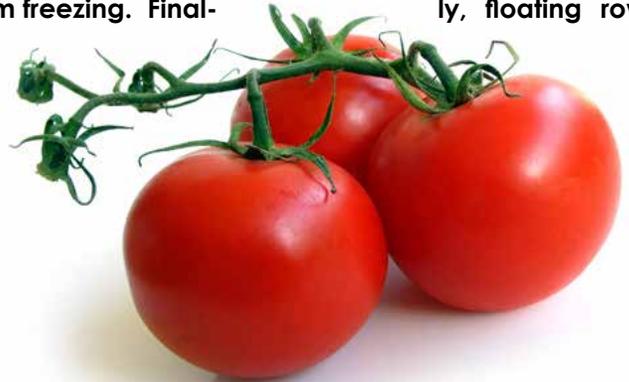
I've been seeing tomatoes at my local garden center for months it seems! When is the best time to get those tomatoes in the ground? Is it too late?

Signed,  
You say 'tomato', I say frustrated!

Dear Frustrated,

Tomatoes are a touchy subject. A lot of people feel that they need to get their tomatoes in the ground as soon as they show up on the shelves of the local garden center, but what they fail to see in their visions of beefsteaks and heirlooms on the vine, are the warning signs right above the tomato display. In large letters are the words 'Protect from Frost'. When is that, exactly? Well, that depends on your area and your projected 'last frost date'. This date is the date when there will be little to no chance of frost in your area. As you might expect, this can vary depending on your area. In the Willamette Valley we are generally safe around the beginning to the middle of May, but with a year like we've had, it is best to keep an eye on the forecast! You can check with OSU Extension Service. They have a publication called 'Growing Your Own' (<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9027>), about vegetable growing. It lists safe times for planting.

Of course, if you want to get them out in the ground a little early you may want to try to give them some protection. Some ways of protecting your crops are cold frames, wall-o-waters and floating row covers. Cold frames are mini greenhouses. They are a structure that goes over your plants and protects them from frost and other pests. 'Wall o Water' are a circular plant protector that is made up of individual tubes that stand upright. You fill the tubes with water and during the day they collect the heat from the sun and then at night they release the heat and keep your plants from freezing. Finally, floating row



Mortimer answers selected questions and comments every month in Garden Time Magazine. To send him your question, email [AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv](mailto:AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv)



**Daffodils, April 2016**



**Daffodils, April 2017**

covers. These are just blankets that you place over your plants at night to retain a little heat and to keep the frost off your plants. These don't work as well in extreme cold, but do well if the temperature is near freezing for a very short time.

The best advice we received was from Jan McNeilan, our retired OSU Extension agent. She said to keep them inside and watered, and then move them out when it is safe. Don't worry about being 'behind' everyone else. In a couple of months,

with some summer heat, you will see your plants pretty much catch up with everyone else!

Thanks for your question,  
Mortimer

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

In the fall of 2015, I planted 40-or-so daffodil bulbs and last spring, I had a beautiful bed of yellow flowers. This spring, however, almost exactly

one year later, I have only two daffodils that have bloomed. Now, I know things are late this year due to the cold weather, but I don't see any indication that the rest of the daffodils are going to have any blooms at all. There is greenery, but no bud stalks. I didn't dig-up the bulbs nor did I do any fertilizing, beyond my initial planting. But, years ago, at another house, I had a bed full of daffodils that bloomed year after year and I never did anything to them, either. These were high-quality bulbs from a well-known big-box store. What did I do wrong, and is there something I can do to help them to bloom next year?

Signed,  
Bloomless in Tualatin

Dear Bloomless,

I feel your pain. As a flower myself, there are days when I don't feel much like blooming, either. Actually, there are a number of reasons for not getting the blooms you deserve! The most common cause for a lack of blooms is planting too shallow. Daffodils that have leaves and no flowers are known as 'blind daffodils'. They need to be three times their height deep in the soil, that could be 6-8 inches deep depending on the variety, in a well-drained soil. Other cause for a lack of bloom could be dry soil, planting too late in the fall, feeding them with a fertilizer that is too high in nitrogen (promotes foliage growth, but no blooms). Also, your bulbs could also be too tight and bunched in mature clumps of bulbs. Those need to be dug and divided. I would recommend that you allow them to grow now and when the leaves die back dig the bulbs up and look at them. If they are healthy and not mushy, store them in a cool, dry place, in a garage or shed. Then this fall replant them in a good, well-drained soil, at a good depth, with a little bulb fertilizer.

If you are having problems with your tulips, it could be for many of these same reasons.

Good luck,  
Mortimer

# A Century of Scents

**As Portland's crown jewel turns 100, we look back at ten decades of history... and plan a birthday party.**

**by William McClenathan**

And now, we shall celebrate Roses.

And whether you use the term 'century' or say '100 years', in the context of this tale they mean the same thing.

Because this adventure is about the International Rose Test Garden's Celebration of being 100 years old. That's right, a Century of Roses right here in Portland. See what I did there? I used both terms to appease everyone.

As age collects the years, whether with people or places, a rich history develops.

This is none the less true for

the Rose Gardens.

Acquired in 1917; but that is not where the story begins. We must go even further back in time to really find its beginnings.

All the way back to a different century.

In 1888, Georgian Burton Pittock, of the Pittock Mansion fame, set up a tent in her yard and had a rose exhibit with her friends and neighbors who along with her, adored roses. This little gathering became known as the Portland Rose Society.

In 1915, James A. Currey, Sunday editor of the Oregon Journal and avid rose aficionado,

talked the city officials into instituting a Rose Garden with which to harbor roses from Europe during WWI. Many passionate rose lovers had grave concerns that the effects of war might destroy some of the most rare and beloved roses of that time. The Park Bureau approved this idea and in 1917, a garden was born.

It wasn't long before hybridizers from England began sending roses.

But not until 1921 did the City of Portland charge the city landscaper, Florence Holmes Gerke, to create the now known International Test Rose Garden design and



it's beautiful Amphitheater. It was officially dedicated in 1924.

Mr. Currey was appointed the first curator of the gardens until his death in 1927.

Also a part of the original design was the Royal Rosarian Garden. This was included because the Royal Rosarians began in 1912. They were considered then, and still are to this day, a civic group which was bestowed



### The International Rose Test Garden Centennial Celebration

Saturday, August 29, 2017  
11:00 am - 8:30 pm

International Rose Test Garden in  
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## Local Events May 2017

**Clackamas Co. Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Fair**  
Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 9:00am-5:00pm  
Sunday, May 7, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm  
Clackamas County Event Center, Canby, OR

Our vendors include the Pacific Northwest's favorite growers, artists and specialty vendors. With perennial favorites like 10 Minute University™, Free pH Soil Testing and Ask an O.S.U. Master Gardener, it's well worth the drive out to Canby for our two day event! \$5.00 admission/under 16 free.

• [www.springgardenfair.org](http://www.springgardenfair.org)

**2017 Polk County Master Gardener Plant Sale**  
Friday & Saturday, May 12 & 13, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm  
Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR

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• [extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/mg](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/mg)

**Schreiner's Iris Festival Bloom Season**  
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• [www.schreinersgardens.com](http://www.schreinersgardens.com)



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the responsibility of being the official greeters and good will ambassadors for the City of Portland. With a long and proud heritage, they continue to with great pride, fulfill this roll.

But many things continue to be added.

The Shakespeare gardens, which was moved from Crystal Springs Lake in 1945 for the expansion of the Eastmoreland Golf Course.

The Gold Award Roses Garden was dedicated in June of 1970.

In 1975, the Miniature Rose Garden was opened, which is one of only six approved miniature rose testing grounds in the American Rose Society (ARS).

And on and on and on.

But we should never forget about the Rose Garden Store. It seems to continue to get better and better each year.

But this is more than just a bunch of history. It is about the celebration of a century of Portland's passion for Roses!



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Hit the Deck!  
Jeff Gustin

# Hit the Deck!

The one-two-three of Wood vs. Composites vs. PVC and what will work best for you!

by Jeff Gustin



Western red cedar

PHOTO CREDIT: A YEE

Cedar deck

PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN JOHNSON

The summer breezes have blown away the cold of spring and winter and you are looking to move outdoors for the next four to five months. Then you notice, the deck isn't looking as good as you would like. Maybe the wood is rotting or maybe it's a little too small. Either way, it's time to build or replace the old with something new, but what to replace it with? It used to be that one simply replaced an old wood deck with a new wood deck, but now there are so many choices!

## What to choose; wood, composite or PVC?

When talking about wood decks you are mainly talking about cedar. Cedar is the choice if you are looking for that 'natural' look. Though it does age and change color, it will last a long time (15-20 years) with proper mainte-



Cedar deck with steel cable railing

PHOTO CREDIT: PINTEREST

nance. That maintenance will include cleaning and sealing it on a nearly-annual basis. Cedar is also mildew and rot resistant if you are in a shady location. There are harder woods, like mahogany or Tigerwood which are also available, but the cost is significantly higher. We currently have a cedar deck and have it cleaned and sealed annually, and it is over 20 years old. The other key to longevity is to not allow standing water on the wood. Potted plants, carpets or rugs all will hold water near the surface and will accelerate the breakdown of the wood, shortening its life.

Composite decking is a combination of materials, usually plastic and wood fiber. It was the darling of the industry when it first came out a couple of decades ago, but Bruce Lovell of Rick's Custom Fencing told me how the early versions of this material would just 'explode' in our area. What he meant was that the rainy winters in our area would cause the wood in the material to swell. Then if you were hit by a freeze the water would expand and the material would break apart. The materials have gotten much better in the past 20 years and now it looks and acts more like real wood. The key feature with composite decking is that it is nearly maintenance free. Simply using a power washer once a year can keep it clean.

The third choice and the most care-free is the PVC/plastic deck. This material can last nearly forever! Rick's installs a lot of PVC decking and next to cedar, it is their most popular material to use. Though it still doesn't look like real wood, it does come in a huge assortment of colors and styles. Maintenance is the key here, there virtually is none. Since the PVC material is engineered from plastic it won't have the flaws of other materials, like sagging, splinters and rot.

The trend now days is low maintenance materials and that is why the PVC and Composite are so



Composite decking

PHOTO CREDIT: FIBERON



Composite decking

PHOTO CREDIT: FIBERON



Cable railing

PHOTO CREDIT: ATLANTIS RAIL SYSTEMS

PHOTO CREDIT: PINTEREST



Aluminum railing

popular. Also, people are looking at putting more money into railings. Some styles of popular railings include stainless steel cables and aluminum pickets which takes painting and staining out of the picture.

If you are thinking about doing the work yourself you need to remember that the base is important. Make sure your footings, joists and piers are solid. If you are reckless here, you will have problems down the road. Use pressure treated wood and quality materials under your deck.

If you are hiring a contractor, here are some questions you should ask. "Are you licensed and bonded?" This will help if you have problems with your deck or legal problems down the road. "Do you carry a warranty?" Rick's and most reputable firms carry a warranty. When you get it, read it carefully. Make sure you see what your duties and responsibilities are (do you have to follow a maintenance schedule to keep it in affect?). Finally, look for an established company. If it is a guy working out of his truck, make sure you get references and check them! A good company will be able to answer all your questions and be there tomorrow to take care of problems.



PVC decking

PHOTO CREDIT: TREX



Trex composite decking



PHOTO CREDIT: GENOVATIONS



Trex composite decking

PHOTO CREDIT: TREX

If you're like us, you spend a lot of time on your deck over the summer. If you are replacing or building a deck, make sure that you pick the right material for you, do the job correctly, and then you'll be able to sit back and relax for years to come!



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# In Memoriam

**As Memorial Day approaches, we discover that, like flags for our fallen soldiers, flowers have a special meaning all their own.**

**by Ron Dunevant**

**American flags honor fallen soldiers in a national cemetery.**

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS/JOHN MURDEN

As is tradition in the United States, the last Monday of May, (this year, May 28th) is Memorial Day. For many of us, it marks the unofficial start of summer, warmer days, backyard barbecues and vacations. But, for many, it also has a deeper meaning.

As far back as I can remember, Memorial Day meant joining my family for a trip to the cemetery (actually, multiple cemeteries) to take flowers to the graves of family and friends, long departed. We would begin early in the day, cutting flowers from the garden, placing them in galvanized steel buckets or empty coffee cans filled with water, gathering some grass-trimming tools and even a push reel mower, packing up the car and heading out. Often, we would stop at a local flower shop to purchase a few extra bouquets (especially in years when the blooming season was particularly early or late).

Then, it was up to the cemetery. Using our aforementioned tools, the grass around the headstones would be trimmed, the markers washed and the flowers pruned and arranged neatly in metal cone vases or coffee cans covered with aluminum foil. It was a chance to connect with relatives both past and present. The meaning of this tradition was evident: our family members, although gone, were not forgotten.

It was called Decoration Day when it was first celebrated in the years following the American Civil War, a conflict that claimed more American lives than any in U.S. history (because the casualties from both sides were Americans). Many of the dead were buried in the country's first national cemeteries, and within a few short years after the end of the war, people began holding tributes to the fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers.

Over the years, the preferred name of the holiday gradually changed to "Memorial Day," becoming more common after World War II. As the result of a law that took effect in 1971, Memorial Day became a federal holiday, and its date was moved from the traditional May 30th to the last Monday in May, thus creating a three-day weekend for most people, and controversy for others. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), in a 2002 address, stated that the change "has undermined the very meaning of the day" and contributed to the public's "nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

I can't say that I disagree. Over the last few decades, it seems that the number of graves I see decorated at the end of May has diminished. Thankfully, several organizations, including members of the VFW, the Boy Scouts of America and others continue to place flags on the markers

of our veterans. It certainly is the least we can do. But, we shouldn't settle for the least we can do.

There are actually many ways to memorialize your loved ones, veterans or not, and not just on Memorial Day, but year round. One of the most personal is creating a memorial garden as a tribute. Another is to grow specific plants in your yard that you can take to the cemetery. In addition, the variety of plant that you grow or display says something as well. That is, plants have meanings.

Take the ubiquitous rose, a staple in Northwest gardens. We all know that it is a symbol of love, but did you know it also means beauty and strength through silence? Just about every flower has an attached meaning. Pansies stand for friendly faces. Peonies speak of memories and thoughts of the past. Petunias symbolize peace and harmony. The fact is, your garden and the plants you put in it are saying a lot more than you realize.

Which brings us to using flowers for memorializing your departed loved ones. Whether you choose to go to the cemetery or to create an area in your own yard, the use of flowers can tell a life story and make a connection to the person you are honoring, by choosing flowers and plants that represent them. Was your grandmother the quiet and shy type? Plant violets (shyness, humility, quiet joy). Did Uncle Bob impress everyone with his paintings? Put in some alyssum (which symbolizes artistry). Remembering a friend who always had your back? Grow geraniums and impatiens (steadfastness) or zinnias (friendship). The combinations are as unique as your relationship and once you know the meaning of each plant, you will be reminded of that relationship every time you visit your



**Roses mean love, of course, but they also stand for beauty and strength through silence.**



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PHOTO CREDIT: PINTEREST

**A memorial garden can fit in any yard, no matter how much space is available.**

garden. (See the list at the end of this article for the meanings of more plants. You may be surprised!)

A memorial garden created in your own yard can be any size. Make it the centerpiece or place it in a quiet, out-of-the-way corner, it doesn't matter. It can be a single bush or a complex combination of plants, rocks and garden art. You can even make one in a container. Choose flowers and plants that have meaning for you, but also plant flowers that will bloom during different seasons or have foliage in the winter. That way, your garden will always have something attractive to show off. You'll have better luck if you decide what you want to plant first, then choose the area of your yard that will best suit the plants you've chosen.

You can also purchase memorial stones with the name of a loved one engraved on it. Or, put in some garden art that has some special significance. Some people

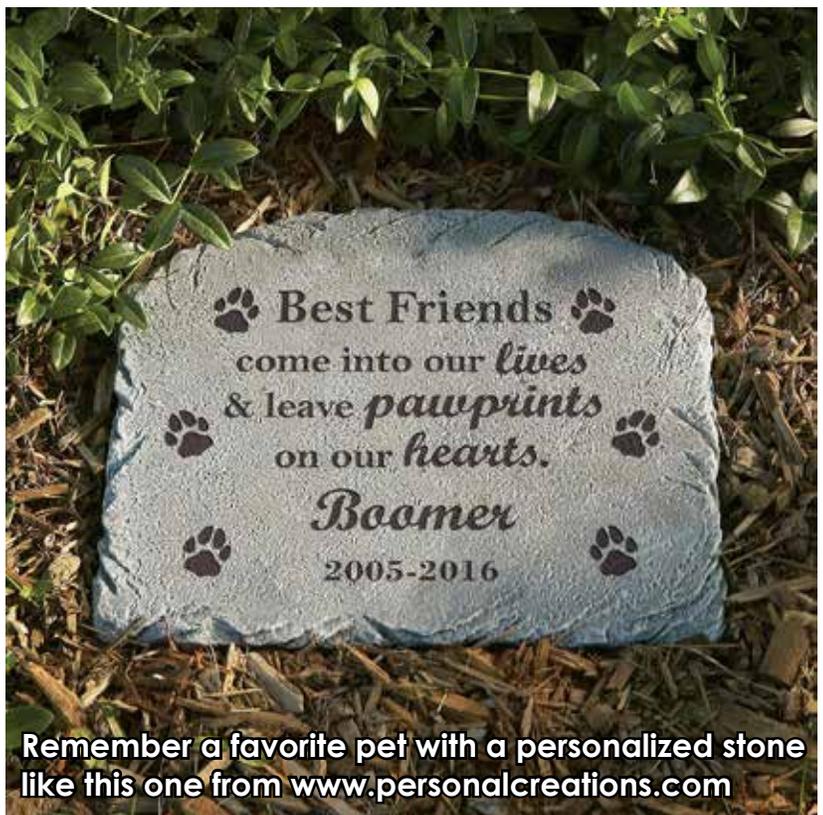


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PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKER CREATIVE COMMONS/MIKEY

**Even a princess can be honored with a small patch of flowers, meaningfully placed.**

use some of the ashes of a cremated loved one to fertilize the soil around the new plants. It is a great way to personalize your garden. A memorial garden is also a wonderful way to honor a pet who has passed, and it keeps them in your heart every time you look out the window. Memorial stones for pets are available online and are beautiful, as well. Another way to personalize a memorial garden is

to plant flowers that the honoree loved. If your grandparent's house had a big rhododendron out front, plant one as a memory of that. Or, choose flowers that bloom in someone's favorite color. A memorial garden is more than just generic memories, it represents what you remember most about that person, which is why you should choose plants that have special meaning for you.



**Decorating family graves with home-grown flowers made our tribute seem more personal.**

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Ferns represent peace, acceptance, grace, serenity, gentility and quietude.

## Memorial Plants and Their Meanings

This is a list of some of the plants that can be used in your memorial garden and their traditionally accepted meanings. There are many others. If you don't find your or your loved one's favorite, ask Google.

**Alyssum:** grace, gentleness, artistry, delicacy

**Andromeda:** self-sacrifice

**Anemone:** resurrection, transformation

**Apple:** healing and love

**Arbor Vitae:** unchanging friendship

**Aspen:** determination; overcoming fears and doubts

**Aster:** God's grace, love, blessings

**Baby's Breath:** sweet, gentle, innocent, harmless

**Beech:** prosperity

**Cedar:** healing, cleansing, protection

**Cherry:** death and rebirth; new awakenings

**Chrysanthemum:** abundance, prosperity, gratitude, humility; also used for mom/mum

**Columbine:** gentleness, enlightenment

**Cosmo:** joy, happiness, overflowing love

**Crocus:** growth, new beginnings, hope

**Cypress:** sacrifice

**Daffodil:** joy, resurrection

**Daisy:** hope and resistance, freshness, newness, simplicity, cheerfulness, innocence

**Delphinium:** inspiration, adoration, devotion, blessings

**Elder (as in elderberry):** "indicates the end in beginning and beginning in end; Life in Death and Death in Life".

**Elm:** strength of will; patriotism

**Fern:** peace, acceptance, grace, serenity, gentility, quietude

**Flowering Almond:** hope

**Forget-Me-Not:** remembrance

**Fuchsia:** harmony, healing for those who grieve, angels

**Geranium:** healing, happiness, renewed joy

**Holly:** death and rebirth; protection;

overcoming of anger

**Hyacinth:** overcoming of grief; gentleness

**Impatiens:** patience, steadfastness, loving-kindness

**Iris:** power

**Jasmine:** peace, goodwill, and healing

**Laurel:** victory

**Lily:** faith, new life, grace, and spiritual healing

**Marigold:** protection, friendliness, cheer, courage, joyful service

**Nasturtium:** patriotism

**Oak:** Independence; bravery; protection, strength, stability, endurance, continuity

**Pansy:** gentle thoughts, friendly faces

**Pine:** balance of pain and emotions

**Peony:** thoughts of the past, memories

**Petunia:** peace, harmony, serenity, uplifting of the body and soul

**Poplar:** ability to endure and conquer; courage

**Poppy:** remembrance

**Rose:** love, beauty, strength through silence.

- white and red roses together signify unity

**Rose of Sharon:** resilience

**Rosemary:** remembrance and friendship

**Rudbeckia:** justice

**Sage:** wisdom, prudence

**Snappedragon:** communication, telepathy

**Spruce:** hope in adversity

**Sunflower:** abundance, sunny disposition

**Sweet William:** gallantry

**Thyme:** peace or as a symbol of "time"

**Tulip:** gratitude, faith, hope, and charity

**Verbena:** peace

**Violets:** shyness, humility, quiet joy, tender thoughts, gentle love

**Zinnia:** friendship, joy, and laughter

If you have the opportunity, you could even transplant something that belonged to your loved one. When my grandmother died in 1992, I took several of her rose bushes, which had been planted in the early 20th century by her mother. While their meaning is love, which is appropriate, they are also a reminder of my grandmother, her house, and in turn, my great-grandmother. Every spring, when they begin to bloom, I am reminded of our family home and the time I spent with this very special lady.

A benefit to a memorial garden is that you can cut some of the flowers and take them to the cemetery, and bring that same meaning to the gravesite. As I said before, we always took plants from our yard to decorate the graves, it somehow made it more personal. If the flowers you plant in your memorial garden aren't in bloom on Memorial Day, then wait until they do bloom. Keeping alive the memory of a loved one doesn't have to be just a once-a-year event. Some people make wreaths to decorate family graves during the winter holidays. I keep a holly tree in my yard and use some of the branches to decorate my grandmother's gravesite because she had holly trees in her yard. It is a wonderful way to bring back happy memories and reconnect with the past.

Planting flowers, trees or shrubs as a memorial is a great way to keep a legacy alive, with something that represents the past, but continues to grow and change. Each year, as the plants in your memorial garden grow and bloom anew, it will be a reminder that the relationships we have with our loved ones don't have to end.

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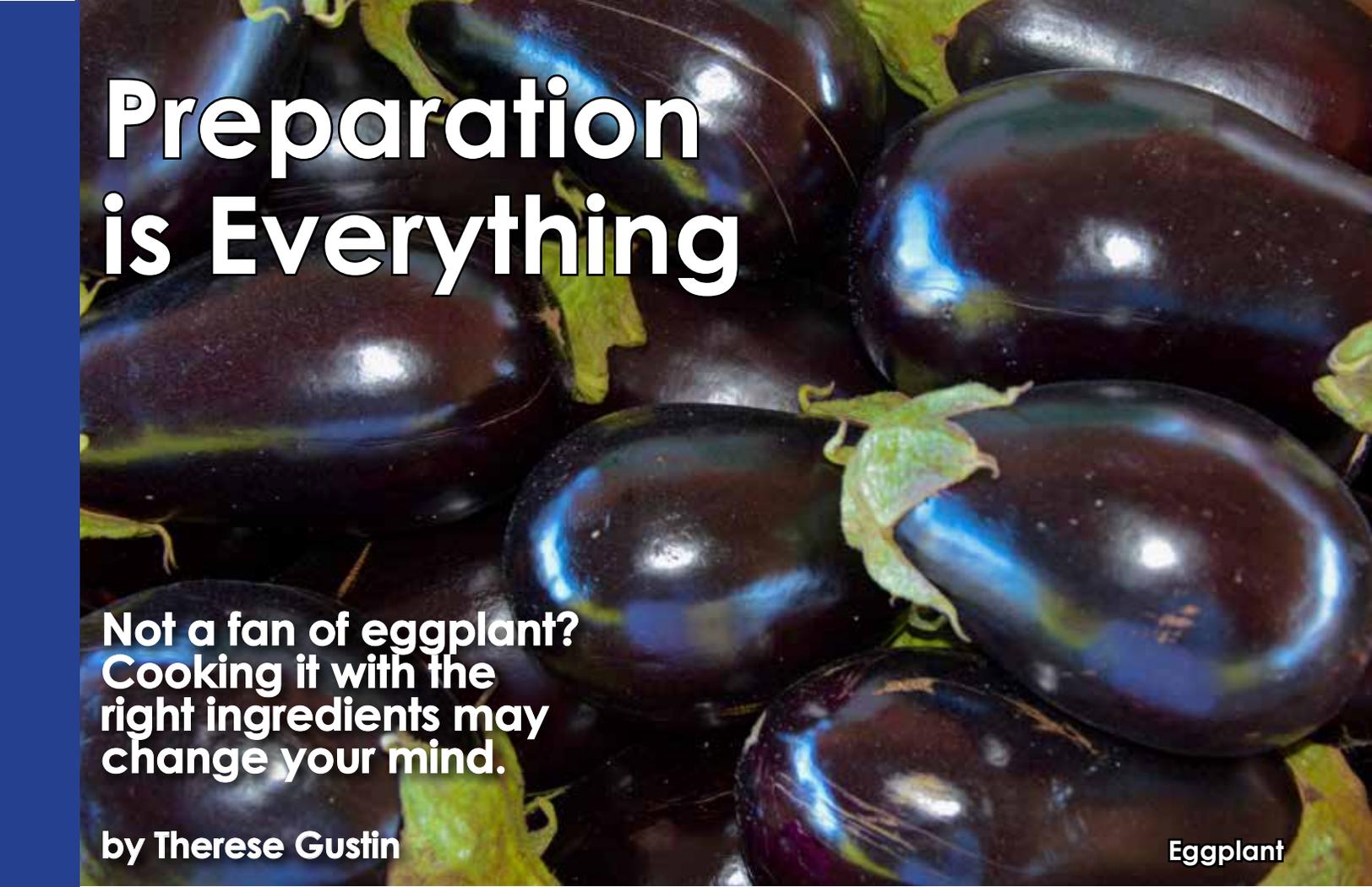
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# Preparation is Everything



**Not a fan of eggplant? Cooking it with the right ingredients may change your mind.**

**by Therese Gustin**

**Eggplant**

I have to admit...eggplant wasn't one of my favorite vegetables. That is until Chef Mirna Attar from Ya Hala restaurant served me her Sheik al-Mehshi, a Lebanese stuffed eggplant dish filled with spiced beef and onions. Apparently I just never had eggplant so deliciously prepared in the past.

Technically eggplant is not a vegetable; it is a fruit in the Solanaceae or nightshade family and is a cousin to the tomato, potato and pepper. Curious to know how eggplant got its name, I discovered that back in the 1700s the eggplant eaten in Europe was small and yellow or white and resembled goose or hen's eggs...thus the name "eggplant". We are more familiar with the longer, glossy-skinned, dark purple varieties which don't resemble eggs at all but other parts of the world including Europe know it as aubergine and in Southeast Asia and South Africa it is known as "brinjal".

The oldest written information about eggplant dates back to about the 5th century. Historic evidence suggests that eggplant was first used medicinally and then as a food in China. Early

literature shows that it was prevalent in North Africa and India and was introduced throughout the Mediterranean area by the Arabs in the early Middle Ages. Records show it appeared in England in the 16th century but proved difficult to ripen due to the shorter growing season. For centuries after its introduction into Europe, eggplant was used more as a decorative garden plant than as a food. Because of the bitter flavor of early varieties and the fact that it was a member of the nightshade family, people thought that eggplant caused insanity, leprosy and cancer. Thomas Jefferson brought eggplant to America from Europe in the early 1800s but it wasn't until the early 1900s that eggplant found its way onto American dinner plates.

Today eggplant comes in many shapes, colors and sizes. Colors can vary from white to yellow or green, as well as reddish-purple and dark purple. Some varieties have a color gradient—white at the stem, to bright pink, deep purple or even black. There are even varieties with purple and white stripes. Some Asian

varieties are generally longer and narrower and are cucumber shaped.

Whatever variety you prefer, growing eggplant in your garden requires the same conditions as its cousins...tomatoes and peppers. They love heat! They require a long growing season so it is best to use transplants in your garden. If you are starting from seed, sow seeds nine to ten weeks prior to transplanting outside after all danger of frost, usually mid-May to mid-June in the Willamette Valley. Just like tomatoes and peppers, they don't like cold temperatures. Plant in well draining loamy soil and space plants 1 ½ to 2 feet apart. Eggplant can grow up to three feet tall and take up to 11 weeks to ripen. It really is

a beautiful plant both when it flowers and when it bears fruit.

It's important to harvest your eggplant when they reach the proper size and color for their variety. If you wait too long the fruit can become seedy. Jim Myers, Professor of Vegetable Breeding and Genetics from Oregon State University makes this suggestion:

"The luster of the skin is a good indicator of readiness for harvest," said Myers. "If they are glossy, the fruit should be good. If the skin looks dull, then it is over the hill. If left on the plant too long, they will become tough and off-flavored."

Eggplant has a short shelf life. Stored in the refrigerator it can last up to ten days.

While each variety varies slightly in taste and texture, in general eggplant can be described as having a pleasantly bitter taste and spongy texture. High in fiber, copper, vitamin B1 and other vitamins and minerals, eggplant also contains phytonutrients which have antioxidant properties. The anthocyanin phytonutrient called nasunin in the skin of eggplant has been found to protect the lipids in brain cell membranes in animal studies. Who knew eggplant was "brain food"? Adding a bit of salt to raw eggplant before cooking helps remove the slight bitterness. Whether you slice and grill it, use it in curry or coat it in tomato sauce and parmesan cheese, if it's not already, eggplant may soon become one of your favorite vegetables too!



Striped eggplant

PHOTO CREDIT: LIZ WEST VIA FLICKR.COM



White eggplant

PHOTO CREDIT: TWISTEDSTRINGKNITS VIA FLICKR.COM



Eggplant flower



Chinese eggplant

## Sheik al Meshi (Stuffed Eggplant)

Recipe by Chef Mirna Attar  
Ya Hala Restaurant

Makes 12

### Ingredients

- 3/4 of a pound ground beef
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp Allspice
- 1/2tsp black pepper
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 cups of diced onion
- 1/4 cup of toasted pine nuts
- 12 Italian eggplants
- 6 cups vegetable oil for frying
- For the Broth
- 3 cups of beef broth
- 1 cup of tomato puree

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Heat olive oil in large frying pan on high heat. Add ground beef into pan with salt, pepper and Allspice. Move beef around the pan to break up the meat into smaller pieces. Cook until brown and crispy.

Add onions to the beef and cook until onions are soft. Take mixture of the meat and place into a bowl. Mix in toasted pine nuts. Using a small knife, peel alternating 1/2 inch strips of skin off of the eggplant. Heat the vegetable oil in a pot to 350 degrees. Fry 3 eggplants at a time until they are golden in color. This takes about 8 minutes. - Place 12 eggplants onto a roasting pan. Using a spoon, create a lengthwise cavity. Take care not to cut all the way down, so as not to split the eggplant. Put 3 tbsp of stuffing into each eggplant. Mix together beef broth and tomato paste. Cover the eggplants half way with sauce and bake for 15 minutes Serve hot alongside basmati rice

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**How Jim Sherwood made a big splash at the Pumpkin Weigh Off... without getting wet.**

**by Judy Alleruzzo**



**Jim Sherwood and his prize-winning pumpkin: 1812.5 lbs. and first place in 2016 at Bauman's Great Pumpkin Weigh Off.**

PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF HINDS

Spring is coming to the Pacific Northwest, really it will be here soon, and it's time to plant our vegetable gardens. It's time to plant and also to dream about the harvest in summer and fall. We dream about delicious tomatoes, sweet corn and huge pumpkins! Us, regular gardeners hope for big pumpkins to make amazing Jack O' Lanterns and the 'professional' giant pumpkin growers hope for the biggest in the Pacific Northwest. This month, we are fortunate to hear all about giant pumpkins from Jim Sherwood, member of 2 giant pumpkin growing groups, who enters his giant pumpkins at Bauman's Farm and Gardens and other competitions on the west coast. If you haven't been to Bauman's Farm and Gardens in

October, you have been missing the "Giant Pumpkin Weigh Off" during their Harvest Festival. It is unbelievable!

Jim and the Pacific Giant Vegetable Growers (PGVG) are friends, competitors and comrades in growing prize winners. They are all serious in their craft. Jim has been growing giant pumpkins for 16 years. I asked him if he grew up on a farm and was raised with farming in his blood. How silly of me to pigeonhole his background. He grew up in Eastern Washington in a small town called Wilbur, where his Dad owned a local marina and gas station. Jim remembers, "Throughout high school and college I did work for a local farmer doing virtually everything

associated with wheat farming. This is what perhaps 'piqued' my curiosity for agriculture. To this day, at times, I still wonder 'what if' about staying with farming". I think he is still farming but just on a different scale. To add to this experience with working on the land, Jim graduated from Eastern Washington and Washington State University with a degree in Forest Geography and a minor in Biology. "My entire post college life has revolved around urban forestry and caring for plants of all shapes and sizes". Specifically, Jim is a certified arborist and licensed applicator in the commercial division for General Tree Service.

In regards to growing giant pumpkins, Jim credits a chance

bit of volunteering for instilling his love of giant vegetables. Jim recalls his first sight of giant pumpkins, "A young guy, Brett Cooper, was working for me at General Tree Service. One day he invited me over to help him pick up 'pumpkins' for the upcoming fair. Having nothing to do that afternoon I said "sure". When I got to his pumpkin patch, my eyes got big and my competitive spirits began to rumble. It was right then and there I 'got the bug'!" His first try at growing a competition worthy pumpkin was in the year 2000. Jim was proud that "It weighed in at a respectable 713 lbs". Not bad for a beginner!

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Jim at Bauman Farm's Great Pumpkin Weigh Off

PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF HINDS

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As all home gardeners and farmers know, there are good years and not so good years of growing vegetables. Jim has learned these tips for helping to insure giant pumpkins and other giant vegetables.

"There are (3) main things that it takes:

- 1) Good Soil, enhancing a very balanced soil high in organics is very critical.
- 2) Good seeds, We growers are very particular with our genetics, hand pollinating all flowers to combine the traits of the biggest pumpkins in the world to achieve greatness.
- 3) Good 'luck', We all need to have the perfect weather to maximize our efforts. There cannot be any holes, rotten spots or significant defects in the pumpkins, which often proves to be our biggest obstacles!"

Speaking of seeds, I asked Jim if he saves his giant pumpkin seeds each year. "Absolutely, the seeds are the 'gold' inside the pumpkin. Since we control all our pollination with the flowers, these seeds hold the promise of bigger and better things to come! We openly trade with other growers around the world and also donate seeds to other clubs to help raise funds for their events".

I did ask Jim for specific care tips once the pumpkin vines are growing in the garden. After the pumpkins are pollinated and begin to grow, Jim places a special belting fabric under them. This material is purchased from a paper mill. He keeps "adding bigger sheets and covers as the pumpkins grow. They remain covered all season to keep the sun off of them".

Jim recounts his summer schedule, "the pumpkins get watered and fertilized 'every day'. I water with low volume drip tape and



PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF HINDS



The Pumpkin Drop at Bauman Farm's Harvest Festival

PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF HINDS



**Terminator champion with Japanese champion**

have a fertilizer injection system to provide nutrients on a daily basis”.

Finally, the set up for competition day arrives. Jim has a unique system to get the pumpkin out of his field and onto his truck. “I have a specifically made harness that drapes over the pumpkin and then is cinched up and tied. I then attach the harness to a chain hoist on a tripod, raise it in the air and then back my truck under it”. Jim enters into 5-6 competitions in Oregon, Washington and California depending how many of his giant pumpkins have achieved maximum weight.

Check out the photo of Jim's first

**Great Pumpkin Commonwealth**  
[www.gpc1.org](http://www.gpc1.org)

**Pacific Giant Vegetable Growers**  
[www.pgv.org](http://www.pgv.org)

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Place winning joy at Bauman's Harvest Festival in 2016. His Giant Pumpkin weighed in at 1812.5lbs. It was his first entry at Bauman's weigh off. That same day, a World Record Giant Squash weighed in at 1844 lbs! Jim is a humble man that shrugs off any accolades about winning. "Prize funds differ all over the world. There are first prizes that range from \$20,000 to ribbons & plaques. To most growers it's not about the prize money. It is about standing on stage, proud of an accomplishment that not everyone has the ability or ambition to pursue. My main goal has been and will always be to grow one bigger than last year and make people smile! I challenge anyone to not smile when they look at a Giant Pumpkin. They just make people feel good!" Even though Jim is a dedicated grower, he sometimes has set backs, as we all do, when dealing with vegetable gardens. He related this story, "In 2005 or so, I decided I needed more room for my pumpkins, so I took out my front lawn and grew giant pumpkins there. I had many comments from my neighbors although it was a little unnerving when people would stop to take pictures. That year I lost all my big pumpkins due to holes in the bottom. I actually 'carried' my giant pumpkin onto the scale to the tune of 98 lbs! I still had fun!"

Other growing tips from Jim include "Do your research. Learn what it takes to have healthy soil. If your soil is right many good things happen. Get good high quality seeds and most of all 'network' with other growers. The camaraderie amongst growers is what has driven this sport/hobby to where it is today!"

Jim hangs out with members of the Pacific Giant Vegetable Growers, PGVG. This band of people is united in their drive to grow big vegetables. There is a scrolling slide show of giant pumpkins and smiling winners on their website. The caption says "Growers of Obscenely Large Vegetables". That says it all and sets the tone for this serious but fun loving group. PGVG are an active group of growers, giving support to each other during the growing season. This past March, they sponsored a Spring Seminar in Dallas, Oregon. On this day, over 50 people attended the event which included seminars on 'How to grow a world record squash!', 'How to get your giant pumpkin off to a great start!', 'Growing a giant tomato' and a 'Growers Panel Q & A' with Jim Sherwood as one of the panelists.

Every February, giant pumpkin and vegetable growers from all over the world gather for their annual awards banquet and conference. Local growers in the Pacific Northwest are very excited as the 2018 event will be held in Portland. The location is the Double Tree Hilton Hotel, near the Lloyd Center, on February 23 to 25, 2018. The conference celebrates champion growers from the past and present, the sharing of ideas and networking with other growers. Jim told me they "expect 200-300 of the world's best growers"! Late this summer, more information will be available at the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth website.

Jim is a member and the 8 year Treasurer of The Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth, GPC. The GPC has a worldwide membership and calls this yearly conference 'The Big Show'.

Their mission states, "The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth's (GPC), mission cultivates the hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world by establishing standards and regulations that ensure quality of fruit, fairness of competition, recognition of achievement, fellowship and education for all participating growers and weigh off sites". Jim and this group of growers are serious about growing giant pumpkins and vegetables but they have a HUGE sense of humor. This story definitely shows off that sense of humor. Jim told me, "In 2001 we decided to drop a pumpkin from 110 feet in the air from a crane onto a car. Before hand, we opened up the pumpkin and filled it full of 'Jack-Be-Little' pumpkins. When the pumpkin 'splatted' onto the car, hundreds of tiny pumpkins began rolling all over the ground. It was quite humorous to see the look on the faces of the adults and kids knowing they were seeing where 'baby pumpkins' came from. It was quite funny!"

Jim has support of his fellow growers but also his family. He and his wife Lori will be married 35 years this coming September. Lori has been the treasurer

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of the PGVG for 17 years, since the group began all those years ago. Their son, Andy is 19 years old and has many interests of his own but makes time to help pull pumpkins out of the fields.

Interviewing Jim Sherwood and learning more about the growing of Giant Pumpkins and the extent of interest in this 'sport' has been so interesting. He is truly a Giant Pumpkin Grower Ambassador and wants to recruit new growers by sharing his tried and true growing techniques. It makes me smile to think of all the giant vegetables grown by local and worldwide growers.

Jim has grown giant pumpkins, long gourds, giant field pumpkins, giant squash, watermelons and tomatoes. His goal this year is to grow a 2000lb pumpkin, that's 1 ton of vegetable! Can't wait to hear what happens. Stay tuned and we'll post the winners on Facebook!



The winning moment

PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF HINDS

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# To the Critter End

Under a deck makes a great living quarters.

The more our cities grow and encroach on animal habitat, the more we find them in our yards and houses. Here are some tips on keeping them under control.

by David Musial

Having lived in the country for over fifteen years, I am well qualified to discuss critter control. Everything from mice to skunks are a part of daily life. I even had a stray pit bull greet me on my front porch, but that's another story. However, you don't have to live in the country to have critter encounters. They can be a problem in the city as well.

When discussing critter problems, it can be defined the same as weeds. A weed is plant that is growing where you don't want it. In the same vein, a problem critter is an animal where you don't want it; in your house, your porch and even your yard.

The list of animals that can be considered a nuisance is quite large. It includes both wild and domestic animals. The most common wild animals are mice,

moles, raccoons and skunks. The domestic animals include the neighbor's cat that uses your freshly tilled vegetable garden as a litter box and the dog that does his business on your manicured lawn!

Signs of wild animals range from mouse droppings, near miss skunk sightings and raccoons eating out of your trash can or cat food bowl. When these critters rear their ugly head, there are three strategies to solve the problem:

- Trap
- Avoidance
- Protection

Trapping is fairly straight forward and familiar to most. Avoidance uses methods that will deter the varmints and pro-

tection is a strategy that leaves the animal alone, but puts in place measures to avoid damage from the animal.

Before we discuss solutions to critter problems, something to think about. We are infringing on animal territory. They were here before we subdivided that countryside farm. Yes, we have a huge investment in our property, but the animals have nowhere to go. Having said that, let's get trapping!

Traps serve one of two purposes, to eliminate or capture live. Most traps designed for elimination are for rodents or tunneling animals such as moles. Rodents can cause substantial damage to property and moles wreak havoc on landscapes, and traps that dispatch the animal are the easiest to use. Set it but don't forget it. If you do use a

mousetrap remember to periodically check to see if you caught a mouse. If you forget and did catch a mouse, the aroma will remind you. Note that peanut butter is the best bait for mice.

There are also a few specialty methods to eliminate animals such as gassing a mole hole or utilizing a device that uses a shotgun shell blank to cause a concussion. The one type of trap that I personally don't use is the sticky traps to capture mice. These traps are considered inhuman and have been banned in many countries.

The next type of trap is the live capture trap. Havahart® is the most common brand and they have traps that are even small enough to capture a mouse. They are very popular for skunks and raccoons, and wet cat food makes great bait as do marshmallows. The upside in using these traps is that they capture the animal live. The downside is figuring out what to do with



Trapped, now what?

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.AACTIONPC.NET

your captive? Check with local animal control to determine your relocation options with wild animals. You can also check with local trapping companies to determine if they will relocate for a fee.

When baiting live capture traps, wear gloves to avoid your scent being transferred to the trap.

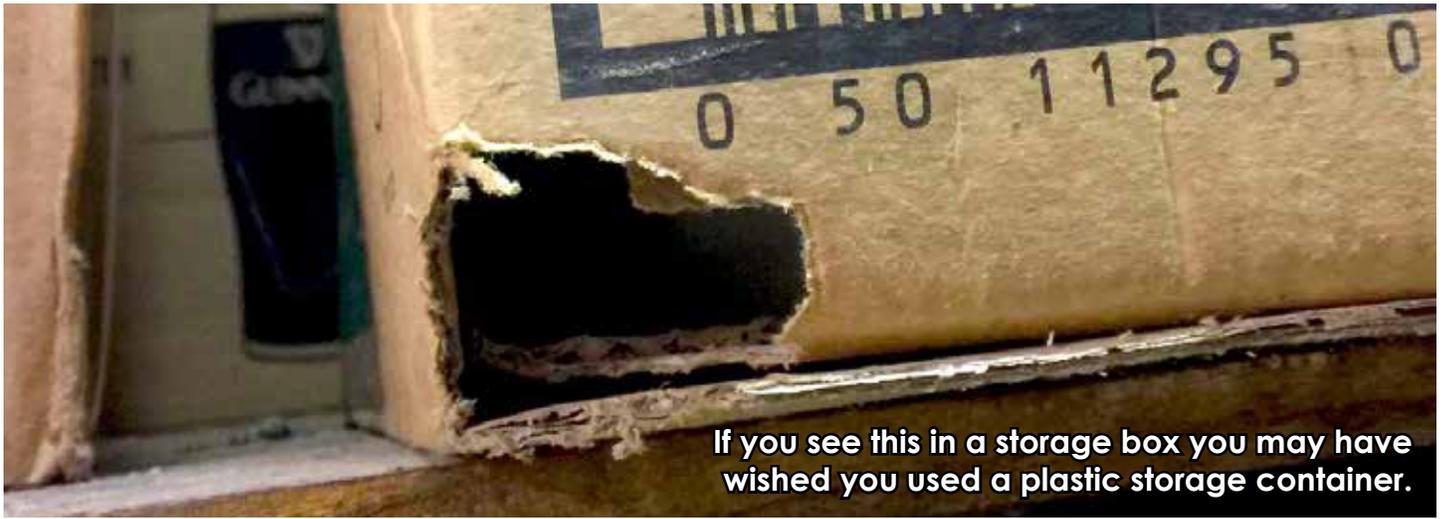
Also, be sure you understand how the trap operates before you capture an animal. When transferring the cage with an animal, wear heavy leather gloves for protection. If you trapped a skunk, there are other steps to take.

So what do you do with a skunk



Live traps sometimes catch your pets.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.IYTIMG.COM



If you see this in a storage box you may have wished you used a plastic storage container.

to avoid being sprayed? Professionals like to cover their set traps with black plastic. This creates a dark environment for the skunk and if it sprays, it stays in within the plastic. The problem is you don't know what you captured.

Another method is to carry a blanket in front of your body. Approach slowly and drape the blanket over the cage. With the

cage covered and slow movements, the skunk is unlikely to spray. If it does, it will be in a downward direction and away from you. I have tried this method and during my approach, the skunk sprayed and a small amount of the gunk came over the blanket and landed on my arm. Not saying this is a bad method, but be warned that skunks can spray ten to fifteen feet and they have good aim.

And yes, my arm stunk for days. Tomato juice does not work!

Although not actually a trapping method, the use of poison bait is another dispatching option. Care should be taken to avoid it being eaten by household pets. Another concern is that an ingredient in some rodent poisons cause thirst so the animal will leave the house. That's great for your house, but not so much for a cat



Cats love a freshly filled garden.

that decides to eat the poisoned mouse. Read the directions and exercise caution.

With all the trappings of traps, the best approach is avoidance. In some, but not all cases, proper avoidance measures can eliminate the need for trapping. Avoidance helps to deter the pests from entering your property and several strategies exist.

To protect from animals entering into the home, all points of entry need to be blocked. The most obvious starting point is home vents. The best product to eliminate entry through vents is to cover the opening with ¼" or 23 gauge hardware cloth, available at your local hardware store. Don't be tempted to save money and buy ½" as mice are able to pass through.

A thorough inspection of your home's exterior from top to bottom is in order. While on the roof, check for any openings that you may have been unaware. Some roofs have small openings that can allow animals entry. Our house has a section of roof that hangs over another section of roof. In the overhang, there was a small opening into an attic crawl space.

We didn't realize this until a pregnant stray cat had her litter and relocated the kittens to the crawl space. We figured this out when we heard

the soft meow of kittens in our bedroom and saw mom disappear while on the roof. The crawl space was not very accessible for cat removal, so every night we would hear mom and the kittens overhead. When the kittens were old enough to come out, mom brought them out one by one, and we later sealed the opening. I know you're thinking he makes these stories up, I don't!

Another area of entry is doors and garage doors. Check that the seals are tight and repair any that are not.

Inside the house, look for small holes, gaps or openings. These are prime areas for mice to gain entry. Small holes can be puttied and if you have them in cabinets or cupboards, stuffing the hole with steel wool is very effective.

Outside, there are two areas to review. The first is hiding spots and the second is attractants. Animals like dry dark spaces to live. If you have a deck or a space under your stairs, it may be prime real estate for a skunk or raccoon. If sealing the space is out of the question, placing lights in the area temporarily may drive the animal away.

Food is an attractant and access should be minimized. This includes making sure trash can lids tightly seal and if you keep your pet food in a container outdoors, remember to make it raccoon proof. We store

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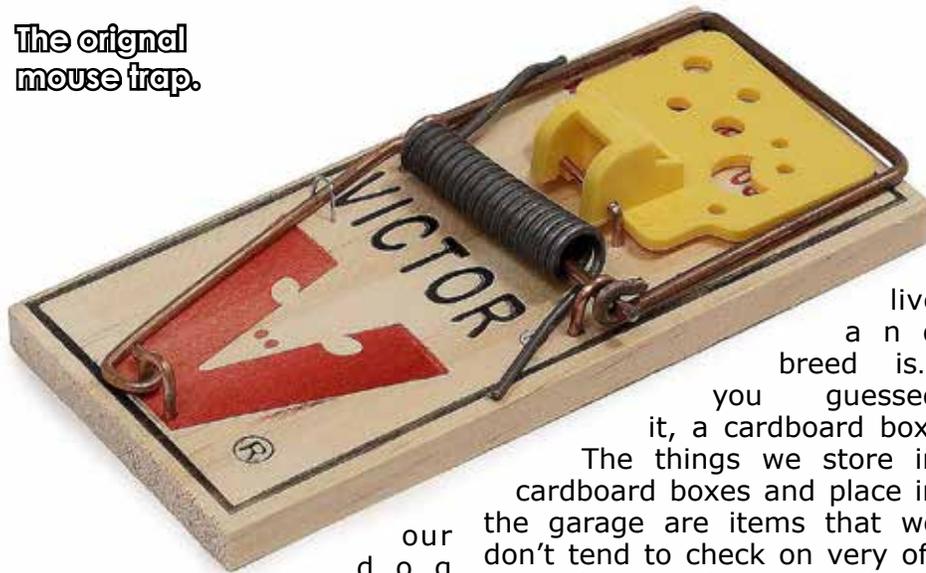
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115 S Pekin Rd  
Woodland, WA  
(360) 225-8996

### The original mouse trap.



our dog food in a trash can secured with bungee cords. Also, avoid the temptation to feed your pets with a self-feeder that contains a week's supply of food. If you have raccoons or skunks in the neighborhood, the supply may only last a day or two. Remember, rule number one is don't feed the wild animals.

Since it can be hard to keep animals off your property, there are other strategies. Motion sensor sprinklers can be a great deterrent. There are also ultrasonic devices on the market that emit a frequency that is unpleasant to wild animals. Lastly, animal repellants can be used throughout your yard. There are granular and liquid products to deter wild and domestic animals. These can also be used under your porch or deck and on lawns or gardens to keep cats and dogs away.

Protection is similar to avoidance but a little more specific. It involves protecting your property from animals if they get past your trapping or avoidance measures. The primary method to protect your property is to use proper storage. Storage containers should be animal proof and the animal to proof from is normally a mouse.

The most common storage container is a cardboard box and the favorite container for a mouse to

live and breed is... you guessed it, a cardboard box.

The things we store in cardboard boxes and place in the garage are items that we don't tend to check on very often. When we do, we can be in for an unpleasant surprise and disgusting surprise; ruined possessions, mouse nesting, droppings and urine.

If it's worth storing, it should be



**Try natural repellents to deter animals.**

worth protecting and the best way is to use sealable plastic containers. This is not a plug for Rubbermaid® storage containers, you can buy any brand. It is a plug for safe and secure storage. The same method should be used for dry pet food and food in your pantry. The boxes and bags that dry food is sold do not protect from pests. Additionally, using storage containers for food will help it stay fresh longer.

In closing, let me share my pit bull story. Near my property, there is a little turnout, on the road, where people stop to dump trash and animals. Sad but true. When animals are abandoned, they either head north to my neighbors or south to my house.



This is why we have so many cats at our house.

So I arrive home from work, park the car and walk to the porch. Just another day on the farm. As I was about to step onto the porch I see a pit bull laying in front of the door. He sees me and gets up, while I turn and run to the back entry, unlock the door and enter the house and safety. Peeking outside, the pit bull is still on the porch.

Now I know that the problem with pit bulls is quite often the owner, not the dog. But I didn't know the owner or the dog. What I did know is that if someone is abandoning a dog near my property there must be a reason and since I don't own a pit bull trap, I called animal control. So I guess there are actually four methods to dealing with critters; trap, avoidance, prevention and RUN!



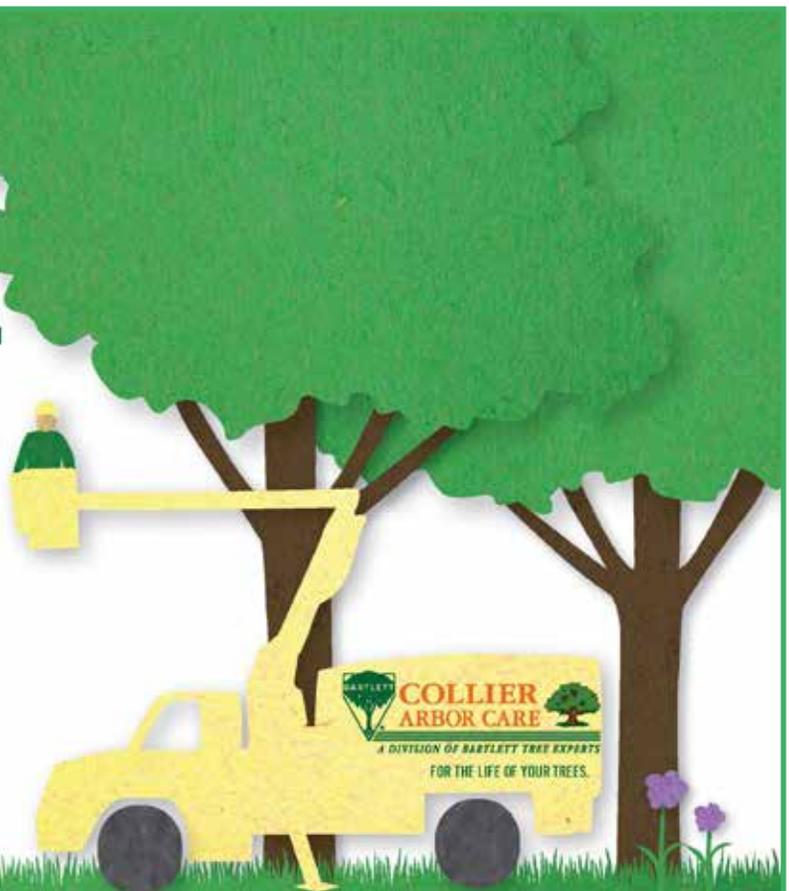
**Keep animals out of the garden and water at the same time.**

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.ALIEXPRESS.COM

# BEAUTIFUL TREES MAKE A HOUSE A HOME.

We're Bartlett Tree Experts, a 100+ year old tree and shrub care company with global reach and local roots. We provide expert, attentive service, a safety-first record and a range of services that includes:

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- Fertilization & Soil Care
- Cabling & Bracing
- Insect & Disease Management



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# W T D I T G

The month of May is the best of all worlds. Most of the Spring flowers are still in bloom. The weather continues to get warmer and, occasionally, teases us with an almost-summer-like day. And, the fruits of our labors (figuratively and literally) start to reveal themselves. It also ushers in the arrival of plant-harming insects. Be vigilant! Your plants are counting on you to protect them.

## PLANNING



- Get ready to hang your flowering baskets. This is the best month for getting a basket or three to hang outdoors and show off your green thumb to all the neighbors. Use a good flower fertilizer every other watering to get the best results.

- Get the watering system ready for summer irrigation. Check hoses for leaks and the sprinklers

to make sure they still work well. This would be a good time to create a more automatic drip irrigation system for the gardens!

- Keep a check on soil temperature for veggies you can plant out this month. Most of the warmer season veggies will be able to go in this month.



## PLANTING

- Divide your stored dahlia clumps and plant the tubers. Dahlias produce more flowers on thicker stems if lifted in the fall and then divided in the spring and replanted.



begonias, canna lilies, dahlia and lilies bulbs. Planting after

- Flowers & Annuals: Plant out gladiolas,

mid-month should be safe for all these annuals: marigolds, asters, fuchsias, wax begonias, geraniums, daisies, salvias, snapdragons, stock... in other words, most all the annual flowers!

- Perennials like carnations, candytuft, delphiniums, daylilies, phlox, cone flowers, lavender and heuchera are just a few of the varieties of perennials you can plant right now.

- Landscape planting now still

gives the plants a good head start on a strong root system before the summer heat sets in.

- This is the month to plant your Rose bushes. They also make a great Mother's Day gift!



- Tomatoes and other warmer weather veggies can go in now.

## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Watch for late frost! This is the time of year the late frosts can do the most damage when plants have flower buds ready to burst and we get all excited and plant out everything we can find. Cover the tender plants when frost is forecast with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover.
- Remove Rhododendrons spent flower heads as

soon as they are done blooming. This is mostly for appearance because the plants will set buds for next year even if they are not deadheaded.

- Protect young plants from slugs with Bonide's Slug magic. Be on the lookout for the little eggs that resemble white B-Bs. Using Bonide's Slug

# What To Do In The Garden MAY

Magic is safe around pets and breaks down into usable iron for the plants to consume.



- Monitor plants for insects like aphids and spittlebugs and the like. Most control can be handled with a burst of water from the hose or hand picking off.

- Be on the lookout for codling moths on apple and pear trees. Adults typically emerge in May-June. Pheromone-baited traps can be used to reduce populations of male moths. Remove brush, debris, and culled fruit from orchards. Remove loose

bark to eliminate possible hiding places for cocoons. Wrap trunk with corrugated cardboard or burlap to trap migrating larvae. Periodic removal of these tree wraps to destroy cocooning larvae, can help a lot.

- Watch for notching insect feeding damage on rhodys and other broad-leafed evergreen plants. This could be the root weevil and it is a bit harder to detect. Go out at night with a flashlight to see them eating your rhodies or place some paper below the plants at night and tap on the plants. If you hear the little 'plops' of something dropping onto the paper, you may get to see the sneaky root weevil adults. Once the soil temperature is 55F or above you can use the safe

organic 'Beneficial Nematodes' around the plants if the weevils are found. BN are safe to use and work up to two years to totally destroy root weevil adults and grubs.

- Over seeding a grass lawn or starting from scratch: May is a good month for both of these tasks. Fertilize the lawn once every two months



for optimal color. Mow a bit higher as the weather warms. If you have used a moss killer on the lawn, don't put down grass seed for at least 6 weeks after that application.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Vegetables - Monitor soil temperature to see when you can safely plant out the warmer season crops. Wait until the soil is consistently above 70 F to plant out basil, cucumber, eggplant, melons, peppers, tomatoes and pumpkins or squash.

Plant anytime in May by seed: Arugula, Asian greens, snap beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, sweet corn, dill, kale, lettuce, green onions, parsnips, potatoes, radishes, slow bolting spinach, swiss chard, turnips.

Plant out these starts in May (waiting for warmer soil temps for above mentioned veggies): Artichokes, basil, beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, collard greens, cukes, eggplant, kale, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsley, peppers, squash, swiss chard, tomatoes and watermelon.

- Consider planting the veggie garden in what is called 'intensive planting' style AKA 'wide-row gardening. This will pro-



duce the most amount of produce from your space available! Traditional practice of planting long rows is not as productive as planting closer together and in 3-4' wide blocks. The benefits of closer planting; easier to mulch, less weed growth, snap to water, little wasted space and the cool shade created by the foliage for soil and roots.

- Control many vegetable insect problems by covering the crop with a row cover, like Harvest Guard.

- Control the many below ground insect pests like root maggots safely by using Beneficial Nematodes once the soil temperature has reached 55 F or warmer. These little microscopic creatures seek out and consume over 230 soil dwelling garden pests.



- Control weeds by covering them, in between the rows, with layers of wet black and white newspaper or cardboard covered with compost.



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

### **Hulda Klager Lilac Days 2017**

**Through May 14, 2017 • Daily 10:00am-4:00pm**

**Hulda Klager Lilac Garden, Woodland, WA**

Each year in the spring, the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens hosts Lilac Days to celebrate the beauty of lilacs in bloom. Visitors from around the world stroll through the gardens, buy their favorite lilacs, visit Hulda's Victorian era home, and shop for special items in the gift shop. Lilac Days are the 3 weeks up to and including Mothers' Day. Lilac Sales, Hulda's Farmhouse, and the Gift Shop are only open during Lilac Days. The gardens are open daily 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. year around. A \$3.00 gate fee is payable at the gate. Children 12 years old and under enter free when accompanied by an adult. 115 South Pekin Road, Woodland, Washington 98674. [www.lilacgardens.com](http://www.lilacgardens.com)

### **Hosokawa Morihiro: The Art of Life, a Rebirth in Clay**

**Through May 21, 2017 • Regular Garden Hours**

**Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

In honor of the Grand Opening of our new Cultural Village, the first exhibition of 2017 is a celebration of tea culture in the art and life of Hosokawa Morihiro, a former Prime Minister of Japan. We are honored to have this exhibition of former Prime Minister Hosokawa's work in both the Pavilion Gallery and the Garden's new Tanabe Gallery. Prime Minister Hosokawa is an 18th generation descendant of the Hosokawa clan of daimyo (feudal lords), one of the most illustrious samurai families in Japanese history. After 600 years of family history as warriors, tea masters and poets, Hosokawa left a career in politics behind in the late 1990s to pursue the life of an artist in clay and ink. Included with Garden Admission. [japanesegarden.com](http://japanesegarden.com)

### **Make Your Own Spring Interest Container**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017 • 5:00pm-6:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Gardening Goddess, Jolie Ann Donohue. Welcome spring with a bright, cheery container! Learn how to put together a container with long-lasting color display in this hands-on workshop. 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. Class Fee: \$10 materials fee plus plants you choose to purchase. Class limited to 15 students – register now!

**continued next column**

### **Clackamas County Master Gardeners'**

**Spring Garden Fair**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 9:00am-5:00pm**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Clackamas County Event Center, Canby, OR**

The Spring Garden Fair has been held the weekend before Mother's Day since 1984. What began as a small fuchsia sale has grown to one of the Northwest's most anticipated springtime events. Our vendors include the Pacific Northwest's favorite growers, artists and specialty vendors. With perennial favorites like 10 Minute University™, Free pH Soil Testing and Ask an O.S.U. Master Gardener, it's well worth the drive out to Canby for our two day event! \$5.00 admission/under 16 free. 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, Oregon 97013. [www.springgardenfair.org](http://www.springgardenfair.org)

### **Tomatoes 101**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm**

**Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Tomatoes can be the pride of your garden and your dinner table, but they can be challenging to grow successfully in Pacific Northwest gardens, due to our cool nights and unpredictable amounts of sunshine May is the perfect month to plant tomatoes, so come learn best tips for success, and shop our great selection of proven performers and heirloom tomatoes.

35105 NW Zion Church Road, Cornelius, OR

### **What to Do in the May Vegetable Garden**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Robyn Streeter of Your Backyard Farmer. Get the dirt on year-round vegetable growing in this monthly talk about vegetable gardening in the Pacific Northwest. This month Robyn will cover irrigation techniques, as well as other timely tips for Spring vegetable gardening.

### **Bonsai: Beginning Wiring**

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 11:00am-1:00pm**

**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Wiring is an important part of the process of styling your bonsai and nearly all well designed bonsai have been wired at some point in their development. Though at first a daunting technique to master, it gives the bonsai enthusiast better control and manipulation of the trunk and branches of his/her bonsai. Fee: \$50, includes: Japanese Black Pine, pot, wire and soil. Cost: \$50.00. Garland Nurs-

**continued next page**



ery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. 541-753-6601. [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

**Cultural Performance: Koto Harp**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm**  
**Japanese Gardens, Portland, OR**

Location: Cathy Rudd Cultural Corner. Stroll the new Cultural Village as accomplished Koto Harpist, Eri Muroi, shares her music. The standard Koto harp is a thirteen-string plucked zither. It was introduced to Japan from China through the Korean Peninsula in the 7th century. The instrument has been part of the Gagaku court ensemble for over one thousand years, gradually becoming popular among the merchant classes of the Edo period (1600-1868). An important member of the traditional Sankyoku ensemble, along with the three-string Shamisen and Shakuhachi (bamboo flute), the Koto developed further in a solo capacity, eventually gaining its place as one of Japan's most prominent musical instruments. Today a varied repertoire along with a wide range of playing techniques provides a wonderful palette of sound textures, making the Koto appealing to audiences the world over.

**Create Your Own Sanctuary**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2017 • 2:00pm-3:30pm**  
**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

This is the latest in the Gardening in the Pacific Northwest Series. Use the power of nature to find peace in your own backyard and enrich your life. A garden can be far more than a place to plant a row of zinnias or tomatoes—it can be a place of sanctuary. In this class we will help you make your own yard or garden a place of serenity, peacefulness, and beauty. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. 541-753-6601. [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

**Schreiner's Iris Gardens Bloom Season 2017**  
**May 12-May 31, 2017**  
**Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

Gardens and Cut Flower Show open daily from dawn to dusk. Gift Shop open and cut flowers available daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tour Schreiner's Iris Gardens' 10-acre display gardens filled with over 500 named Irises. Shop unique gifts in the Gift Shop on site, and place an order for Iris to ship this  
**continued next column**

summer. View hundreds of Irises on display in the Schreiner's Cut Flower Show. Fresh-cut Irises are available for purchase every day.

Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase. The gardens are free and open to the public.

**2017 Polk County Master Gardener Plant Sale**  
**Friday & Saturday, May 12 & 13, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm**  
**Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR**

Over 15,000 quality plants, grafted plants, country store, herbs & native plants, vegetables, fruit trees & berries, perennials & annuals, ornamental trees and shrubs, hanging baskets, tool sharpening, planter boxes & outdoor furniture, plant clinic. Polk County Fairgrounds - 520 S Pacific Highway W (99W), Rickreall.

**Celebrate National Public Garden Day**  
**Friday, May 12, 2017 • 11:00am-2:00pm**  
**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

National Public Garden Day is on Friday, May 12th, and Leach Botanical Garden will celebrate by hosting a special Stone Cabin Open House from 11 am- 2 pm. The historic cabin, which was featured on Grimm, is tucked away in the woods across the creek from the Manor House.

Friday through Sunday, the Garden's gift shop will also be offering a \$5 off coupon on purchases over \$25. The coupon is available at the National Public Gardens Day website along with information about Leach Garden and the Stone Cabin Open House: [www.publicgardens.org/about-public-gardens/gardens](http://www.publicgardens.org/about-public-gardens/gardens).

Leach Botanical Garden 6704 SE 122nd Avenue Portland, OR 97236 503-823-1671. [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org).

**Oak Grove Garden Club Plant Sale**  
**Saturday, May 13, 2017**  
**Risley Landing Gardens, Oak Grove, OR**  
**continued next page**



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (CONTINUED)

Every Spring the Oak Grove Garden Club hosts an annual Plant Sale at their park. On Saturday, May 13 (the day before Mother's Day), hundreds of potted plants, food and collectables will be for sale. Proceeds from the sale go toward park maintenance and an annual scholarship to Clackamas Community College. Pass along a legacy. A living plant that will grow into a fond memory. Remember Grandma's favorite blue iris on that nostalgic painting in her living room? Or the "special herb" from her garden that she added to the chicken and dumplings we ate on Sundays after church? Perennial plants will continue these memories for families and friends. Especially for Mother's Day.

At Risley Landing Gardens, 16195 SE River Forest Place. Look for the street sign on River Road at Oak Shore Lane. Need a beautiful natural place for a wedding, potluck, reunion, anniversary, club or company parties, etc.? Keep Risley Landing Gardens in mind for your special event. Located right on the Willamette river at the site of a historic riverboat landing, just south of Oak Grove, off River Road (4 miles south of Milwaukie).

Look for future events at the park, on the river under the oak trees.

- Potlucks and Dessert Socials
- Wine Tasting by Oregon wine growers
- Your own special event

Visit us online at our website: [www.OakGroveGardenClub.com](http://www.OakGroveGardenClub.com)

Or call 503-654- 8159 for a personal visit, we will be excited to meet you.

### **Rhododendron Gardens in Bloom & Sale**

**Saturday & Sunday, May 13 & 14, 2017 • 9:00am-5:00pm**  
**Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR**

The garden will be at peak bloom time. Come and join us to view the garden. The Sale: In the front parking lot. To enter, bring your rhododendron trusses to the exhibit hall: 6:00pm-8:00pm Friday night or 7:00am-9:30am Saturday. Questions about rhododendron care and culture? Master Gardeners will also have a table. More information: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org) or 503 771-8386 Presented by The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society. Show opens at Noon Saturday. Hourly workshops at the sale. 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland.

**continued next column**

### **Mother's Day Event**

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Garden Gallery Iron Works, Hubbard, OR**

Bring your mom, daughters and your entire family, friends and neighbors for this fun outing. This is the day we will introduce the World's Tallest Petunia Tree. It's a sight to see -- be sure to pose for a picture in front of it! The day will feature great sales and promotions, demonstrations, breathtaking flower baskets, free gifts for all the mothers, and much, much more. Be sure to enjoy some great food and our best garden cocktails.

### **Camas Plant & Garden Fair**

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Downtown Camas, WA**

The Downtown Camas Association is pleased to announce the 20th Annual Camas Plant & Garden Fair coming to Downtown Camas. Customers will find a wide array of plants, flowers, trees, garden art, planters, garden furniture, birdhouses, iron works, and a large selection of other locally made and grown products. It's an opportunity to get something special for mom or to pick up something for your own garden.

There will be plant and garden vendor experts throughout the fair which will be designated on an Expert List available at the fair's Info Booth at 4th and Cedar and by yellow flower signs on the expert vendor booths. Experts will include Silver Star Vinery on Growing Clematis; Scented Acres on Attracting Birds and Butterflies; Half-moon Farm on Beekeeping and Pollinators; The Water Shed on Ponds and Water Plant Gardening; Columbia River Daylily Club on Growing Daylilies; Odd Farms, LLC on flavors and heat levels of Hot Pepper Plants; and Eastfork Nursery on Growing Japanese Maples.

The popular free Potting Station will return this year where you can plant your flowers and plants in the pots and planters you've purchased that day. For those that are new to planting, there will be tips on how to do effective and sustainable container plantings.

A "Find the Ladybug" activity will be new this year encouraging families to explore downtown shops to earn tickets to enter to win a family gardening prize basket. Returning to the fair will be the Kids' Zone including the Camas Camp n' Ranch 4-H petting zoo, craft activities

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with Camp Windy Hill, planting activities with the Camas Farmer's Market, and face painting by JJ Entertainers. The giant puppet "Rosie" will be back entertaining the crowds as well as "Farmer Friendly" on stilts by Rhys Thomas of Jugglemania. The Boy Scouts Troop 554 will be on hand with their trusty wagons to help citizens with their purchases as needed. Live music and fresh food options round out the day.

Applications for plant and retail vendors are now being accepted and application forms and information can be found at [www.cwplantfair.org](http://www.cwplantfair.org). All products intended for sale must be plants or garden-related items and must be grown or produced locally.

### **Opening Weekend with Methven Family Vineyards and Spiritopia**

**Saturday & Sunday, May 13 & 14, 2017 • 9:00am-6:00pm  
Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

Join us to celebrate the opening weekend of Schreiner's Iris Gardens! Rain or shine, the Irises will be exploding with gorgeous color across ten acres of display gardens. Highlighting this much-anticipated event will be tastings from Methven Family Vineyards and Spiritopia, plus demonstrations, classes, food, drinks and awesome scenery!

Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Spiritopia ([www.spiritopia.com](http://www.spiritopia.com)) will offer tastings of their delicious apple, cranberry and ginger liqueurs. Tantalize your taste buds with their premium artisan liqueurs and purchase your favorites to take home.

Saturday from Noon to 5:00 p.m., Elixir Craft Spirits ([elixircraftspirits.com](http://elixircraftspirits.com)), makers of artisanal liqueurs in the Old World tradition will tempt you with tastings of their Iris and orange liqueur.

Also Saturday & Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m., Methven Family Vineyards ([methvenfamilyvineyards.com](http://methvenfamilyvineyards.com)) will offer tastings of their incomparable Willamette Valley wines.

Saturday 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., check out our live How to Dig & Divide Iris Demonstration. We will discuss and review the proper time and technique for digging and separating Iris. It's easier than you think! Bring your ques-  
**continued next column**

tions and learn tips from the experts. Free demonstration, open to all.

Then, Saturday 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., pull up a chair for a fascinating look at The Language of the Flowers. Lisa Hand of Wind Horse Antiques will take you on a journey through the language of the Flowers in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase.

The gardens are free and open to the public. Demonstration is free and open to all. Wine and liqueur tastings for nominal fee.

### **Digging in the Dirt**

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 10:00am-1:30pm  
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

Join The Oregon Garden for Digging in the Dirt, presented by the Oregon Garden Foundation. Beginning at 10:00am, enjoy a day outdoors planting our spring annual flowers. After you are done, sit back and relax in the beautiful Garden with a brunch buffet, live music & bottomless mimosas! You will also receive a piece of the Garden to take home with you.

Admission: Tickets are \$35 and are on sale now! Ticket sales will be capped at 50 people. Members receive \$5 off admission! Check your email from us for discount code!

Please park at the Oregon Garden Resort and enter the Garden from the gate. Proceed to the Rediscovery Forest where the majority of the event will take place.

### **Schedule of Activities**

- 10:00am: Coffee and pastries
- 10:15am: Teams head out to plant annuals, guided by Garden volunteers and staff members

**continued next page**



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (CONTINUED)

- 11:30am – 1:30pm: Live music, brunch and bottomless mimosas will be served in the Discovery Pavilion in the Rediscovery Forest
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm: Hand-tied bouquet workshop (\$25 additional cost)  
Included with your ticket
- Admission to The Oregon Garden
- Brunch provided by The Oregon Garden Resort
- Bottomless mimosas or sparkling cider
- Take-home plant
- Free return pass for the Garden to see your flowers bloom!
- 20% off coupon for the Garden View Restaurant
- 20% off in the Visitor Center and Nursery

### **Little Sprouts – Paint and Plant a Flower Pot for Mom** **Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

May is the month for Mom! This month our little sprouts will be potting beautiful flowers in their special hand-painted pots to take home to Mom. \$7 per child. Cost: \$7.00. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. 541-753-6601. [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

### **Mother's Day Weekend** **Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14, 2017** **Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Saturday, May 13 • 11:00am-12:00pm – Kids Decorate a Terra Cotta Pot for Mom  
Kids will have a blast decorating and planting up a kid-sized terra cotta pot to give Mom for Mother's Day. Pot, decorative paints, and select annual plants provided. \$10 Materials fee

Sunday May 14 – Celebrate Mom!  
Bring your Mom and family out for Mimosas and a garden stroll We'll make it easy for you to party with Mom! Pick out her favorite hanging basket, and enjoy free champagne Mimosas, lemonade and fancy tea cakes and cookies.

20% off today on special: Mothers Day Hanging Baskets  
35105 NW Zion Church Road, Cornelius, OR

### **2017 Mother's Day Show & Sale** **Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 12:00pm-5:00pm** **Sunday, May 14, 2017 • 9:00am-5:00pm**

**continued next column**

### **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR**

Come and join us to view the garden at peak bloom time. There is a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall and a big Plant Sale in the front parking lot. Competition is open to everyone. To enter your own Rhododendron trusses in the show, bring them to the Exhibit Hall 6:00pm-9:00pm Friday night or 7:00am-9:30am Saturday. Questions about rhododendron care and culture? Ask the Master Gardeners who will have a table in the sale yard.

The garden is located at: 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland, across from Reed College. More information: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org) or 503 771-8386. Presented by The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society.

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Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR  
Come and join us to view the garden at peak bloom time. There is a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall and a big Plant Sale in the front parking lot. Competition is open to everyone. To enter your own Rhododendron trusses in the show, bring them to the Exhibit Hall 6:00pm-9:00pm Friday night or 7:00am-9:30am Saturday. Questions about rhododendron care and culture? Ask the Master Gardeners who will have a table in the sale yard. The garden is located at: 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland, across from Reed College. More information: [www.rhodies.org](http://www.rhodies.org) or 503 771-8386. Presented by The Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society.

### **Hand-tied Bouquet Workshop** **Saturday, May 13, 2017 • 12:30pm-1:30pm** **The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

After brunch and planting, join us for a hand-tied bouquet workshop with Chas Thompson of Wildflower Portland. Cost: \$25. Buy your combo workshop plus Digging in the Dirt ticket today!

### **Mother's Day Country Brunch** **Sunday, May 14, 2017 • 9:00am-12:00pm** **French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR**

Treat your mom to a lovely time out on the farm with a mouthwatering, buffet-style brunch specially prepared by the farmers of French Prairie Gardens & Family Farm! Gorgeous hanging baskets, Pig-Barrel Train rides, farm

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animals, and more are ready for the whole family! \$17.99 per person & \$7.99 Children (8 and under). Call us today to reserve your specific time at 503-633-8445.

**Celebrating Mother's Day at Schreiner's Iris Gardens  
Sunday, May 14, 2017 • 9:00am-6:00pm  
Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

Everyone is invited as we celebrate "Mom" at Schreiner's Iris Gardens. Make it an extra-special day with a stroll through our gorgeous garden of colorful, blooming Iris. In celebration of all mothers and their children, fresh Iris Bouquets will be half-price all day for everyone – that's just \$3.75 for a dozen stems! Spend the day and enjoy delicious wines from Methven Family Vineyards, liqueurs from Spiritopia and tasty food and drinks, all nestled within ten acres of our famous Iris gardens.

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Spiritopia ([www.spiritopia.com](http://www.spiritopia.com)) will offer tastings of their delicious apple, cranberry and ginger liqueurs. Tantalize your taste buds with their premium artisan liqueurs and purchase your favorites to take home.

Then, Noon to 5:00 p.m., Methven Family Vineyards ([methvenfamilyvineyards.com](http://methvenfamilyvineyards.com)) will offer tastings of their incomparable Willamette Valley wines.

Also, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase.

The gardens are free and open to the public. Wine and liqueur tastings for nominal fee.

**Mother's Day Tea Party  
Sunday, May 14, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Treat your mom this Mother's Day, sign up both of you for our Mother's Day Tea Party. First, learn more about creating beautiful planter designs. Then, select your own combinations and our experts will professionally plant for you while you enjoy tea and treats. Cost: \$35 per person

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includes Tea Party & Planting. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. 541-753-6601. [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

**Beaverton Garden Club Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 9:00am-2:00pm  
Beaverton Activity Center, Beaverton, OR**

Annual plant sale (mixed perennials from member yards). Located in the parking lot on the corner of SW Hall and Allen Blvd in Beaverton.

**Leach Garden Children's Nature Fair  
Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 10:00am-2:00pm  
Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Join us for this fun springtime tradition in Leach Botanical Garden's Upper Meadow. This year's theme is "Traveling Seeds." Learn about seeds of all kinds, including those that disperse by "traveling." Which ones fly? Which ones catch a ride? What role do we play in helping them get where they need to go? In addition to all the fun seed activities, there will be arts/crafts tables, a story teller, take home plantings, music, slug races, 25 cent ice cream and more! Fun for all ages.

Thanks to our sponsor, PNW Federal Credit Union, and our partners Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Zenger Farm, Friends of Outdoor School, and Portland Parks & Recreation Environmental Education Program. Free! Donations appreciated Ages: children and adults.

For information, contact Janice Jenkins at [jjenkins@leachgarden.org](mailto:jjenkins@leachgarden.org) or call 503-823-1671. Leach Botanical Garden 6704 SE 122nd Avenue Portland, OR 97236. [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org)

**Keizer Iris Festival Weekend at Schreiner's Iris Gardens!  
Saturday & Sunday, May 20 & 21, 2017 • 10:00am-6:00pm  
Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

There is no better place to celebrate the Keizer Iris Festival than at Schreiner's Iris Gardens. Enjoy our 10-acre display garden in full bloom, sample unique liqueurs from Spiritopia, hum along with music from Bellows & Squawk and participate in the discussion of two interesting iris demonstrations.

Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Spiritopia ([www.spiritopia.com](http://www.spiritopia.com)) will offer tastings of their delicious

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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (CONTINUED)

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apple, cranberry and ginger liqueurs. Tantalize your taste buds with their premium artisan liqueurs and purchase your favorites to take home.

On Saturday from Noon to 5:00 p.m., Elixir Craft Spirits ([elixircraftspirits.com](http://elixircraftspirits.com)), makers of artisanal liqueurs in the Old World tradition will tempt you with tastings of their Iris and orange liqueur.

Also Saturday, 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., check out our live How to Dig & Divide Iris Demonstration. We will discuss and review the proper time and technique for digging and separating Iris. It's easier than you think! Bring your questions and learn tips from the experts. Free demonstration, open to all.

From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, join us as special guest Sue Bielemeier of Green Thumb Flower Box Florists provides a free demonstration of flower arranging, highlighting the use of Iris in a variety of arrangements.

Then on Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bellows & Squawk will be here to celebrate the day, sharing their unique interpretations of neglected gems from the American Song Book.

Both days, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase.

The gardens are free and open to the public. Liqueur tasting are available for a nominal fee.

### **Edible Gardens & Sustainable Food** **Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm** **Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Robin Lindsley, Executive Director of the Dairy Creek Food Web will tell us all about how to plant for our own family needs, and what's going on to support sustainable gardening in Washington County.  
35105 NW Zion Church Road, Cornelius, OR

**continued next column**

### **Bonsai Class: Topic TBA** **Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 11:00am** **Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Join us and learn about this fun, relaxing and artistic hobby. All levels are invited. We look forward to seeing you! A fee for materials may be added once topic is determined. Call us for more information.  
[www.tsugawanursery.com](http://www.tsugawanursery.com)

### **Pinterest Succulents** **Sunday, May 21, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm** **Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais, OR**

Audrey has been scanning through Pinterest and picked out some of her favorites. We have pulled the supplies and plants together to recreate these works of art. [www.baumanfarms.com](http://www.baumanfarms.com).

### **Artist Fair** **Saturday-Monday, May 27-29, 2017 • 10:00am-6:00pm** **Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

Celebrate the holiday weekend with amazing art, excellent wine, artisan liqueurs, and gorgeous flowers! Artists from around the valley will join us in the gardens to display and sell their works of art. Many of these artists have been painting in the Display Gardens for years; all will have Iris-themed work on display and for sale. Grab a glass of wine or a sip of liqueur and browse the amazing art among the Irises. Artists are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, most stay through Monday.

Saturday thru Monday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Spiritopia ([www.spiritopia.com](http://www.spiritopia.com)) will offer tastings of their delicious apple, cranberry and ginger liqueurs. Tantalize your taste buds with their premium artisan liqueurs and purchase your favorites to take home.

Also Saturday thru Monday, Noon to 5:00 p.m., Methven Family Vineyards ([methvenfamilyvineyards.com](http://methvenfamilyvineyards.com)) will offer tastings of their incomparable Willamette Valley wines.

Saturday 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., check out our live How to Dig & Divide Iris Demonstration. We will discuss and review the proper time and technique for digging and separating Iris. It's easier than you think! Bring your ques-

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tions and learn tips from the experts. Free demonstration, open to all.

Daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase.

The gardens are free and open to the public. Wine and liqueur tasting are available for a nominal fee.

**Inviting Vines Garden Tour**  
**Saturday, May 27, 2017 • 10:00am-4:00pm**  
**Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR**

Join us for our tenth annual fundraiser, Inviting Vines. This year includes four gardens, plus the Rogerson Clematis Garden. An additional event, "Breakfast with Mike Darcy" at Luscher Farm, begins at 8:30 with limited seating. See all the details on the Inviting Vines 2017 event page. [www.rogersonclematiscollection.org](http://www.rogersonclematiscollection.org).

**Make a Living Wreath**  
**Saturday, May 27, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm**  
**Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Living wreaths are spectacular works of art. You will wow your friends and family with the one you make today. Bring some friends out for a super creative session with our experts. Class size is limited, pre-registration required. Materials fee: 10" wreath \$35, 14" wreath \$65, 20" wreath \$85. 35105 NW Zion Church Road, Cornelius, OR

**Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening Demo**  
**Saturday, May 27, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Tiffany of Portland Nursery. Join Portland Nursery's Tiffany Garner in a monthly series held right outside at our own raised vegetable beds. Dress for the weather & learn what to do with your own raised beds, when you should be doing it & the proper techniques so you can work smarter, not harder. From cold frames to compost & seeds to starts you will learn and grow alongside our fabulous vegetable gardener, Tiffany.

**Schreiner's Iris Gardens' Annual Memorial Day Celebration**  
**Monday, May 29, 2017 • 10:00am-6:00pm**

**continued next column**

**Schreiner's Iris Gardens, Salem, OR**

Celebrate Memorial Day at Schreiner's Iris Gardens with a daylong event featuring delicious liqueur and wine tasting, tangy barbequed chicken and toe-tappin' music, all set among our gorgeous blooming Iris gardens. Artists from around the valley will be joining us to display and sell their works of art. Many of these artists have been painting in the Display Gardens for years; all will have Iris-themed work on display and for sale.

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Spiritopia ([www.spiritopia.com](http://www.spiritopia.com)) will offer tastings of their delicious apple, cranberry and ginger liqueurs. Tantalize your taste buds with their premium artisan liqueurs and purchase your favorites to take home.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. sit down for our famous Chicken BBQ featuring the culinary delights of the Gervais Knights of Columbus, just \$11 per plate, it includes a half-chicken, coleslaw, baked potato, and beverage.

From Noon to 5:00 p.m., Methven Family Vineyards ([methvenfamilyvineyards.com](http://methvenfamilyvineyards.com)) will offer tastings of their incomparable Willamette Valley wines.

Then, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., listen to memorable tunes and swingin' songs from the talented musicians of Calamity Jazz ([calamityjazz.com](http://calamityjazz.com)), a group of top performers from all over the West Coast.

Also, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., be sure to stop by St. Edward's Not the Same Old Grind beverage cart for tasty warm and cold espresso drinks, smoothies, water, tea and lemonade for purchase. All proceeds benefit St. Vincent DePaul Society, St. Edward Youth Ministry, St. Edward Knights of Columbus and St. Edward. The Mt. Angel Sausage Co. cart will also be here with mouth-watering sausages, curly fries, elephant ears and soft drinks for purchase.

The gardens and music performance are free and open to the public. The chicken BBQ is \$11. Wine and liqueurs available for a nominal fee.

**LOOKING FOR MORE?**

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

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