

September 2017

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

## Redbud 'Merlot' This Bud's for You!

Vaux' Swifts at Chapman School

**Battery-Powered Lawnmowers**

CHARLES LITTLE & COMPANY FARM'S

**Bethany Little**

Buds of a Redbud 'Merlot'



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## Getting Ready

Life is about getting ready. When you go somewhere you have to get dressed up appropriately for the event you are attending. For a test, it's all about studying. A wedding, it's about practicing your vows. For the gardener, September is about 'getting ready' for the fall and winter. Yes, we can still enjoy those warm days, but those cooler evenings are a message to us to get ready for changes ahead. For most people, that means prepping those indoor plants to move them back inside after their summer vacation on the deck or patio. For others it means getting those spring bulbs planted or moving plants to different areas in the garden. Either way, changes are coming and we have to prepare. Speaking about preparing, it is time to prepare those harvested fruits and vegetables for canning and drying, though a lot of you have already been busy doing that. We can still get ready by also prepping our lawns and gardens with a good dose of fall fertilizer too.

We are helping you get ready this month with some great stories in this issue. Including one on battery powered lawnmowers. Ron researched these amazing high-tech machines, and now we all get to hear what he learned about them. Speaking of mowers, David shares a list of essential power tools for the home. What do you need for most for those DIY projects? I also just mentioned preserving produce, and William contributes to the discussion with a story on some of the weird fruits and veggies that people eat. Have you ever had a Pawpaw, a yacon, or even a mouse melon. Well, here's your chance to learn more about them. We also have Mortimer answering a couple of readers' questions, including 'where do those fruit flies come from'?

We are all 'getting ready' at Garden Time for our next tour! We are going to London, Paris and Belgium in August of 2018. Our other tours have been a blast and we have a lot of friends who have been return travelers on our past tours. This one promises to be a gardener's 'bucket list' tour of great sights. We will see royal gardens in London, gardens that inspired artists in Paris and flowers that take over a city in Belgium! Plus, I won't even get into the champagne tasting, or visits to three of Europe's great cities! There are discounts for signing up early, so go to the Garden Time tour page on our website and 'get ready' to have some fun!

**Happy Gardening!**

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



# Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I have 2 Acanthus plants that won't bloom. I fell in love with this many years ago when I saw it in the Shakespeare Garden at the rose gardens. I started one from seed and the other I bought at a local nursery. They both have nice foliage except for the slug snacks. One gets morning sun and one a touch of late afternoon sun where it looks somewhat wilted on hot days. Any suggestions for helping them bloom?

Thank you,  
Fred

Fred,

Acanthus are great plants, it's too bad that they are not performing for you. Plants respond to their environment. There is something that is preventing, or telling this plant, that conditions are not right for blooming. Are the conditions right for this plant? Acanthus do the best in full or partial shade. The one getting afternoon sun is just being temperamental, getting droopy in the full sun (Oh, help me, I'm parched...) when actually they are fine. They like moist and well-drained soil, so no wet feet.

Other than that I would either give it a shot of fertilizer (low or no nitrogen) or check to make sure I'm not over watering it. A little stress of cutting back the water might trigger the blooms.

Good luck!  
Mortimer



Acanthus

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

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)



Dear Mortimer,

Where are all these fruit flies coming from? They always show up in the late summer. How are they getting in my home?

Thanks,  
Bugged in Burns

Dear Bugged,

Fruit flies can show up anytime during the year in your home. It is in the summer when your kitchen is full of fresh fruit and vegetables that they can really take over. They eat and reproduce on over ripe and rotting fruit. It is this 'fermenting' fruit that really attracts them, but they can also be attracted to anything moist including kitchen drains, mops and garbage cans. They can enter your home in lots of different ways too. From hitching a ride on fruit from your garden to sneaking in through open doors or screens (they are quite small!), once in they can reproduce quickly. They can lay up to 500 eggs at a time.

If you want to get rid of them, you need to get rid of the conditions where they can thrive. Cover or refrigerate fresh fruits and veggies. Wipe down counters and keep them clean. To keep them out of your kitchen you can create a trap with cider vinegar and a couple drops of soap. Pour a half cup of cider vinegar in a small bowl and add a couple drops of liquid dish soap to the vinegar. They will be attracted to the vinegar and once they land the soap will break the 'tension' on the surface of the vinegar and they will drop in.

Good luck,  
Mortimer

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mortimer,

While watering plants this afternoon, I noticed that every single one of my newly planted hydrangeas have had the very top-most leaves eaten off, leaving naked stems. I thought a deer might have come through, but my husband thinks it could be caterpillars. What could be doing this and how do I prevent it?

Any help would be appreciated!

Thanks,  
Judy

Dear Judy,

I have a feeling you are correct. It sounds like deer! Bambi and his buddies may be cute, but they are a pain for the rural gardener if they find something tasty in your garden. They love the tender new growth of your favorite plants, and even if a plant is labeled as deer proof, it is at best, deer resistant. Deer will eat anything if they are hungry. You noticed the sheering off of the tops of your plants, typical deer. If they were an insect or bug, the damage would be over the entire plant and not so isolated.

There are lots of different ways to keep them away from your favorite plants. One way is to put up a TALL fence, at least 7 and a half feet to 8 feet tall. This will work if you have a small area to protect. If they can't safely jump into the protected area, they will most likely avoid it. Another answer is to plant things that the deer generally avoid. An example of this is to plant daffodils around your tulips. Daffodils, which they avoid, protect the tulips, which they love. This doesn't always work. Another way to drive them out is with a Scarecrow sprinkler. This is a motion activated sprinkler that shoots out a stream of water if the sensor is tripped. The one thing you need to do with the sprinkler is to move it around your garden every few days. If they get used to the location they will work around it. Keep them guessing! The final deterrent is by using an odor barrier. We recently found a product at French Prairie Perennials in Aurora. Deer Defeat is the product and it seems to work really well.

Good luck and let us know how it works out!

Your deer friend,  
Mortimer



Deer visits backyard garden

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

# This Bud's for You!

When it came time to replace a severely damaged Clerodendron in my yard, I spent months mulling over all the possible choices of small flowering trees. I knew I didn't want to plant another Clerodendron in its place, mainly to keep the peace with my neighbor as it had a bad habit of sending up suckers into her flower beds...and mine as well! I was looking for a well behaved, small tree that had seasonal interest.

I have always loved the flowering habit of redbuds...those lovely clusters of magenta flowers that burst directly from its branches in early spring. So I did some research on the Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). The species grows to 20-30 ft. high and 25 to 30 ft. wide...a bit too large for my landscape. Many years back a good friend of mine planted a 'Forest Pansy' Redbud and I fell in love with its smaller size, the burgundy heart-shaped leaves, the kaleidoscope of fall color and those captivating pink flower clusters come spring. Alas...I had no space in my garden for one more tree... so I waited. On a visit to Bailey's Nursery in Yamhill a few years ago I was introduced to a new redbud hybrid...'Merlot'. A cross between



**The Redbud 'Merlot', a cross between a Forest Pansy and a Texas Redbud, turned out to be just what my yard -- and my spirits -- needed.**

by Therese Gustin

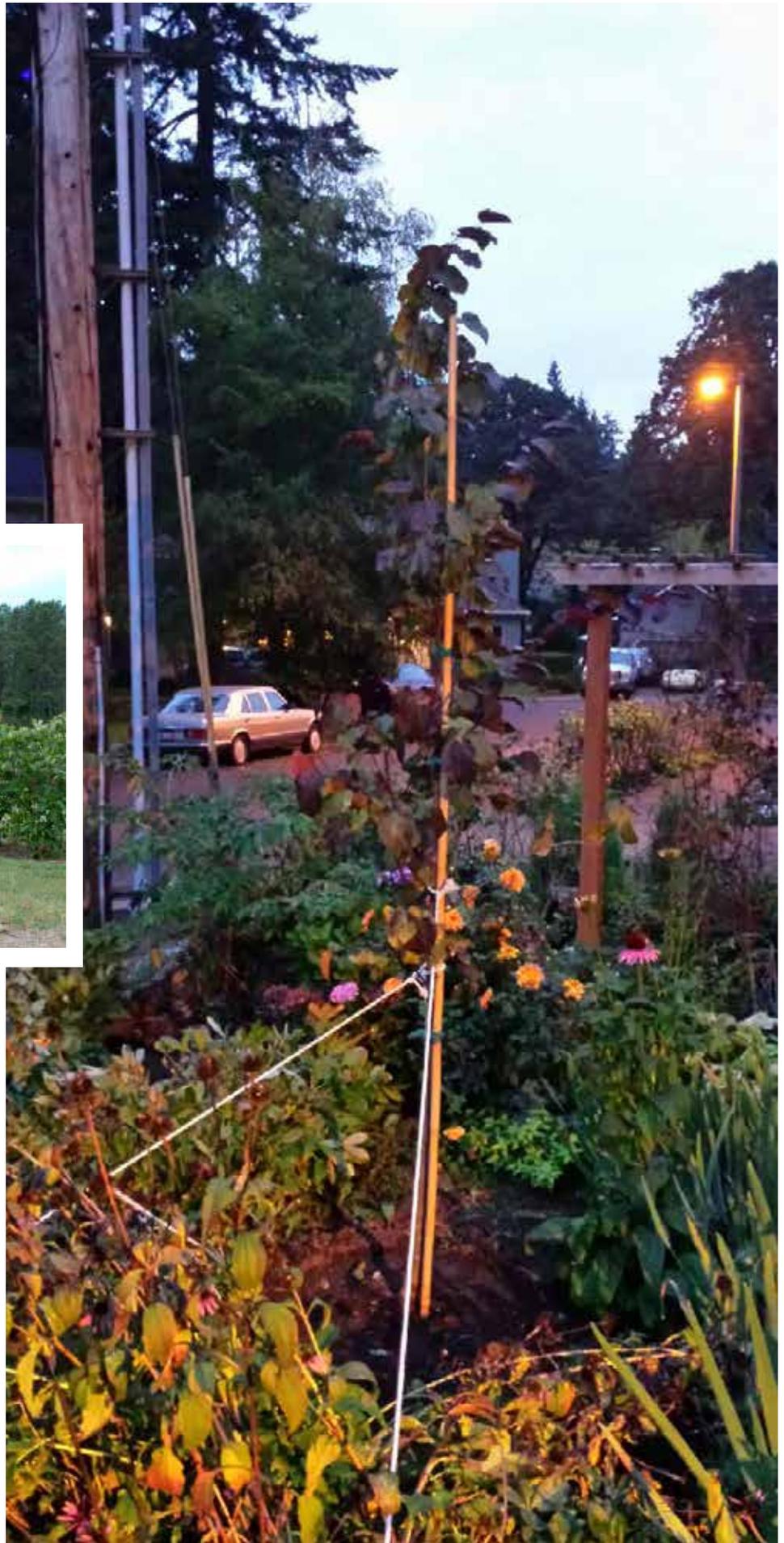
'Forest Pansy' and Texas redbud, the 'Merlot' redbud holds its wine color longer into the summer and has improved drought and heat tolerance than its parent. Boasting a tighter, denser, vase-shaped leaf canopy and with a height of 12' and spread of 15', it was the perfect fit for the empty space left by my old Clerodendron.

I found mine last fall at Portland Nursery and planted it in mid-October. Planting in fall is highly recommended because the cooler temperatures and autumn rains help establish a strong root system. I was a bit nervous that



it may not have survived our bitter cold, snowy and icy winter. I checked the buds in early spring and their dark brown color concerned me even more but when our temperatures did finally rise I was pleasantly surprised to see the dark buds plump up and open. Only one flower cluster managed to bloom this spring but the tree looks very healthy and I'm hoping to be rewarded next spring with that explosion of bright pink flowers. Fingers crossed!

Check with your local nursery or garden center for this gem of a tree. Planted in full sun, this beautiful flowering tree is perfect for smaller landscapes.

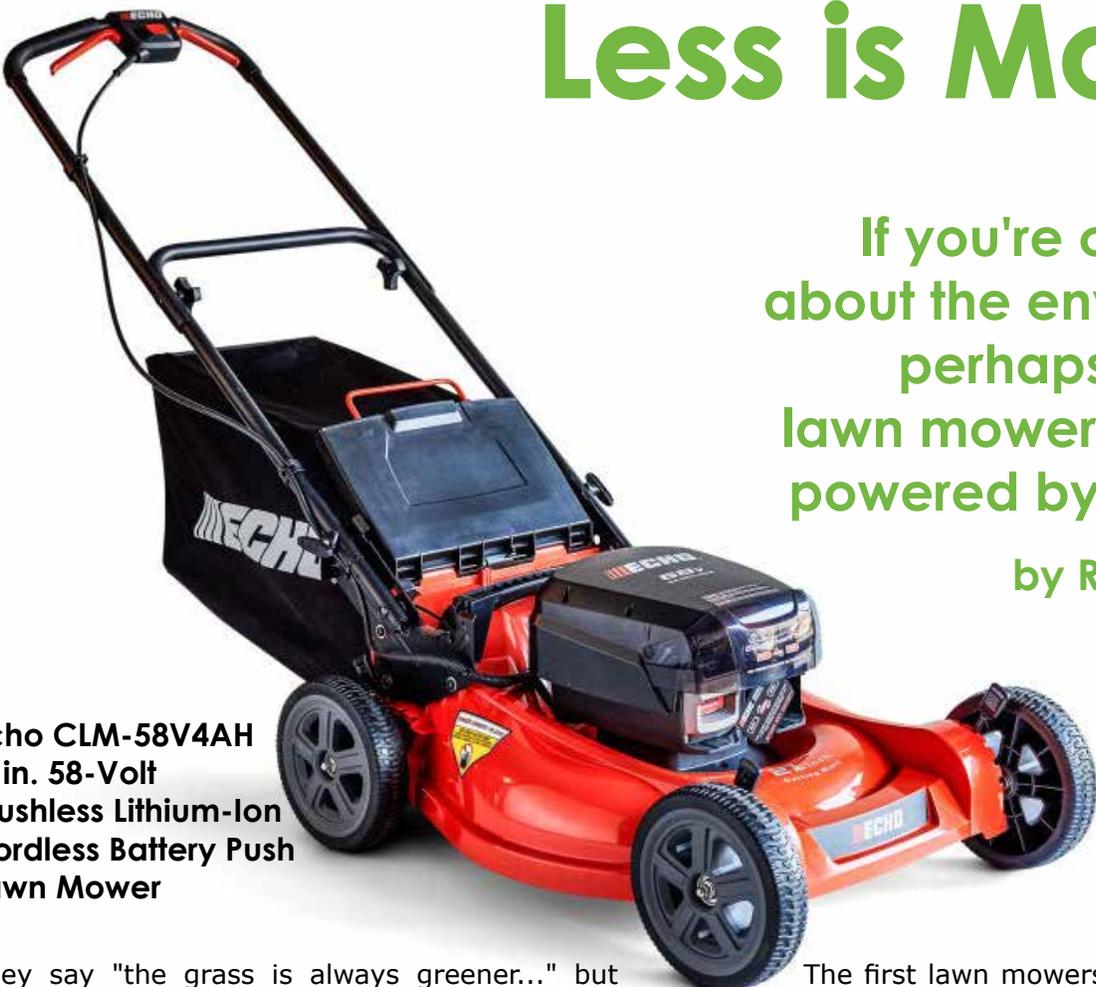


# Less is Mower

If you're concerned about the environment, perhaps your next lawn mower should be powered by a battery.

by Ron Dunevant

PHOTO CREDIT: HOMEDEPOT.COM



**Echo CLM-58V4AH  
21in. 58-Volt  
Brushless Lithium-Ion  
Cordless Battery Push  
Lawn Mower**

They say "the grass is always greener..." but what that axiom fails to mention is that when the grass is green, it needs regular mowing. We North-westerners love our lawns and nothing makes us prouder than impressing the neighbors with a lush, freshly-cut yard.

If you've ever been in the market for a lawn mower, you know there are a plethora of manufacturers, models, options, and prices from which to choose. What you may not have considered before, however, is what powers that mower.

The history of the lawn mower goes back almost two centuries to 1830. Edwin Beard Budding, an engineer from Stroud, England found inspiration from a machine in a local cloth mill that used a cutting cylinder mounted on a bench to trim the irregular nap from the surface of woolen cloth. His invention was used primarily to cut the grass on sports grounds and gardens, as an alternative to the scythe.

From there, as with most inventions, a number of creative-types contributed to the improvement of this now-commonplace garden tool. By the late nineteenth century, the steam-powered mower had been patented, and by the early twentieth century, petrol (gasoline) mowers began to take over.

The first lawn mowers were reel or cylinder powered, required large engines and were difficult to use. It took the advent of small, powerful engines before rotary mowers came into regular use, and it was the early 1930s before a gasoline-powered rotary mower was introduced.

In the 1970s, when oil embargoes created shortages at the pump, electric mowers began to get a foothold in the marketplace. Lightweight, short on power and tethered to an outlet by a long extension cord, they worked best in small yards with short grass.

Through the years, electric mowers improved and battery-powered mod-



**Greenworks  
29462 G-MAX 40V 2 Ah Lithium-Ion Battery**

PHOTO CREDIT: WALMART.COM

els began to appear. However, it would be 2017 before Consumer Reports would sing the praises of electric mowers, with this headline: "Electric Lawn Mowers That Rival Gas Models: Battery-powered push mowers finally have the muscle to take top scores in Consumer Reports' tests."

Yes, the cordless electric mower has finally come into its own. But is it right for you?

Only a decade ago, there were few cordless mowers from which to choose. Today, however, due to a push for environmental responsibility, advances in technology and the introduction of better batteries, you will find dozens of cordless mowers available, with prices ranging, generally, from \$200 - \$600. As with anything, you can find more expensive models, but in this price range, you will be able to choose from a substantial number of sizes, options and brands.

Powered by lithium-ion batteries, electric mowers are challenging gas mowers on several levels: They start instantly, require no regular engine maintenance, run more quietly and, best of all, emit no exhaust fumes. Converting to one sounds like a no-brainer, but there are several points to consider before switching, and the most important of these has to do with a little black box.

The breakthrough that has allowed cordless lawn mowers to advance to near-parity with gas models is the lithium-ion battery. You are probably familiar with this technology through your exposure to the array of common home electronic devices, from cameras to cell phones to tablets. They feature a high energy density with a small memory effect and a low self-discharge. In layman's terms, they store a lot of en-

ergy in a small amount of space, recharge to the same level (nickel-cadmium batteries hold less of a charge each time you recharge them) and lose only very small amounts of power when not in use. It is a leap forward in battery technology that allows us to use our electronics longer on a single charge and allows the batteries to last longer, overall. We take for granted the ability of our gas-powered mowers to cut through tall grass, but it is the advent of the lithium-ion battery that has made cordless mowers a viable alternative to combustion engine models and even corded electric. Best of all, these batteries improve every year, which means longer run times and a better cut with each new incarnation.

With the power source problem solved, cordless mowers have become an option for the average homeowner, when seeking to replace a lawn mower. They are available now in ordinary "big box" stores like Lowe's, Home Depot and Walmart, as well as some smaller retailers and, of course, Amazon. Several companies have added battery-operated models to their lines, including such well-known brands as Black & Decker, Troy-Bilt, Kobalt, Snapper and STIHL. There are also several manufacturers that specialize in

cordless mowers. Sun Joe is the number-one-rated electric lawn mower in 2017, but they have a lot of competition from companies such as Greenworks, Ryobi, EGO, ECHO, Earthwise and Worx. If you're unfamiliar with some of these names, you'll find them displayed prominently when you go to look for a cordless mower. The abundance of companies manufacturing battery-powered mowers is a boon to the consumer. It means more mowers at better prices.

Once you have decided to purchase (or, at least, consider) a cordless mower, you have other choices to make. As with a gas-powered or corded electric mower, there are several options available. This is where a little research can make all the difference. Many of



**GreenWorks 25302 G-MAX 40V Twin Force 20-Inch Cordless Lawn Mower**

PHOTO CREDIT: AMAZON.COM

the options that are common on a gas-powered mower are available, but at a price, both in dollars and in running-time. Like any tool, the model and options you choose should be determined by your yard, your physical ability, your philosophy and your budget. Cordless and rechargeable lawn mowers have a lot of plusses to consider, but also a few minuses. The bottom line: as with anything electronic, the more it has to do, the more battery power it uses.

Here are some options and their effect on a cordless mower.

**DECK SIZE AND CUTTING SWATH**

When shopping for an electric lawn mower the first consideration should be its cutting swath, which is the space covered by the cut of the mower. The wider the blade, the fewer passes you will need to complete the job. While bigger is a time saver, it also has another consideration: cordless mowers have a limited battery time so, depending on the size of your yard, you need a mower wide enough to finish the job before the battery runs out.

As with gas-powered mowers, larger means heavier and a bit harder to maneuver around your yard. You will also be cutting through more grass than with a smaller mower, which will make it harder to push. Be sure to consider your physical ability when considering the size and weight of your mower.

Most mowers will be between fourteen and twenty inches and choosing one in this range should prove to be a good compromise between maneuverability and the number of passes. You should also consider how much storage space you have in your garage or shed.

**GRASS MANAGEMENT**

Simply put, where do you want the

grass to go as it is being mowed? There are generally three options: mulch the clippings back into the lawn, collect them in a bag, or disperse them out the side of the mower (for raking or sweeping). There are models that offer one, two or all three of these options and price will adjust based on that. A mower that can do all three will be a bit more expensive than those that only offer one grass management option. Remember that your battery time is limited, so choose the method that will help you finish the job in the shortest amount of time.

**HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT**

Ask anyone how high (or low) they cut their grass and you will get a different answer with each person. There are numerous schools of thought on this subject, but in general, a lawn that is cut too short will be more susceptible to disease and less resilient in hot weather. If you aren't able to mow your lawn regularly, you may need to adjust the cutting height more often, as well.

So being able to adjust the height of the mower to correspond to the height of the grass is important.

Again, as with gas-powered mowers, some cordless mowers have a separate lever to adjust each wheel. Others have a single level that adjusts the height of all the wheels simultaneously. This option can sometimes be hard to operate, so if possible, test the mower you are considering, to see if you can adjust the wheels easily. You will also want

to consider the number of height options a mower offers, and the range of height. Some mowers have four options, others come with as many as six or seven. Remember that mowing long grass or cutting thick grass to a short level will require extra power from the mower, and result in less battery time.

**STARTING AND SAFETY**

PHOTO CREDIT: HOMEDEPOT.COM



**Ryobi 20 in. 40-Volt Brushless Lithium-Ion Cordless Battery Push Lawn Mower**



# Cascade Nursery Trail

*Follow the trail for a plant adventure...*  
2017 is the year of "Bring a friend!"  
Friends help friends be gardeners.



## Colors of Fall Festival

Late season gala brings glowing surprises in the garden that are seldom seen! Unique items featured for fall planting and winter interest. This time of year brings the promise of warm soils, cooling ambient temperatures and coming rains – **the perfect time for planting!** Wander thru our gardens and let us be your muse... it is also time to ponder winter interest additions and spring surprises. There is always a great variety of established pots, begging to be taken home and planted in your garden this time of year. We are happy to advise and suggest. As we rev up our wagons one more time to collect our visions for next year's dreams, we find that THIS is the time to score some really good stuff!



Saturday & Sunday  
September 23rd & 24th  
10am to 5pm  
At each of these  
members' nurseries



Visit [www.CascadeNurseryTrail.com](http://www.CascadeNurseryTrail.com) for details  
*Follow the trail for a plant adventure...*

If there is one area where an electric mower outshines a gas model, it is here. With electric mowers, you do not need to prime the engine or pull a heavy starter cord. Some operate by inserting a key and pulling a starter handle. Others use a key and starter button. Some models have a safety mechanism built into the lawnmower: if you let go of the handle, the mower shuts off. This will minimize accidents, but if you let go of the handle, the mower will shut off.

Some of these lawnmowers also requires the user to insert a child-proof key before it will operate. If you have small children, this is safety feature to consider.

### **PUSH OR SELF-PROPELLED**

To push or not to push, that is the question. If you have a flat, small lawn and enjoy the exercise, a push mower will work for you and have fewer parts that could break down or need maintenance. However, for larger lawns, thicker grass, sloped yards or for people who find mowing a chore, you may want to opt for a self-propelled model. Self-propelled lawnmowers will be a bit more expensive, but they will save you time and leg and back strain.

On the downside, self-propelled lawn mowers will usually be heavier and, since some of the power will be used to turn the wheels, a self-propelled mower will drain the batteries faster.

### **PROS AND CONS**

So, after taking into consideration yard size, available options, budget, the environment and your physical ability, where does that leave us?

With an electric mower, you won't need to store gas, buy oil or take it in for a tune-up. It will be easier to start. You won't

need to worry about old gas clogging up the carburetor. Plus, because an electric is quieter, you will be able to mow in the morning or late evening without disturbing your neighbors.

For a cordless mower, the battery is everything, and that should be the determining factor in your decision. If you let your lawn grow high before cutting it, or if you have a particularly thick lawn, large yard or steep slope, you may wish to stick with a gas-powered mower. Cordless mowers are able to cut thick grass, but the extra power needed puts a strain on the battery and electric motor. The batteries will run down quickly when taxed, and lithium ion batteries may heat up, causing the circuitry to temporarily shut off to preserve the battery. Think about how much time it takes you to mow the lawn now, and be sure that the model you are considering has ample battery life. Manufacturers claim that most of these mowers will run from 25 to 45 minutes (some boast 60) on a fully-

charged battery. The last thing you want is for your mower to quit before the job is done. If your lawn is large, say one-third of an acre or more, you may need to allow time to recharge the battery, or keep an extra battery on hand, which can cost up to \$150. The battery will also, over time, lose its potency. Keep in mind that, at some point, it will need to be replaced.

So is a cordless mower right for



PHOTO CREDIT: HOMEDEPOT.COM

**Black & Decker CM1640  
16 in. 40-Volt MAX Lithium-Ion  
Cordless Walk Behind Lawn Mower**

PHOTO CREDIT: HOMEDEPOT.COM

you? If you are in the market for a new mower, a comparable gas-powered model will run \$200-\$400, about one-third less. In the long run, however, you will save money on gas and maintenance, making the overall price close to a wash.

After doing all your

homework, if everything is still equal between a gas and electric mower, then your choice is clear. Battery-powered mowers don't directly pollute the environment, and in these times of global warming, climate change, super storms, hurricanes and glacial melting, anything we can do to reduce our carbon footprint, no matter how small, is worth the effort.

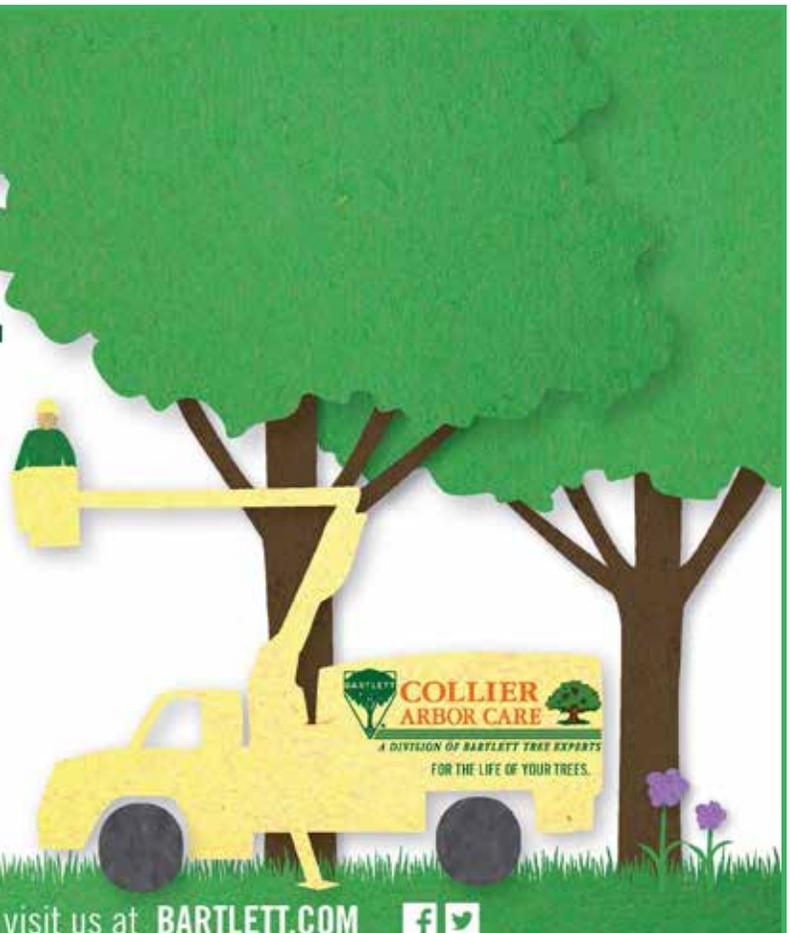
Sun Joe iON16LM 16 in. 40-Volt Cordless Battery Push Mower with Brushless Motor



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# Chimney Suite

**It's back-to-school time for the Vaux's Swifts at Northwest Portland's Chapman Elementary.**

**by Judy Alleruzzo**

**Swifts circle the chimney at Chapman Elementary**

A few years ago I received a wonderful birthday present. I got to witness the Vaux's Swifts aerobatics at Chapman Elementary School in NW Portland. I know that sounds pretty geeky, but it is an amazing phenomenon that occurs right here in Portland.

According to The Audubon Society of Portland, the Vaux's Swifts began to gather at the Chapman School chimney in the 1980s. Each September, thousands of Vaux's Swifts gather in Wallace Park across from Chapman Elementary School on their annual fall migration stopover. About twilight, the birds begin to fly in a circular formation to zoom down the tall chimney of this Portland school for their nightly snooze. The Swifts are companionable birds and move downwards in the chimney to allow all of the flock to fit.

On the September night I attended, I felt like I was viewing an episode of National Geographic.



**Waiting for the crowds to gather above, an enthusiastic crowd gathers below.**



A swifts clutches a chimney wall.

The Swifts were flying in a circular formation to get to their nightly roost, when a bird of prey made an appearance to try to get a late snack. A Cooper's Hawk or a Peregrine Falcon arrived to be the bad guy of the evening. The whole crowd started to boo and jeer at the raptor. Everyone was cheering for the Swifts and hoped none would be snatched by the predator. It is the law of nature that these two species of birds would be hanging around this plentiful hunting ground. You just hope they are denied an evening meal from this flock.

I talked with my friend Bob Rodgers, an avid birder for the past 60 years, about the Vaux's Swifts. He has traveled a bit around the U.S., cataloging 640 birds for his life list.

He knows a thing or two about birds. I asked him if Swifts gather like this in other parts of the country. He told me roosting sites like this can be found in the Eastern U.S. and his father-in-law had them in his home's chimney in Tillamook, Oregon. I found information on the web for a roosting site in Agate Hall, at the University of Oregon campus in Eugene.

Bob noted that the birds do stop here in the spring for nesting time but they are scattered throughout the Portland area and Valley. Swifts arrive here in April, nest and hatch about 6-7 eggs. In the fall migration, hundreds to thousands of Swifts stick together at the Chapman School.

I was interested in what the birds are feeding on this late in the season.

### Chapman Elementary School

1445 NW 26th Ave, Portland, OR 97210

West of NW 25th Ave between  
NW Pettygrove and NW Raleigh

# Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



## Local Events September 2017

### Chicks Night Out 2017

Thursday, September 7, 2017 • 5:00pm-8:00pm  
Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Looking for a fun night out with you and your girlfriends? RSVP Today! Free. Free Classes throughout the evening, free live music, free gourmet food and wine sampling, food, hard cider, and wine will be available for purchase.

• [www.baumanfarms.com](http://www.baumanfarms.com)

### Impact NW Summer Garden Party

Saturday, September 9, 2017 • 6:00pm-9:00pm  
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

The Garden Party features fresh from the farm cuisine, a beautiful garden setting, live and silent auctions, local wines and craft beers. We hope you can join us!

• [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

### Autumn Moon Festival

Saturday-Sunday, September 30-October 1, 2017  
Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Most cultures have a harvest festival and China is no exception. Zhong Qiu Jie, the Autumn Moon Festival, has roots back to ancient times and is an important traditional Chinese holiday. Taking place on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, the Autumn Moon Festival is usually on or close to the time of the "Harvest Moon" when the moon appears at its fullest during the autumnal equinox.

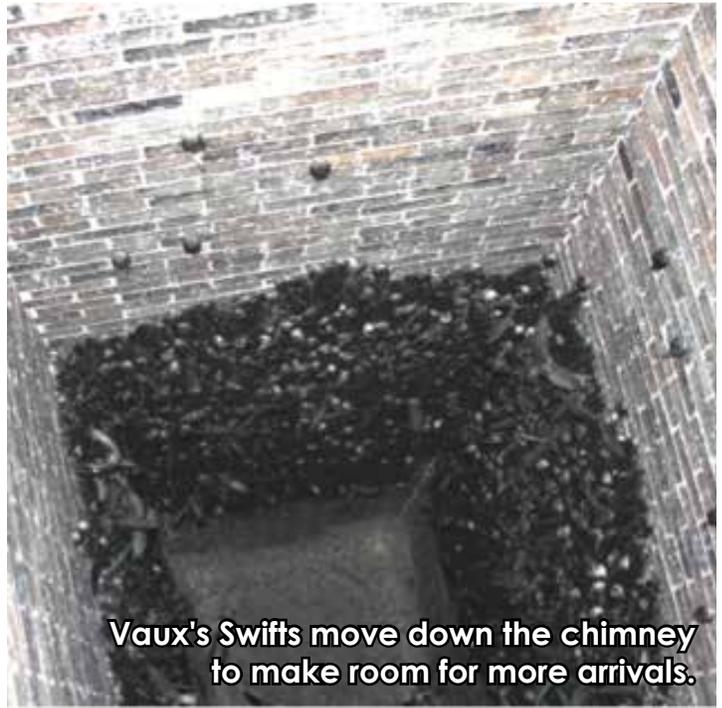
• [www.lansugarden.org](http://www.lansugarden.org)



The Vaux's Swifts are insect eaters. Bob told me, "They feed on flying insects that they catch in the air." What nice guests they are to clear the bugs in the area around Chapman School while migrating to their winter home. It is believed the birds gather at this site to stop on their fall migration to South America and Venezuela because it's relatively safe and there is a plentiful insect food source. According to The Audubon Society of Portland's website, "it is one of the largest known roosting sites of migrating Vaux's Swifts." In fall of 2016, the count of Vaux's Swifts numbered between a few hundred to over 8000 birds in one night's flight.

A few years ago, the Chapman School decided to reinforce the old chimney the Swifts use and build another one for the school's heating system. This action keeps the Vaux's Swifts returning each fall and the neighbors safe from the collapse of the chimney. Bob told me the chimney "is there strictly for the birds." Bob was a volunteer at Chapman School one year and there are volunteers available every night to answer any questions about the Swifts nightly flight. Bob said it "Seems like there are almost as many people there to watch it as birds--hopefully some of the people may choose to become birdwatchers and develop a lifetime passion and love for birds as I have."

This amazing event is viewable every evening about



**Vaux's Swifts move down the chimney to make room for more arrivals.**

twilight from September 1st to the 30th. Get to the school early to find a parking space or take public transportation. The grounds of the school are open to all to bring a blanket or chair and relax while taking in the whole scene. The Audubon Society reminds all visitors to be respectful of this event and be a good neighbor when leaving for the evening. I think bird watching events like the Vaux's Swifts fall



**Like a coordinated ballet dance, Vaux's Swifts prepare to land.**



It's SRO as the chimney fills with Vaux's Swifts.

migration does get us all in tune with the natural world around us. To learn more about bird migration, we can go out to the countryside of Oregon or take city transit to a natural wonder right in Portland!

For more information

<http://audubonportland.org/local-birding/swiftwatch>

To see a video of the Vaux's Swifts at Chapman School

Vaux Swifts  
Chapman Elementary  
Portland, OR - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhNqso6VEIE>

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**Garden Time Flowers**

In celebration of Garden Time, there are now four flowers that have been named in our honor. The *Garden Time Tulip* is available through Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, the *Garden Time Dahlia* comes from Swan Island Dahlias, the *Garden Time Rose* was introduced by Heirloom Roses and the *Garden Time Iris* is from Schreiner's Iris Gardens.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |
| Garden Time Tulip                                                                   | Garden Time Dahlia                                                                   | Garden Time Rose                                                                      | Garden Time Iris                                                                      |

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 **Garden Time**

# Curious Gorge



**Food at the store become a bore?  
Ready for a treat that's a bit offbeat?  
Then try this fare that is more rare.**

**Yacon**

**by William McClenathan**

Eating is one of the few things all humans require. We are fortunate that in the Pacific Northwest, we can grow all but the most tropical foods right in our own back yards.

Examples of these types of produce are Apples, Corn, Beans and Cherries. They also have a very long shelf life so they have become some of the top produce which we can buy in almost every grocery store.

But what about other foods which have less lengthy shelf life or are less well known? Delicious foods like Mulberries. Or Pawpaws? Both of which are hardy in our area to grow in a home garden.

And a couple of not so hardy fare, but delicious to eat edibles are 'Yacon' *Smallanthus sonchifolius* and the 'Mexican Sour Gerhkin' *Melothria scabra*. These are four of my favorites and are easy to grow here as well.

The first one is not really all that rare, but you won't find them in grocery stores. They are a delicious fruit named Mulberry. The tree which bares them is also named the same. The botani-

cal name is *Morus*. My favorite is *Morus nigra* which has the darkest fruit. When ripe they appear like an elongated raspberry. Super sweet and delicious, they are also very messy. The problem with them is twofold. One is they are large trees. I have maintained mine to a 20x20 foot area, but it took intense yearly pruning to do so. Second is the very reason you do not see them in stores. They are extremely soft and easily smashed and boy howdy are they messy! Each year at the main harvest time I would pick them, gently wash them off and freeze them. That way I could use them well into the winter months for desserts, milk shakes and beverages. You can find the past article on the growing of them by searching 'Mulberry' in the Garden Time Magazine link on our website.

The next one is another edible we have written about in the Magazine. They are delicious and closely related to tropical fruits. Its common name is Pawpaw. Botanically called *Asimina triloba*, this is also another tree, but notably smaller than a full grown Mulberry. Still, on its own this tree can reach 25-30 feet over time.

Pawpaws are delicious in flavor. Depending on who you ask, it can be described as a banana, custard, tropical and or a vanilla pudding type flavor. But to me it is simply delicious. Tragically this fruit has also been cursed by a very short shelf life once harvested. And add to it that ripe Pawpaw's bruise easily; they are not fit for sale at grocery stores and most farmers markets. This tree does require two for best fruit production. It can also be grown in very large pots as well. The shape of the leaves adds a wonderful tropical feel to any garden.

I also have yet to find a way to can or freeze this fruit effectively. But I will keep on searching until I do.

The third selection is Yacon. Also spelled Yacon. The botanical name is *Smallanthus sonchifolius*. This plant is mainly grown for its root which is simi-



**Mulberry fruit**

PHOTO CREDIT: WISE GEEK



**Mulberry tree**

lar in shape and size to yams or sweet potatoes, although they are similar only in shape as the flavor is wildly different. Fresh out of the ground Yakon is very much like a baking potato to look at. However its flavor is a bit strange for what you might expect from an underground tuber – it's like a sweet cross between early apples, watermelon and very mild celery, with a touch of pear. The name means 'water root' so they are also juicy.

There are countless online recipes for cooking, eating, juicing and storing these amazing perennial plants. I would still not consider them hardy, but have had them live over in winter many times. And they are not a small plant either, so give them space in your garden. Fortunately they are available at many garden centers which sell unique and unusual plants.



Pawpaw



Cut Pawpaw



Pawpaw

As they are so available, I think the reason this root vegetable is not easy to purchase in stores yet is because no one is growing them for mass production. Until that time occurs, you can easily grow your own.

Last but by far not least is the delicious Mexican Sour Gherkin.

I can tell you I have not seen seeds available in garden centers but I also have not looked carefully. I prefer the growing starts which many places sell now. I do not consider this a hardy plant. Although, I have had it overwinter by digging it up (it has a tuber/bulb like root) and overwintering it indoors. It has also reseeded several times depending on the harshness and wetness of the winter.

It is such a charming little vine. It resembles a small leaf cucumber vine and the fruit looks like tiny watermelons. One adult vine can produce an amazing amount of fruit. Each may look like a tiny watermelon but tastes to me like a light vinaigrette dressing was added to it while growing. I love gathering a handful while watering in the summer, popping them one by one into my mouth and enjoying their deliciousness. I inevitably go back for more.

I am also delighted that they have begun to be popular for adult beverages like Martinis. But to me they are still best simply tossed into a fresh garden salad. And because of their appearance, kids love them!

I would like to remind you that each of these plants has been written about in Garden Time Magazine. Those articles were more about culture and availability. So as always, we invite you to go to [www.gardentime.tv](http://www.gardentime.tv) and click on the magazine link. There you can search each plant by name and find out much more about how to grow them for yourself.



# Local Phenomenon

By using good farming practices, Bethany Little discovers that local, sustainable and successful can be synonymous.

by Judy Alluerzzo

Bethany and Charles Little

CHARLEY LITTLE & COMPANY, LLC

Bethany Little is a farmer with a passion for flowers! She and her husband Charles Little own Charles Little & Company Farm and grow over 250 varieties of specialty fresh flowers, wildflowers, branch material, ornamental berries and grasses for the cut flower industry. The 35 acre farm is located at the base of Mt Pisgah not far from the edge of Eugene. The scenery is an awesome backdrop to grow a wide assortment of flowers.

Bethany met her husband to be in 1994 as she drove over to see his flower farm. She realized she had planted the wrong variety of larkspur in her half acre garden. She heard that Charles had 5 acres of 6 foot tall larkspur and wanted to see the flowers for herself. Who does she also see in the field but Charles himself. They soon married and Bethany joined the commercial specialty flower farm of Charles Little & Company in 1998. Bethany brought her love of flow-

ers and growing skills to Charles Little & Company.

Her skills date back to her childhood gardens at her parents' home. "I grew up in the gardens my mother created. She helped me with my first garden of my own. I must have been 4 or 5. I planted the large fancy faced pansy plants and was in charge of taking care of them. I would make my father wait on his way to work so I could pick them for his office. Later as I got older I asked for my own garden space to plant flowers in."

I asked if this early garden kept her in the flower industry for her entire life. She said, "I tried many different things in school and my life. I always came back to gardening, crafting, and creating." One such job was working in a florist shop as she says, "a gal Friday. I washed the buckets, cleaned the flowers, scrubbed the coolers, vacuumed, made deliv-

eries...everything but designing with the flowers.

I would buy some and make arrangements for my parents sometimes. In 1994 I planted a large dried flower garden for my own crafting. I'm not sure where I thought I was going to sell my creations, but they needed to be made!"

Bethany learned the mechanics of flower arranging by watching floral designers, but never took formal design classes. She told me "she has been putting flowers in containers since she was a little girl." She liked the freedom of making combinations as she saw them and not as a teacher instructed. This learning by doing has broadened her knowledge of specialty flowers. She understands what floral designers are looking for in plant material, whether it's snap dragons and lilies or rose hips and ornamental grasses. She knows a wide as-

sortment of flowers and branches are just what her customers would love for their designs. Bethany loves to teach flower arranging classes, too. She teaches the mechanics of the arrangements, just like she learned, and then she lets her students just create! They pick out the flowers and mix the flower colors, textures and forms together to make small formal arrangements and large wild looking ones. The students are having fun and so is Bethany.

Charles Little Farm is a sustainable growing facility with care of the land through good farming practices. Bethany states, "We have planted more trees and long lived shrubs in the last two years. That ground is now producing product without the use of cultivating the soil." The established plantings have also reduced the use of pest controls. Hand weeding is one of the jobs handled by the farm crew. The farm crew is important to Bethany and Charles. "We have many long term employees that

come back year after year. We are truly blessed to have them working with us. Many of them have had their family members come and work with us as well."

Another sustainable practice is shipping flowers on the west coast from L.A. to Seattle. "Cut, Cleaned and Conditioned" are the buzz words for quality shipped flowers. Bethany says, "It's the great way to get specialty cut flowers" to our customers. She believes that the large florist's shops get interested in specialty cut flowers when they see what the smaller designer shops are doing with her flowers. The arrangements are stunning and a bit out of the ordinary. They contact Bethany to order her flowers, too.

In the last few years, buying locally grown produce has become an important way to support local farmers and the economy. It was a natural progression for the Slow Flower Movement to begin and for Bethany and Charles to be in-

involved in this program. "We have been a big fan of this from the moment it became a discussion other people wanted to talk about."

"Charles Little & Company has been actively growing flowers and selling them to our US customers for over 30 years. During this time many things have happened to make it hard for the American flower farmer to make a living. We have always been in the slow flower movement, it's just been hard to get the general public to understand why buying local flowers, or American grown flowers is so important. Stores like New Seasons believe that local is better. Slow food translated to slow flowers. Slow Flowers by Debra Prinzing has helped wake people up. So has American Grown Flowers. They are all waving the flag in many ways for people to see. Florists have joined in and now consumers understand and crave locally grown flowers crafted in creative ways."





**Charles Little and farm employee**

To Bethany this is such a simple concept but more complex to put into practice.

Farmers grow the flowers and sell them to markets and florists that understand the idea of 'local'. They in turn need to convince the consumer to spend just a small amount more for the flowers

grown in the US or even closer, in the Pacific NW. This full circle of Grower, Marketplace and Consumer ensures the jobs and proceeds stay local.

American Flower Week is a summer promotion to bring this message to the general public. Bethany told me, "It was created by

Debra Prinzing who created Slow Flowers. I think this is a great opportunity for any grower, florist, and floral retailer of any sort to help remind people that origin matters. Supporting your American flower farmers is important. We sell mostly to wholesalers nationwide and retailers in Portland and in Seattle. I think our most direct connection with American Flowers Week was creating bouquets for New Seasons markets. We made canning jar bouquets and put American Grown labels in them." Bethany is looking forward to joining in this celebration of Oregon Flowers in summer 2018. Look for this promotion next summer but better yet, always try to buy locally grown flowers.

The array of flowers and branch material Bethany grows for the fall season has a few surprises.

"I really love foliage, berries, and fruit, like Scarlet Ilex berries, Tomato vines with green cherry tomatoes, rosehips, hypericum berries, viburnum berries. Ornamental grasses make me happy and all the bright colored annuals are on full display at that time. It's such a lush time of year. Everything is so ripe and coming into its full glory." It's so cool that com-



## Artists at Charles Little Company Farm.



mercial florists can find unique cut flower material from Bethany's farm. I asked her for 1 favorite combination for a fall bouquet. "Probably some fruiting brightly colored peppers with scented geranium foliage. Add to that just about anything and you have an amazing fall bouquet." That sounds like a very unique bouquet, just perfect for a fall centerpiece.

For additional information about The Slow Flower Movement, you can see the Garden Time interview with Bethany from last October.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/1k1CSje5rIM>

Bethany and Charles have a second Eugene growing field called Sparhawk Farms which is open to the public for 'U-Pick' Flowers - June thru September, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9:00am-3:00pm. Bethany told me, "Other than that, people can make an appointment and come out to our main big barn. We have one of our fields open for U-Picking and have plenty of crafted items, local honey, local eggs and dried flowers for sale at the stand. People are also welcome to come over to our large working barn and place orders for flowers for their DIY events.

We will be hosting fall dried flower wreath making and winter evergreen wreath making workshops later in the year. Please look for upcoming events on our Facebook page - Sparhawk Farms and Charles Little & Company or Instagram page - charleslittleandco. I love teaching workshops in our big barn. It's fun to create a party out of our flowers and greens. I love showing people how to create, the engineering part, and seeing all the different designs people create. We always serve yummy locally grown and





Fall Wreath made at  
Charles Little & Company

made snacks. Charles makes a mean cheese board!"

Speaking of fun, I asked Bethany what she does on her off days. It sounds like those are not very numerous especially during the growing season. Bethany and Charles have fun working the land they love and opening the colorful fields to artists to capture that beauty. "We have made many new friends who have come to paint in our fields. Charles became very excited about one artist in particular, Phillip Roberts. They became good friends and Charles started painting again under his tutelage. We have traveled to France twice with Phillip and his wife for Canal du Midi self-guided canal boat painting trips."

As with so many farmers, Bethany and Charles Little are passionate about their company and the importance of being good stewards of the land. Picking flowers for fall bouquets is a fun way to learn about seasonal flowers. With just a little work, you can learn what flowers

Facebook Sparhawk Farms and Charles Little & Company

[charleslittleandcompany.com](http://charleslittleandcompany.com)

Instagram page:  
[charleslittleandco](https://www.instagram.com/charleslittleandco)

are stunning for fall decorations. You can think about combinations while cutting the lovely flowers and branches or be really wild and just pick what you like. When you get home the creativity will explode! You have all winter to think about what Bethany will be growing for springtime! Put a note on your calendar to drive to Sparhawk Farms for a spring bouquet.

Sparhawk Farms 'U-Pick' Flowers

June thru September,  
Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays  
9:00am-3:00pm

[www.sparhawkfarms.com](http://www.sparhawkfarms.com)



# MORE POWER

**You CAN do it yourself! Here are 7 power tools that no home should be without.**

**by David Musial**



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.AMAZON.COM

**Many brands available, but this is my go to cordless hand drill.**

**One of the pleasures of home ownership is the satisfaction that comes from completing your first home project. Today, projects can be completed with great ease thanks to the use of power tools. The list of available power tools is long and there is one available for just about every project. That wasn't always the case. Power tools have come a long way and the difficulty now is making a choice of what to buy!**

The ability to build has always been limited to the tools available as well as the builders' strength and stamina. Thus the desire to create tools that would make a task easier, quicker and

more efficient. To that end, the Egyptians created the first hand powered tool, a lathe. However, it took the electric motor and two German brothers to usher in the age of power tools in the late 1800s.

The year was 1895 when Wilhelm and Carl Fein created the first portable power tool. It was a power drill, heavy and weak, but it was portable. This was followed by S. Duncan Black and Alonzo G. Decker starting a machine shop in 1910, called... yes, you guessed it...Black and Decker. In 1917 they created the first trigger switch, pistol grip power drill. Truly the start of hand held power tools

At this point a power tool revolution started. In 1923, Raymond DeWalt built the first radial saw in the USA in 1924 and

later formed DeWalt, Inc. which is known for their professional power tools. The US wasn't the only country making advances in the industry. The German company Bosch was also at the forefront of power tool technology.

Back in the US, most are familiar with Craftsman brand tools. What started out in 1922 as mostly a hand tool brand, quickly became a large supplier in the power tool market.

The next game changer was in cordless power tools. Although many believe that the Japanese company Makita sold the first cordless drill in 1978, that distinction belongs to Black and Decker. In 1961, they marketed a nickel-cadmium portable cordless drill. However, it should be noted that Makita's cordless

The first hand powered tool, a lathe, was created by the Egyptians.

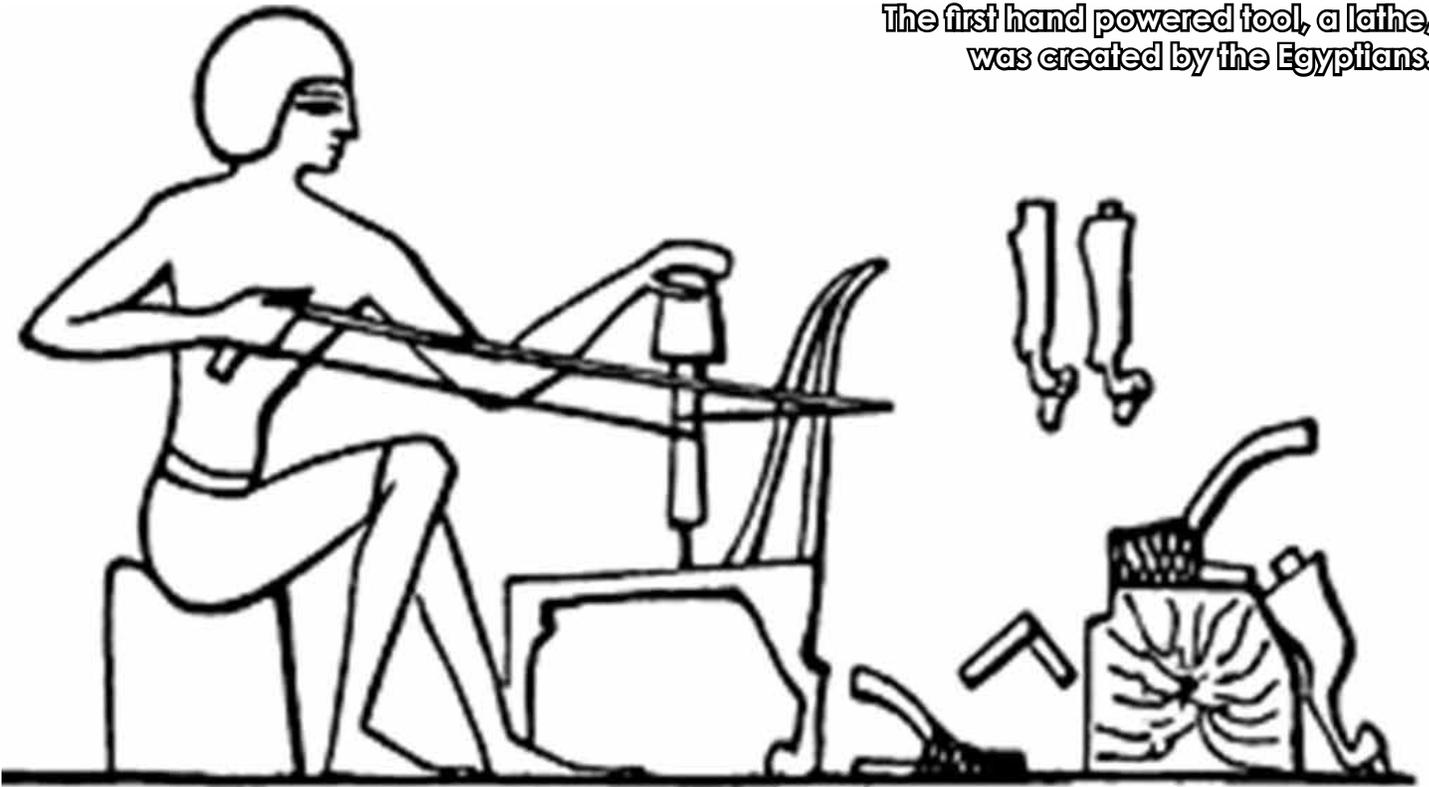


PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DOCPLAYER.HU

drill was the first to be produced and sold for the consumer.

Moving forward, the biggest improvement has been in battery power, making cordless power tools truly powerful. Batteries in the 60's were 4.8v and in the 80's were replaced with 9.6v. Today, 36v batteries are available, making charging your batteries the only reason to have a power cord.

Armed with the 'power' of knowledge, it is time to discuss the essential hand power tools. Although this list is subjective, the recommended tools can cover the needs of a multitude of tasks. With the power of cordless tools, I would typically recommend their purchase. However, if you frequently perform a task that requires the use of a power tool over a long period time, it may make sense to buy a corded tool, rather than lots of replacement batteries.

And now the essential hand power tools. Drum roll please...



Black and Decker teamed with NASA on a battery power drill and it was used on Apollo 15 in 1971.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.HTTP2010YEARINREVIEW.STANLEYBLACLANDDECKER.COM

# 1

## Cordless Drill

This is an essential go to tool. It replaces the screwdriver for most tasks and makes drilling holes a pleasure. Yes a hand drill still has a place, I'm just not sure where. Although 36v models are available, the best compromise is 18v. It can tackle the tough jobs and is not too heavy. Choose a high quality cordless drill and it will last for years.



The circular saw makes short work of cutting jobs, but demands respect.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.AMAZON.COM.UK

# 2

## Sander

Some may think that only a true woodworker would need a power sander, but that's not necessarily the case. I've used mine to sand down a butcher block table and in preparing an antique table for restoration.

Many types of sanders exist, but for all purpose use, a random orbital sander is the best choice. Its action helps reduce scratching when used across the grain and helps keep the sandpaper from clogging.

Some come with a dust bag that helps keep the work area clean. Be sure to keep a supply of various grits of sandpaper available. There is nothing worse than starting a project and having to stop to go to the hardware store for supplies.

# 3

## Circular Saw

For a few small cuts, a hand saw is adequate, but if you plan on making several cuts, a circular saw is just the ticket. It can be used for cutting plywood or a 2x6. Cordless models do exist, but a corded model is recommended due to the power required for heavier lumber and serious cutting jobs.

Speaking of serious, this power tool needs to be taken seriously (as do all power tools) and should be used with caution, as it can cause serious injury. Always follow manufacturer's safety precautions.

# 4

## Jig Saw

The circular saw is the muscle in wood cutting and the jig saw is the finesse tool. Where a circular saw basically makes straight cuts, the jig saw can make curves in addition to straight cuts. Designed for cutting plywood and other light material, blades are available for wood as well as plastic, ceramic and some metal.

Cordless models work well unless you plan on using your jig saw for extended periods of time.



Choose the jig saw for detail cuts.

# 5

## Rotary Tool

A rotary tool is a versatile power tool that can perform the same function as several larger tools combined, but is used for smaller jobs or more detail work. This multi-purpose tool accepts several attachments. There are attachments for cutting, grinding, buffing and shaping, to name a few. One of my favorite uses is for engraving on your valuables. There is a head specifically designed for that task.

The rotary tool is manufactured by several companies and you want to compare the rpm's, the amperage (read power) and the line of attachments available. Consider a variable speed model



The rotary tool has a large number of accessories.

over a model with fixed speeds. Although considered a hobbyist tool by many, it is versatile and will become a go to tool for many tasks.

# 6

## Reciprocating Saw

Known as a Sawzall to most (the Milwaukee tool brand name), this tool is designed for demolition and destruction. It can cut through most metal and wood with great ease. Tearing down a deck? Get the reciprocating saw out. Some even use it as a pruning tool to cut large branches and small trees.

Like the circular saw, I recommend a corded model. For the tough jobs this tool will take on, a battery is typically just not up to the task. Additionally, there are several blades available. Get an assortment and be prepared for your next demo derby.

# 7

## Combo Stud Finder/ Laser Level

Maybe not truly a hand powered tool, but if you consider that most people use a hammer to find a stud, it is replacing a hand tool and is run on power. The reason it is included in the list of essential power tools is that it really doesn't fit any other list and it is a very useful tool. With the combination of both a stud finder and a level, it has applications both in the house and for building projects.



With a reciprocal saw, you are ready to demo.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.HIRENET.COM

When shopping, you can also find models that not only detect wood studs, but can also detect metal or live wires. No more missing the stud and hitting the electrical wires.

These seven hand power tools will get you started with most projects. As your skills develop and the types of projects you want to tackle evolve, there will be other hand power tools to consider. However, before adding new tools to the arsenal, remember the advice below.

In closing, I leave you with a story.

When my wife and I purchased our first house, I was anxious to purchase power tools so I could be a handyman like my brother-in-law Ralph. Naturally I consulted Ralph and he advised that I purchase an electric drill, sander, jig saw and router. I was particularly excited about all that could be done with the router, as

Ralph was able to create beautiful cabinets and other fine woodwork.

What I didn't take into account with the purchase of the router was that Ralph was a skilled craftsman, I wasn't. Thirty years later, the router still sits in the original box unopened.

Moral of the story, buy the tools for the job you need and the skill you possess.

If anyone is interested in buying a thirty year old new in box Craftsman router, look for my ad on Craigslist.



Thirty year old router, new in box, for sale!

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID MUSIAL

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# W T D I T G

**The time goes so fast! With Summer winding down, it's time to enjoy the last warm days of the year, and turn our focus to Fall. September is a good month to plant, and it's a great time to start planning your garden for next year. With Fall rains coming, new plants will get established before the cold weather arrives.**

## PLANNING

- Plan some new color for spring by figuring out where to plant some spring bulbs. Creating pots with 'layers' of bulbs would be fun. A cluster of



bright yellow daffodils planted at the base of a tree or three will really liven the yard up in the early months. Daffodils aren't eaten by squirrels or deer so they should remain intact for years giving you more color every spring.

- Check on the vegetables to be harvested. This is an important time to check on the crops, picking them before the veggies lose their flavor.

- Since September is a good month to plant and there are usually sales now on nursery stock, why not do a little landscape renovation? If you need help, bring some photos and notes into your local independent garden center. They can help you put together some good ideas of what to plant and where.

## PLANTING

- It's time for shopping and planting spring bulbs! As the weather cools, that should be your signal to purchase some bulbs for a spring display of sunny color. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus can be found now. You'll have up until late October to plant them, but

selection of the coolest bulbs is gone early so don't delay.

- Fall is an exceptional time to plant landscape trees and shrubs! With the rains coming on soon and the soil being so warm from the summer sun, the plant's root systems take right off this

time of year. Most likely there are sales to take advantage of, so the savings make it even more enticing.



## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage. Root weevil adults do the damage above ground that is visible so you'll know if they are around. The grubs below ground are the killers, girdling the trunk, besides eating the majority of the roots. Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic creatures that hunt out and destroy these pests and 229 more species of insects, but are not harmful at all to earthworms, humans or pets. They are active for two years in the soil too!



are easy to spot and get rid of, if you know what they look like. Slugs lay eggs under stones, pavers, boards, plant debris or wherever they can find a hiding spot. The eggs are usually clustered in groups and look like little BB's, but are a creamy

color. By finding and destroying these eggs before they hatch, you will take care of hundreds of the slimy leaf-chompers before they can get to your plants.

- Be on the lookout for slugs and their eggs. Fall is egg laying time again for the slimy creatures. Eggs

- Begin to get plants ready for winter by holding

# What To Do In The Garden

## SEPTEMBER

back on the watering and stop any fertilizing this month. The plants need to get toughened up for the coming winter. If watered frequently and fed too late in the season the leaves are more tender and apt to freeze or be severely damaged.



- September is an excellent month to start a lawn from scratch or over seed a thin lawn. In fact this time of year is about the best and fastest time to start a lawn.

- Fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so for a couple of months. With the cooler weather and rains on the way you will notice the lawns becoming greener and thicker again, naturally.

- Pull up begonia tubers before it gets too cold or at least move the pot into a garage or shed. Let foliage die down naturally, then remove foliage, lift bulb out of the soil and store the begonia tubers separately in paper bags (breathable!) in a protected cool, not cold, environment like a basement or a chilly room.

- Dahlias: to dig or not to dig? If you dig up the dahlias to store them, and then divide and replant in the spring, they will continue to come up bigger and better every year. If left in the ground eventually they will poop out, getting many smaller stems and fewer flowers.

Dig the tubers at least one week after a frost and after the stalks have died down. Dahlias dug too early will not store well. Cut the stalks down to 6-8", shake the loose soil off the clumps (don't



wash the clump) then allow the clump of tubers to cure or dry for a few days before being stored indoors in a cool dark area. Check stored tubers occasionally for any rot developing. You will divide and replant them next May.

- This is a great month to divide iris and other spring and early summer blooming perennials. Iris and other perennials can become overcrowded and that slows down on its flowering show. By lifting the clumps, cutting out the old centers or mushy parts and then replanting the leading growing edge of the clump immediately back into the garden, the perennials can again take off and give you additional years of flowers.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN

- You can still seed these crops right into the garden: Arugula, beets, cabbage (for spring harvest), carrots, endive, fava beans, garlic cloves, lettuce, kale, mache, onion sets, radish, salad greens and shallot bulbs.

- Mulch the mature carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips for winter harvesting. By applying good 3-5" thick mulch you can store these veggies right out in the garden. Pull some up whenever you want to fix some for a meal.

- Harvest the winter squash when the 'ground spot' turns from white to a cream or gold color. (The ground spot is just what it sounds like, the part of the squash fruit that lay on the ground.) Winter squash can be harvested whenever the fruits have turned a deeper color and the rind is hard. Harvest the main part of the crop in September or October, before the heavy frosts. Cut squash from the vines

carefully, leaving two inches of stem attached if possible. Squash that is not fully mature, has been injured, or had their stems knocked off, or has been subjected to heavy frost will not keep.

- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down and before the first frost. Dig up the tubers, being careful not to nick the spuds with the shovel. Any tubers that have a damaged spot from digging should be cooked up and not stored. By hand remove any soil clinging to the potatoes and then leave them on top of the soil for a few hours to dry out - if they are stored damp, they will rot. Leaving them on the soil surface in the sun will harden the skin slightly, doubling the storage time.

- Protect the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant from early frost. Drape the plants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover. Pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if cold weather threatens.



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

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### **The 2017 Annual Dahlia Festival Saturday-Monday, September 2-4, 2017 Swan Island Dahlias, Canby, OR**

Indoor Display Hours: 10 am to 6 pm; Field Hours: 8 am - 6 pm. A must see for the dahlia lover, or if you just love flowers. View over 400 floral arrangements of dahlias, over 15,000 cut dahlia blooms on display, in our three indoor display rooms. This is the largest display put on by one grower anywhere in the United States!

About The Festival: Floral arranging demonstrations and talk on dahlia culture take place daily during the festival at 1pm. Live dahlia tuber dividing demonstration 12noon to 4pm each day during the festival. You can also take a stroll through and view over 30 acres of dahlias in full bloom during the festival. Be sure to take some cut flowers home with you to extend your visit and remember the beauty.

Dogs are NOT allowed in the indoor display rooms during the 6 days of the festival. Dogs are allowed on the premises and only on a leash. Even though they are allowed we do not recommend them to be brought during this extremely busy event. Thank you for your cooperation and for thinking about the safety of your 4-legged friends. Food booths & refreshments will be located at the farm during this event. [www.dahlias.com](http://www.dahlias.com).

### **Art in the Garden Thru September 30, 2017 The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

Join us for Art in the Garden, which features stunning art installations in the Garden throughout the summer!

### **Kid's Club: Lettuce Be Healthy Saturday, September 2, 2017 • 11:00am(W) Saturday, September 9, 2017 • 11:00am(S) Saturday, September 16, 2017 • 11:00am(G) Saturday, September 23, 2017 • 11:00am(V) Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, Wilsonville(V), OR**

Growing your own salad is a great way to introduce kids to gardening and get them to eat more greens. We will be planting a bowl of assorted lettuces that kids can grow and pick fresh for their meal. Cost: \$7.50.

### **Fava Beans and Our Health Saturday • September 2, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**continued next column**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. Each of our garden vegetables excel in certain nutritional areas. Fava beans are high in fiber, vitamins K and B6, zinc, copper, iron, magnesium, and more. They also help in promoting heart health and strengthens our immune system. And, they are covered in beautiful flowers. September and October are excellent times to plant these healthy vegetables. [www.portland-nursery.com](http://www.portland-nursery.com).

### **Root Vegetables**

#### **Sunday • September 3, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. This class will focus on two root crops to plant this month that don't get a lot of attention: Rutabagas and Kohlrabi. Rutabagas (aka "Swedish Turnips") contain very high amounts of vitamin C, as well minerals. Kohlrabi is so highly valued in countries and cuisines around the world. Learn all about them in this Root Vegetable class. [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com).

### **Presentation: A Hidden Garden at Fort Vancouver\***

#### **Tuesday, September 5, 2017 • 6:50pm-7:45pm**

#### **First Baptist Church of Beaverton, Beaverton, OR**

By Elaine Dorset, National Park Service Archaeologist. Recent archaeological investigations at the site of the Hudson's Bay Company Garden have provided information about what plant species were being grown and where. This talk will discuss the history of the garden, and then illustrate how these conclusions could be reached when this is no garden left to be seen. Elaine Dorset holds a Master's Degree in Anthropology and is a National Park Service archaeologist based at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. \*Approved for 1 hour MG education credit. First Baptist Church of Beaverton - 5755 SW Erickson Ave, Beaverton, 97005.

### **What To Do in Your Garden Now: September**

#### **Thursday, September 7, 2017 • 4:30pm**

#### **Al's Home & Garden, Sherwood, Woodburn, Gresham, Wilsonville, OR**

Any good gardener knows that fall is the best time for planting. It allows the roots to mature prior to getting chilly, making your plant that much stronger come spring. In this September addition of our series, we will cover fall planting best practices, fall and winter veggies, lawns, fertilizers and sprays. In order to help us prepare, registration is appreciated but not required. Free.

**continued next page**



### **Chicks Night Out 2017**

**Thursday, September 7, 2017 • 5:00pm-8:00pm**

**Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR**

Looking for a fun night out with you and your girlfriends? RSVP Today! Free. 15% off the entire store for Bauman Rewards Members (non-members receive 10% off). 50 – 70 % off Pottery – New Shipment has just arrived. Free Classes throughout the evening, free live music, free gourmet food and wine sampling, food, hard cider, and wine will be available for purchase.

Bauman Diamond Bake-off: Brownies & Bars

Bring in your best Brownie or Bar for your chance to win a \$500 Diamond Necklace and a chance to having bragging rights for the entire year! [www.baumanfarms.com](http://www.baumanfarms.com).

### **Sake Tasting with Joto Sake**

**Friday, September 8, 2017 • 7:00pm-9:00pm**

**Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

Connect with the culture of Japan through its signature beverage. Explore the structure, history, and brewing of a selection of sakes from Japanese microbreweries presented by representatives of Joto Sake. Otsunami (snacks) to enhance the tasting experience will be provided by Biwa, a popular local Japanese izakaya (gastropub).

VIP ticketholders are invited to an exclusive hour of tasting including a presentation on the history and crafting of sake from 6-7pm.

Sponsored by Joto Sake and Biwa, with ticket proceeds supporting the Garden's cultural and educational programming.

Due to limited parking, the Garden recommends guests use public transportation, cab, or ridesharing services for this event. Event is 21 and over, with valid ID. [www.japanesegarden.org](http://www.japanesegarden.org).

### **Little Sprouts-Make a Concrete Mosaic Stepping Stone**

**Saturday, September 9, 2017 • 11:00am**

**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Our little gardeners take many steps as they grow. Join us as our little sprouts make beautiful and unique concrete mosaic stepping stones to remember these moments. \$7 per child. [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

**continued next column**

### **9th Annual Tomato & Salsa Fest**

**Saturday September 9, 2017 • 11:00am-4:00pm**

**Timeless Gardens Nursery, Lebanon, OR**

Do you have a favorite salsa? One that your friends and family rave about? Bring \$4 and a quart (minimum) of your salsa to enter our Tasting contest. Enter your Salsa by 10:30am the day of the Salsa Fest. You could win a cash prize and bragging rights. 3 Categories: Best all around, Hottest (that you can still eat), Most Unusual.

Master Gardener Lisa Almarode will be back again at the tomato tasting Table this year with several different types of tomatoes, along with tons of information. Master Gardeners will have a booth to answer many of your Gardening questions. There will be hourly door prizes and The Largest Tomato Contest (free to enter). Raffle prizes: And an end of the day Grand Prize (purchase required for grand prize) includes a Romantic package from the Boulder Inn.

Timeless Gardens will have their flowers and plants on very special pricing. All proceeds will go to The Lebanon Soup Kitchen. Come out for the FUN and figure out what tomatoes you will plant next spring! 33527 Brewster Road, Lebanon. [www.timeless-gardens.com/Events.html](http://www.timeless-gardens.com/Events.html). Free attendance and free parking.

### **Impact NW Summer Garden Party**

**Saturday, September 9, 2017 • 6:00pm-9:00pm**

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

Impact NW's Annual Garden Party is a delightful fundraiser at the Portland Nursery on SE Division where guests enjoy all the best the Northwest has to offer. Impact NW's Annual Garden Party is an opportunity for business and community leaders and caring individuals to come together to strengthen Impact NW's mission to help people prosper through a community of support. It's a delightful occasion to enjoy all the best the Northwest has to offer. The Garden Party features fresh from the farm cuisine, a beautiful garden setting, live and silent auctions, local wines and craft beers. We hope you can join us! [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com).

### **Fall Care for Herb Gardens**

**Sunday, September 10, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Gardening Goddess, Jolie Ann Donohue. Join Jolie for this timely workshop to learn seasonal techniques for

**continued next page**



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

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pruning, harvesting, and preservation of the organic herb garden. Learn winter care for your herb garden. Jolie will share loads of her tips and tricks for preserving Summer's bounty of culinary herbs for the winter months.

**Planting Roots and Greens for a Fall Harvest**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2017 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Ian Wilson of Portland Edible Gardens. Late summer is the last seasonal window for planting vegetables in your garden, so don't miss out! Come learn about some great vegetables to plant in September for a fall and winter harvest. In this class we will get specific about arugula, kale, spinach, lettuce, chard, turnips, radishes and more! We will discuss planting methods, proper spacing, best varieties, and how to care for your veggies.

**Make Your Own Fall Interest Container**  
**Sunday, September 10, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

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

**Portland Nursery Senior Gardening Day**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

Sponsors Home Instead and Portland Nursery team up every year to bring a variety of hands-on activities and special gardening demonstrations aimed at the elder gardeners of our community. Tables are set up under cover surrounded by beautiful and blooming displays. Relax, visit with friends and enjoy refreshments. Pot up crocus bulbs, make lavender sachets and learn about fall container gardening. See our Senior Gardening Day page for pics of past event. [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com).

**Year-round Interest Perennial Gardens**  
**Thursday, September 14, 2017 • 10:00am**  
**Jenkins Estate, Beaverton, OR**

Companion planting for year-round interest, design tech-

**continued next column**

niques, feeding and pruning tips, and suggestions for plants that thrive in the Pacific Northwest. Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate - 8005 Grabhorn Road, Beaverton 97007.

**Open House - Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate**  
**Saturday September 16, 2017 • 10:00am-1:00pm**  
**Jenkins Estate, Beaverton, OR**

Fun for all! Learn about edible landscaping, growing herbs, waterwise gardening and more presented by Master Gardeners.\* Enjoy delicacies prepared from the garden's harvest of fruits and vegetables. Kids will enjoy the scavenger hunt and adults can tour the gardens, including the new Deer Resistant Garden and Gate House herbs. Master Gardener question and answer Clinic with 12 year veteran, Kimberly Culbertson. \*1 - 2 hours recertification credit for Master Gardeners.

Location: 8005 SW Grabhorn, Beaverton, OR 97007 Map On weekends, use the second entrance (Camp Rivendale) on Grabhorn Road and park there. Walk past the play structure down to the Learning Garden. Free event, free parking, no registration needed.

**Bonsai Class: Topic TBA**  
**Saturday, September 16, 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).

**Sheet Mulching**  
**Saturday, September 16, 2017 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Corina Reynolds of Portland Nursery. Whether you're putting your garden beds to sleep for the season, preparing a new bed for planting in the spring, or just want to eliminate some lawn, sheet mulching (AKA lasagna gardening) is a great way to turn inexpensive materials into fabulous growing space. Corina will explain sheet mulching techniques and offer a demonstration for this no-dig method.

**It's Time to Plant Garlic!**  
**Sunday, September 17, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Marc Scheidecker. This class will help you choose between hardneck varieties and soft neck varieties. Also

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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

how to choose the best bulbs, what spacing to use, and how to get your soil prepared as well as other helpful info!

### **Fall Lawn Care**

**Sunday, September 17, 2017 • 1:00pm**

**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Paul Hastings of Portland Nursery. Come enjoy an effective and healthy approach to fertilizing your lawn in the autumn. Paul will cover both organic and conventional approaches to a healthy and vigorous lawn as the rains come back and everything re-greens.

### **Drunken Succulents**

**Sunday, September 17, 2017 • 1:00pm(W,G,V)**

**Wednesday, September 20, 2017 • 4:30pm(S)**

**Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Gresham, Wilsonville(V), Sherwood, OR**

Oregon is well known for their wonderful wines. Why not try a new and interesting pairing with succulents? In this workshop we will plant recycled wine bottles with easy-care succulents to create a charming dish garden for your home. Cost: \$35.00; \$40 in Sherwood.

### **Tomato Tasting!**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017 • 9:30am-12:00pm**

**Washington County Demonstration Gardens, Hillsboro, OR**

Taste heirloom, old standards, and new varieties of tomatoes while touring the Washington County Demonstration Gardens. If you would like, feel free to bring 3-4 samples of your favorite variety that are labeled washed, and ready to slice. Homemade salsa or tomato snacks are very welcome, too. You can also bring extra tomatoes as any remaining tomatoes will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank. Washington County Demonstration Gardens, 884 NE 28th Ave. Hillsboro.

### **Freshen Up For Fall**

**Thursday, September 21, 2017 • 4:30pm**

**Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, Woodburn, Gresham, Wilsonville, OR**

Fall is a great time for planting and a perfect time to freshen up your tired summer baskets, containers, and window boxes. There are so many colorful plants you can add to your already flourishing pots that will brighten them right up. There are also some fun little decorative additions to get you in the mood for autumn holidays. Learn from our experts how to quickly and easily remove old plants and freshen up your displays. In order to help us prepare, regis-

**continued next column**

tration is appreciated but not required. Free.

### **Iris Society Sale**

**Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24, 2017**

**• 9:00am-4:00pm**

**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

[www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

### **Hands On Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening Series**

**Saturday, September 23, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Tiffany Garner. 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.

### **How Iris Grow, Lifting and Dividing**

**Saturday, September 23, 2017 • 1:00pm**

**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Chad Harris of Mt. Pleasant Iris. Chad Harris of Mt. Pleasant Iris and President of the Greater Portland Iris Society will talk of the different irises that can be grown here in the NW with their varied cultural needs, wet to dry, sun to shade. Hands on demonstration on dividing. A source list to the many local iris farms in the area will be available at this class.

### **Herbs for Shifting Seasons**

**Saturday, September 23, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Missy Rohs, The Arctos School. Community herbalist Missy Rohs will offer her insights about garden herbs that can be used to smooth the transition from the carefree days of summer to the cozier months. Medicinal plants can lift the spirits, calm anxiety, and bolster the immune system. We'll talk about when to harvest and what preparations are best.

### **Plan Now! Spring is Closer than you Think**

**Sunday, September 24, 2017 • 1:00pm**

**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Bonnie Bruce of Celilo Gardens. Winter is a perfect time to plan for changes and improvements to your garden but few people think of this until spring really blooms. But by that time contractors are already busy and you are

**continued next page**



left in the queue waiting. However if you plan now and get a jump on the season you will not only be one of the first on the installation schedule but it is very likely you will get a lower bid because contractors are hungry for work NOW.

**Sunsets in the Garden  
Wednesdays thru September 27, 2017  
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

Sunsets in the Garden is a great way to enjoy a summer evening after-hours in the Garden with live music, beer, wine and spirit tastings, hors d'oeuvres, tram tours and sunset viewing on Wednesday, September 27th. New this year, Sunsets in the Garden will take place at the Oregon Garden Resort's patio, which features great views of the Garden. Guests are encouraged to explore with their tastings and hors d'oeuvres. Well-behaved pets on a leash are welcome.

Live music and tastings will be at the following times: September 27th – 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Music by: Jake Koelzer. Brewery: Gilgamesh Brewing. Cidery: Wandering Aengus Ciderworks. Winery: Forest Edge Vineyard. [www.oregard.com](http://www.oregard.com).

**Fight For Your Life 5k  
Sunday, September 24, 2017 • 10:30am  
French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR**

Run, Walk or Crawl...we'd love to have them all!! Fight for your Life 5K was created in remembrance of Emily Pohlschneider-Edwards. The race is hosted at Emily's Family farm, our very own French Prairie Gardens, where she grew up and helped work the fields. This flat course will be located on dirt roads winding through the farm land out in the country. Great for Runners, Joggers, Walkers or all ages. Family Friendly event. Join us for the Kids Dash, an 800 meter race for kids ages 5-10. Receive 12 free activity tickets along with your race registration to use at our Pumpkin Patch, Pig Races, Mazes & More, to see the Pigtucky Derby Pig Races, go through our mazes, visit our Brew area, and food vendors for a day of fun! All Race proceeds will go towards our foundation, Em's Fight to help local women fighting cancer. For more information on our foundation visit: [EmsFight.org](http://EmsFight.org).

Early registration is \$30 by 9/17/17, late registration is \$35 and day-of registration \$40 per person. Registration includes race t-shirt, race packet, one beer (Must be 21+ for  
**continued next column**

beer), & receive 1 Wristband along with your race registration to use at our Pumpkin Patch, Pig Races, Mazes and more for a day of fun! [www.fpggardens.com](http://www.fpggardens.com).

**Autumn Moon Festival  
Saturday-Sunday, September 30-October 1, 2017  
Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR**

Most cultures have a harvest festival and China is no exception. Zhong Qiu Jie, the Autumn Moon Festival, has roots back to ancient times and is an important traditional Chinese holiday. Taking place on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, the Autumn Moon Festival is usually on or close to the time of the "Harvest Moon" when the moon appears at its fullest during the autumnal equinox.

Autumn Moon Festival weekend at Lan Su includes:

- 10:00am-12:30pm — Story Time
- 10:00am-5:00pm — Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration
- 10:00am-5:00pm — Chinese Folk Art Demonstration
- 10:00am-5:00pm — Mooncake Sale
- 11:00am-12:00pm — Cultural Performance
- 11:00am-5:00pm — Red Lantern Family Craft Activity
- 1:00pm-2:00pm — Lion Dance
- 3:00pm-4:00pm — Cultural Performance
- 5:00pm-6:00pm — Lion Dance

**Kokedama  
Saturday, September 30, 2017 • 1:00pm  
Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Megan Porter of Portland Nursery. As cities become even more urbanized, we continue to look for ways to bring the outside in. Growing houseplants purifies air and adds beauty and tranquility to living spaces. Utilizing the relatively new technique of kokedama, we can bring the mossy magic of a temperate rain forest into the home. Come learn the basics of kokedama with Megan of Portland Nursery. We will make use of tropical house plants, moss and soil to create characteristic "moss balls" that can be the first in your very own string garden!

**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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