

A close-up photograph of two Painted Lady butterflies on a cluster of small purple flowers. One butterfly is perched on top of the flower cluster, while the other is positioned below it, facing the same direction. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

# garden time

November 2017

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

## Shrubs That Attract Pollinators Swarm Regards

### Taking Care of Winter Birds

### **Chestnut Roasting**

CASTLE ROCK'S

### Nancy Chenault

Painted Lady Butterflies  
on Caryopteris Flowers





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## Winter's Coming!

This phrase is an oft repeated line in the popular TV show, and no, we are not going to show you an episode of 'Game of Thrones'. As gardeners we go through our own version of game of thrones every year. We battle the cold and wet just to survive for a better day. Then, with spring, we do battle again, with all the tools in our arsenal, to defeat bugs and weeds, and to move into summer with its blissful warmth (minus the dragons). The winner of this 'Gardening' game is all of us. The bounty of flowers for decorations and pollinators, the fruits and vegetables for our tables, and the banquet for our eyes. It is a war well worth waging. Still, the coming cold is a wakeup call for the gardener. Even as the plants are going dormant, we strive to protect those that are tender and plan for the year ahead. With garden articles and seed catalogues, we arm ourselves mentally and emotionally for the lack of quality time in the outdoors. Prepare yourself then, and let us help you survive and thrive in the cold and dark days ahead with the Garden Time TV show and magazine!

We start to help you prepare with this month's issue and some great articles, including a primer on taking care of the local winter bird population. Therese fills us in on different feeds and shelters that you can use to help these little guys make it through the winter months. Another great event marking the beginning of winter is roasted chestnuts. Judy takes us to Hood River for the Annual Chestnut roast at Nella Farms. A local tradition with European roots. Then, David tries to help us stay healthy during the winter with a story on the medicinal properties of turmeric. This popular rhizome is familiar as a part of curry dishes and is now becoming known for helping us keep healthy and possibly pain-free.

So prepare yourself for the coming cold, and know that we will always try to bring you the most current information so you won't care if 'Winter's Coming' or not.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



## Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

My front yard slopes to my house and the recent rains have created a muddy mess right by the front door. I'm trying to think of ways to stop the flow. Are there rain garden plants or will a flower bed not help the problem?

Signed,  
Wet in Wilsonville

Dear Wet,

You have much larger issues than a simple flower bed will fix. This will require a consultation with a landscaper for a long term solution. Water issues are not to be ignored. The moisture near your home may cause severe problems to the structure. You need to deal with these drainage issues before you can decide on a flower bed and plant selection. This will be the case with any other areas in your garden too. Once the water issues are addressed, your plants will be happier and your choice of plants will expand, plus you won't have to deal with a muddy mess in your garden.

Good luck,  
Mortimer



The big muddy: Standing water is more than a flower can fix.

PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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)





New growth on a Rhododendron after pruning. Trim away!

Dear Mortimer,

I was wondering if it was too late to prune back my rhododendrons. Will the cold damage them?

Signed,  
Rhodies in Rhododendron

Dear Rhodies,

No to both questions. It isn't too late to prune and the weather should not have any long-term effect on the overall health of your plant. You can throw some frost cloth over the top of the plant if you do a significant pruning of large branches or you are concerned. The main thing you will notice with a pruning this late is the loss of blooms for the coming year or more. The rhododendron sets its blooms in the mid to late summer. If you prune after August or September you are cutting off the new blooms for next year. Plus, if you do large cuts, taking off larger branches, then you may not have flowers for a few years while the plant grows new branches with flower buds.

Prune away and be patient, the rhody is a tough and resilient plant!

Yours,  
Mortimer

# You'll "Fall" for Oregon's Favorite Garden Show!

**HOSTS: WILLIAM McCLENATHAN & JUDY ALLERUZZO**

Autumn is here and Garden Time has you covered with brand-new stories, adventures and tips for the Northwest garden! Watch us every week on stations throughout Oregon.

## Garden Time

**SATURDAY MORNINGS**

9:00AM PORTLAND	8:30AM EUGENE	8:30AM & 12:00PM SALEM/PORTLAND
<b>PDX TV</b>	<b>my 7 kev</b>	<b>KWVT</b>
CH. 49/CABLE 13	CH. 23/CABLE 4	CH. 17/CABLE 318



# Swarm Regards



Here are a few tips for making your garden more welcoming to visiting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

by Judy Alleruzzo



Winter is the time to dream about our gardens and make plant lists for the upcoming new season. What new plants do we want to add to our landscape or put in a new ceramic container?

That list includes plants that do it all; have four seasons of interest, long blooming fragrant flowers and flowers that attract pollinators. It is certainly an important idea to plant shrubs that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to our gardens, but don't stop at just selecting these kinds of pollinator friendly shrubs. Here are a few tips for making your garden more welcoming to visiting bees, butterflies and

hummingbirds.

- Eliminate pesticide use
- Leave a little wild area for pollinators to hide in or rest
- Provide a water source

With just a little planning we can have the garden that has it all! Start now to make that plant wish list so you'll be ready for a trip to your favorite garden center. These shrubs will help make your garden the main stop for the pollinators in your neighborhood.



**Bee on a Camellia Bloom**



**Bee on Heather Flowers**



**Bee on Physocarpus 'Center Glow' Flowers**



**Honeybee on Itea (Sweetspire)**





**Forsythia with Bee**



**Hummingbird on Rose of Sharon**

**Late Winter Blooming Shrubs for Morning Sun/Afternoon Shade**

Camellia - Bees and Hummingbirds.  
Assorted varieties Ht 3-10ft  
Mahonia (Oregon Grape) - Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 1-6ft  
Pieris (Andromeda) - Bees and Mason Bees.  
Assorted varieties Ht 2-4ft

**Late Winter Blooming Shrubs for Sun**

Erica (Winter Blooming Heather) - Bees.  
Assorted varieties Ht 1-2ft.  
Forsythia - Bees and Mason Bees.  
Assorted varieties Ht 3-10ft.

**Spring Blooming Shrubs for Morning Sun/Afternoon Shade**

Daphne - Bees and Butterflies. Assorted Varieties  
Ht to 3ft.  
Skimmia - Bees. Ht 2-5ft.

**Spring Blooming Shrubs for Sun**

Ceanothus (California Lilac) - Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 2-5ft.  
Syringa (Lilac) - Bees and Butterflies.  
Assorted varieties Ht 4-12ft.  
Physocarpus (Ninebark) - Butterflies, Bees and Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 4-10ft.  
Viburnum - Bees. Assorted varieties Ht 4-10ft.



**Orange-rumped Bumblebee on Pieris blooms**



**Red Admiral Butterfly on Black Elderberry flowers**





Red Admiral Butterfly on Buddleia Flowers



Red Admiral Butterfly on Itea (Sweetspire)



Swallowtail Butterfly on Vitex Flowers



White Admiral Butterfly on Clethra (Summersweet)

Spirea - Bees and Butterflies. Assorted varieties  
Ht 3ft-6ft.

**Summer/Fall Blooming Shrubs for Morning Sun/Afternoon Shade/Full Sun**

Hardy Fuchsia - Hummingbirds.

Assorted varieties Ht to 5ft.

Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea) - Bees.  
Ht to 5ft.

**Summer/Fall Blooming Shrubs for Sun**

Buddleia (Butterfly Bush) - Bees and Butterflies.  
Assorted varieties Ht 3-6ft.

Caryopteris - Bees, Butterflies and Hummingbirds.  
Assorted varieties Ht 3-5ft.

Clethra (Summersweet) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 3-6ft.

Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 6-12ft.

Lagerstroemia (Crape Myrtle) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 3-10ft.

Itea (Summersweet) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 3-6ft.

Sambucus (Elderberry) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 5-10ft.

Vitex (Chaste Tree) - Bees, Butterflies and  
Hummingbirds. Assorted varieties Ht 8-10ft.



# A Friend In Seed

**There are things you can do to help our feathered friends survive the cold of winter.**

**by  
Therese Gustin**



**Hummingbird feeder**

This summer has proven to be the best year ever for bird watching in our backyard. As often as possible my husband and I like to start the morning with a cup of coffee in hand watching the diverse array of wildlife that stops by to partake of the nectars, feeders and watering holes we provide for them. Binoculars in hand we sit on the deck and try to identify all the species of birds that visit the feeders for a bit of energy to help them on their way. They spend a lot of time resting (and singing) in the shrubs and trees on the property as well. One day we had

woodpeckers, chickadees, sparrows, hummingbirds, finches, Stellar's jays, mourning doves, flickers and juncos all feeding on the suet in the suet feeders, the hulled birdseed in the squirrel-proof feeder and the nuggets that fell on the ground. It was like someone said..."Hey! Party in the Gustin's backyard! Meet you there!" It provided hours of entertainment for us! We've tried to create a habitat that will encourage birds and butterflies to visit our backyard and this year we've been rewarded with more species and just general numbers of our feathered friends than ever

before!

We look forward to this relaxing time outside observing nature in our own backyard but we know it won't last much longer. As the temperatures cool down and the leaves fall, many species of birds will start their journey south for the winter. To help them on their way and provide much needed sustenance for those bird species that do remain during our winters, there are things you can do to provide the vital nutrients and water they need to survive.

**Water**



Birds need water to drink in winter just as in the rest of the year but they also need to bathe to keep their feathers clean. This helps them keep warm as the temperatures dip. Keeping fresh unfrozen water in your birdbath is vital. You can keep water from freezing by using a simple electric de-icer. There are also thermostatically controlled de-icers available.

Most birds prefer shallow birdbaths generally no deeper than three inches. They like a birdbath that gradually slopes as they land on the edge and wade into the water. They also prefer a rough surface for easier gripping.

Check the water in your birdbath daily during the winter and refill when needed. Moving water is even better. We keep our bubbler fountain running all winter and see many birds drinking and "showering" in it during the cold season.

### Food

With less natural plant material, seed heads, insects, etc. available in the winter, birds rely more



**Bird bath heaters**







and more on birdseed provided in feeders and high quality suet. Without flowers readily available hummingbirds get their nectar from hummingbird feeders.

The Backyard Birdshop states that "Birds are remarkably efficient at using the energy contained in food, especially energy-rich seeds and nuts. Foods can be passed completely through their digestive systems in approximately 15 minutes. What energy is not used immediately is converted to thick fat deposits which fuel the bird through the night."



Black oil sunflower seeds appeal to about 90% of the birds found in the Portland/Vancouver area. It's a great choice for an all around nutritious food for feeding birds in the winter. Keeping the food dry is a challenge in our wet climate. If you have a wood feeder it should have a large solid roof and preferably have a mesh floor. You can purchase plastic "umbrellas" to go over your bird feeder if it isn't designed to keep out water.

A good quality suet made from beef kidney provides the needed





Supplies mentioned in this article can be found at all of the Backyard Birdshop locations.

#### **Beaverton**

11429 SW Bvtn-Hillsdale Hwy  
Beaverton, OR 97005  
(503) 626-0949  
Mon-Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-5

#### **Lake Oswego**

16949 S.W. 65th Ave.  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
(503) 620-7454  
Mon-Sat: 10-6; Sun 10-5

#### **NE Portland**

1419 N.E. Fremont St  
Portland, OR 97212  
(503) 445-2699  
Mon-Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-5

#### **West Linn**

22000 Willamette Dr  
West Linn, OR 97068  
(503) 303-4653  
Mon-Sat: 10-6; Sun: 10-5

#### **Vancouver**

8101 N.E. Parkway Dr  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
(360) 253-5771  
Mon-Thu: 10-6; Fri: 10-7;  
Sat: 10-6; Sun: 11-5



fat to help birds survive the cold temperatures. Lesser quality suets contain shortening and tallow. Believe me, suet ingredients make a difference. I've bought inexpensive low quality suet in the past and it sat there in the feeder untouched and turning moldy. I've had to throw away many uneaten blackened suet cakes over the years. I truly believe in purchasing (or making) quality suet! The birds will thank you and you will be rewarded with lots of activity on your feeder. I buy Backyard Birdshop's 'Just Bugs' suet. It provides insects and fat, two foods sorely lacking in winter.

### Shelter

In nature, birds rest and take shelter from cold and wind on branches in densely wooded trees and shrubs and in holes in trees. Sometimes they will use a bird house to protect them from the weather or to get some rest. If natural vegetation is lacking in your backyard, providing a roosting pocket can help small birds escape the harsh weather or provide a sleeping spot at night.

Although the harsh winter weather will keep us inside, we still want to provide food, water and shelter for all the birds who decide to pass through our backyard this winter. Who knows...they may be back next spring and summer to entertain us again!



Hummingbird feeder



Dome covered feeder



Mesh bottom feeder

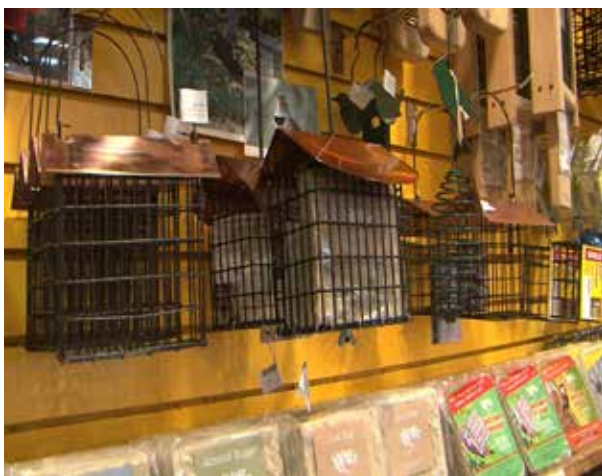


Suet block



Nesting houses





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# Roast of the Town

**Nella Chestnut Farm  
throws a party to  
bring family and  
friends together and  
enjoy the unique  
flavor of chestnuts.**

**by Judy Alleruzzo**



My favorite holiday song is "The Christmas Song" but I call it the "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" song and so enjoy the version sung by Nat King Cole. I love the image of the roasting chestnuts and the sentiment of the Merry Christmas wishes. Several years ago, Garden Time first met Bernardo Nella at his Chestnut Farm in Hood River. It was truly the first day of the Christmas season for me, roasting chestnuts, beautiful scenery and being with my GT friends.

Bernardo and Nella Chestnut Farm gives us all that feeling of the Christmas season with a huge party every November. It's a party to bring family and friends together to enjoy the unique flavor of chestnuts. Bernardo's favorite way to eat chestnuts is warm from the fire pit and dropped in a glass of red wine. The warm chestnut flavors the wine and in turn absorbs the wine. It's a delicious fall treat!

The party of the Annual Chestnut Roast on November 4th and 5th includes a "U-Pick" of the 'Colossal' variety of chestnuts, a welcoming fire and wine from a local winery. This weekend will be a great time to go out to the Hood River area and see the change of the season and also the change to the landscape after the horrendous fires in the Gorge. Nella Farm is not too far from where the fires burned so many

acres of the woodland of The Gorge. The farm was spared from any damage. The Annual Chestnut Roast will be a celebration that the fires are gone and it's time to look forward to the holidays.

In years past, Bernardo and a few workers would harvest the chestnuts in addition to an honor system "U-Pick". This year will be a little different as he has changed over completely to a "U Pick" orchard. He told me it's pretty easy to harvest the chestnuts.

Here are the steps:

Step 1 - Wear sturdy boots and bring a pair of leather or heavy duty gloves

Step 2 - Step on the chestnut's spiny husks lying beneath the trees.

Step 3 - Carefully take the nuts from the husk. They are ready to roast and then enjoyed with a glass of red wine.

You can watch the Garden Time interview with Bernardo Nella from Episode 420, November 5, 2016 for more information.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/plyquJ7SB1A>





**Nella Farm Annual Chestnut Roast**



**View of Mt Hood from Nella Chestnut Farm**



**Caldarosto Andrea Masotti,  
Traditional Italian Roaster**

# Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



## Local Events November 2017

### Evening of Lights

Thursday, November 2, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(S)

Friday, November 3, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00 pm(V)

Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(W)

Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 3:00pm-7:00pm(G)

Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood(S), Wilsonville(V),  
Woodburn(W), Gresham(G), OR

Come join in the festivities with our Poinsettia collection, designer-decorated Christmas trees, and the latest Holiday decor. Our warm greenhouse is the perfect place to enjoy live holiday music, delicious food and drink, and other Christmas treats!

• [www.als-gardencenter.com](http://www.als-gardencenter.com)

### Mumvember

Wednesdays, November 1-30, 2017

Lan Su Chinese Gardens, Portland, OR

During the month of November, Lan Su Chinese Garden will be packed with more than 750 potted chrysanthemums artistically displayed throughout the garden.

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

### Christmas in the Garden

November 24, 2017-December 31, 2017

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

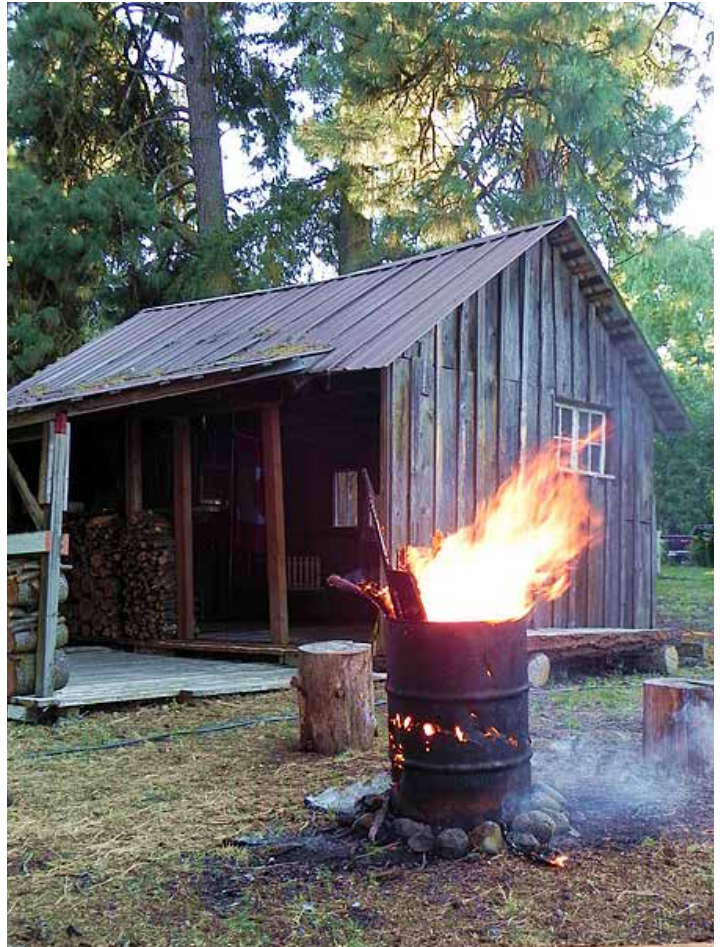
Enjoy 600,000 Christmas lights, ice skating, snowless tubing, artisan vendors, fire pits, carolers and Santa, Wednesday-Sunday evenings.

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



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







## Roasting Chestnuts

Roasting Chestnuts is an easy process with just a few tips for success.

- Using a very sharp knife, cut an X into the chestnut's outer shell.
- Make sure you cut through the shell. This opening lets steam escape while the chestnuts are roasting. If not cut, the chestnut will explode.
- Place the chestnuts in a single layer on a cookie sheet.
- Roast in a 400° oven for 25-30 minutes.
- Peel off the outer shell and enjoy the chestnuts while they are still warm from the oven.
- If you have a fire pit, you can also roast them in a pan over banked coals once the flames have died down.

Add about a tsp. of oil or butter to coat about a pound of chestnuts.



Chestnuts with cross cut for roasting



Roasted chestnuts in the oven

This fall, Bernardo and his daughter Stefanie, invite you to the party at the Annual Chestnut Roast at their Farm on November 4th and 5th. The fire pit will be stoked to roast chestnuts and wine will be available for that special drink. Don't forget to bring your gloves and boots to pick up chestnuts to take home. And of course, start practicing that favorite Christmas carol, "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...."

### Annual Chestnut Roast

November 4th & 5th  
Noon to 4pm

Nella Chestnut Farm  
3435 Neal Creek Rd,  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(800) 400-3658

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



Bernardo and Stefanie Nella



# Curried Flavor

Curry powder ingredients vary, but turmeric is always included.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.NUTRITIONISMEDICINE.CA

## Turmeric is a culinary and medicinal sensation, 4,500 years in the making. by David Musial

The popularity of an herb or spice is directly proportional to its culinary status and current interest in medicinal value. Based on that, the popularity of turmeric is understandable. Middle Eastern cuisine has become one of the hottest food trends and turmeric plays a major role. Additionally, current research is confirming what many have believed for years, turmeric has medicinal value.

Curcuma longa or turmeric is cultivated primarily for its rhizome. It is a member of the ginger fam-

ily, zingiberacea and originated in India. The plant spread through the trade of its rhizome, which is similar to the ginger rhizome, and had traveled throughout Asia and into Africa by the 9th century. It is believed that turmeric was grown in the Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

In addition to its culinary use, it has been used medicinally for over 4500 years. The deep golden-yellow color recognizable in Buddhist monk robes and the

saris of India comes from a dye made from the turmeric rhizome.

With India being the largest supplier of turmeric, it is not surprising that it is widely used in Indian cuisine. It lends an earthy pungent taste and a slight aroma of orange or ginger, while lending a brilliant yellow color. Classic use is in dahl or lentils, or gobi ki sabzi also known as dry cauliflower curry. Most of us are familiar with turmeric as an ingredient in curry powder.



Turmeric is currently experiencing serious medical interest, but it has been used medicinally for years. Developed in India, Ayurvedic medicine is over 3,000 years old and turmeric had a key role. Ayurvedic translates to science of life. Turmeric juice was used for bruises and a paste for skin blemishes. To alleviate congestion, turmeric was burned and the fumes were inhaled.

Today, extensive research is being done into turmeric's antioxidant properties. Results are not conclusive at this time, but other testing is being done on the chemical component of turmeric, curcuminoids. These studies include the areas of cancer, diabetes and pain control. Generally considered safe, a doctor should still always be consulted when using natural remedies.

Turmeric has also been used as a dye for years. Making your own dye naturally is easy. All you need is some turmeric, preferably fresh and some vinegar. For a recipe, take a look on-line. Do know that turmeric dye is known to fade over time, however, if it does, you can just dye the material again.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.NOTEY.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.HAMPTONSLIFE.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM



Lots of turmeric supplements are available.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.2.KQED.ORG

In the past, turmeric was only available dry, but it can now be found fresh in Asian markets as well as most health food markets. When buying fresh turmeric, look for firm pieces with no noticeable mold. Store fresh turmeric wrapped in a paper towel and place in a plastic bag stored in the refrigerator. It should keep for one to two weeks.

When using fresh turmeric, it can be grated, similar to ginger. Oh yeah, when handling fresh turmeric you may want to wear gloves to avoid yellow hands!

Side note...if you buy ground saffron; know your supplier, as ground turmeric is quite often labeled as ground saffron. If you've ever bought saffron, you know it is the most expensive

sive spice in the world and you don't want to pay saffron prices for ground turmeric.

Although turmeric is a tropical plant, it can be grown in the garden, even the Northwest garden. However, a few considerations are in order. The first consideration is where to get the turmeric tuber. The primary options are from mail order or your grocer. Most mail order turmeric will be organic and include growing directions. Fresh turmeric from the store though, may have been treated chemically to retard root growth. If you buy from your health food store, it is less likely to have been treated and may be a better

option.

Next is when and where to start your growing operation. Since turmeric is temperature sensitive and takes eight to nine months to mature, here in the Northwest that means starting indoors. To determine when to start, count back nine months from first frost and start your rhizome at that time. A warm sunny window will be needed to help your turmeric grow indoors.

Turmeric can go in the ground the same time that your peppers can be planted and prefers a well drained soil. It will reach about three feet in height, so space accordingly. Harvest the rhizome as late as possible, but before the soil temperature drops below 50-55 degrees.

One other option is to buy turmer-

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.MOINDANDBODYWELL.COM



The golden-yellow color of turmeric.



ic plants on-line. This will avoid the need to grow indoors and the plant received will be sent to your area at the proper time for planting.

Final word on the subject matter has to do with spelling. The correct spelling is turmeric, not tumeric. I can't count the number of times I misspelled the word in this article...oh yes I can, just count the number of times the word turmeric appears in this article. Guess I should also stop pronouncing it tū·mer·ic!

I leave you with a curry powder recipe that can be used in rice, on vegetables or meat. For a twist, try in your deviled eggs. There are as many variations of curry spice as there are cooks in India. However, this is a great recipe that can be used anytime curry spice is needed.

## Curry Powder

Makes about 1/3 c

4 T coriander seed  
2 T cumin seed  
1 T cardamom seed  
1 t mustard seed  
1 T ground turmeric  
1 tsp cayenne  
(use paprika for some or all of the cayenne to adjust the heat level)

Lightly toast the coriander, cumin, cardamom and mustard seed in a hot skillet. Allow to cool and combine with turmeric and cayenne. Grind in a spice grinder or use a mortar and pestle to grind.

Store in a spice jar in a dark cupboard.  
Will keep 6-12 months.

Starting your turmeric indoors gives you a jump on the Northwest growing season.





# Like a Rock

**When the city of Castle Rock needed a makeover, they found a champion in Nancy Chennault.**

**by Judy Alleruzzo**

**Jim and Nancy Chennault**

The "Horties" we pick for the GT magazine are chosen for their love of plants. Once we start researching and talking with them, we learn just how deep that passion runs. I have known Nancy Chennault for over ten years when she was a sales rep for WeHoP! Plant Brokerage Company.

She always had a trial garden at her home as a showcase for her customers to check out new plant varieties in a garden setting. A garden setting is much better than seeing them in a catalogue!

She and her husband Jim also ran a small business called All Season Nursery. They both had so much energy, it was just amazing.

In 2005, Nancy and Jim moved to Castle Rock, Washington to a new home with the outline of a garden and space for a small greenhouse. They also opened a new nursery called 'The Plant Station'. They grew plants for wholesale customers and also sold plants at the local farmers' market.

Nancy retired from WeHoP! in 2010 and moved her energy to the nursery and to local projects. When I heard she had retired, I thought she was going to kick back and enjoy her grand kids and her garden. Wow, was I wrong!

In 2011, Nancy volunteered for the spring 'Clean Up Day' of getting the town ready for the summer season. The townspeople love beautiful flowers and they want to show them off to all the summer visitors. Castle Rock was the gateway to Mount St Helens even before the famous eruption in 1980. According to the community profile, the town also boasts "an award winning Riverfront Trail System, Castle Rock Bike Park (for mountain bike training), North County Sports Complex and the Al Helenberg Boat Launch, (for access to abundant salmon and steelhead fishing on the Cowlitz River)."

That clean up day, 100 containers were planted all sponsored by local businesses. It was a busy and successful day. Knowing Nancy's background in the horticulture industry, she was asked to help Castle Rock be more beautiful with more displays of flowers. Nancy told me, "They just wanted more."

Nancy contacted her industry friends and they kept mentioning the America in Bloom program. Their mission statement is, "America in Bloom promotes nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements." This program was exactly what Nancy and her friends in Castle Rock were



looking for to help them achieve their goals. They began competing in the America in Bloom National Awards Program in 2012 and have entered every year since then.

I was excited to interview Nancy for the GT magazine. It was several years ago that I had visited her Castle Rock garden. My Mom was in town and we drove up to see Nancy and the trial plants in her garden. It was a very warm summer day for a garden tour but there was a treat of Nancy's homemade cookies. We kept in contact and I got invited every summer to The Bloomin' Tour to see her garden, the plant trials and the award winning America in Bloom city of Castle Rock. I finally made it back to see Nancy this fall. Instead of interviewing her on the phone or through emails, we made a date to meet and I drove to Castle Rock to check out the town in its fall glory. Even though it was mid October, the summer annuals still looked pretty nice. I hadn't been there since that summer garden tour and the change was immense. I remember it as a pretty town but it was more filled out with flower displays everywhere. All the baskets in the downtown streets were gone for the season, but island beds in the streets were still in bloom, flower beds in front of businesses were still in full color and there were still two hanging baskets on display on the porch of the visitor's center. The chartreuse sweet potato vines were touching the ground. This brand new visitor's center is a rustic log cabin style building found just off the Castle Rock exit 49 off I-5. It was dedicated in 2016. This was the beginning of my visit with Nancy and the amazing tour of Castle Rock, too.

Since Nancy has so many plant breeder contacts, she was the natural person to organize the plant choices to grow for the hanging baskets, containers and flower beds around town. She had been a big fan of the "Proven Winners" breeding program when she worked for WeHoP! She still loved their plants and contacted them to help Castle Rock become this mecca of flowers. "Our commitment to the PW program is because of all my years growing annuals and perennials, I have intimate experience with the PW plants and they have sent me samples to grow of the new varieties for 17-18 years. We get the samples donated for the next year's plants, like the 2018 you saw at city hall and the PW Color Choice Shrubs are donated from the PW booth at Farwest each year for the display garden at the visitor center and the rest are purchased from N & M or Van Essen or other PW suppliers. We understand how recognizable the "PW" logo is and how it invites more people into our town to enjoy the flowers. We confidently choose PW plants for their diversity and performance." The ongoing use of their plants is a perfect trial garden for all their customers to observe and for all visitors and townspeople to enjoy.

Nancy knows a lot of people in Castle Rock and



**2017 AIB Convention: Castle Rock wins in Population under 3500 category.**



**Nancy accepting the Community Champion Award in 2014**





**Baskets growing at the high school**

her passion for plants is contagious. She spread the word to get more volunteers involved and the America in Bloom idea just blossomed from there. This awesome group of about 100 volunteers call themselves '98611' after their zip code. They are diligent in planting, watering and fertilizing and just plain caring for the whole town's planters. Yes, the Public Works does their big share of work too, but I think this combined effort is what makes Castle Rock so special as everyone cares so much. Nancy is the catalyst in all of this organizing. She works with Mayor Paul Helenberg and Public Works Director, David Vorse too. They all have the same goals in mind and Nancy brings the plant material, knowledge and experience to the table.

That first year organizing and growing all the annuals was a big undertaking. Nancy partnered with the high school faculty and students to grow hundreds of Proven Winners annuals for the hanging baskets. That year worked out great and the program has been successful for the Horticulture classes and the town's baskets. The '98611 Volunteers' also help to mentor the Horticulture students. It's the handing down of plant knowledge to this next generation that will keep Castle Rock looking beautiful in the years to come. More greenhouse space was needed for many more annual plants. Nancy knows growers in the area and which grower has what expertise and space to grow flowering plants for Castle Rock. These allies help round out the massive growing effort for the spring crop.



**Christmas greens baskets**

After all this organizing and planning, the planting day finally arrives. During the spring 'Clean Up Day', the flower beds are weeded and planted, sidewalks are swept and hanging baskets are installed by the '98611 Volunteers', volunteers from local businesses, scores of community members and the Public Works Department. It's a day of hard work but a lot of smiles can still be seen by day's end. And in that one day, Castle Rock is in bloom!



**Nancy pushes a wheel barrow**

Nancy just doesn't organize she designs landscapes too. I asked if she had formal design training but she kind of laughed that off and said she just loves plants and wants to make beautiful gardens. She has designed the landscape around the local Chevron Station, the Bioswale by City Hall and the new visitor center. She divides perennials from her own garden, digs up shrubs from her own landscape and replants them in areas around town. She is that kind of gardener who shares her plants with all her neighbors and friends. 'Proven Winners' has expanded their breeding program to include not just annuals but more perennials and shrubs. They have also donated many of these plants too.

Physocarpus (Ninebark), Hydrangea 'Bobo' and shrub Rose 'Oso Easy Cherry Pie' are used all over Castle Rock. Nancy and the volunteers know that they can depend on these varieties to be successful



easy care plants. The repetition of the color, texture and form are a unifying factor in town too.

The tour continued downtown where we stopped to get a coffee at Vault Books and Brew, a bookstore and coffee shop housed in the original bank building of Castle Rock. Nancy knows everyone and she stopped to talk to the barista and a few people and as we ordered our "Mountain Huckleberry/White Chocolate Volcano Mocha", we talked more about the America in Bloom program that Castle Rock has participated in for the past five years, winning several awards over the years. This program includes 44 cities across the US that compete for being THE BEST city in their population category. The America in Bloom judges review and evaluate each city in six categories, Floral Displays, Landscape Areas, Urban Forestry, Environmental Efforts, Heritage Preservation and Overall Impression. Efforts are evaluated in four sectors: municipal, commercial, residential, and community involvement. Towns and cities work diligently all year long with planting and caring for their community. Judges tour the towns and the winners are announced at the America in Bloom Symposium held each September. This year's symposium was held in Boston and Nancy, Jim and several townspeople attended the Awards Celebration. Castle Rock won First Place in the 'Population' category of towns with population under 3500. Castle Rock has only about 2120 people! They also were 3rd in the nation for 'Landscape Displays' and a special mention in 'Floral Display'.

I asked Nancy what is the competition like? She said "It is stimulating, encouraging, challenging-plus we get a comprehensive evaluation of our town. The judges give a critique of the town with ideas for improvements. It's the best use of consultation dollars."

Our coffee break ended and since it was a sunny day, we walked down a few blocks to see more of the streetscape and fall decorations. The sidewalk concrete planters were still in bloom with corn stalks tied to lampposts and pink pumpkins supporting Breast Cancer Awareness at almost every doorway. As I said, Nancy knows everyone in town, so she took me to meet Josh Vorse at Pollen Floral Works, the new floral shop in town. Josh was born and raised in Castle Rock but moved to California to open a flower shop. Now with all that knowledge and experience, he has come home to open a new business in revitalized Castle Rock. In 2010, vacant store fronts were 39% and as of summer of 2016, that statistic had dropped to 8%. This October, a new outdoor gear store opened up and only a few vacant windows are sprinkled among established businesses. I'm sure there are many factors leading to this upsurge of new business in Castle Rock, but I think the driving force is the community spirit in town and all of their beautiful flowers!!



Castle Rock billboard



Volunteer kid team



Volunteers caring for plants





**Planters in front of businesses**

Nancy drove me past roadway island flower beds, raised flower boxes and Gateway Park, where the next door dentist office plans, plants and cares for the floral display, other volunteers mow the grass and take care of the rest of this mini park. The pride of ownership shines through to all.

As we drove out past the high school, I asked what Christmas displays are on the schedule of projects for the '98611 Volunteers'? She told me about the huge evergreen bough baskets that are assembled and installed on the lampposts. The concrete planters along the sidewalks and raised beds around town are cleaned of summer annuals and evergreen boughs are stuck into the soil. Ribbons and Christmas bling are added to complete the design. She said Christmas lights are hung everywhere, including the town billboard promoting their America in Bloom awards. It sounds like quite the display!

We finally arrived at the Chennault home and gardens. It is even more expansive than I remember. I counted six or eight green and red bananas in the ground and in containers. More containers are on the front porch and back deck and everywhere there are flowers. Lots of trees and shrubs give structure to the garden and frame the house plus there's a grassy area to stretch out on a warm summer evening. It's lovely! I think her garden gnomes come alive at night to help with the plants. It's a lot for two people to take care of but Nancy and her



**City Hall in the summer**



**Island planter**



husband Jim of "45.75" years are up to this task. It's truly a labor of love. My favorite part of the whole scene is the Secret Garden Trail that Nancy and Jim created for their grandkids and other young ones that visit the garden. There are a few mini fairy gardens complete with animals in a corral, all seven Dwarfs of Sleeping Beauty fame, Santa Claus riding a horse and lots of Mardi Gras beads hanging from the trees. It seemed we were in our own little world as we walked through this leafy wonderland. What a fun space for kids to play!

Before I left to drive home, Nancy handed me the list of questions I had emailed to her a few weeks before my visit to Castle Rock. I didn't read them until I got home. One question was about her 2014 America in Bloom Community Champion Award. She is a very humble person and as a response to that question, she had circled the word community and wrote two exclamation points above that word. I looked up the award on the America in Bloom website and found this quote from her award, "Nancy has a unique talent for recruiting Castle Rock, Washington volunteers and making them feel appreciated. Her selfless and energetic promotion of local volunteerism has created a positive can-do attitude in our community." That about sums up Nancy Chennault. Whether being an awesome plant sales rep, a landscape designer or a community volunteer, she brings that positive and happy spirit with her. She's a great person that happens to love plants too.

I know Nancy and her '98611' friends are always thinking of the future. I asked what will be on the agenda for 2018. She told me there will be 22 more hanging baskets added to the downtown area plus they will be completing the visitor center landscape. Nancy told me there is a plant combination planning meeting coming up. Everyone gets together to talk annual flower varieties for hanging baskets, flower beds and containers for all of Castle Rock. What flowers, colors and textures will be chosen for 2018? You'll just have to take a ride up to Castle Rock next summer.

You may even see Nancy caring for the beautiful flowers around town. Make sure you stop and say "hi!"

**Castle Rock Facebook**  
<http://ci.castle-rock.wa.us/>

**America in Bloom**  
[www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org)

**Proven Winners**  
<https://www.provenwinners.com>



City Hall in the summer



Hanging baskets in spring



# Leaves of Grass

**After a hot and dry summer, our lawns are finally turning green again. Now is the time to prepare them for a long winter's nap.**

by Ron Dunevant

The daylight ebbs and the darkness flows. There is a distinct chill in the air. The winds kick up, the rains return and leaves commence their annual transformation from hues of green to palettes of yellow, orange, red and brown. As for all things, there is a season, and these are the unmistakable signs of autumn in the Northwest, a time of celebration for some and dread for others.

As humans, we sometimes need a bit of time to adjust to the changing seasons. Perhaps we turn the heat up a bit or pull out a favorite sweater. We also bask in the warmth of a sunny day and shift our habits from outdoor activities to indoor pursuits.

Our plants are no different, and as we begin the ritual of tucking our photosynthetic friends into their winter beds, don't forget the

one resident who probably occupies the lion's share of your real estate: your lawn.

If you have allowed your grass to go dormant over the summer then you are probably thrilled (and a bit relieved) to see it return to its emerald splendor after several months of hay-like hues. You can water all summer, tend, trim, weed and feed, but nothing renews your sod like the return of the fall rains. Funny how a few days of cooler temperatures and Northwest precipitation can perk up the lawn. It's a testament to the resilience of Mother Nature.

With living proof that the fescue did not "take a dirt nap" during the hot days of summer, you may be tempted to move on to more pressing projects, but this is the time of year when your lawn needs you more than ever. Winter

is coming, and the stress of the changing seasons weighs just as heavily on turf as it does on any other plant. The steps you take now will determine how good your lawn looks for the next year, so take a little time to make sure your grass has everything it will need to weather the winter and shine in the spring.

Here are the most important things you can do to prepare your lawn for the upcoming seasons:

## CLEAN UP

Summer, with its warm weather and long days is the perfect time to enjoy our yards, and it's usually easy to keep things in order. But, how quickly things change! Once we hit autumn, within a couple of weeks, your turf can be covered with leaves, twigs, fallen fruit, branches and debris from the returning rain and winds.

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS/MARTYN WRIGHT



Leaves, especially when they get wet, can suffocate your lawn in no time. Plus, the constant moistness can create a breeding ground for disease and mold.

All of this rubbish and rubble can kill your grass and it has to go. Begin by removing the largest branches or fallen fruits. Then, a leaf blower, leaf vacuum or a rake can take care of leaves and debris. After that, a good mowing can remove what remains. If you have a lot of leaves or debris, sometimes the best results come from a good old-fashioned raking. It may take you a little longer, but if the leaves are wet, heavy or compacted, you'll definitely get better results. As our deciduous trees don't shed their coats all at once (wouldn't THAT be nice!), you may need to perform this step several times before this project is completed for the season.

## MOW

During the summer, you may have



**A blanket of leaves can suffocate your lawn. Blow them away or rake them up.**

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**A thick layer of thatch will hinder your lawn and encourage insects and disease. Remove it.**

raised the height of your mower to help your grass stay green during the hot and dry conditions. Now, in the fall, you should lower it back down. A height of about two inches is good for most Northwest lawns. If this creates a lot of clippings, you can leave some of it on the lawn -- the mulch will provide valuable nutrients and protect the crowns of the grass plants.

## **REMOVE THATCH**

Thatch is a layer of organic matter that lies between the green blades of grass and the soil. If the layer of thatch is too thick (more than 1/2 inch), it can create conditions that encourage lawn insects and disease. Breaking through the layer of thatch helps create and maintain healthy grass roots. Spring and fall are the best times to remove thatch, but if you haven't removed it in a while, don't overdo it. Digging into the turf too deeply can destroy the lawn. A handheld thatching rake will do the trick, but be warned, it is not a fast process by hand. If you have a large yard or limited time, like many people, you may choose to rent a power rake for this task.

## **AERATE**

Aeration, in the case of your lawn, is the act of pulling up plugs of turf and creating pockets where air and moisture can get to the roots. It is one of the most important elements in fall lawn care. Aeration reduces soil compaction and thatch, improves drainage and loosens the soil. However, it can be expensive. Some lawn maintenance companies will charge close to \$100 to aerate even a small yard. You can rent a lawn-aerating machine for the job, but if you have the time and energy, you can purchase a hand aerator from a local garden center for about \$20. To make the task more manageable, work on small sections and spread the job over several days or a couple of weeks. Be sure your aerator is "pulling" plugs from the ground, and not



**If you have the time and energy, a hand-aerator is an inexpensive way to improve the health of your lawn.**



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TRIP BOOKED THROUGH





just compacting the soil, which will make things even worse. With a hand-aerator, you may need to clean the tool several times during use.

## RESEED

Reseeding can help fill in a thin lawn or cover bare spots. It also allows you to add a new variety of grass to your lawn in areas that aren't performing as well as you would like. Grass may need re-seeding if the thatch layer is too thick. The best time to reseed your lawn is just as the weather starts to cool but well before the threat of frost. September or October are best, but in early November, if you have a bare spot and some grass seed handy, you may still have some success. This year especially, with our dry and warm weather continuing into late October, the ground is still warm. For small areas that are bare, sprinkle the seeds over the turf, and then spread compost or topsoil on the lawn, about one-half-inch thick. Then, gently rake the soil and seeds into the grass. Give the seed early morning and evening water until they germinate. This is where the fall rains may save you a little work. Plan to evaluate your reseeding efforts

again in early spring.

## FERTILIZE

Early autumn is the best time to fertilize, but if you're behind schedule, it's better to do so late than never. Your lawn's growth slows during the cooler months as it begins to store nutrients for the winter. By fertilizing in the fall, you help your lawn build up reserves, which makes it easier to survive a harsh (or even mild) winter. The summer heat and drought can damage even the best lawns, and adding back in nitrogen and potassium are crucial to help your grass repair and recover, as well as to protect against diseases, which can get a leg up on your lawn when it is most stressed. If your lawn has interlopers, such as clover or weeds, you can put down a "weed & feed" fertilizer to take care of both jobs.

## GET RID OF MOSS

Just like grass, moss will go dormant during hot and dry weather. You may think it is gone, but as soon as the rain returns, moss can come back with a vengeance. Moss is an opportunist: It takes over when your lawn is not doing well, usually in shady areas or due to

poor drainage or compacted soil. You can apply a moss killer during any period when moss is actively growing, from late autumn through spring. For the best results, however, focus your efforts on improving conditions for the lawn. As the health of the grass improves, the moss will abate on its own.

## TAKE NOTES

Lawn maintenance is one of those tasks that seems to be never-ending, probably because it is! As we get busy, the seasons change and time seems to pass faster than ever, it may be difficult to remember what you did and when. Recording your efforts will help you to determine, from year to year, what works and what doesn't. You should take pictures, too, so you can compare before and after. Lawns can take a lot of work and buying fertilizers, moss killers, weed killers, grass seed and other amendments costs money, not to mention the investment in tools and the price of water. By keeping track of your efforts, you will stop wasting your time and money on products or techniques that had less-than-satisfactory results the first time.



A "weed and feed" fertilizer will bolster your lawn and help get rid of interlopers, like clover.





Like virtue, a healthy lawn is its own reward.

### DO SOMETHING!

With shorter days comes the conundrum of fall lawn care: So much to do and so little time! Performing all the steps involved in lawn maintenance and winter prep may seem daunting, but the bottom line is this: do as much as you can. If your time is at a premium, concentrate on one task, like raking or fertilizing. Divide your yard into sections that you can work on in, say, a half hour or an hour. Then, when the weather allows, go out and focus on just that area or task. Sometimes it helps to have a little company. Make it a family project or enlist the help of a neighbor. Trade help with your lawn for your assistance on a neighbor's projects. Yardwork may always be a chore, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy it.

Thankfully, lawns are forgiving, and any effort, no matter how small, will be rewarded in the months to come.

## Available Now! 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



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Garden Time Iris

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**Garden Time**



# WTDITG

**We know the days get shorter beginning in June, but somehow it becomes most evident in November. Suddenly, it's dark when we get up and dark when we come home. For many gardeners, their time in the yard is confined to weekends. But less time doesn't have to mean unproductive time. There are many simple tasks you can perform in the fall that will improve your garden next year.**

## PLANNING

- Consider purchasing a live tree this year. Live trees brought in the house for the holidays are such a great tradition. Discuss the idea with your family this month and then get set to pick out this year's tree early while the selection is best.



begin to send up foliage. The alcohol helps to keep the growth shorter, not so tall and lanky that they fall over.

- Watch for very wet areas and begin planning how to tackle your poor drainage issues. One solution is to create a rain garden, something you see more and more in new developments and commercial sites. An area of a depression in the ground that collects the rainwater and allows the water to percolate downward instead of running off. You can plant red and yellow twig dogwoods, small bush type willows, like Arctic or Dappled willow to help soak up the water.



- Force some Paperwhites for some great smelling indoor flowers for the holidays. Pick them up this month before they are all gone. A tip; give them a shot of vodka (really) after they

## PLANTING

- Get the garlic planted. Fall is the time to plant garlic and if you haven't gotten them planted yet, do so this month. You'll be harvesting the tasty garlic next July.



long so plants don't mind being tucked into the soil now. In fact, they'll like it much more than sitting above ground this winter in a pot!

- Plant a cover crop in the veggie garden if you haven't yet. This is the last chance to get a green manure crop growing in winter.



- Feel confident to plant your landscape plants this month. Roots will grow a little all winter

- There is still time to get the spring bulbs planted. Don't put this off much longer. The sooner you get them in the ground in the fall the better the root development will be encouraging the best blossom display for next spring.



# What To Do In The Garden NOVEMBER

## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons. Many of your local garden centers have information on how to manage your overwintering bees.



- Dormant spray the trees and shrubs as needed this month with a registered spray. Dormant oils help to smother overwintering insects.

- Don't freak out when the evergreen conifers get some brown foliage showing now. Every fall the evergreens lose their oldest foliage; from the bottom upward and the center outward. This is normal and there is no need to panic.

- WAIT! Don't trim back shrubs and evergreens hard now. Cutting back plants now cuts away the parts of the plants that are signaling the rest of the plant that

cold weather is coming.

- Cut the roses to about 3-4' tall, no shorter. Cutting back too hard now exposes too much of the lower portions of the bush to the winter cold. You can cut them back lower next March.

- Don't cut back ornamental grasses. The seed heads are super pretty with frost on them and the birds get the seeds when they are ripe. The plants go through winter best



when intact. Next spring, the end of January or the first week of March, cut back the growth to 3 to 6 inches tall.

- Mulch the beds for winter cold protection. Leaves work well or a compost mulch. Mulches are great at stopping soil erosion and keeping the soil from compacting as a result of all the rain. Mulch-



ing the beds includes; the cane berries, shrubs, bulb areas and perennial flowers.

- Rhubarb and asparagus

beds: Protect and insulate these plants with a good dose of manure for winter.

- Lawn mower cleaned up and set for next year. If there is gas left in the tank you can get something called Sta-bil to add to the tank. This helps keep gas fresh for up to 12 months in stored equipment like lawn mowers.



- Get the irrigation system put away or blown out so no freeze damage takes place.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Check the stored potatoes to make sure nothing is rotting. Discard anything that is soft or rotting before it affects more of the stored tubers.

- Create a row cloche over crops of winter vegetables. A cloche is a small structure made of glass

or clear plastic or with reemay cloth, like Harvest Guard. It's placed over the top of cold sensitive

plants. Harvesting veggies all winter is going to be so yummy!



- Keep weeds from taking over in the winter. If you didn't plant a cover crop in time for winter protection, consider laying down wet black and white newspapers, 6 layers thick and covering with an organic compost mulch or manure.





# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

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**Art in the Garden - Mirrors of the Mind:  
The Noh Masks of Ohtsuki Kokun  
Thru December 3, 2017 • Garden Hours  
Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

Included with Garden Admission. Thirty hand-carved Noh masks by Ohtsuki Kokun and a selection of elegant brocade costumes from the traditional silk looms of Orinasu-kan in Kyoto bring the elusive world of Noh drama to Portland in the exhibition *Mirrors of the Mind: The Noh Masks of Ohtsuki Kokun*. The exhibition is highlighted by performances by Noh actor Kawamura Haruhisa, who has been designated an Intangible Cultural Asset, during the opening days of the exhibition. A demonstration of Noh mask carving will be presented by Mr. Ohtsuki, who will also be present for exhibition's opening days. This aristocratic form of theater art is vastly different from the exuberant peoples' art form of Kabuki.

**Mumvember  
Wednesdays, November 1-30, 2017  
Lan Su Chinese Gardens, Portland, OR**

During the month of November, Lan Su Chinese Garden will be packed with more than 750 potted chrysanthemums artistically displayed throughout the garden. More than 75 different chrysanthemum varieties will unfurl in all colors, shapes and sizes including: spiders, quills, spoons, regular incurves, irregular incurves, reflexes, semi-doubles, anemones, brush, thistle, exotics and more! Take in the oranges, reds and yellows of autumn to unusually bright pinks, pale lavenders, lime green, and even stripes of the chrysanthemum. Details at [www.lansugarden.org](http://www.lansugarden.org).

**Evening of Lights  
Thursday, November 2, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00pm  
Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, OR**

Come join in the festivities as Al's Garden & Home welcomes in the Christmas Season with our annual Evening of Lights. We'll showcase our Grown By Al's Poinsettia collection, designer-decorated Christmas trees, and the latest Holiday decor. Our warm greenhouse is the perfect place to enjoy live Holiday music, delicious food and drink, and other Christmas treats! Sherwood's Evening of Lights features Food from Tree's Catering, and Urban German. Wine from Tumwater Vinyard, and

**continued next column**

beer from Ancestry Brewing. Plus you'll find lots of other delicious holiday treats! The Grotto Carolers and Sherwood School's Mixolydians will provide the traditional Christmas carols, and Portland Jazz duo Basso a Deux will be performing your holiday favorites.

**Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase  
Friday, November 3, 2017  
Lan Su Chinese Gardens, Portland, OR**

Lan Su Chinese Garden hosts the Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase, Lan Su's annual floral design exhibition created in partnership with the Floral Design Institute. Ninth Moon is presented in conjunction with Mumvember, an annual celebration of the chrysanthemum. Details at [www.lansugarden.org](http://www.lansugarden.org).

**Evening of Lights  
Friday, November 3, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00 pm  
Al's Garden & Home, Wilsonville, OR**

Come join in the festivities as Al's Garden & Home welcomes in the Christmas Season with our annual Evening of Lights. We'll showcase our Grown By Al's Poinsettia collection, designer-decorated Christmas trees, and the latest Holiday decor. Our warm greenhouse is the perfect place to enjoy live Holiday music, delicious food and drink, and other Christmas treats! Wilsonville's Evening of Lights features food from Urban German, Wine from Tumwater Vineyard, and Beer from Ancestry Brewing. Plus, you'll find lots of other delicious holiday treats! Your favorite holiday music will be performed by Portland Jazz duo Basso a Deux.

**Kid's Club Birdseed Wreath  
Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 11:00am(W)  
Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 11:00am(S)  
Saturday, November 18, 2017 • 11:00am(G)  
Saturday, November 25, 2017 • 11:00am(V)  
Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood,  
Gresham, Wilsonville, OR**

As the weather turns colder outside, it is important to remember our feathered friends. We will use grapevine wreaths as our base and cover them with shortening and birdseed for a delightful treat. Learn more about our Pacific Northwest birds and what they need to survive the winter. Cost: \$7.50. Registration required.

**continued next page**





### **Annual Chestnut Roast**

**Saturday-Sunday, November 4-5, 2017**

**• 12:00pm-4:00pm**

**Nella Chestnut Farm, Hood River, OR**

Here at Nella Chestnut Farm, we combine our efforts with a local winery, Hood River Vineyards, and celebrate a chestnut roast with red wine, Italian Style. This 2017 event will be held on November 4th and 5th from noon to 4pm. Come join us for a fun filled day of enjoying chestnuts hot off an open fire and vino. According to Italian custom, the chestnuts are roasted, peeled and dropped into a glass of red wine. As the wine is sipped, the flavors and aromas of the chestnut mingle with the fruitiness of the wine, creating a unique sensation. More information at [www.nellachestnutfarm.com](http://www.nellachestnutfarm.com).

### **Evening of Lights**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 4:00pm-9:00pm**

**Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, OR**

Come join in the festivities as Al's Garden & Home welcomes in the Christmas Season with our annual Evening of Lights. We'll showcase our Grown By Al's Poinsettia collection, designer-decorated Christmas trees, and the latest Holiday decor. Our warm greenhouse is the perfect place to enjoy live Holiday music, delicious food and drink, and other Christmas treats! Woodburn's Evening of Lights features food from Top O' Hill, wine from St. Josef's Winery, & beer from Ancestry Brewing. Plus, you'll find lots of other delicious holiday treats! Your favorite holiday music will be performed by Portland Jazz duo Basso a Deux.

### **Plants for Lovely Winter Gardens**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 1:00pm**

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

With Magi Treece of Living Structures. The grey months don't have to be barren ones in your home garden! Magi, a talented and experienced garden designer, will share plant and design ideas for keeping it interesting with color, form and texture all winter long. It's not all conifers and evergreens – think berries, bark, and winter flowers for lively scenes outside your windows.

### **Plant Your Own Mixed Succulent Dish**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**continued next column**

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

With Jess of Portland Nursery. Bring gardening and planting fun indoors for the chilly season in this hands-on planting workshop. Portland Nursery staff member Jess will guide the group through a creative hour of selecting, arranging & planting indoor succulents to display in a sunny, indoor spot. All materials provided. Cost: \$30 (pay at register on day of class). Class size limited to 15 students.

### **Japanese Maple Pruning**

**Sunday, November 5, 2017 • 11:00am**

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

With Holly Beare of Eshraghi Nursery. Japanese maples provide distinctive color and texture to Northwest gardens. A lot of thought goes into choosing the right one, but then what? Join Holly Beare of Eshraghi Nursery to learn about how to prune your Japanese maple so that it thrives from planting to maturity.

### **Microgreens**

**Sunday • November 5 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Farmer Dan. Microgreens are tasty, tiny vegetable greens that are packed with nutrients and add a beautiful flair to your meals. Best of all they are super easy to grow! Join Farmer Dan for a lesson in how to grow your own microgreens right in your kitchen. The class is free but Farmer Dan will have microgreen kits for sale (cash or check only, please).

### **Winter Protection for the Vegetable Garden**

**Sunday, November 5, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. Cold frames, row covers, micro-mesh, plastic... there are so many options. Your vegetable plants will all benefit from having the right type of protection from the weather, from pests, and from pathogens. Get more out of your garden space by growing year-round. Come on in and get covered!

### **Holiday Mini-sessions with Crystal Genes Photography**

**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 10:00am(S)**

**Sunday, November 12, 2017 • 10:00am(V)**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 • 10:00am(G)**

**continued next page**





# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

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**Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 10:00am(W)**  
**Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, Wilsonville,**  
**Gresham, Woodburn, OR**

Once again, Crystal Genes Photography has partnered up with Al's Garden & Home to bring you quick and easy holiday mini-sessions! We will have a custom designed holiday set, just for this event! Session includes a 10 minute photo shoot and 1 full sized digital image of your choice; with printing rights. Holiday cards will be available. Additional images can be ordered after the session. 2 Adults/5 people max please. 2 back-to-back sessions must be purchased for more than 5 people.

**Little Sprouts: Fresh Greens Centerpiece**  
**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm**  
**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Our young gardeners will be taking fresh greens and creating beautiful centerpieces they can take home and display on their holiday tables or give as a gift to a friend or family member. Cost: \$7 per child.

**Beginning Windswept Style Bonsai Workshop**  
**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 11:00am-1:00pm**  
**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Create and take home a bonsai reminiscent of wind-swept Oregon coast conifers using a Japanese Garden Juniper. Learn about potting, wiring, styling and care. Fee: \$50 (Includes: Juniper, pot, soil, and wire) Instructor: Lee Cheatle, Portland Bonsai Society.

**Floral Design Demonstration**  
**Saturdays & Sundays, November 11-26, 2017**  
**• 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**Lan Su Chinese Gardens, Portland, OR**

Join local floral designers as they share tips for successful floral arrangements. Each designer featured is also a participant in the Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase, Lan Su's annual floral design exhibition.

Saturday, November 11 — Linda Golaszewski

Sunday, November 12 — Michelle Dummer

Saturday, November 18 — Annie Chen

Sunday, November 19 — Thang Ngo

Saturday, November 25 — Red Williams

Sunday, November 26 — Madeline Howard

Included with Lan Su membership or admission; no reg-

**continued next column**

istration is required.

**Lawn, What a Yawn! Alternatives for Greenspaces**  
**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Bonnie Bruce of Celilo Gardens. A lawn used to be every homeowners pride but because turf is a water hog, a maintenance hound and often chemically dependent, lawn is losing its appeal. Bonnie will explore other design options for the green turf as well as techniques for removal.

**Al's Poinsettia Greenhouse Tour**  
**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 2:00pm & 3:30pm**  
**Al's Garden & Home, Gresham, OR**

We're opening up our growing greenhouses in Gresham and allowing tours through our thousands of beautiful poinsettias. Due to the popularity of this tour, there are 2 sessions to choose from: 2:00 & 3:30pm. After the tour, welcome in the Christmas season at our Evening of Lights!

**Evening of Lights**  
**Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 3:00pm-7:00pm**  
**Al's Garden & Home, Gresham, OR**

Come join in the festivities as Al's Garden & Home welcomes in the Christmas Season with our annual Evening of Lights. We'll showcase our Grown By Al's Poinsettia collection, designer-decorated Christmas trees, and the latest Holiday decor. Our warm greenhouse is the perfect place to enjoy live Holiday music, delicious food and drink, and other Christmas treats! Gresham's Evening of Lights features food from Up N' Smoke BBQ Pit, and wine from Tumwater Vineyard. The Grotto Carolers will provide the traditional Christmas carols, and Portland Jazz duo Basso a Deux will be performing your holiday favorites. In Gresham, start your evening off with our Poinsettia Greenhouse Tour to see how we grow our thousands of beautiful poinsettias. Registration is required for the poinsettia tours.

**Grow Your Own Mushrooms**  
**Sunday, November 12, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Tony McMigas of McMigas Family Farm. Learn how  
**continued on page 42**



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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

to grow your own mushrooms with Tony McMigas, co-owner of McMigas Family Farm. He will share great tips and techniques for how to successfully grow many different types of mushrooms in the comfort of your own home and garden. Tony will have mushroom starter kits of Oyster mushrooms, Shiitake, Lions Mane, Reishi, and Stropharia, available for \$25.00 each, and plug spawn of Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms for growing on logs available for \$20.00/ bag of approx. 100 plugs. Cash or check please. User friendly instructions included. If properly cared for, these kits can provide years of fun-gal fun, potentially for a lifetime!

### **Crafty Cornucopia**

**Sunday, November 12, 2017 • 1:00pm**

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

Create a living cornucopia for your Thanksgiving table or as a lovely decorative piece in your home. Our Al's Experts will walk you through designing, planting, and caring for your very own succulent filled centerpiece. Plants provided may vary depending on supply. Cost: \$30.00.

### **Making a Terrarium**

**Sunday, November 12, 2017 • 1:00pm**

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

With Stephanie Willis of the Mt. Hood Gesneriad Society and the Oregon Orchid Society. If you've ever wanted to create a beautiful, natural terrarium, now you can learn from an expert. Stephanie Willis, of the Mt. Hood Gesneriad Society and the Oregon Orchid Society, will demonstrate how to plant a lovely rainforest-type terrarium. From tools making the task easier, creating proper drainage, choosing soil mix and sphagnum mulch, "landscaping" with rocks and branches, and selecting plants that behave and grow well together, Stephanie will guide you through the ins and outs of successful terrarium planting. She has given terrarium classes at the Oregon Orchid Society annual show, at garden society meetings, on Portland's Garden Time TV show, and has been growing begonias, gesneriads and orchids for over 35 years. Sign up and learn how to make a gorgeous terrarium for your home, or to give as gifts for the holidays.

### **WWW: Crafty Cornucopia**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017 • 4:30pm**

**Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, OR**

**continued next column**

Create a living cornucopia for your Thanksgiving table or as a lovely decorative piece in your home. Our Al's Experts will walk you through designing, planting, and caring for your very own succulent filled centerpiece. Plants provided may vary depending on supply. Cost \$35.00.

### **Olio Nuovo Festival**

**Fri.-Sun., November 17-19, 2017 • 10:00am-4:00pm**

**Red Ridge Farms, Dayton, OR**

Your first chance to taste and purchase this season's fresh, unfiltered extra virgin olive oil. Fresh Olio Nuovo is paired with complimentary seasonal appetizers and Durant Vineyards estate wine. Join us for a tour of our Olioteca (olive mill), enjoy live Italian music and experience some of Oregon's top food producers in the Local Fare Tent. Shop holiday greens and décor at the Red Ridge Farms Shop & Nursery. Free!

### **Bonsai Class: Topic TBA**

**Saturday, November 18, 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.

### **Bonsai Care for Fall and Winter**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Lucy Davenport of Bonsai Akira. Join this class to further develop your skills by learning seasonal care of both indoor and outdoor bonsai. Although this class focuses on intermediate skills, all levels of bonsai enthusiasts are welcome in this hands-on class! In this class Lucy will do a follow-up from her last class and discuss proper fall and winter care. Feel free to bring in your own plants to work on. Class limited to 12.

### **Basic Macrame Plant Hanger**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 • 1:00pm**

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

With Katie Davis of Portland Nursery. With a couple of simple knots and some jute twine, you can make a decorative hanger to get your plant off the valuable table space, out of the reach of mischievous puppies and kittens, and into the light of the window. Throw-back to the seventies? We don't care, it works, and it's fun to do. Participants will come away with the skills

**continued next page**





and written pattern to finish a hanger for a standard 6" or 8" pot. \$5 materials fee. Class limited to 10.

### **Beginning Indoor Bonsai**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 11:00am-1:00pm**

**Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

Create and go home with your own indoor bonsai. Fee: \$50 (Includes plant, pot and soil) Instructor: Theo Bennett. Website: [www.garlandnursery.com](http://www.garlandnursery.com).

### **The Magic of Paperwhites**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 1:00pm**

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

With Portland Nursery Staff. Forcing paperwhites is an easy way to add life and fragrance to your home around the holidays! These lovely flowers can be rustic or elegant, depending how you deploy them. Bring your 6" diameter watertight vessel (or come early and buy one) and we will pot up some bulbs to grow through the winter in your home. Think wide mouth glass jars and/or bowls, glass or ceramic. Three bulbs will be provided and they fit in a vessel with a 6" diameter. Bring in more than one container if diameters are smaller. \$10 materials fee. Class limited to 10.

### **Plan Ahead for Vegetable Seed Starting**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. Do you need to grow the hottest pepper? The newest tomato variety? The largest cabbage? The best way to get the vegetable varieties you want is to grow them yourself from seed. How much space will it take? Do you need more than just a sunny window? This class will cover what is needed and includes a supply checklist to take home. Starting now will give you time to spread the costs over several months. Whether your garden is big or small, a seed starting set up is a great asset.

### **Christmas in the Garden**

**November 24, 2017-December 31, 2017**

**The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

Enjoy 600,000 Christmas lights, ice skating, snowless tubing, artisan vendors, fire pits, carolers and Santa, Wednesday-Sunday evenings. Details at [www.oregon-garden.org](http://www.oregon-garden.org).

**continued next column**

### **Schedule a Wreath Making Party**

**Daily, November 24-December 18, 2017**

**• 10:00am, 12:30pm, 3:00pm.**

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

Start a new tradition by scheduling a personal wreath making party with your friends and family. Set aside a date to do something creative and fun together -- for your own home or as a gift! Plan on 1-2 hours of instructed time learning a new craft in our wreath making workshop. The \$30 fee covers basic materials for one wreath with custom bow. Dress warmly and bring gloves and pruners if you have them. Gather 5-10 folks together and then contact us to schedule at the location of your choice with your preferred date and time slot.

### **Wreath Making**

**Saturday, November 25, 2017 • 10:00am**

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

With Gardening Goddess Jolie Donohue. Create your own fresh and beautiful wreath for the holidays with the talented Jolie Donohue. She will guide you through the process of making a wreath that is unique to you and guaranteed to bring holiday cheer into your home! Feel free to bring your own special decorative elements to add to your wreath. Class limited to 12. Fee: \$30 (pay at register on day of class). Please bring gloves and hand pruners, if you have them. Class limited to 10.

### **Wreathmaking Workshop**

**Saturday, November 25, 2017 • 12:30pm**

**Sunday, November 26, 2017 • 12:30pm**

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

With Portland Nursery Staff. Learn to turn a form and our lovely selection of greens into a unique and eye-catching wreath for your door this year! Portland Nursery staff will supply the technical know-how, you bring your own special style, your gloves and pruners. We will make a 12" wreath with fresh greens and other decoration. Dress warmly! There is a \$30 materials fee for this class. Class limited to 10.

### **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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