

December 2017

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Branch Office Three Trees for Containers

Keep Your Houseplants Happy
Touring European Gardens

XERA'S

Greg Shepherd

Lyonothamnus Floribundus



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Ebb and Flow

This afternoon I finished one of the last Garden Time shows for the 2017 season a little early. Normally, when this happens during most of our season, I would head outside with a cold beverage and sit on the deck and watch the clouds and the last rays of sun, hoping to catch a glimpse of the neighborhood bats feasting on the local population of mosquitoes, but the weather is not cooperating at the current moment and so I sit inside and ponder the ebb and flow of the seasons. We are just a few weeks removed from 70 degree weather and in a couple of short months we will be inching back toward those temperatures again. The way of life for the gardener... This ebb and flow is true for just about everything in life, and for garden shows too. When we started the Garden Time show there were four other gardening programs on TV in the Portland area. We also had a couple great radio programs devoted to local gardeners, and some regional gardening magazines too. Now, they are pretty much all gone. In fact, Garden Time is one of the few locally produced gardening shows left in the nation. Of the remaining shows, almost all deal with gardening on a national level, but Garden Time is devoted to the local Northwest gardener. It is due to this local/regional focus that we have to say goodbye for three months every winter. Even with our small budget we don't have the advertising support to be a year-round program. That being said we are proud to announce that we will return in 2018 for our 13th season on the air. We will be on the same three great TV stations, KPDX, KWVT and KEVU, covering most of Oregon and SW Washington.

While we are gone, we will still be bringing you great home and garden stories in the monthly Garden Time magazine. This month, we have a story from William on how to keep your houseplants happy. A lot of plants have enjoyed a vacation over the summer on our decks and patios, and we have often shared tips for how to transition them back inside on the TV show, but William will go a step beyond that and talk about long term care for these indoor warriors! Winter is not just for indoor plants, it is also for cut flower arrangements too. We often bring cut flowers home to brighten the inside of our homes, but we don't always know where those flowers come from. Judy tells us about the Slow Flower movement. This is a movement that puts the emphasis on locally grown flowers and greens. You can now make the decision to support local growers by choosing florists who buy directly from them. The flavor of local can also be found at your local farmers markets or farm stand, with a glass of fresh pressed apple cider. Therese tells us about the differences between apple cider and hard cider. She also shares a recipe for Hot Spiced Cider, perfect for the upcoming holidays!

So with the ebb and flow of the seasons we say goodbye on TV for another season, but we remain committed to staying in touch through the cold months ahead. We would also like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, no matter which holiday you celebrate!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

Are Poinsettia leaves poisonous?

Signed,
A Concerned 'Santa'

Dear 'Santa',

That is a popular question we seem to get every year around the holidays, or when we do a story on this traditional holiday plant.

It seems like people have come to believe that this plant is as dangerous as hemlock! The problem is, it just isn't true. According to scientific and medical research, poinsettias are no more toxic than eating a bar of soap. The toxin in the leaves is so weak that a child of 50 lbs. would have to eat over 500 leaves to even come close to a potentially toxic dose and that is according to the POISINDEX information source - the primary resource used by the majority of poison control centers nationwide.

That is not to say that the leaves are completely harmless. If a child were to consume a few leaves they would most likely get an upset stomach. But Dr. Michael Wahl, MD, medical director of the Illinois Poison Center, in Chicago has also heard that the leaves



Poinsettias from Al's Garden & Home

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

taste pretty terrible. He says that no one is sure how this myth started, although it's often attributed to the 1919 death of a girl whose parents thought she had eaten poinsettia leaves. There is no evidence of any deaths attributed to eating poinsettia leaves.

That also leads us into the next question. Will my pets get sick? According to the Pet Poison Helpline, your dog or cat might have a mild reaction if they have ingested a few leaves (once again remember that they taste terrible). You might see drooling, vomiting and (rarely) diarrhea. They mentioned that there is no antidote for poinsettia poisoning. That said, due to the low level of toxicity seen with poinsettia ingestion, medical treatment is rarely necessary unless clinical signs are severe.

So according to Dr. Wahl, here's what you should worry about your child swallowing during the holidays: holly berries (which are toxic), alcohol left in glasses, and small ornaments that look like food.

Signed,
Mortimer
(Your secret Santa)

.

Dear Mortimer,

How can I keep my Christmas tree staying fresh through the holidays?

Signed,
Troubled About Trees in Tangent

Dear Troubled,

The Christmas holiday season seems to be getting longer each year and if you like having your Christmas tree up for most of it, this can become a serious issue. I talked to the experts at Lee Farms in Tualatin for help and here are a few tips for starting with and maintaining a healthy tree for as long as you can.

First, choose a healthy, green tree. If you buy one from a tree lot, ask when and where the trees were cut. Look to see if there are green flexible needles. A lot of brown needles and the tree may have been out of the water too long. Run your hand along the branches to see if the needles stay intact or if you come away with a handful of needles.

If you go to a tree farm, like Lee's, and cut your own, you are miles ahead. These are the freshest of trees available.

Second, trim the trunk. Once you get the tree home, cut off about an inch at the bottom of the trunk. The tree will start to 'seal' its vascular system with res-

in almost as soon as it is cut. A fresh cut will open that system up and allow water into the tree. For trees that are cut at farms, it doesn't hurt to make a second cut again once you get home if you can.

Third, get water to the tree as soon as possible after that cut and maintain the water level. You need a good sturdy stand. At Lee's they recommend the Davis Tree Stand. This stand allows you to use a large bucket under your tree and that means lots of water for that tree to drink. And drink it will! Up to 2 gallons a day when you first bring them home. You should make sure that the water level doesn't drop below the base of the tree, not even once! If the base of the tree is exposed to air it will seal up and then it will start to dry out.

Fourth, place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and air ducts. These sources will just dry out the tree faster.

And finally, keep an eye out for dropping needles. They are a sign that your tree may be drying out and needs to be removed.

One way to make your fresh tree last longer is to have it flocked. Flocking not only makes your tree look like it has fresh snow on it, it also seals in the moisture and adds a level of fire resistance if you have it done professionally.

Take these steps and you can add a significant amount of time to the length your tree can stay indoors.

Thanks for your question and enjoy your tree!
Mortimer



Christmas Trees from Lee Farms

Branch Office

Did you
know that
you can
actually
grow trees in
containers?
It's true!

by William McClenathan

The first one is **Styrax Obassia**.

I loved this tree when I first found out about it and planted it in the gardens of Viscaya.

After I moved, the one there was just too large to up root so I had to leave it.

I soon searched out, found and purchased a new one, and planted it in a pot. It is a beautiful tree with fragrant white flowers. But the leaves are super cool as well. Large and oval, they have the look of a tropical plant.

Native to Hokkaido island of Japan and to China, it is a deciduous small tree or large shrub which can grow to 20'-30' tall with an oval shaped crown.

A moderate growth rate with oval

Cornus 'variety uncertain'

shaped leaves growing 3" to 8" long. The white flowers are fragrant and come in drooping 6" clusters, blooming in June. To find this tree check places like Dancing Oaks. (<https://dancingoaks.com>)

Next is one of my most favorite trees. *Lyonothamnus asplenifolius*. Even though you can find a handful of these trees which have survived in our area, they are truthfully, not reliably hardy to the average garden in Portland and Vancouver. So after losing 5' tall ones in the ground, twice, I decided to try it in a container.

Thus far it has survived for four years. I do put it up close to the house for extra winter protection. Last year I had thought it was gone, but it came back. This year if our winter will be equal to or worse than the 2016 winter, I will protect it more by covering and wrapping it.

This is well worth the effort for me because of how much I love this tree.

It does thrive in Northern California, where it is native to.

Lyonothamnus is a monotypic genus of trees in the rose family (which I think is cool). It contains the single living species *Lyonothamnus floribundus*, which is known by the common name Catalina ironwood. The Catalina ironwood has two subspecies *Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *asplenifolius*

and ssp. *Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *floribundus*.

The two subspecies, which are different in morphology (the branch of biology dealing with the form and structure of organisms), have leaves of different leaf shapes. The ssp. *asplenifolius*, the more common variety, has leaves made up of linear leaflets which are divided into rectangular segments.

Ssp. *floribundus* is limited to Catalina Island, has smooth-edged leaves not divided into any leaflets or segments.

All this means is that there is only one species (*Lyonothamnus asplenifolius*) but that plant has two varieties of sub species; ssp *asplenifolius* and ssp *floribundus*. Kind of like a woman who has fraternal twins. They have the same mother, but they don't look the same.

Lyonothamnus is endemic to the Channel Islands of California, where it grows in the chaparral and oak woodlands of the rocky coastal canyons.

This tree can grow up to 50 ft tall and has peeling reddish gray or brown bark. I also really love the bark of this tree. The evergreen leaves are shiny, dark green with lighter undersides, and borne on short petioles (in botany; the slender stalk by which a leaf is attached to the stem; leafstalk). Discoveries of fossils have suggested that the genus once comprised several species. I found the tree at Cis-



Cornus 'variety uncertain'



Lyonothamnus Floribundus

tus Nursery. (www.cistus.com)

The last one I want to share with you is an **ever-green Dogwood**. Now in full disclosure, I do not know with any certainty which one I have. It was given to me long ago.

This one I did dig up when I left Viscaya. It was given to me by a vendor, along with a different evergreen dogwood. One of them died very quickly in the winter. This one however, thrived. It never grew quickly, and still does not, but it did thrive. Also, it never bloomed until last year. The blooms were tiny compared to other Dogwood blooms. Also, the main one available for sale currently produces a reddish fruit. The one I have bloomed twice this year but never produced fruit. It also is not fragrant.

However, there is a variety now available at many garden centers so I shall tell you about it.

Its name is *Cornus capitata*. This evergreen dogwood tree is hardy down to USDA zone 8. It is native to east and southeast Asia but can be grown in warm climates all over the world. They can grow as high as 50 feet in height, though they tend to top out between 20 and 40 feet.

In the summer, they produce very fragrant flowers, which are very small and surrounded by 4 to 6 bracts that are often mistaken for petals. The bracts come in shades of white or yellow. I suggest checking with Portland Nursery for this specific variety of

evergreen dogwood. (<http://portlandnursery.com>)

The biggest mistakes made by people who grow trees in containers is that they often forget to root prune the plant.

It is not a difficult job to do other than the physical strength it takes to lay the container over and wrangle the plant out of the pot. Once that is



Syrax obassia blooms



Lyonothamnus floribundus bark



Cornus 'variety uncertain'

accomplished, you simply prune the roots back, replacing it in the container and filling with new potting soil.

Of course as with any plant in a container, watering is important along with fertilizing when needed. As each year passes, watering does change. Meaning as roots fill in the container, it may take longer for the water to drain through, but those bottom roots



Lyonothamnus floribundus leaves

need water as well. A good saucer will help as the lower roots can drink from the run out at the bottom. But that depends on how large of a container you have and if you have a saucer large enough to sit under the pot.

I also no longer purchase concrete or clay pots except when I know I do not intend on ever moving them. Otherwise, the light weight plastic varieties work just fine. Do pay attention to strong winds if you choose plastic. Even if you have clay or concrete, still be aware of strong windstorms, as I have had trees snap in the pots which are heavy. A strong stake to tie the tree trunk to in the container will prevent the trunk from snapping.

I have also experienced the small hole for drainage, which plastic pots tend to have are too small for adequate drainage, so I cut larger holes in them before I plant them. I have used pruners and/or drills with door knob bits on them to make specific sized holes.

Other than these few caveats, you would treat the tree as you would in the ground when it comes to pruning or spraying for disease or insect concerns.

There is something quite beautiful about patios with large pots and tree combinations sitting on them.

By paying a little extra attention you too can bring your favorite trees right up to your home and enjoy them even more.



Cornus 'variety uncertain'



Syrax obassia

Happy Plants, Happy Manse

Giving your houseplants extra care during the winter will make you happier, too.

by
William
McClenathan



Ficus triangularis, also known as *Ficus natanlensis* sub species *lepreuvii*



Citrus blossoms; young Meyers Lemon fruit



Senecio radicans 'string of Bananas'



Citrus 'Washington Navel'

Often in the fall on Garden Time, Judy and I have talked about the best ways to bring your houseplants indoors for the winter.

What we have not done is talk about the following six months with them back inside our homes. What are the best ways to keep them healthy and thriving in that time period? What about light? What should we pay attention to? But mostly, how much should we water?

A few ideas first. Pay attention to the plants when they are outside. Are they healthy and thriving? Are they growing well? How often do you water them? Does the water drain through or stand in the pot and take a long time to drain? Any insect or disease happening?

If you gather that information it helps after the houseplants are brought indoors.

Hopefully, if insects and diseases were a concern when the plants were outside, you solved that problem. And certainly, if you did what we have suggested about moving your plants indoors for the winter, any leftover problems will be taken care of at this point. Washing them off with water, spraying for insects or disease and removing and replacing a top layer of soil to get any soil born insect eggs or larva out of the containers can save you hours of frustration.

The next big concern is light. Most of the top popular houseplants have been long used as indoor plants.

These are the ones which accommodate indoor living well. But light is still important to the health of most living plants. So what level of light is in your home?

Base levels are;

**north windows:
low to little light**

**east and west windows:
moderate light**

**south windows:
high light**

One cannot forget skylights. Unless frosted or darkened glass is used, skylights tend to be considered high light windows.

Now, here is where it gets a wee bit iffy. The direction of windows is not enough. If you have a southern facing window, but across the street is a high rise, you will have to say that it is



Asparagus fern, *Asparagus densiflorus sprengeri*



Big leaf pothos in shower, Botanical *Epipremnum aureum*



Albuca spiralis now indoor with new bud for blooms

a low light window. If your house is covered by massive conifers, south windows and skylights would also need to be considered low light.

On the other hand, if your north facing window had a massive building covered in mirrored or reflective glass, that can become a high light window.

The point is, don't only consider the directions of your windows, but also the surrounding areas outside as they can have a huge effect on the level of light you will have. And also always include your personal window curtains and coverings inside, or shade coverings outside, and how often you keep them open during the days. Something as simple as a curtain can change high light windows to low light win-

dows if kept mostly closed.

Temperatures are also important. However, if you do what most humans do, we keep our homes between 55 and 72 degrees during the cold months. Almost without exception, this will work for almost every houseplant on the market today. From African violets to citrus trees, this moderate range of temperatures will work.

But without exception, the most common failure to success in a houseplant is correct watering. The nature of humanity is to be successful. For houseplants, that often means doing far too much watering. I have spoken with countless customers over the last almost 30 years on this topic. We all tend to over water. And while this does happen outside in our

gardens as well, that mistake can be adjudicated by nature itself. Wind, temperature changes, direct heat increases from the sun, fast draining soils or run-off can limit our good intentions so that we do not rot the roots of those plants we love outdoors.

All of that disappears indoors. Wind effects completely disappear.

Temperatures tend to remain constant.

And even the best soils seem to either hold too much water, or release it too quickly.

Now is when paying attention to what happened outside can really help for your indoor plants, especially with watering.

If you noticed you had to water a houseplant outside



Albuca spiralis in front of Asian statue, outside.



Citrus blossoms



Angel wing begonia blooms, botanical *Begonia coccinea*

once or twice a day in the summer for it to remain healthy, that means you may need to water it more inside.

If it held water for a while before draining, you may need to lay off the watering more than other houseplants when indoors.

Each houseplant is different.

Each house is different.

Each room in a house is different.

So attention is the best solution to allow your houseplants to thrive indoors.

Ultimately houseplants can add great effects to interior design, creating beauty from the outside...inside.



Topiary on piano, *Myrtus communis* 'compacta'



Rhipsalis capilliformis, common name 'Old man's beard,' on Curio cabinet



Ipomea alba, also noctiflora, common Moon flower



Unknown botanical or common name, short plant, *Eucharis grandiflora*, common Amazon lily

Three for the Road

The next Garden Time Tour gives you the opportunity to visit some of Europe's most spectacular gardens.

by Ron Dunevant

Great Dixter house and gardens

PHOTO CREDIT: ADMINNEWS24.INFO

If you have lived in the Pacific Northwest for any length of time, you know how lucky we are to have access to some of the most beautiful gardens in the world. From vast expanses like The Oregon Garden in Silverton to smaller, more intimate settings like downtown Portland's Lan Su Chinese Garden, our backyard is home to a veritable cornucopia of botanical delights. This embarrassment of riches might be enough to sate the appetites of your average gardener, but for the truly evolved horticulture fanatic, it is but an appetizer in the smorgasbord that is the planet Earth. It is for that person, for whom a love of plants is all consuming, that *Garden Time Tours* was created.

Since 2014, at the rate of about once a year, the Garden Time gang, along with a few dozen lucky fans and friends, embark on an expedition that is, for some, a highly anticipated odys-

sey and for others, the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Traveling to far-flung destinations in Europe, Central America, North America and the Pacific Rim, Garden Time Tours has immersed its traveling troop in the splendor of some of the world's most amazing gardens. Along the way, they've met the people, savored the food, marveled at the sites and enjoyed the company of a band of merry revelers, all of whom share their love of plants.

And, so it will be again in 2018.

If you have watched the weekly *Garden Time* show lately, you've probably seen the commercials or heard us talk about our upcoming trip to Europe. We're touring England, France and Belgium next August and our itinerary is filled to the brim with exciting destinations, great food, fabulous hotels, interesting outings, well known sites and (did we mention?) some of the most incredible gardens on the planet.

Our 14-day trip has so many exciting features, we can't do them justice in one magazine article. So, we invite you to check out the Garden Time website to see the full schedule and all the details. In the meantime, here are three of the gardens we will see, one in each of the countries we're visiting, to whet your appetite for this truly amazing tour.

August 8th – Great Dixter Garden in England

Located in Northiam, East Sussex, about two hours south of London, Great Dixter incorporates buildings that have been around since the Middle Ages. Purchased in 1910 by Nathaniel Lloyd, a British businessman who made his money from a color printing firm he owned, this 450-acre estate stayed in the family for nearly a century. His son Christopher gardened and wrote books about the plants he grew for over 40 years, chronicling

this heavily planted, labor-intensive garden.

The grounds, themselves, are a marvel, with nearly two dozen areas to visit, including the Front Meadow, the Barn Garden, the Sunk Garden, the Peacock Garden (which features peacock-shaped hedges), the Cat Garden, the Horse Pond and a Vegetable Garden. There are also several meadows with fruit trees. The density of the gardens will surprise you, with mixed borders and unsegregated plantings all growing together. Christopher Lloyd, himself, described Great Dixter as a "high maintenance garden," but found great rewards in the effort.

Dixter is one of the most documented of gardens, thanks to Christopher's writings. Perhaps its most celebrated feature is an immense mixed border, that measures 210ft x 15ft. It is a midsummer delight that usually extends from April to October.

One of the more controversial choices Lloyd made before his death in 2006 was the removal of a formal rose garden (due, in part, to replant disease) and the creation of a late-summer-to-autumn garden for tropical effect. Aptly named, "the Exotic Garden," uses dahlias and cannas for color, with a haze of purple from self-sowing *Verbena bonariensis*. Butterflies congregate around *Escallonia bifida*, a white, flowering shrub, and visitors are attracted to the Japanese bananas (*Musa basjoo*), cannas and castor oil plants that extend the colourful gardening season through



The Exotic Garden at Great Dixter

PHOTO CREDIT: DAGJOURNEY.BLOGSPOT.COM

Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events December 2017

Christmas in the Garden

Thru 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

ZooLights

Thru January 7, 2018 • 5:00pm-9:00pm

The Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR

As you walk around the zoo, you'll see a dazzling display of more than million and a half lights, and experience your zoo in a whole new light. In addition to visiting elephants, penguins and other animals, you can ride the popular lighted train and enjoy dinner from a variety of food carts.

• www.oregonzoo.org

Nine Free Days

Saturday, December 9-Sunday, December 17, 2017

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Lan Su Chinese Garden will offer a free admission for each donation of a non-perishable food item. Visit the Garden Shop for a dazzling display of unique items to fit all of your holiday shopping needs. (General admission is regularly \$10.)

• www.lansugarden.org



capitolsubaru.com



The Japanese Bridge at Monet's Gardens and (inset) Monet's "Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies."



to the first frosts. The botanical inhabitants of this area thrive in the summer and are well-wrapped during the chilly English winters.

One of the nicest features about the gardens is that they are positioned all around the house. Make a circuit of each area and you have looped the house exterior, with stunning views at each position.

For the avid gardener, a visit to this destination offers something to learn from every corner. The plantings create intimate, enclosed spaces, overflowing onto the paths, but are well looked after and organized.

August 12th – Monet's Gardens in France

Claude Monet (1840-1926) was a founder of French Impressionist painting whose works hang in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and museums around the world. In 1883, Monet and his family rented a home between the towns of Vernon and Gasny at Giverny, a commune in Northern France. Monet used an existing barn as a painting studio, and the surrounding landscape, which included a house, orchards and a small garden became the motifs for many of his works.

The family built up the gardens, and as Monet

became more successful, he was prosperous enough to buy the house, the surrounding buildings and the land for his gardens. With the passing years he developed a passion for botany, and exchanged plants with his friends, going to great expense to purchase rare varieties. The garden became the nourishment for his creative soul.

However, after his death in 1926, and following the second World War, the gardens fell into disrepair. It was not until the late 1970s that a new curator would pull together the elements necessary to reconstruct the garden as it was during Monet's life, a process that took nearly ten years.

Visiting the gardens today, you will see that the land is divided into flowerbeds where plants are clumped in different heights to create volume. Simple flowers are mixed with rare varieties and fruit and ornamental trees dominate climbing roses, hollyhocks and colored banks of annuals.

Perhaps the site's most anticipated feature is a water garden where you will find the famous Japanese bridge covered with wisterias. This inspiring vista



Spring flowers burst with color at Claude Monet's Garden at Giverny.

became the subject of Monet's celebrated "Bridge Over a Pond of Water Lilies," one of several paintings of the wooden footbridge over the pond. Here you will also find other smaller bridges, weeping willows, bamboo, and nymphaeas which bloom all summer. The pond and the surrounding vegetation create an intimate enclosure, isolating visitors from the surrounding countryside.

They say that Monet's gardens at Giverny are much like his paintings, with brightly colored patches that are messy, but balanced. Monet's last and most creative years were spent cultivating his garden and his art. The impressionism so evident in his paintings also contributes to the gardens and his choice of flowers. Monet did not like organized or constrained gardens and left them to grow freely. He grouped flowers according to their colors, a living palette that influenced his works, at times untamed, but always part of a carefully planned design.

As a gardener, you'll admire the landscaping and layout as well as interesting new plants. Art lovers will see masterpieces they've long admired come to life. It is truly like stepping into a painting and you will understand how this special place became the muse for Monet's acclaimed creations.

August 17th – The Flower Carpet Show in Belgium

Created in 1971, the Flower Carpet Show in Brussels must be experienced to be fully appreciated. Every two years, on the weekend of August 15th, visitors are given the opportunity to stroll across the Grand-Place to witness the artistry, inhale the fragrant scent of begonias and admire the beauty of this extraordinary accomplishment that lasts a mere four days.

Each edition celebrates a different theme: the commemoration of an event, a place or a person. Once chosen, the number of flowers needed is calculated and the color combinations are set. Flowers are then reserved -- hundreds of thousands of them -- and several days before the event, a full-size drawing is created using sheets of micro-perforated plastic, which are then assembled on the cobblestones. Once this "pattern" is completed, the work begins.

In less than four hours, over 100 volunteer gardeners using 600,000 flowers assemble a giant floral puzzle, roughly 246 feet by 78 feet in size. The spaces between the floral motifs are filled in with rolls of sod. Belgium is the world's largest producer of begonias, and these revered plants take center stage in this production. Perfect for such an endeavor, they produce a rich palette ranging from vivid hues to delicate pastels, reflecting the Belgian sunlight and giving the carpet a vibrant allure that is almost overwhelming in its grandeur.



Volunteers assemble the Flower Carpet.

The effect is breathtaking, a living sea of colors, textures and fragrances that is witnessed firsthand by a relatively small number of lucky visitors, and Garden Time Tours will take you there to see this highly-anticipated spectacle.

On any given trip, these three gardens alone would be enough to fill your senses, but on this tour there are many, many other gardens and points of interest that we will visit. This is a once-in-a-life-time opportunity for garden lovers to see some of the best Europe has to offer.

Go to our tours page to see the details on this tour and book before January to save an additional \$300. This is the trip you've been waiting for! Join William, Judy and the Garden Time gang in spectacular Europe. We look forward to seeing you this August.



The view from above of the spectacular Flower Carpet Show in 2016.

PHOTO CREDIT: LOVE-HOLLAND.COM

Garden Time Tours

Travel with *Garden Time* to England, France & Belgium

13 Days • August 5-18, 2018



Brussels and the Flower Carpet Show



Sissinghurst Castle



Kew Gardens



Monet's Gardens at Giverny



William & Judy

13 Days/12 Nights • All Breakfasts + 11 Additional Meals • August 5-18, 2018

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TRIP BOOKED THROUGH



Cider House Rules



**In the fall, fresh pressed apple cider is a real treat!
If you want to press your own, here's how to do it.**
by Therese Gustin

No...not the hard stuff. We'll save that topic for a later article. I'll be concentrating on "soft" cider for this article. Actually, mention apple cider to an American and they will generally think of non fermented cider. Mention apple cider to anyone else around the world and they will assume you are speaking about hard or fermented cider.

Cider has been around for as long as apple trees have been around. In the United States, apple saplings and seeds were brought over from England with the new settlers. Historically, growing apple trees didn't really take off until honey bees were imported along with the apple saplings. The colonists were unaware that honeybees were not native to the New World and they didn't know about the care and culture of the native orchard mason bees so they encountered many issues with pollination early on. The first recorded shipment of honeybees to America was recorded in 1622 in Virginia. Most of the early varieties of apples were not very flavorful and were prone to insect damage and diseases. By the late 1600's the New World was finally having some success with orchard production. Some of the early varieties of apples used in cider making were Pipins, Pearemaines, Catshead, Deesons, Foxweld, Redstreak and French varieties such as Calville Blanc, Pomme d'Api and Court Pendu Plat. Though most pressed cider was left to ferment, cooling the freshly pressed apples and consuming the juice right away yielded a non alcoholic beverage... at least until the natural fermentation process took over.

Skip to the present day and apple cider as we know it is a crisp refreshing beverage produced in the fall. According to the regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, "Apple cider is legally defined as an 'amber golden, opaque, unfermented, entirely nonalcoholic juice squeezed from apples.' This is distinct from apple

juice, which has a much sweeter taste, is typically heavily filtered, and may or may not be from concentrate." This "cloudy" cider beverage is full of antioxidant-rich nutrients from the apple pulp. To prevent the possibility of E.Coli contamination, it is important that apple cider (and apple juice) is pasteurized.

In the fall, fresh pressed apple cider is a common sight at farmers markets. It's a great time to pick some up and enjoy the tangy sweet drink that celebrates autumn. This time of year you can find it at your favorite grocery store. Heated up with added spices, it's the perfect drink to warm your heart and help celebrate the holidays.

If next fall you want to press your own cider, The Oregon State University Extension Service has the following advice:

Making and Preserving Apple Cider
Sweet apple cider is made from fresh crushed apples. It is not cooked or chemically preserved. When fermented, "hard" cider (an alcoholic beverage) is produced.

Selecting the Apples

Select apples that are just ripe for eating. Most ciders are made from a blend of different varieties. Delicious, McIntosh, Rome, and Gravensteins are commonly used. Tart apples should be used in small proportions; they are a good source of tannic acid that keeps the cider sweet longer, but they also affect the flavor.

Grinding the Apples

Wash and rinse the apples before grinding. Grinding is necessary to release the juice from the apples. For small batches, quarter unpeeled apples and run through a kitchen food grinder or chop in a food processor. For large batches, it is faster to rent or borrow a cider mill with crusher attached. Letting the crushed fruit stand for 30 minutes to an hour will yield more cider from the apples.

Pressing the Apples

The cider can be pressed from the crushed apples in a cider press. These presses can be rented, purchased, or built at home. Most home presses employ a



PHOTO CREDIT: CARTER BROWN VIA FLICKR.COM



heavy screw for pressure. Pressure should be applied slowly and evenly. Fresh pressed cider has a cloudy appearance. It should be strained through a clean cloth as it drips from the press into the reservoir pan. A homemade press for small batches can be made using a strong jelly bag and a rolling pin. The bag should be pressed slowly and steadily to avoid bursting the bag. The process requires more strength and is very slow for large batches. The bag can also be squeezed by hand. Be careful not to break the bag.

Pasteurizing the Juice

Unpasteurized (unheated) apple cider has been linked with illness caused by E. coli O157:H7 bacteria. If these bacteria are in the feces of deer or cattle, apples that fall on the ground could be contaminated. Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria. Heat the juice to at least 160 F. If you don't have a thermometer that registers in that range, heat the juice until it simmers (when bubbles appear on the surface).

Preserving the Juice

Pasteurized cider can be stored in the refrigerator for about a week. For longer storage, freezing is recommended. When freezing, be

sure to allow at least a 2 inch head space since the cider will expand during freezing and can rupture the container. Apple juice may also be canned. Heat the juice to simmering (185 -210 F). Pour hot juice into jars. Process in a boiling water canner: 5 minutes for pints and quarts; 10 minutes for half gallons. At 1,001-6,000 feet, process pints and quarts for 10 minutes and half gallons for 15 minutes. After processing, take canner off heat. Remove lid and wait 5 minutes before removing jars. For additional information on making juices or cider, contact your local county Extension office.



The Home Orchard Society Arboretum offers a community Cider Pressing Event at the end of September. Every year they invite the community to pick up apples from their orchard and press them into sweet cider to take home. You must bring your own bottles, jugs or jars. This event is first come first serve and every adult participant is allowed to go home with one gallon of cider. They do recommend a \$5 donation.

Check their calendar for next fall's exact date.

Home Orchard Society

19600 Molalla Av.
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-338-8479

www.homeorchardsociety.org

For another fall cider pressing event:

Philip Foster Farm

22725 SE Eagle Creek Road
Eagle Creek, OR 97022
503-637-6324

www.philipfosterfarm.com

Hot Spiced Cider Recipe

- 8 cups apple cider
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- Dash of ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon whole allspice
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 6 inches of cinnamon stick
- 2 3 inch strips of orange peel
- Cheesecloth

In a large saucepan combine apple cider, brown sugar and nutmeg. Make a spice bag with cheesecloth and fill with allspice, cloves, cinnamon sticks and orange peel. Tie it closed with a clean string. Add to cider mix and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Remove spice bag and discard. Serve cider in a mug with a stick of cinnamon.



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Shepherd's Flock

After traveling the world to find himself, Xera's Greg Shepherd now watches over an amazing collection of native plants.

by William McClenathan

On a rainy fall day, I sat down with Greg Shepherd, our Hortie this month, for an interview with him for this article.

Greg is co-owner of Xera Plants. You might remember an article sometime ago I did with Paul Bonine, the other co-owner. I have known both men since the late '90s and was crazy for the plants they grew from the first time I interacted with them while I was at Portland Nursery.

William McClenathan: *Hi Greg! Thanks for your time today. I think most folks would not realize that Winter can be more busy then spring in this business.*

Greg Shepherd: (laughing) Yes, it's true. Spring is always extremely busy, but this time of year brings an entirely different stress value. Many things to accomplish like replacing and mending the greenhouses. Planning what needs to be started and repotted for the spring and always, there is watering to do. Because a lot of the staff is gone in the winter, even the jobs like watering, even though we do less on a daily basis, seem to take more time.

William: *All the more reason I am super thankful for your time for this interview. So let's jump right in.*

Tell me about yourself, Greg. About some of your memories as a child and what was it that allowed you to notice nature at all?

Greg: I grew up on a 17 acre ranch in California. My weekends were filled with roaming around the property looking at trees, shrubs and other plants. In retrospect, not so much because I thought they were amazing, but only because they were my playground.

I did garden, but it was because my mom made me do the weeding of our vegetable garden. I did not see this as fun or feel any passion about doing that! What I loved about nature came later on in my life. I was closer to 16 or 17.

William: *I suspect the value of weeding is indeed a learned concept. I still have not completely learned it. What happened in your late teens which birthed your desire to garden?*

Greg: My dad built a solarium. The door into it came from my bedroom. Dad was not thinking greenhouse in the traditional sense, but more about the solar heating of our house.

It was at this time I thought about plants. But not about the specific plant itself, more about growing them. From seeds and later from starts and clippings. So I would gather seeds from our garden and surrounding plants, but more so, I would save seeds from things brought in with the groceries. Things like grapefruits, avocados and guavas.

William: *Because you wanted to plant them outside?*

Greg: No. I was interested in the actual plant growing process. I really never considered a traditional concept of growing things for my garden at all. In fact, I had not yet really even considered a garden concept for outside.

William: *There must have been a path which lead you to a delight in actual gardening though, what was that?*

Greg: There was, but it was still years away. After I graduated from high school, I moved to Santa Barbara to go to UC Santa Barbara. I came from a family of teachers and was interested in history so that was the degree I went for.

I did leave my plants at home and had mom make sure they were watered and kept alive. She was a good gardener so I knew she would do a great job.

The first three years there, I did not think as much about growing plants. I had some houseplants but honestly would kill them more often than make them thrive. What I did discover was cactus and succulents and I can tell you I grew to love them. I would often go on long hikes up in the surrounding areas of Santa Barbara. The plants there began to really intrigue me so by my junior year I was once again collecting seeds on my hikes. Plus the campus was right on the coast so palm trees were everywhere on campus. I was surrounded by palm-framed vistas of the Pacific Ocean and the golden Santa Ynez Mountains. The scent of eucalyptus mixed with the saltwater breeze was intoxicating.

I found my new collection of seeds. I was growing them now on my patio, and the desire to grow plants was still as intriguing as ever to me.

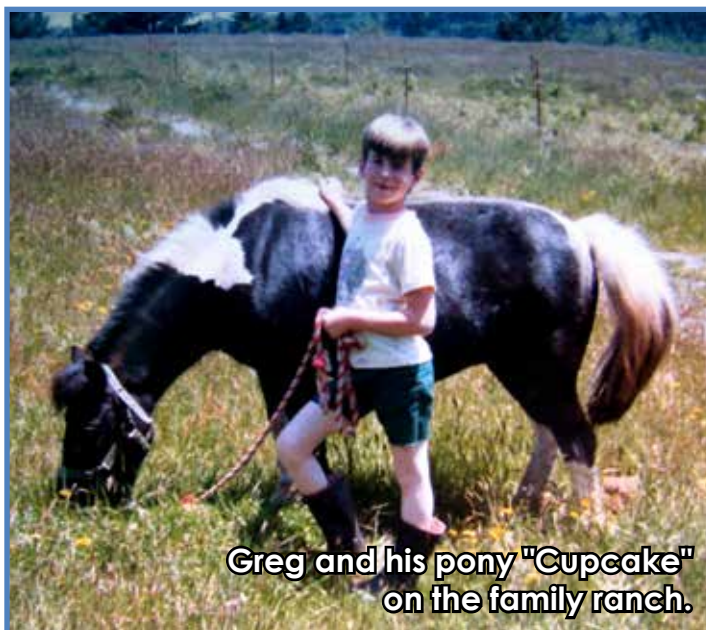
I finally graduated with a degree in History.

William: *So that is when you decided to get into Horticulture.*

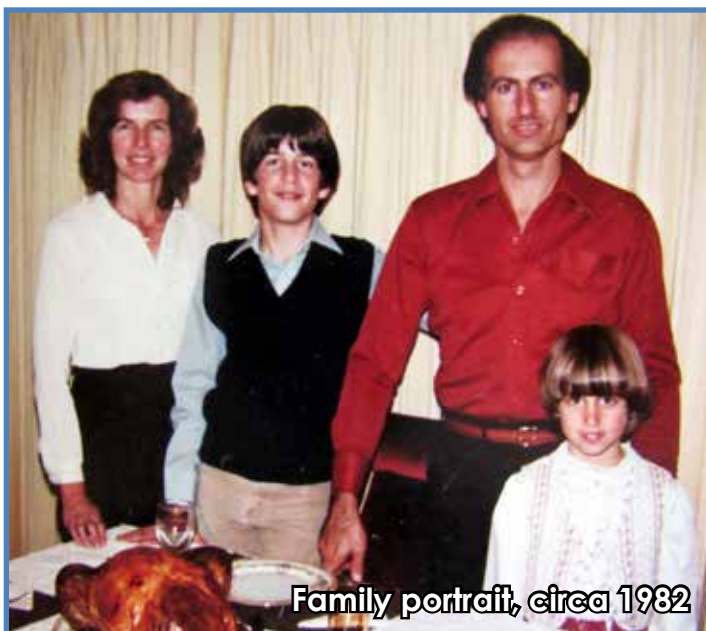
Greg: No, not really. I was not sure what I wanted to do. I had some ideas about becoming a writer...of fiction. But I was just not sure. Instead I went back



For Greg, camping in nature was a "formative experience."



Greg and his pony "Cupcake" on the family ranch.



Family portrait, circa 1982



In France with potted plants.

home for a while.

William: Did you find that your mom took care of your plants?

Greg: (smiling) She did. But I still was not sure about my life. I got a couple of jobs but they were just to get some money. After a while, I decided to go to Europe. I had a friend who was my connection in Burgundy, so I went there and stayed at his friends' Bed & Breakfast. It was a beautiful structure, 14 bedrooms. They did not call it a mansion but a Chateau. It also had a lot of gardens but they had degraded with time. One owner asked me if I would like to take over the upkeep, for some payment. I said yes. And now, William, this is where my delight in actual gardening AND design began.

William: Really! That much time passed? Why? What was it there that started that dormant seed in you to grow?

Greg: I am not sure. I was weeding again which still was not something I liked to do. I also began hiking again in my free time, but now I was in a completely different part of the world. The terrain, the plants, the environment, all of it was new to me. And then there was the old run down gardens in the Chateau I was staying at. I could see the past beauty of them. This was the first time that the idea of garden designing began to interest me.

William: Was there a specific incident in which you realized that?

Greg: Yes. There was. It was a row of Queen Ann roses in the gardens. They tend to be very pink and I thought a mass under planting of pink petunias would be dramatic. So I did that and it was. I would say that this time of my life revealed that I did love to not only grow plants but to design gardens. It was the first time I had ever bonded with a garden.

William: And why do you think that was?

Greg: I think it had something to do with the idea I was creating something. A design, a collaboration with nature. At this same time, I was starting to feel it may be time to return to the States so at 24 years old, I did.

William: Back to California?

Greg: Yes, for a while. I had done a bit of travelling in the States before going to France and I knew I wanted to try living in Seattle, Portland or San Francisco. Ultimately, I chose Portland.

William: When was that?

Greg: 1996.



Greg, working with his succulent collection.



Greg, with the first greenhouse he ever built.

William: *Why did Portland win that honor?*

Greg: I liked the feel of it. It was not as big as the other two cities, but had all the amenities of them. But mostly, I felt accepted and I liked the quirkiness of Portland.

William: *So this is when you decided to become a fiction writer?*

Greg: Well, not really. I still required money to live so I got a job at Midway Plant Farm. I had concerns about this because I was afraid if I worked with plants, I might lose the value of plants. That seems weird to say as I never thought about my desire to grow them as loving the plants themselves as much as the process of growing them. I also learned a lot while there about the business side of the industry. Dealing with customers, owners, management. I became a buyer for a while which allowed me to see the financial aspects, both good and bad, of the horticulture industry.

William: *I have to ask, at what point does Xera come into play?*

Greg: Haha...soon. It was in '97 I first met Paul Bonine. Our connection allowed me to interact with many people in this industry locally. One of those people had a greenhouse growing facility where she was growing plants. In 2000, Paul and I decided to open Viva right here on this location we are still on. In fact (Greg points to a large greenhouse) that one is the original one that was here. We have since added many more.

William: *It is true that many have forgotten your company's first name. Now it is well known as Xera, right?*

Greg: That's right. There were some conflicts with the Viva name so we changed the name in 2005. Everything is good now.

William: *But that is not the only big change in your life Greg. In 2013 Xera dived into the retail pool by opening Xera's retail store. Just between us, how do you really feel about that? Is retail very different than wholesale and being a grower?*

Greg: Oh yes. But not in the way you might think. I really enjoy the retail aspect. I have gotten to interact with customers directly. Responses are immediate. You know immediately what someone thinks about your plants. Whereas, the only way to get information from wholesale is when there are reorders. And while that is great too, you do not hear the passion from the retail customers themselves on which plants they really love, or why. So the entire process of interaction is very different from the 'plant to purchase' concept.





Summer flowers at the Xera Shop



Succulents growing on at the Xera farm



Manzanita section at the Xera Shop



Watering plants at the Xera farm

William: And as the fates would have it, you actually lived right across from the retail location when you moved here in 1996. Now, what are the chances of that?

Greg: Correct. And I don't know what the chances of that happening were. But I can say that we love having the retail location. Occasionally I consider a larger space. But then I realize I love the store right where it is. Not sure what the future may hold, but right now, I'm happy.

William: But what about you. What do your dreams of the future include? Not only for Xera, but for yourself?

Greg: For Xera, I have loved creating and interacting with customers and clients in the retail location. I have also continued to love the growing aspect of our wholesale. For example, one of the Manzanita's we grow is taken from clippings from a Manzanita from my family's ranch in California. Each year as we grow the starts they are taken directly from the Mother plant we grow in the gardens of the wholesale space. I really like that direct connection to my past.

But for retail, I would love to do more speaking and education. Nature has so much to offer about itself, and I'm very willing to allow those who desire so, to learn as much as they want to.

William: And what about for you on a personal level?

Greg: I am thinking a lot about purchasing some land and creating a display garden. I want to show the vastness of nature and its intense passion for diversity. And certainly, for education on gardening and how plants can work to enhance any place, whether you live in a city, or a rural area.

William: I would expect nothing less from you Greg. Thank you for the kindness of your time today my friend. I appreciate it.

Greg: Thank you, William.

It should be noted here that just like almost every person I have interviewed for Garden Time Magazine, our goodbye was ended with a hug and laughter. For me, this is always the cherry on top of these interviews.

To find out the hours they are open and location of Xera's retail store and information on their wholesale location, check their website.

Xera Plants, Inc. - Retail Plant Shop
1114 SE Clay St., Portland, OR 97214
503-236-8563

www.xeraplants.com



Family portrait, circa 1990 in Greg's grandfather's garden in Southern California.



Selling plants at the Beaverton Farmer's Market, in the early Viva days, 1999.



Greg and his mom, Carole, who taught him to love nature and plants.

A winter bouquet in a blue vase. The arrangement features a mix of greenery, including long, feathery pine branches, dark green holly leaves with small yellow berries, and bare, thin brown branches with small, dried, yellowish flower heads. The vase is a solid blue color.

Taking It Slow

"Slow Flowers" may be a new name, but it's an old concept.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Winter Bouquet by Debra Prinzing

If you subscribe to a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) or buy your produce at a farmers' market you understand that supporting local farmers is a good practice.

The concept of "Slow Flowers" is supporting local flower farmers and local floral designers.

It may be a new name but it's really an old concept like patronizing a U-Cut flower farm or buying flowers from your favorite farmers' market. The Slow Flower Movement is the idea of Debra Prinzing, a Seattle flower advocate and journalist. She wanted to help organize farmers,

wholesale companies and floral designers to be a united, stronger voice in the promotion of local flowers to us all!

Working together helps everyone be successful.

Debra wrote "The 50 Mile Bouquet: Local, Seasonal and Sustainable Flowers" (St Lynn's Press 2012), which follows the growing and designing of locally grown flowers. Her second book,

"Slow Flowers: Four Seasons of Locally Grown Bouquets from the Garden, Meadow and Farm" (St Lynn's Press 2013), contains 52 beautiful photos of floral arrangements to showcase the abundance of floral materials from growers and also our own gardens. These two beautiful and informative books help us

understand the industry which is really closer than you think. We don't have to buy flowers from thousands of miles away. They are as close as neighboring farms not too far from city centers.

I love the arrangement Debra created in the accompanying photo.

It looks like she has gathered plant material from her garden. I see burgundy colored Oakleaf Hydrangea foliage, Beautyberry branches, stems of fragrant Eucalyptus foliage, deep red Nandina berries and a few late season roses or possibly purchased from a locally grown source. Yes, she is a talented designer but it's amazing what beautiful "cut flowers" she found so late in the season. If you think you are



The *Slow Flowers* book, written by Debra Prinzing

not creative, the Slow Flower Movement website, www.slowflowers.com is a "free nationwide online directory to American flowers and the people who grow and design with them." This directory can help you find a designer that believes in the Slow Flower Movement and possibly create a similar arrangement for your holiday table. From the website, you can find over 20 floral designers from Kalama, Washington to Rickreall, Oregon. All these businesses support local flower growers and design arrangements using seasonal flowers, seedpods, branch material and greenery.

From growers to floral designers, the Slow Flower Movement is a network of people

concerned about the world and produce lovely flowers for us all to enjoy. That they are grown and designed so close to our homes makes the enjoyment all the sweeter. With the gift giving season upon us, fresh flower bouquets and arrangements are always a welcome present. This year, you don't need to buy peonies flown in from New Zealand or roses from South America, but you can choose locally cut evergreen boughs, Nandina berries and curly Willow branches all grown at a farm not too far away. The arrangement will capture the beauty of the holiday season and support your local flower industry. Now that is a wonderful gift!



Friday Night Romance by Kate Dagnal



Winter Arrangement by Debra Prinzing

Slow Flowers

Your nationwide online directory to florists, shops, and studios who design with American-grown flowers anywhere in the United States!

Local Floral Designer Directory

Podcasts with Debra Prinzing

www.slowflowers.com

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



Garden Time Rose



Garden Time Iris

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www.gardentime.tv/store



Garden Time

WTDITG

Wow! Where did the time go? Another year over. The holiday season is always a busy time, and many of us find it hard to fit in a little work in the yard. But our plants need us, especially now. Carve out a few hours during December to make sure your plants are safe and warm for the Winter. It will be the best present you can give them.

PLANNING

- Be ready for a cold snap. In case the temperature drops fast you'll want to be prepared to cover the plants. Using the Harvest Guard Protective Yard & Garden Cloth (AKA 'reemay') will protect the plants against severe cold temperatures. Cover only in



the cold spells, remove when temperatures rise again. Multiple layers will protect to lower temperatures.



- Plan a family trip to choose a live Christmas tree for this year's holiday. Live trees are just the best idea when thinking

green; a tree you can plant with the family after the holidays; a tradition that will grow with the family!

Some of you think it is better to use artificial trees as they are good for the environment. Nope! Artificial trees are generally made in China, pollute the atmosphere when being manufactured, fill up landfills and contain harmful chemicals. Instead of a fake tree this year, adopt a real one. Share the gift of life with the family with a live tree you can enjoy for decades.



- Organize your garden journal. Go over the notes from the year and set some goals and plans for next year.

PLANTING

- If you find your spring bulbs in a sack in the shed, get them planted! They are not going to sprout roots and grow in



the sack and yes it's late but there is still time to get them in the ground. If you don't plant them this month, it really will be too late.

- OK to plant trees and shrubs now. In our part of the world, if you can dig a hole in the soil,

you can still plant. Roots will still grow a little all winter long, so getting them in now will allow some root development during winter.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons and get the condo system ready for the new season.

when you turn it over helps to break down the organic matter faster. Keep the pile from getting too waterlogged with a tarp or cover.

- Turn the compost pile. Adding oxygen to the pile

- Make sure that weeds are pulled away from the

What To Do In The Garden DECEMBER

base of trees and that bark or mulch is not too deep around trunks. Rodents like to chew on the bark and the hiding places the weeds or mulch provides should be eliminated.



- Make sure that any plant underneath big thirsty conifers or under the eave of the house is getting a good deep drink

of water once every 4-6 weeks. Plants can take more severe cold weather with hydrated cells than dehydrated cells.

- You can fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so in the last two months. Lawns are still growing roots during the winter and you can improve the green color by applying a lawn food now. Using one with a moss killer will help kill off the moss over the winter. Apply a dose of dolomite lime to the lawn if none has been applied for a year. Don't use a weed-n-feed now, the weeds will just grow, not die. The chemicals in the weed killer need much warmer temperatures to work.

- Don't walk on frozen grass until it thaws. You will see your footprints on the turf in the spring otherwise.

- Watch for aphids on spruce trees. Often in the winter the spruces can get attacked by aphids. We don't usually notice until it's too late in the spring when all the old foliage falls off. Hose the trees off with a strong stream of water to knock any aphids from the needles. You can check and see if they are on the trees by holding white paper under a branch end and tap hard. Check for infestations by holding white paper under various branches and tapping. If they are present you'll see some on the paper.



- Dormant spray the fruit trees as needed for control of overwintering insects and diseases. However, no spray is needed if no disease or insect problem was detected this past season. Dormant Spray Oil is used to smother the overwintering insects

and Copper Sprays are good for disease control. Spray according to directions on the label.



- Pruning: It is not time to prune but time to STUDY UP on the subject! Pruning fruit trees is discussed in great detail in many books

and articles. We highly recommend reading up on the subject before making cuts that you can't glue back on the tree. Read up and take good care of your trees. You'll get much more production from them if you do.

- Get after any weeds that are growing now before they go to seed. Covering the beds with thick mulch after the weed pulling can help deter them further.



VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Do a recap of the successes and the failures. Start to plan what you want to grow next year and begin the process of finding out what grows best together in regards to companion planting.

- Check on the veggies you are wintering over. Make sure the compost mulch is nice and thick over the crops you are storing in the ground.

- Make out your wish list of things you'd like from Santa, like seed starting supplies, pruners, gardening tools and gloves.



Maybe some beautiful outdoor pottery to feature pretty flowers near the front entry for guests. Or a big fat gift certificate so you can come pick out what you want this next year!



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Art in the Garden - Mirrors of the Mind:

The Noh Masks of Ohtsuki Kokun

**Friday-Sunday, December 1-3, 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 Orinazu-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.

Schedule a Wreath Making Party

Daily, thru 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.

Christmas in the Garden

Thru 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.oregongarden.org.

ZooLights

Thru January 7, 2018

The Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR

continued next column

It wouldn't be the holidays in Portland without a visit to the Oregon Zoo's annual winter festival, ZooLights. As you walk around the zoo, you'll see a dazzling display of more than million and half lights, and experience your zoo in a whole new light. In addition to visiting elephants, penguins and other animals, you can ride the popular lighted train and enjoy dinner from a variety of food carts. Little ones may want to ride the carousel, and Santa will be available for photos each night. ZooLights runs from November 24, 2017 to January 7, 2018. ZooLights is closed December 24-25 and January 1-4. The zoo opens each day at 9:30am, and ZooLights tickets are valid after 4:00pm. ZooLights hours are 5:00pm to 9:00pm, 8:00pm on Value Nights. Grounds remain open for one hour after gates close. Ride MAX, get \$5 off ZooLights admission on weekends!

Bauman's Holiday Open House 2017

Saturday, December 2, 2017 • 9:00am-5:00pm

Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais, OR

We look forward to seeing you! Details at www.baumanfarms.com.

Flower Ball Ornaments

Saturday, December 2, 2017 • 11:00am(W)

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • 11:00am(S)

Saturday, December 16, 2017 • 11:00am(G)

Saturday, December 23, 2017 • 11:00am(V)

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

Winter fun starts with this great holiday craft project! Create a fragrant flower ball ornament that can be enjoyed throughout the holidays. After our project, we will celebrate another great year with cookies and punch. Cost: \$7.50 to cover the cost of materials.

Cut Green Centerpiece "Make & Take" Workshop

Saturday, December 2, 2017 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join us for this hands-on class and leave with a lovely decoration for your table (or give it as a gift to that special someone). We'll be working in a cool space, so dress warmly and bring your own pruners and garden gloves. Class fee is \$35.00, payable when you arrive for the class.

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Create Your Own Holiday Wreath

Saturday, December 2, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Learn how to and make your very own Holiday wreath from just a wire wreath ring and cut greens. This workshop is fun and messy. Class is held in a lightly heated outdoor house, so wear layers of warmth and bring gloves. We'll provide the materials, tools and hot cider. Cost: \$30.

Open House & Sale

Sunday, December 3, 2017 • 10:00am-4:00pm

Sedum Chicks, Turner, OR

Please join us at our first Sedum Chicks Open House & Sale. Workshop and nursery are stocked with many handcrafted holiday and spring gifts and decor, succulent containers, living wall hangings, hypertufa and much more. Also, you'll find many sweet savory snacks and holiday refreshments to enjoy. Join us at this fun, festive sale and social. We are excited to have you tour our Workshop & Succulent Nursery.

Wreath Making

Sunday, December 3, 2017 • 10:00am-11:30am

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.

Nine Free Days

Saturday, December 9-Sunday, December 17, 2017

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Lan Su Chinese Garden will offer a free admission for each donation of a non-perishable food item, from Saturday, December 9 through Sunday, December 17, 2017. (General admission is regularly \$10.)

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Nine Free Days Pop-Up Shop: During Lan Su's Nine Free Days, cFeaturing a selection of kid-friendly items, locally made mooncakes, visually stunning paper goods and books, and more—the Garden Shop's Holiday Pop-up Shop is the perfect place to find the perfect gift.

About the Number Nine: In China, the character for nine sounds similar to the character meaning "long-lasting." It is thought that the number nine brings relaxation and ease. Number nine is also the highest single digit number and therefore stands for eternity and completeness. Many emperors like the number nine because of this and it therefore can be seen throughout the Forbidden City.

Nine Free Days at Lan Su is sponsored in part by Neighbors West Northwest. Details at: www.lansugarden.org.

Little Sprouts – Fresh Green Holiday Swag

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Our young ones love to contribute their own special piece to the holiday décor. At this month's Little Sprouts, each child will create their own swag to proudly display with their other holiday decorations or to give to a loved one as a holiday gift. Cost: \$7 per child.

Create Your Own Holiday Swag

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • 2:00pm-3:00pm

Sunday, December 10, 2017 • 2:00pm-3:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

It's so popular we had to do two workshops! No, we are not talking about bling or the evergreen garland rope that goes on railings. Our definition of swag is "an informal doorway wall decoration created from cut evergreen boughs". Add a bow and some berries or other ornamentation and you have your very own signature holiday decoration! Great as a gift! It's easy, really! Class is held in a lightly heated house, so dress in warm layers and bring gloves. We will provide the materials, tools and hot cider. Cost: \$30. Preregistration required. Please call 541-753-6601.

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

Garland Nursery Reward Members Days

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Sunday, December 10, 2017 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

We want to say thank you to our wonderful customers so this weekend is for you! There will be food, hot cider, popcorn and s'mores. Wine tasting 11:30am to 3pm both days. There will be food product samples and perhaps caroling and a photo op.

Holiday Hanging Baskets

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais, OR

Cost: \$40. Details at www.baumanfarms.com.

Winter Fairy Gardens

Saturday, December 16, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Tiffany Garner. Creating a miniature world fit for a fairy or two is a great way to get in touch with your creative, playful side, and can make a wonderful gift! Tiffany will lead the group in this hands-on class building a fairy garden for displaying indoors. Learn how to design, accessorize, and properly care for your enchanting world. Students are free to bring their own decorative items to incorporate into their fairy's garden, as well as shop our splendid and varied offerings.

\$30 materials fee – pay cashier before class and bring gloves if you wish.

Bonsai Class: Topic TBA

Saturday, December 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. Details at www.tsugawanursery.com.

Holiday Porch Pots

Saturday, December 16, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais, OR

Cost: \$30. Details at www.baumanfarms.com.

Create Your Own Holiday Centerpiece

continued next column

Saturday, December 16, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Sunday, December 17, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Learn to make a beautiful holiday centerpiece using cut greens, berries and other accessories and finish it all off with a candle. Class is held in a lightly heated outdoor house, so dress in warm layers and bring gloves. We will provide all the materials, tools and hot cider. Cost: \$30.

Rituals for Winter Solstice

Sunday, December 17, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Holly Pruett. Join Life-Cycle Celebrant Holly Pruett to explore the world of winter rituals. How can we honor the darker times, the fallow ground that carries the promise of spring? This creative ceremony-maker will help you imagine and carry out personal, family, and community rituals that transcend the commercial chaos of the holiday season. Portland Nursery's Jess Fancon will guide the group through creating a personalized candle ring from collected greens & floral materials. A wonderful hands-on activity to embrace the season and take home a new ritual. Materials fee: \$10, pay at cash register day of class. Please bring gloves and hand pruners.

Holiday Koto Harp Concert

Sunday, December 17, 2017 • 2:00pm-3:30pm

Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR

Location: Cahty Rudd Cultural Corner. Delight and relax in the soothing sounds of holiday music played on a koto harp at the Portland Japanese Garden.

Mitsuki Dazai of Oregon Koto-Kai is a koto master who is a friend of the Garden and frequently plays for our guests. Dazai is now opening another door by playing unusually beautiful and peaceful holiday music. Included with Garden Admission. Details at: www.Japanesegarden.org.

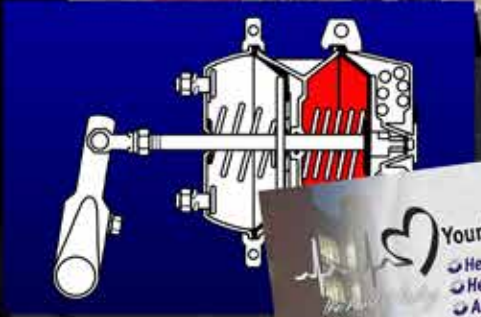
LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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