

January 2018

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

**New Hellebores**  
**Winter Jewels**

**Purple Vegetables**  
**Neighborhood Parks**

TIMBER PRESS'S  
**Tom Fischer**

Helleborus 'Anna's Red'





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## Dealing with the Winter Drought

The holidays are over and now the winter drought begins. I know that the general definition of a drought is a lack of rain or moisture, which we get sometimes in the winter, but it can also mean a drought of a different kind too. For some it is the actual lack of water for those plants under your eaves that don't get the moisture from the winter rains, but for others it is the drought of things to do outside in the garden. Those cold and dreary days leave a lot of gardeners in limbo. There is not much to do if you have already done your winter pruning, cleaning and spraying. There is also the drought of ideas. We look for things to think about when it comes to gardening. Jumping from magazine to magazine, seed catalog to plant catalog, looking for ideas for the upcoming season. Still, after you have read all the articles and circled all the pictures, what do you do with the rest of your time?

Just like the drought in the summer, there are things you can do to combat this 'dry' period. Indoor plants are a start. Your gardening is not limited to the outside and summer. Buy a few new plants and actively cultivate them indoors! Try something new and different to grow your knowledge of plants. Then share that knowledge, or plants, with others. Watch the patterns of the winter winds, your plants and the local wildlife and then make plans to change your garden during the coming season to accommodate that flora and fauna for next year. Then, take a walk around your garden to enjoy the small things that are happening now.

This month we help you with some of those 'dry' days. I share some tips about indoor plants, including how they add color and texture to your home, how easy they are to take care of and how they can help create a cleaner and healthier indoor environment too. If you are looking for winter plants for your garden, Therese found some newer varieties of Hellebores that you will want to try, including some from the Gold Collection that work well in our gardens. Another, more tangible, way of avoiding droughts, is with a rain barrel. William checks out some of the reasons why rain barrels are a good choice for the home gardener. We also have an article about saving water for emergencies in your home with a story on the 14 Gallon Challenge.

So, even if you are experiencing a drought in your winter garden or just your attitude, there is no lack of things to do.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**ask mortimer....pg. 4**

### New Hellebores

**got to have it....pg. 6**

### Rain Barrels

**backyard....pg. 10**

### Neighborhood Parks

**adventures....pg. 14**

### Purple Vegetables

**eats....pg. 20**

### Tom Fischer

**hortie....pg. 28**

### 14 Gallon Challenge

**home....pg. 32**

**january garden tips....pg. 36**

**gardening events....pg. 40**



# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



## Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I had a problem with fruit flies during the summer in my house and now they seem to be coming back, even though I don't have fresh fruit and veggies from my garden. They seem to have white wings. Where are they coming from?

Signed,  
Bugged in Beaverton

Dear Bugged,

These winter pests may not be fruit flies! I think I know what you are battling, white flies. Insect problems on your indoor plants are not unusual. White flies and other pests live under the leaves of your plants and could have made the journey inside when you brought your plants inside from the deck or patio after the summer. The soil in these plants can also house many pests and diseases, including mites, scale and even aphids. If they are white flies you would see them in larger concentrations around your houseplants. If you are not into chemicals you can use an insecticidal soap. You can also remove the top inch of soil from your plant and replace it with a good 'packaged' garden soil. These have usually been tested for bugs and diseases. Wipe down the plant and use a natural remedy. If you don't mind chemicals, then use a systemic insect control, or continue to wipe down the plant on a weekly basis.

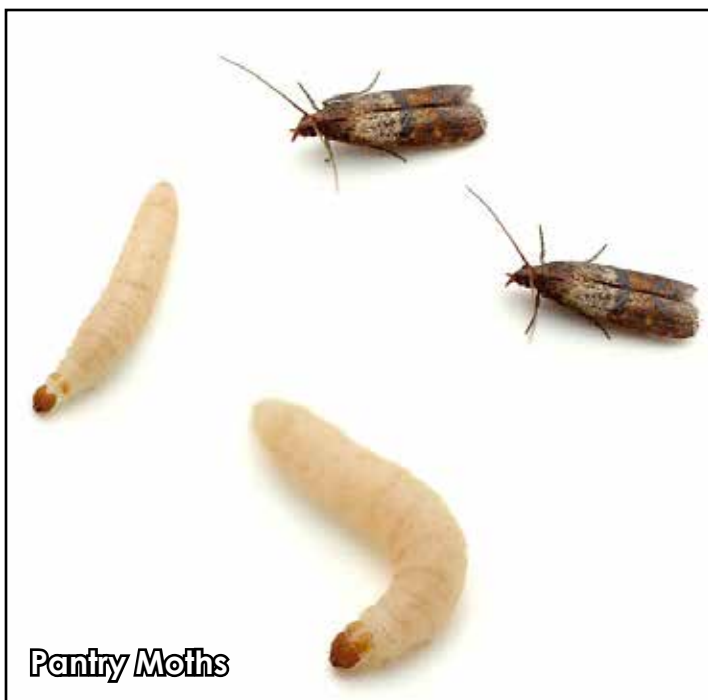


Meal Moth

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)



**Ash Whitefly**



**Pantry Moths**

If the pests are a moth type of insect, then you might have a form of pantry or meal moth. They feed on cereals, nuts, grains and even pet food. Look for the package where they are feeding (usually a container or bag that has been left open), you can usually see the worms/larvae, and get rid of them. Then place a sticky pheromone trap out for the remainder of the swarm. You can find these traps at your local garden center.

We hope you can survive the rest of the winter bug free, but if you can't just drop us a line!

Your friend,  
Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I burn wood in a woodstove for heat in the winter and I heard that you can spread the ashes in your garden. Is that true?

Signed,  
Tons of Ashes in Ashland

Dear Ashland,

Yes, spreading ash from burning wood is beneficial to your garden, but there are a few precautions you should think about as well.

First, wood ash is great because it is a product of plants so it contains lots of nutrients that are not consumed by the fire, like potassium, calcium and other trace elements. It is also slightly alkaline, so it can help with acidic soils, which we have a lot of in the Northwest. The nutritional value of the ash is dependent on the type of wood you burn as well. If you burn a hardwood you will get about three times as much ash with five times the nutrients as a softwood.

Now for the precautions. Don't use the ash on acid loving plants like blueberries, rhodies or azaleas, they love acidic soil, and only use 'wood' ashes in your garden or lawn! Don't burn trash or other items and use the ashes in your garden. You should also spread wood ashes evenly on your yard. Use no more than 1.5 pounds/100 square feet/year and don't use if the soil pH is greater than 7.0 or if potassium levels are excessive.

For more information on the use of wood ashes in your garden you can check out the OSU Extension website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>.

Your friend,  
Mortimer



**Wood ash contains lots of nutrients.**



**A hardwood, like Ash, has more nutrients.**



# Winter Jewels

Add these gems to your garden and brighten up the bleary months of winter.

by Therese Gustin

*Helleborus* 'Gold Collection Snow Fever'

In the dead of winter when the landscape slumbers there is little to excite the somber gardener who longs to gaze upon the rainbow of colors just waiting to awaken in the spring! One perennial however, that shines while so many others hide this time of year is the Hellebore. Vibrant colors like pinks, purples, yellows, reds and whites stand out in the garden when most other perennials remain dormant.

There are several varieties of hellebores available including *Helleborus argutifolius* known as the Corsican hellebore. This species is evergreen and winter hardy to zone 6. It has light green leaves with many light green flowers growing along a

stalk. *Hellebores foetidus* or the Stinking Hellebore is evergreen and hardy in our area. It has dark green leaves with 5 to 13 narrow leaflets which are pungent if crushed. The flowers are light green to red-tinted. *Helleborus niger*, also known as the Christmas Rose is winter to spring flowering, evergreen and boasts leaves that are dark green, leathery and divided into 7 to 9 leaflets. Its flowers have pinkish buds opening to white with a green center.

By far, the most popular hellebores for garden use are generally *Helleborus orientalis* and its colorful hybrids (*H. x hybridus*). Because they normally flower in early spring

around the period of Lent they are commonly known as Lenten roses. These winter hardy perennials are evergreen and prefer part sun to shady conditions making them perfect plants for woodland settings or between shrubs or under trees. They have short-stemmed often toothed palmate leaves and their five petalled bowl-shaped flowers come in an array of colors from yellows and apricots to pinks, purples, reds, greens and whites. Some varieties have petals which are spotted or picoteed, others have contrasting colors on the edges of their petals and many varieties are double-petalled. Even after their flowers have faded, hellebore leaves pro-





vide interesting structure in the shade garden throughout the year. They are also one of the rare perennials that is deer resistant. They like soil evenly moist. They can tolerate some drought but may need a drink if it is an especially dry summer. To best show off the flowers in the winter and early spring you can prune off the older tattered leaves.

There has been quite a bit of work done with breeders in recent years to make improvements to flower color, foliage and stem color and even the orientation of the flower. Many hellebore flowers face downward making it difficult to see the lovely patterns and colors inside the flowers. In years past hellebores were recommended for hillsides and raised beds in order to appreciate the beauty of the interior of the flowers. Over the years more and more varieties have come

to market with outward facing or even upward facing flowers. Now those of us who don't have gardens on hillsides can experience the beauty of these winter jewels.

I discovered four newer varieties on the market at Portland Nursery.

**Helleborus argutifolius  
Gold Collection®  
'Snow Fever'**

This variegated leaved variety grows 6-12" high remaining a compact yet vigorous grower. Mottled green and white foliage emerges with purple overtones and produces creamy green flowers. This variety is gorgeous in the garden even without any flowers.

**Helleborus Gold  
Collection® 'Jesko'**

This Hellebous niger variety has large white blooms with overlapping petals that emerge



**Helleborus Gold Collection 'Jesko'**





**Helleborus x lemonnierii**  
**'Madame Lemonnier'**

in early winter. It has evergreen, glossy, deep green foliage and a very compact growth habit. It reaches a height of 10".

**Helleborus x lemonnierii**  
**'Madame Lemonnier'**

This hybrid Lenten rose has large upward facing pinkish red flowers from mid-winter to early spring. It is a cross between the Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger* with the commonly grown *Helleborus x hybridus*. This variety grows to 18" - 24" tall.

**Helleborus 'Anna's Red'**

This cross between *Helleborus lividus*, *Helleborus niger*, and *Helleborus x hybridus* boasts gorgeous 12-16" high single pink to deep burgundy red flowers in spring. Its marbled foliage with a pink tinge and red stems add to its year-round interest.

Check out your favorite independent nursery this time of year and see what gems you can add to your garden that will brighten up the bleary months of winter.



**Helleborus 'Anna's Red'**





**1**  
*Hellebore  
 before  
 leaf removal*

## PRUNING YOUR HELLEBORE

**2**  
*Pruning old  
 leaves from  
 a hellebore*



**3**  
*Hellebore  
 after old  
 leaf removal*



# Rain Check

Now both  
fashionable  
and functional,  
rain barrels  
allow us to  
save water  
and money.

by  
William  
McClenathan



It never was odd for humans throughout history to search for and collect water.

Water is one of the very few essentials we humans require to not just survive, but to thrive.

We cannot go long without it, only a few days at most.

So the desire to make sure potable water is readily available is one of our prime objectives.

In the past we created cisterns, dug wells, lived by rivers, built dams on those rivers but finally we created a way water could be piped to almost every household in America.

But still our desire to collect water remains.

This concept works well for most of America as they tend to have collectable rain water at some time in most of the year. We in the Willamette Valley tend to have a yearly drought.

We call it summer.

It is also the time of year when we require more water, and yet, we have hardly any rain falling, so there is no way to collect it from rainfall.

This had been my argument against rain barrels since I moved here back in 1996.

Until this year.

That is when we had the good fortune of doing a story on Garden Time. (Here it is to refresh your memory, in case you have forgotten or have never seen that episode). <https://youtu.be/9rPfmjLCWXI>

What this story did for me was to broaden my concept of what a rain barrel is. Once that occurred, I was able to see how I did not have to limit my idea of rain collection to just one barrel. I could in fact daisy chain many together. If done correctly, this might even







cover an entire summer without rain and assist in controlling not only my monthly water bill, but making sure I also do not enhance the burden of watering my gardens at a time when water usage in Portland soars higher.

This then became a win for everyone involved.

- The cost of my monthly bill.
- The use of water in high usage times of the year.
- The ability to maintain a healthy garden in summer.

And fortunately the rain barrel industry has come up with more attractive barrels too.

No longer does one need to hide them behind something, although that is still an easy way to cover the less attractive barrels.

I should also talk a little bit about how to use the water

from rain barrels in a garden.

Certainly, there should be a faucet at the base of the barrel. Most manufactured barrels have those. And if you raise the barrel off of the ground by a cinder block or two high, gravity will take care of the rest for filling a watering can.

The great thing here is that a drip system or soaker hose will also use this low gravity concept. Generally, a 55 gallon rain barrel using only gravity for dispersion of the water can reach out about 20 feet.

I have made the mistake of thinking I would just put the rain barrels up really high. While this did extend the amount of pressure for dispersion, it limited the ability of collection of the rain because I went too high and the gutters were below the top of my barrels. Learn from





my well-intended, but foolish mistakes!

You would need a pump to fill the rain barrels, which kind of removes the entire concept of being 'green' for this process.

There is a science behind this entire process. And although I fancy myself a smart guy, I eventually just went to those who actually understand it all and talked with them.

Several garden centers carry a selection of rain barrels. Just call the one you love and ask them if they have rain barrels in stock.

And of course you can always contact the company which we interviewed at **[www.gradybarrels.com](http://www.gradybarrels.com)** for more information on creating a system for your own home and garden and the best, most efficient way to disperse the water for your usage. Also where you can purchase their barrels.





# Local Phenomenon

**Thanks to a plethora of neighborhood parks, you don't have to go far to get away from it all.**

**by Ron Dunevant**



**Columbia Park in North Portland features tall evergreen trees.**

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

Life in the Pacific Northwest offers benefits that few other geographical areas can boast. Though most of us reside in a massive metropolis, buzzing urban area or sprawling suburb, we still live within a short distance of dozens of natural wonders: majestic mountain ranges, the swirling Pacific Ocean, national forests, scenic rivers and lakes, the beautiful Columbia Gorge and so much more. We are also treated to numerous well-known parks and gardens, such as The Oregon Garden, Washington Park, Forest Park and The International Rose Test Garden, to name just a few. Many of these destinations have been featured on the pages of Garden Time Magazine and make for a wonderful family getaway or extended vacation.

For those of us with limited time, finite resources or a constrained

budget, these pleasures may come but once or twice a year. However, we do have the good fortune of being able to enjoy the richness of this land through something a little closer to home: our neighborhood parks. In the Portland Metro Area alone, you will find hundreds of city and county parks, greenways, open spaces, wildlife refuges, hiking trails, picnic areas, rest areas, and waysides. In fact, the odds are great that you have one of these urban oases within walking distance of your house or apartment.

As a destination, city parks are often overlooked in favor of their grander, more promoted cousins, but they are just as vital to the health of an urban area. In fact, the larger the metropolis, the more important the role of these hidden gems.

The impetus of the urban park can be traced back more than two centuries, thanks to the Industrial Revolution. In 1790, only one-in-twenty Americans lived in urban areas, a.k.a. cities. By 1870, that number had increased to one-in-four. It climbed to 50 percent in 1920, over 60 percent in the 1960s and now, in the new millennium, four out of five people in the U.S. live in an urban area. The result is that most of us spend our time, outside of vacations, within the confines of cement facades, paved arterials and towering structures. As our country's makeup has changed from predominantly agrarian and rural to industrial and urban, the need to "get away from it all" has become more and more vital.

Along the way, this lifestyle change necessitated the creation of areas in which workers could



relax, unwind and decompress. Going back to the late 1800s, city governments purchased large tracts of land to create what was referred to as "pleasure grounds," open, landscaped areas that would allow city residents to enjoy nature and take a break from their daily toil. As cities expanded beyond the confines of these grounds, these parks were upgraded to include zoos, museums and golf courses.

Then, in the first decades of the 20th century, cities began to build neighborhood parks with swimming pools, playgrounds and civic buildings. The hope was that, by creating spaces that everyone could share, the burgeoning immigrant population would have an easier time adapting to their new country.

After World War II, as G.I.s returned from combat and settled in to new homes and better jobs, parks set their focus on both outdoor and indoor recreation. This led to the formation of sports leagues to take advantage of new ball fields and gymnasiums. Residential neighborhoods were the beneficiaries of smaller parks, which introduced programs for children, adults and senior citizens.

In the 1960s and '70s, as populations increased and land prices climbed, parks became smaller, tucked into housing developments, featuring a smaller green space and, sometimes, a children's playground.

As you are no doubt aware, this trend toward urbanization has continued. As of 2010, 81% of Oregon's population and 84% of Washington's population live in urban areas. If you drive in the phenomenon we call "rush hour," then you have experienced this change: more people, more cars, less space and less time to enjoy life's simple pleasures. Now, more than ever, we need to disengage, and the neighborhood park is the perfect solution.

You are probably aware of, if not familiar with, your nearest neighborhood park or green space. Perhaps you went there as a child or you take your children there today. You may have fond memories of swing sets, teeter-totters, slides and baseball fields. Maybe you dash through one on your morning jog or make a pit stop while walking the dog. But, if you haven't spent a sunny summer Saturday or a warm spring afternoon enjoying these urban oases, you're missing something. You may not even be aware that there are dozens, even hundreds within walking or driving distance of your home or office.

The amenities offered by these areas are vast, with activities that range from quiet contemplation to uber-athleticism. You will find picnic areas, tennis courts, baseball fields, basketball courts, boat ramps, dog runs, football and soccer fields, fountains, horse-shoe pits, natural areas, playgrounds, bike and hiking paths, roller skating, skate parks, flower gardens, rock climbing walls, equestrian trails, statues, public

# Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



## Local Events January 2018

**Kid's Club: Create an Indoor Terrarium**  
**Saturday, January 6, 2018 • 11:00am**  
**Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, OR**

Create a mini garden to enjoy and care for indoors. These beautiful little gardens will be created with an assortment of houseplants and/or succulents. We will add the finishing touches with some surprise accents... come to class to discover more.  
• [www.alsgardencenter.com](http://www.alsgardencenter.com)

**Portland Nursery Annual Houseplant Sale**  
**January 11-24, 2018 • Store Hours**  
**Portland Nursery (Division & Stark), Portland, OR**  
30% off all houseplants and decorative pots. Purchase a plant and a pot and get a free Pot-Up! Indoor gardening classes all month long. See the Houseplant Sale Page for images from previous years or go to our Houseplant Page for more general information.  
• [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**O-Shogatsu, Japanese New Year**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018 • Garden Hours**  
**Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**  
Festivities will include an authentic tea ceremony, calligraphy demonstration, and koto harp performance. Take a stroll around the Garden where you will see kadomatsu affixed to the pillars. Included with Garden Admission.  
• [www.japanesegarden.org](http://www.japanesegarden.org)







**Cherry Blossom trees in Tom McCall Waterfront Park in Downtown Portland**



**Roses in Peninsula Park in North Portland**



**Tulips in Sellwood Park in Southeast Portland**

art, breathtaking vistas, serene lakes, rushing rivers and swimming pools.

Sound like the answer to a prayer? It is, and thanks to modern technology, finding the perfect venue is as close as your smart phone or computer. For instance, go to the Parks & Recreation page of the City of Portland website ([www.portlandoregon.gov](http://www.portlandoregon.gov)). There, you will find a searchable list of over 300 parks, gardens and natural areas run by the city. You can customize your results by area and preferred amenities. Checkboxes allow you to select from downtown, north, northeast, northwest, southeast or southwest Portland. From there, you have over 75 features from which you can choose, including sports facilities, trails, picnic areas, wedding sites, historical sites, party rooms and public gardens.

Did you know there are five parks in the Portland area that feature an indoor swimming pool? They're spread out so one is close to almost any area of the city. For summertime fun (or the stout of heart) there are five additional venues that offer an outdoor pool. Six offer a skate park, seven have "interactive" fountains, 17 are listed as "historical sites", and nine provide off-leash, fenced dog areas.

One thing to note is that you cannot search for two features that contradict each other. If you select both "Swim Pool - Indoor" and "Swim Pool - Outdoor," the program will return zero results - apparently no parks have both. The same is true if you click both "fenced" and "unfenced" dog areas. Keeping that restriction in mind, it is still an easy way to find just what you are looking for.

If you live outside of Portland, you will find similar sites for just about any city and most counties. The Salem Park Finder ([www.cityofsalem.net](http://www.cityofsalem.net)) plots the location of over 75 parks on an interactive map. Click on a park and select "view in attribute table" and you'll see a





**Playground in Fulton Park in Southwest Portland**

spreadsheet of everything that park offers, from location to park hours to the availability of such things as picnic areas, shelters, dog parks, trails, sports areas and restrooms. You can also view each park individually for a picture and detailed information. Click on the link for "Bush's Pasture Park," and you'll find this information: "Bush's Pasture Park covers 90.5 acres of lush, wooded areas and open meadows. Bring friends for a pick-up game of ultimate Frisbee, or bring the kids to enjoy any of the playgrounds, including the Crooked House Playground. There are many trails that are perfect for walking, jogging, or running at whatever pace you prefer.

Enjoy the Rhododendron and Rose Gardens. Play tennis at one of the four lighted tennis courts. Visit the Bush House Museum or the Bush Art Center and gallery, home of the annual Salem Art Fair." Everything you want to know, only a click away!

The City of Vancouver website ([www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)) offers a similar experience. Here again, you can search by neighborhood, amenities and type. Each park is also featured on its own page. Click on David Douglas Park, and you'll learn that "this 88-acre community park is the largest in the City of Vancouver! David Douglas services central Vancouver as well



**Skate park at Glenhaven Park in Northeast Portland**

## Park Place!

Find information on your local parks by going to the website nearest you. For smaller cities, do a search for your city's government website. You're likely to find information there on all the parks under their jurisdiction.

### Portland

[www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/)

### Vancouver, Washington

[www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec)

### Eugene

[www.eugene-or.gov/185/Parks-and-Open-Space](http://www.eugene-or.gov/185/Parks-and-Open-Space)

### Salem

[www.cityofsalem.net/activities](http://www.cityofsalem.net/activities)

### Gresham

<https://greshamoregon.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/>

### Hillsboro

[www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/departments/parks-recreation](http://www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/departments/parks-recreation)

### Beaverton

[www.beavertonoregon.gov/100/Parks-Recreation](http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/100/Parks-Recreation)

### Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

[www.thprd.org/](http://www.thprd.org/)

### Springfield

<https://willamalane.org/parks/>

### Corvallis

[www.corvallisoregon.gov/parksrec](http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/parksrec)

### Albany

[www.cityofalbany.net/departments/parks-and-recreation](http://www.cityofalbany.net/departments/parks-and-recreation)

### Tigard

[www.tigard-or.gov/community/parks.php](http://www.tigard-or.gov/community/parks.php)

### Lake Oswego

[www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec](http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec)

### Oregon City

[www.orcity.org/parksandrecreation/welcome-oregon-city-parks](http://www.orcity.org/parksandrecreation/welcome-oregon-city-parks)

### Washington County, Oregon

[www.co.washington.or.us](http://www.co.washington.or.us)

### Clackamas County, Oregon

[www.clackamas.us/parks](http://www.clackamas.us/parks)

### Multnomah County, Oregon

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

### Clark County, Washington

[www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-parks](http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-parks)





Carousel at Riverfront Park in Salem

as the Northwood Neighborhood. The Park serves as a central gathering area for sporting events and community activities and is home to the Columbia Little League and many of Vancouver Parks and Recreation sports leagues.” You’ll also see the park’s hours, amenities and information about youth and adult sports.

Seeing the maps that plot each of these venues makes you realize how many of these secluded sanctuaries there are within a few miles of any starting point. Spend just a few minutes searching and you’ll easily find what is near your location or, conversely, how far you will have to drive to find a particular park or amenity.



Geese in Maurie Jacobs Park in Eugene

The best part? Most of these delights are free! As city or county facilities, your taxes pay for the upkeep, so you can go there any time with no more expense than it takes to arrive. Yes, some will have charges for swimming pools, building rentals or reservations, so be sure to find the specific information for your park or activity.

It is worth noting that many of these parks also feature gorgeous trees, flowers, bushes and animals. Peninsula Park in North Portland offers a gorgeous rose garden. Just a couple of miles away, you can commune with the squirrels and stroll among towering evergreen trees in Columbia Park. Tom McCall Waterfront Park in downtown has a gorgeous display of Cherry Blossom trees, as does Cherry Blossom Park (of course) in southeast Portland. Nearby Laurelhurst Park is famous for its duck pond. Tualatin Community Park gives visitors access to the scenic Tualatin River. These areas and hundreds more are a perfect combination of urban sensibility and rural beauty.



The Tualatin River in Tualatin Community Park

So, next time you have a free hour, take a trip to your neighborhood park. It’s a great opportunity to get out in nature and enjoy the scenery, just steps from your own backyard.



# Garden Time Tours

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

13 Days • August 5-18, 2018

**SAVE  
\$300**

IF YOU SIGN UP BY  
FEBRUARY 1ST!

Brussels and the Flower Carpet Show



Sissinghurst Castle



Kew Gardens



Monet's Gardens at Giverny

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

Bring a sun hat (or maybe your wellies) and a wheelbarrow and join *Garden Time* hosts Judy Alleruzzo & William McClenathan as they set out to discover the best public and private gardens of London, Paris, Brussels and the Belgium countryside. Stroll the grounds of Kew Gardens, Sissinghurst and Great Dixter. Visit Monet's gardens at Giverny. Sip champagne and explore Brussels and the Flower Carpet Show.

Space is limited, so hurry to join Garden Time and Time to Travel on this adventure in August of 2018!

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS TRIP>>**

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TRIP BOOKED THROUGH





# The Color Purple



by William McClenathan

Fresh Ube (Purple Yam)

**Are you someone who instantly thinks of eggplant when asked about purple vegetables? I know I am. And while eggplants are well known, and some are indeed purple, there are several vegetables and fruits which have purple varieties as well.**

## **An (Incomplete) List of Purple Vegetables**

**Peppers • Currants • Cherries • Artichokes  
Kale • Belgian Endive • Radicchio • Broccoli  
Basil • Carrots • Garlic • Leaf Lettuce**

Purple fruits and vegetables are sought after by health-conscious consumers as the vibrant color indicates a naturally high presence of health enhancing antioxidants.

From purple potatoes and carrots, to purple cabbage and black currants, the list of purple fruits and vegetables provides plenty of nutritional credentials in their vibrant hues. They are not only limited to adding color to a dish, they also help you improve your health when you choose to include them in your diet.

In researching information for this article, one newer variety to America jumped out at me. It is *Dioscorea alata*. The purple yam or Ube... pronounced "oo-beh".

A tuberous root vegetable that has natural bright, lavender color. Hence the name purple yam. It can sometimes appear to be white, and is often confused with other tubers like taro and sweet potatoes. Ube is abundant in many different Asian cuisines. It has been widely used in the Philippines, where its affinity with sugar



and honey has made it a common ingredient in many local desserts.

With a taste profile that's described as anywhere between an earthy, white chocolate-flavored sweet potato to a vanilla-scented pistachio nut, Ube has steadily been creeping onto the menus of trendy US restaurants because of its unique shades of purple. Inspirational photos on many Instagram accounts have also brought Ube a lot of attention.

Leave it to American ingenuity to take this amazing food to a different level.

For example, the Golden Cristal Donut from Brooklyn, New York's 'Manila Social Club'.

The obscenely expensive donut (one costs \$100.00 and a dozen will set you back \$1,200.00) is made with Cristal champagne and Ube mousse batter, and then covered in gold flakes. While it's certainly a show-stopper, the eatery's real star is its standard, fuss-free Ube donut called Ube Bae. Dozens of them are produced every week and they are consistently sold out. Sometimes, there's even a three-week waiting period for them. There is also a Manila Social Club in Miami.

Many restaurants which are not Asian are now making things from Ube as well. From waffles to pies and of course one of America's favorites... ice cream.

Nowadays, the humble, violet tuber is the unorthodox star of quite a few Western dishes, suggesting that Filipinos are no longer the only ones craving it.

Here is the big question for me though. Can we grow Ube here in our area?

Those of us who have tried to grow yams in the PNW have had varied success but many failures. Similar to sweet potatoes, they love warm soil while growing. And although we do get warm soil, this group of tropical and sub-tropical plants tends to need a longer warm stretch than nature can provide here for consistent production of produce.

I have had some success when planting sweet potatoes in very large black containers setting on concrete driveways in full sun. But even sometimes in cooler summers, those crops have not produced well.



Purple Sprouting Broccoli



Purple Carrots



Purple Garlic





**Purple Cauliflower**



**Blue-Purple Phytonutrients**



**Purple Potatoes**

This has given me hope that I may be able to grow the purple yam here successfully.

My good friend Riz Reyes posted this interesting blog about Ube.

<http://nextgenerationgardener.blogspot.com/2012/02/ode-to-purple-yam-we-call-ube.html>

I have tried to find a local place to buy the plants for next spring with no avail, except on Amazon. I am a man of suspicion though and was not confident these were the actual Ube plants at all.

I would think that if you can find the yam in a market, you should be able to start it growing. Do not be fooled by the seller saying what they have is actually Ube. Very often, sweet potatoes are sold as yams. They are very different botanically, although they do have similar sweetness in flavor. And both yams and sweet potatoes have members of their families which are purple.

While this may not be a successful endeavor in our area, when has that ever stopped us rabid gardeners from trying something new and different?

There is no doubt that purple sweet potatoes have gained popularity over the past year. But not all varieties of purple sweet potatoes are created equal.

In my research to demystify some of this confusion, I found this informative website.

<http://www.friedas.com/the-ultimate-purple-sweet-potato-guide/>

The three main types of purple flesh sweet potatoes consumed in the U.S. are Stokes Purple® sweet potatoes, Okinawan sweet potatoes, and Ube (pronounced OO-beh). Consumers—and even food writers—often confuse these three because of skin or flesh color, different names, and even because the Internet shows confusing images. As a matter of fact, one of them is not even a sweet potato at all but a true yam. (And no, a yam is not the same as a sweet potato either, but that's a whole other story.)

The three different pictures can clearly show their differences.





Purple Ube Yam as it grows underground.

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[f](#) [t](#)







One of the other differences is that Ipomea (sweet potato) tends to crawl on the ground or hang from a basket.

Whereas Dioscorea alata (purple yam) would really prefer to climb. The small yams which grow on the vine are called bulbils and can be harvested in the fall for next year's 'seeds'.

It is a perennial, so in the topical zones it is native to, it will die down in the late fall or early winter but return the following year. That is also the time it is dug and harvested.

And the size of yams can be extremely large. Some tubers have been over 6 feet long in ground. The purple yam tends to not be so aggressive. The vine itself can be large as well, growing upwards of 15 feet in one growing season.

They also, once established, do not require much attention or care.

From a guy in Florida, I found this website offering a lot of information and some good information on growing them.

[www.thesurvivalgardener.com/purple-ube-yams](http://www.thesurvivalgardener.com/purple-ube-yams)

But! Here is what I did find which you can purchase right in our area!

The Fubonn Shopping Center does carry the Ube ice cream. <http://www.fubonn.com/>

Also the way most people cook with Ube is to buy it already processed. The Ube that is used widely comes as a jam (Ube Halaya) or in a powder, extract, or frozen form. It turns out that preparing this true yam is labor intensive and that is why they're commonly available in processed form.

Joyfully, I can tell you that the Ube Halaya jam for cooking and baking use is sold at Uwajimaya in Beaverton.

<http://www.uwajimaya.com/stores/beaverton>

But sadly, I could find no place yet in our area which sells the plants or the yam itself. As soon as I do I will let you know.

Do keep your eye on this beautiful plant and beautiful purple vegetable. I suspect it is much more than just a trend on Instagram.



Okinawan Sweet Potato



Purple Yam, underground



A three-foot-long yam



# Air B & B (Beauty & Benefits)

Adding indoor plants to your living space is a boon to the eyes and the lungs.

by Jeff Gustin

Indoor plants are an overlooked group! Most people think that they are limited to a set of boring, basic green plants! Oh, but there are so many more choices out there, and there are many reasons why the gardener should look inside for winter interest plants to shake those winter doldrums!

First of all, indoor plants are not just about boring green foliage! There are many plants that can add color and texture to your home. Foliage alone can be diverse and exciting! Take the croton. Pinks, golds, yellows, oranges and reds all appear in various varieties of this plant's leaves. There are also cordylines, coleus, palms and cycads to choose from. There are also numerous plants from your summer garden that can be grown indoors that include begonias and violets. And who can resist those weird common names? Prayer plant, Mother-in-laws-tongue, rosary plant and Purple Passion Plant! More than enough to brighten those darkest days. Plus the textures go from broad shiny leaves to pointy spikes!

Indoor plants can also be hardy, easy to care for and very forgiving! The one thing that people do is sometimes 'love their plants to death'! That means too much water, fertilizer or pruning. A lot of indoor plants just need the occasional watering (with good drainage), decent temperatures and some sunlight. Some people think of temperamental orchids and touchy poinsettias when they talk about indoor plants, but there are some that can exist and survive even in a dark closet for



The indoor plant area at Portland Nursery

PHOTOS THIS PAGE CREDIT: PORTLAND NURSERY

months at a time! The best thing is to find a place where you want a plant and then find a plant that fits that area. I'm pretty sure that a visit to a local garden center will provide you with many choices to choose from.

Tips for indoor care include the regular checking of soil for moisture, watering when completely dry, to rotation so the plant gets equal exposure to light on all sides, and then checking for pests and diseases, and treating when you see them.

Indoor plants can also benefit your health, more than just looking pretty and making you feel good! Numerous plants can capture and isolate pollutants in your home. NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, has come up with 10 indoor plants that can improve your indoor air quality! These plants can isolate those pollutants and also create oxygen. Some of these plants in-

clude Aloe Vera (whose sap is also good for cuts and burns), peace lily, spider plant and the Boston Fern. They will also maintain the moisture in your home and regulate the temperature as well.

Another benefit of these plants is that they are also readily available at most of your local independent garden centers. There are lots of indoor plant sales in January as well. One of the biggest and best is at Portland Nursery on Division (they also have a great selection at their Stark Street store). They have a huge selection of great plants to choose from.

So your green thumb doesn't have to take a break during the winter, just add a few plants indoors and enjoy the many benefits of being a 'year-round' gardener.

List of NASA Clean Air Plants  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA\\_Clean\\_Air\\_Study](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Clean_Air_Study)



PHOTO CREDIT:  
JIM THE PHOTOGRAPHER/Flickr



Coleus



Cordyline

PHOTO CREDIT:  
FOREST AND KIM STARR/Flickr

PHOTO CREDIT:  
DUMINDA PLUMWARDENA/Flickr



Croton



Sago Palm

PHOTO CREDIT: MEKNITS/Flickr

A background image of a succulent plant, likely a Sedum or similar, with thick, pointed, green leaves. The plant is in the foreground, slightly out of focus, with a soft, warm light background.

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# The Timbre of His Voice

**Timber Press's  
Tom Fischer perceives  
gardening not as a  
pastime or a hobby,  
but as a teacher.**

by  
**William McClenathan**



Tom Fischer

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines Horticulture as: the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants.

The key to me in this definition are the words science and art. Those two words define and provide the inclusion of countless people who interact with plants which include design, landscape, food, beverages, tools and... books.

I needed to make sure I understood what the word meant, as this month's Horti is Tom Fischer of Timber Press. So let's find out what is beneath the cover of the Book titled, Tom Fischer.

We who adore gardening realize the grand value of books and gardening. From the spiritual

inclusion of life in the garden to the construction of landscapes to the botanical study of names which define the plants we love, we depend on books for constant information and inspiration on the joy we find in gardening.

So it makes sense we would choose Tom to kick off this new year in the garden.

And what a story Tom's life is. Gardening runs in his family.

Tom's passion for gardening began long before he was born, going all the way back to his grandfather. The son of immigrants from Ireland, his grandfather ran an estate garden in Yonkers, New York.

An interesting note here is that back then, a vast majority of

professional gardeners were either Scottish or Irish. Of those people who had large estates back then, they all knew that to have a beautiful garden you should hire an Irishman for the job.

These estates were the private world of the wealthy and their beauty always included a great gardener.

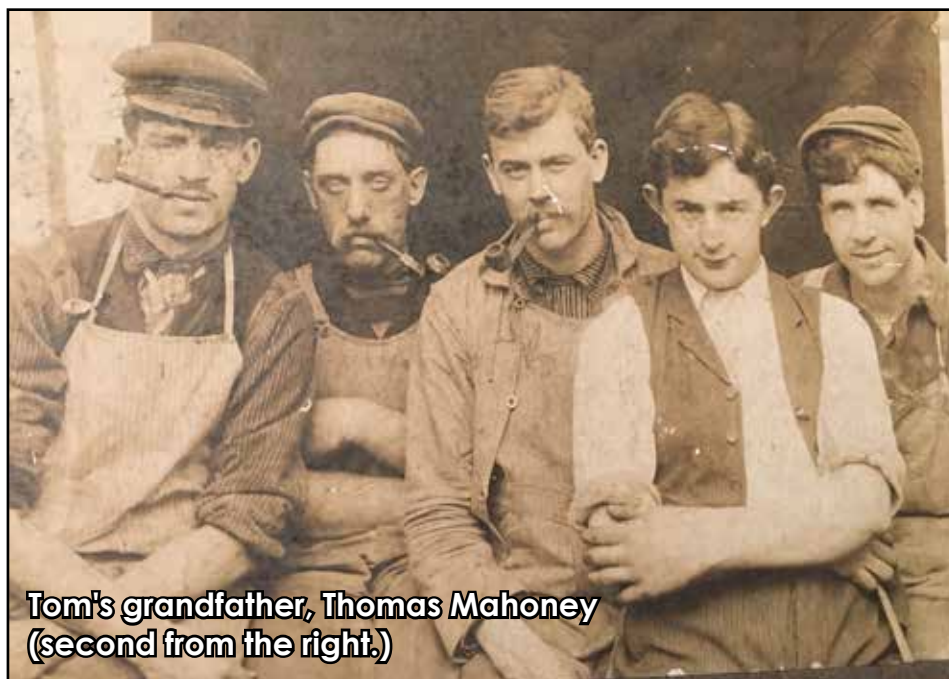
Tom's grandfather also worked in horticulture with the Highway Department maintaining the miles of grounds which are still to this day in many places filled with plants. Here in our area we use roses. All of those plantings still require some form of maintenance to remain constantly beautiful.

For Tom, his passion for nature





Some of Tom's many horticulture books.



Tom's grandfather, Thomas Mahoney (second from the right.)



Tom at age 3

and gardening began with his mother who was an avid gardener.

His first, 'take your breath away' moment was when his family was living in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. He saw a small patch of blooming Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and he fell in love.

Tom went to college at Haverford where he studied and received his degree in English. Tom was

inspired to study English because of a teacher in High School.

But it was a professor at Haverford where his first passion to grow something which was unfamiliar to him came from. This professor grew Orchids.

Tom became enthralled with orchids and soon all free spaces in his dorm room were filled with orchids.

After moving to Chicago for graduate school, Tom became a regular customer of Orchids by Hausermann, in Villa Park, Illinois. While there he moved into his first rental. Finally he had some space with which to actually garden outdoors. He asked the landlord if he could. They said yes and this became the beginning of Tom's love of all things perennial.

Tom spent eight years as a manuscript editor at the University of Chicago Press before moving to Boston and his job at Beacon Press. He was asked to apply for the job at Beacon by a former U. of C. press colleague who had preceded him to Boston.

Tom was ready to begin his life.

Never one to be shy, Tom approached Beacon Press to ask to work there. They hired him, and one of the first things he did was clean up and redo a small courtyard garden. After four years at Beacon Press, he was hired as an editor at Horticulture magazine, which at the time was still based in Boston. To this day, there is a hardbound collection of Horticulture in his office at Timber Press.

His time at Horticulture magazine took a direction which included giving garden tours worldwide. He loved this aspect of his job. Not only because of visiting the gardens, but also because of the interaction with other gardeners who would accompany him. Tom realized from this experience he would never be truly happy if he





**Tom's back garden in the spring.**



**Iris plants in Tom's front garden.**



**Virginia blue bells**

did not find a way to bring gardening into his career.

His tenure at Horticulture lasted from 1990 until 2004. Things were changing there and Tom felt the need to move on.

He had visited Portland before and heard about Timber Press. Once again, polite but never shy Tom, went there and asked about working for them. His persistence paid off. They interviewed him and he was hired as an Editor.

So, in 2004, Tom moved to Portland to begin his new job at Timber Press and to begin his new gardens in the Pacific Northwest. He was quick to point out that he was going from a zone 6 to a zone 8. His delight knew no bounds!

Currently Tom has the title of Acquisitions Editor. Basically, he searches for new authors, new ideas and new concepts in the world of gardening.

Tom does not perceive gardening as a pastime or a hobby but rather as a teacher; showing those who will pay attention to how Nature works and in doing that, how the world itself works, the interaction of all organisms.

The biggest thing though is how we interact with other humans as the desire to love and understand gardening causes us, by the very nature of Nature itself, to interact with other people.

Proof that he indeed is doing a job well designed for his unique and qualified skills.

He also is superb at writing as well. You'll find an example on the next page.



Here is an article written by Tom. With his permission, I will share a few excerpts from it. You may also read the entire article at The Hardy Plant Society website if you are a member. If not, it is a grand reason to join!

[www.hardyplantsociety.org/  
quarterly-magazine](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org/quarterly-magazine)

# Why I Garden

by Tom Fischer

*(First published in the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon Quarterly, Summer 2017)*

Another way of putting it is, "Why I engage in this crazy behavior that regularly pits me against the whims of a capricious climate, has prompted me to spend untold thousands of dollars over four decades, has filled much of my brain with Latin plant names, and has been singularly unkind to my lower back." So let's begin.

Variety and complexity. The fascination of the plant world is inexhaustible. When it comes to botanical love affairs, I must confess to being somewhat slutty. But what ecstasy has flowed from each one of these delirious entanglements! There was the blue bliss of delphiniums, gentians, and penstemons; the rainbow rapture of Pacific Coast spuria, and aril-bred irises; the splendid splurge of salvias. And currently there's the infectious infatuation with agapanthus. Each of these episodes has been enriching—educating me about how plants interact with their surroundings, refining my eye for color and combinations.

Equally thrilling has been seeing plants in the wild—memories I will cherish until I draw my last breath: gemlike bulbs and sheets of glowing annuals in South Africa; the forest floor gilded with thousands of *Iris innominata* in southern Oregon; cliffs in northern California turned scarlet and azure with delphiniums; shell-pink primulas clustered beneath a waterfall in central China.

In my younger years as a gardener, I wanted to own all this beauty—to grow every plant that caught my fancy. But more and more these days, I am content to know simply that it exists, somewhere in the world. I don't want to own it anymore, but I do want to protect it. In fact, the preservation of our few remaining wild places seems to me now an absolute imperative.

The wider world. Gardening is about connections: with nature, with other gardeners, with one's neighborhood, city, and country, with the entire cosmos, for all I know. Working in the garden has brought me into intimate contact with scores of creatures, creeping, skittering, slithering, flying, all of them fascinating and worthy of study. The great rock gardener and writer Geoffrey Charlesworth once said that a garden would be worth cultivating for the spiders it contains. I agree.

Gardening has brought me some of my most precious friendships. Whenever I'm tempted to conclude that humanity is a botched experiment, I think about the generosity and kindness I've encountered among gardeners and I repent my harsh judgment.

I am not a religious person, and I scoff at anything that smacks of the supernatural or woo-hoo New Age quackery. But I am nevertheless convinced that gardening is enduring, meaningful, and of supreme value, in ways that perhaps exceed our limited perspectives.

Beauty, variety, complexity. That's my mantra, and that's what gardening has given me.

As this snippet proves, Tom is indeed well suited to his work for Timber Press. And as you can tell, he is a grand writer and gardener to boot!

His biggest search now is "what is the next thing to intrigue gardeners".

I have no doubt he will certainly find and promote it.

To find out more about Timber Press, I kindly invite you to visit their website.

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





# Challenge Accepted

Preparing for  
a disaster  
is easy...  
and essential.

Large water storage containers make it easier to  
have as much as you need in an emergency.

by Jeff Gustin



For many years I was a volunteer with the local Red Cross chapter. One of my duties was to give presentations about disaster preparedness. Part of that talk was about putting together a 72 hour kit that would help you survive the first 3 days of a disaster. The main three items we focused on during our talks was food, water and shelter. Part of that equation was water and we recommended three gallons of water per person. That is one gallon, per person, per day. Those first three days were considered the critical time for a person to survive until emergency services could respond. If there is one thing we have learned about the recent hurricane season, three days is not enough! We live in an earthquake zone and experts agree that we are a little overdue for a larger earthquake in the Pacific Northwest. If there is a major event, we will need to be prepared for us, our families and possibly even our neighbors!

This past summer we were doing a story with Bonnie from the Regional Water Providers Consortium and she introduced us to the 14 Gallon Challenge. This takes that previous rule about water storage and expands it to a two week timeline. Having 14 days of water is not a bad idea at all. Water is the one thing that is critical for survival. We all use water for drinking and food prep, but also for cleaning and sanitation. With all that demand for water it is important that we have plenty. That is why Oregon Public Broadcasting and the RWPC teamed up for the 14 Gallon Challenge. The partnership started in 2016, but the information is timely for any month or year.

How do you start? Take simple steps. Commercially bottled water is one of the safest forms of saving water, but you can get around the expense of bottled water if you buy 'food grade' containers for storage. This could be large water containers that are used for camping or even soda containers. The Red Cross recommends that you don't use old fruit juice or milk containers since they are hard to purify and you could get bacteria growth. You can fill clean

containers with regular tap water and seal them with the original lid or cap. Then write the date you filled the container with a sharpie or grease pen on the container. You can use this date to drain and refill the container every six months to keep your supplies fresh. We like to check our supplies every time there is a time change. When you are setting your clocks forward or backward, you should replace your water. If you forget to drain your wa-



**You can save money by using old water or soda bottles for emergency water storage.**



ter, or you want to be sure that it is purified, you can also store a small bottle of bleach next to your supply. Add 16 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight bleach odor. If it doesn't, then repeat the dosage and let stand another 15 minutes. You can write this formula on top of your container too. Do not use scented bleaches, colorsafe bleaches, or bleaches with added cleaners. Plus, only use the emergency bleach when you need to use your supply. Bleach weakens over time and if you add it when you refill your containers, it may not be as effective if there is an emergency months later. Then find a cool, dark place that you can easily access in an emergency and store your containers there. Make sure that everyone in your family knows where the supply is located, and don't forget about extra water for your pets.

Preparing for a disaster is essential and easy. Follow these simple examples and you can be prepared for any disaster for you and your family!



**Purchasing pre-bottled water is a quick and easy way to create an emergency reserve.**



**Proper storage is essential for keeping your emergency supplies potable.**





Keep some chlorine bleach in your kit to purify your water supply, if needed.

For more information  
check out:

**Garden Time story on  
the 14 Gallon Challenge**

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=ttS\\_0TiI\\_fY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttS_0TiI_fY)

(note that the 'selfie' con-  
test is no longer in effect)

**Tips from FEMA and  
The American Red Cross**

[https://www.redcross.org/  
images/MEDIA\\_CustomPro-  
ductCatalog/m4440181\\_  
Food\\_and\\_Water-English.  
revised\\_7-09.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4440181_Food_and_Water-English_revised_7-09.pdf)

**The 14 Gallon Challenge**

[http://www.regionalh2o.  
org/14Gallons](http://www.regionalh2o.org/14Gallons)

## 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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**Garden Time**



# WTDITG

**Welcome to 2018! In January, the air is crisp and cold, the decorations are put away, and there is a distinct lull after the craziness of the holidays. There's no better time to get outside for some fresh air and daylight... and begin your garden's best year ever!**

## PLANNING

- Create a garden journal for future reference of what worked best, where and when. Consider using a 3-ring binder so you can tab the months and years and add more pages where needed.



- Create a pruning calendar so you can 'Prune according to what the plants needs are'. Do a bit of research first to see how and when to prune your plants this year and you won't be disappointed. Many mistakes can be stopped before the damage is done if a little reading

takes place first. For instance on hydrangeas; cut back only the stems that had blossoms last year. The flowers for this year are going to come from the stems that grew up last year but did not have blooms on them. As a general rule, most flowering plants will perform best if you prune them after they flower. Fruit trees, shade and flowering trees can be pruned this month, but next month will be better. Thinning cuts are better than heading cuts

or 'chopping the branches back'. Again, do some research first so you won't be sorry later!

- Plan the vegetable garden. January through March is a great time to get the planning done. Create your 'garden map' with a crop rotation plan set on paper. Figure the dimensions, number of rows, planting dates, etc.



It's fun to look back on these notes to see what was planted and when, what was a great success and what was not so great. Mark this as *2018 Map* so you can rotate crops around next year. Rotating your crops discourages disease and insects.

## PLANTING

- Plant Perennials. Get them planted soon for best blooming display later this summer and fall.



- Plant some bare root fruit trees. The sooner they can be planted the better the root development will

be before the trees leaf out this spring. More roots grown at this

time will allow the plant greater strength to take on summer's heat later. If you are unable to plant the trees as soon as you get them, 'heel' them into the garden soil on a temporary basis (just bury the roots into soil to keep them moist) until you can plant properly, but do get them into their permanent space in the garden as soon as possible.

- Plant any tree or shrub now that you'd like to add to your landscape. Early planting makes for a stronger start this spring.

- Plant Primroses. Every January, nurseries bring out their spring crop of primroses. Use *dark weather feed* to keep them blooming strong.





# What To Do In The Garden JANUARY

## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- There is still time left to clean Mason Bee cocoons, but not much! This will be the last month to be able to clean things up before the bees emerge late February or early March.



- Recycle your old cut Christmas tree by cutting it up and using the boughs to cover cut back perennials and

any other frost sensitive plants.

- Peach trees: Spray by mid January for peach leaf curl. Use labeled product for this disease like Bonide's Fungonil or Lilly Miller's Microcop. If weather is cool and wet spray 2-3 more times at 3-4 week intervals.

- Check your Blue Spruce for aphids! Most winters around here the spruce aphid attacks the Blue and Alberta Spruce trees. They suck on the juices on the prior season's needles and when the

new growth starts in spring, the older foliage falls off and leaves the tree looking half naked. Spraying them off with a hard stream of water will usually do the trick but insect sprays for aphids can be used too, according to directions.



- Get after any weeds that are growing in the gardens now. Early removal will be easier if smothered first with

layers of newspaper covered in compost.

- Mulch the beds with a new layer of organic compost, bark or other mulch.

- Dormant spray the fruit trees with horticultural Spray Oil to kill overwintering insects and their eggs. Use the Bonide Copper Fungicide spray or dust, (copper sulfate) as a disease control spray now.

- Water any plants that are underneath the overhang of the house or under wide growing evergreens, where soil can become quite dry.



## VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Plant early veggies like radishes, peas, onion sets and fava beans. Start seeds indoors for leeks, lettuce, arugula, endive and onions.

- Cover your early crops with Harvest Guard row cover for best protection from cold and

insect attack. You can make a movable frame to attach Harvest Guard to with PVC pipe and rebar

driven into the ground.



starts out.

- Monitor garden soil temperature to see what you can plant and when. On the next page is a handy chart of popular veggies and what soil temperatures are ideal for them to germinate from seed, or best soil temperature for transplanting young plant



# Soil Temperatures Ideal for Growing Vegetables

Vegetable	Will Germinate	Ideal Germination	Transplant Seedlings Out
Asparagus	50F-90F	70F	
Beans	60F-90F	80F	
Beats	40F-90F	80F	
Broccoli	40F-90F	80F	50F
Cabbage	40F-90F	80F	45F
Cantaloupe	60F-100F	90F	65F
Carrot	40F-90F	80F	
Cauliflower	40F-90F	80F	
Celery	40F-80F	70F	45F
Chard	40F-90F	80F	
Corn	50F-100F	80F	60F
Cucumber	60F-100F	90F	63F
Endive	40F-75F	75F	
Fava Beans	40F-65F	50F	
Lettuce	40F-75F	75F	
Okra	60F-100F	90F	70F
Onion	40F-100F	90F	45F
Parsley	40F-90F	80F	
Parsnip	40F-90F	70F	
Peas	40F-80F	70F	45F
Peppers	60F-90F	80F	65F
Pumpkin	60F-100F	90F	65F
Radish	40F-90F	80F	
Spinach	40F-80F	75F	
Squash	60F-100F	90F	65F
Tomato	50F-100F	80F	60F
Watermelon	60F-110F	90F	65F



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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

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### **Kid's Club: Create an Indoor Terrarium**

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 • 11:00am(W)**

**Saturday, January 13, 2018 • 11:00am(S)**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018 • 11:00am(G)**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 11:00am(V)**

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

Create a mini garden to enjoy and care for indoors. These beautiful little gardens will be created with an assortment of houseplants and/or succulents. We will add the finishing touches with some surprise accents... come to class to discover more. [www.alsgardencent.com](http://www.alsgardencent.com)

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

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Robyn Streeter of Your Backyard Farmer. Join Robyn for a great refresher on what to do in the veggie garden for the month of January. They will cover topics such as seeding and planting cool season crops, preparing and improving your soils, and how to be best prepared for the spring!

### **Garden Science: Basics in Soil Science**

**Sunday, January 7, 2018 • 1:00pm**

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

With Katie Davis of Portland Nursery. Get started understanding the basic concepts of soil and science and how to apply it to your garden. This class will cover a broad introduction to soil classification as well as how to identify key characteristics in your own garden bed.

### **Starting Vegetables Early: Part 1**

**Sunday, January 7, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. What are the benefits? Well, if you were a bird you'd get the worm, for one! Other benefits that come from starting early are that some plants really like cold weather, and starting early translates to harvesting earlier and therefore freeing up your space for your next crop. A win-win season to season. This class will focus on propagation instruction and include a hands-on activity allowing you to carry away two pots with seed already planted! \$5 materials fee,

**continued next column**

payable at the register before class.

### **Portland Nursery Annual Houseplant Sale**

**January 11-24, 2018 • Store Hours**

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

We call January Indoor Gardening Month and at Portland Nursery, you'll find the biggest selection of houseplants around! 30% off all houseplants and decorative pots. Purchase a plant and a pot and get a free Pot-Up! Indoor gardening classes all month long. See the Houseplant Sale Page for images from previous years or go to our Houseplant Page for more general information.

### **Houseplant Basics**

**Saturday, January 13, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Ann Patterson. Learn how to pick the right plant for the different rooms in your home or office and get ideas for the best selections for your different indoor environments. Ann will explain low light vs. high light, watering and fertilizing tips, and how to troubleshoot common houseplant issues so you are more confident in greening up your indoor space.

### **Sprouts and Microgreens**

**Saturday, January 13, 2018 • 1:00pm**

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

With Farmer Dan Bravin. The veggie garden may be slowed down for the winter, but you can still grow super-nutritious and tasty vegetables – inside. Come join Farmer Dan for an informative seminar and demonstration on growing sprouts and microgreens for your kitchen, and some to share with your indoor animal friends.

### **Intro to Cacti and Succulents**

**Saturday, January 13, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Jason Dennis. Curious about the wonderful world of cacti and succulents but unsure how to care for these unique and drought tolerant gems? In this class Portland Nursery houseplant buyer Jason will survey different varieties of these plants, talk about their specific lighting, fertilizing, and soil needs, and discuss solutions to common cactus and succulent problems.

**continued next page**





**Repotting Houseplants: Tips and Demo**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Cait Deever. Perplexed by how to tell when it's time to repot your houseplants? Cait from Portland Nursery will offer tips on how to tell when they're ready to move to a bigger container, what size pot to use, and demonstrate repotting techniques so you can help your indoor buddies stretch out in comfort in their new homes.

**Houseplants for the Black of Thumb**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR**

With Sean Gilman of Portland Nursery. Want to adopt some green home companions, but afraid of committing planticide? Worried that you're just not a plant person, even though you want to be? Sean can help you get over the hurdle of the first successful houseplant, going over how to know which plants will survive in the conditions you have to offer. Basic care, site selection, simple troubleshooting, and recommended plants will be featured in this workshop.

**Kokedama Workshop**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Jess Fancon. Make your own kokedama with Jess from Portland Nursery. Kokedama roughly translates from Japanese to mean "moss ball," which describes the technique of wrapping of the plant's roots and soil in moss and artistically tying this bundle with wire or string. Either hung from a ceiling or shelf or set on a tray, kokedama is a beautiful and space saving way to display houseplants. Learn how to create one in this class and go home with tips on how to care for your new creation. \$20 fee, payable at register day of class.

**O-Shogatsu, Japanese New Year**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018 • Gardem Hours**  
**Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

On January 14, we invite you to celebrate O-Shogatsu at the Garden. Festivities will include an authentic tea ceremony, calligraphy demonstration, and koto harp performance. Take a stroll around the Garden where  
**continued next column**

you will see kadomatsu affixed to the pillars. This small decorative display of pine branches and bamboo is where the toshigami (the god of incoming year) is said to manifest himself, serving as the intermediary through which good health and prosperity for the coming year will flow. Included with Garden Admission. [www.japanesegarden.org](http://www.japanesegarden.org)

**Wine & Workshop Wednesday: Mason Jar Orchids**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2018(W,S)**  
**Wednesday, January 24, 2018(G,V)**  
**Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, Wilsonville(V), OR**

The long-lasting blooms of the orchid are a lovely touch to any home. This fun twist on a terrarium will add a little bit of whimsy to your personal tiny orchid. We will be using a kokedama method for planting a tiny orchid in a mason jar, making this an easy-care project that you will be able to enjoy during these dreary months. 21 and over only, please. Cost: \$40, includes supplies, plants, expert instruction, local wine, and a light meal.

**Bonsai Class: Topic TBA**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018 - 11:00am**  
**Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

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

**Orchids 101**  
**Saturday, January 20, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Jason Dennis. Have you always wanted to grow orchids? Is your orchid getting too cramped but you don't know how to repot it? Have you struggled to get your orchid to rebloom? Learn the basics of growing different orchid varieties from Portland Nursery houseplant buyer Jason. He will discuss proper growing mediums, fertilizer, light and water requirements, growth habits, and will do a live repotting demonstration. He will help you figure out how to select an orchid that's right for your home or office to maximize your success.

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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

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### **Top 10 Orchid Myths**

**Saturday • January 20 • 1:00pm**

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

With Sue Volek of the Oregon Orchid Society. There's lots of tips out there about growing orchids. Some are true and some are false. This talk will debunk some of the misperceptions about these beautiful plants and give you the bottom line on how to select, grow, and bloom the easiest orchid plants. Sue Volek has been growing orchids for almost 20 years. A journalist and communications person during the day, she would come home and tend her plants at night until they took over not only the kitchen, but the living room, dining room, and encroached on the rest of the house. Her current favorites are slipper orchids, but since she never met an orchid she didn't like, Sue has an array of plants from asocendas to zygopetalums. She is president of the Oregon Orchid Society.

### **Make Your Own Mixed Cacti Dish**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Roby Babcock and Jess Fancon. Create your own personal desert oasis with Portland nursery employees, Jess, container crafting queen, and Roby, cacti expert and landscape architect. First they will provide an overview of different common kinds of cacti and how to care for these plants. Then they will guide the group through a creative hour of selecting, arranging, and planting cacti in a terra cotta pot to display indoors in a sunny spot. All materials provided. Cost: \$30, pay at register on day of class. Class size limited to 15.

### **Repotting Houseplants: Tips and Demo**

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Patty Heurich. Perplexed by how to tell when it's time to repot your houseplants? Patty from Portland Nursery will offer tips on how to tell when they're ready to move to a bigger container, what size pot to use, and demonstrate repotting techniques so you can help your indoor buddies stretch out in comfort in their new homes.

**Garden Science: The Soil Food Web**

**continued next column**

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 • 1:00pm**

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

With Katie Davis of Portland Nursery.

Soil supports life! This means your garden and all the critters that come with it. Come get a peek into building the habitat for the life that will support you and your garden.

### **Plants of Prey**

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Ann Patterson. Sundews, Pitcher plants, and Venus flytraps- have you loved them since you were a kid? Carnivorous plants aren't hard to grow indoors or out, but they have different requirements than most plants. Learn about their unusual adaptations, how to care for them, and even which are best for controlling which kind of insect.

### **The Joriad™ North American Truffle Dog Championship**

**Thursday, January 25, 2018**

**Lane County Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR**

Watch and experience some of the world's most talented truffle dogs as they compete in the 4th annual Joriad™ Truffle Dog Championship. The Joriad™ begins in the morning with a series of qualifying events where spectators can cheer-on the teams as they race to search for hidden truffle-scented targets. Finalists are announced at the end of the morning's qualifying events.

### **13th Annual Oregon Truffle Festival**

**January 26-28, 2018**

**Various Venues in Eugene, OR**

A truffle extravaganza! The 13th annual Oregon Truffle Festival has four elegant and unique weekend experiences to offer: The Epicurious, The Gourmand, The Truffle Growers All-In Adventure, and, back by popular demand, The Urban Forager. A la carte events include Thursday's Joriad™ Truffle Dog Championship, Friday's LCC Cooking Class, the 2nd annual Oregon Truffle MacDown, Saturday's Grand Truffle Dinner, and Sunday's Fresh Truffle Marketplace.

As always, there will be new events, new venues, and  
**continued next page**





new faces to help us celebrate Oregon truffles, culinary tradition, and the best of Oregon wine. [oregontruffle-festival.org](http://oregontruffle-festival.org)

### **Fruit Tree Pruning Basics**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 10:00am**

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

Pruning fruit trees correctly can increase your harvest and improve tree health. In this class, you'll learn the basic steps on how to prune fruit trees. Whether your trees are young or old, they'll benefit from proper pruning. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

### **Introduction to Feng Shui**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Miyoko Fuse. This workshop is designed to introduce you to Feng Shui, particularly to help you to understand the balance of home environment with regard to Chi, atmospheric energy, and the type of plants to use. You will learn the basics of Chi and Yin Yang dualism. You will also learn how to create positive Chi flowing by placing certain types of plants in a space with different kinds of furniture, lighting, décor, or colors.

### **Planning your Personal Paradise**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 1:00pm**

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

With Magi Treece of Living Structures. Beginner gardeners, get your dreaming kicked in gear! It may be too cold and wet to dig, but that's just what makes it a good time to get your planning done so you can have a beautiful outside living space. Learn to take your desires for what your space should be and map them onto the place you have. Magi will teach you how to map your garden, observe sun and water patterns, and other important skills to get your garden plan off to a strong start!

### **Winter Wellness**

**Saturday, January 27, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Missy Rohs, from Arctos School. Join herbalist Missy Rohs of the Arctos School to learn about easy to grow garden plants and commonly found kitchen herbs for

**continued next column**

winter health support. We'll focus on herbs to stay warm in the cold months and plant allies to support immunity. Students will leave with abundant ideas of how to keep themselves warm and well this winter.

### **Starting Vegetables Early: Part 2**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

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

With Marc Scheidecker. Come on in! It's time to start! In this second class on starting your seeds early we will cover more material on propagation and also complete another hands on project starting two more kinds of seeds. With these two classes you will be off to a good start! We will also distribute more charts on how temperature, light, ventilation, and other variables affect seed propagation.

### **Indoor Herb Gardening**

**Saturday, January 28, 2018 • 1:00pm**

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

With Laura Altvater of Portland Nursery. Don't have much room outside? Dream of having fresh herbs at your fingertips in the kitchen year-round? This class will highlight which culinary herbs are easiest indoors and what supplies you will need to be successful.

### **Staghorn Fern Mounting Workshop**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

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

With Bruce Fothergill of Fothergill's Tropicals. Join houseplant expert Bruce for this hands-on workshop and take home your very own mounted staghorn fern! Bruce will walk you through the step-by-step process of properly mounting staghorns to wooden boards. He will also discuss proper care, lighting and growing requirements to keep your fern healthy and happy for years to come! Fee: \$17.50, payable to instructor on day of class. Class size limited to 20.

### **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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