

February 2018

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Blueberries for Containers Blue By You

Blueberry 'Sunshine Blue'

Mason Bees
Winter Wings Festival
HUNTING BROOK GARDEN'S
Jimi Blake



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The January That Just Flu By

For some of you this statement is a reminder of your past, or current, condition. We are going through a similar thing here. The cold of the winter has settled in our chests and upper respiratory parts of our body. Some say that we are more susceptible to colds and flu at this time of year because of the changes in daylight, temperature or even the closed conditions of our homes. Whatever the cause, it is just plain miserable. Even a quick trip to the garden while we had some 60 degree days were not healing. It is amazing that we can diagnose our plants and apply the correct treatment, but our own body is not as easy. The key is to follow the same rules that are repeated every year. Cover your mouth when coughing, get plenty of fluids and sleep, don't go out in public if you start to feel sick, and treat the symptoms so you are more comfortable. Plus one final thing! Pick up some cut flowers for your bedroom, living room or kitchen. Nothing will cheer up your mood like some lovely blooms.

For the garden, cold does not seem to be a problem. We have had a few cold days but most gardens I've seen still have a lot of marginal plants hanging on. If we don't get a cold snap soon, we may see some plants survive into the spring, but there is plenty of winter still in front of us!

Another thing that will cheer you up is this month's edition of Garden Time magazine. We take the gloom off those winter days with a story on lighting. Not only does David Musial talk about the history of the bulb he also has some bright insights into the current transition from incandescent to other, more efficient and earth friendly bulbs. Another earth friendly story is from William. He introduces us to Depave and how they are removing concrete and asphalt to help restore the earth back to a more natural state. We also leave you with a good taste in your mouth too with a story on blueberries; not just any blueberries, but ones that are great in containers. Imagine having a handful of tasty blue gems right outside your back door! We found out some of the best to try!

So, relax, take precautions to stay healthy and look through those seed and nursery catalogues that have been popping up in your mailbox, and then start thinking about the upcoming spring.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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IN THIS ISSUE

ask mortimer....pg. 4

Blueberry Varieties



eats....pg. 6



Depave

backyard....pg. 10

Winter Wings Festival



adventures....pg. 14



Mason Bees

got to have it....pg. 18



Jimmy Blake

hortie....pg. 24



Lighting

home....pg. 28

february garden tips....pg. 34

gardening events....pg. 36

Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I know that February is the time to prune your roses for the coming season, but some of my roses are still growing from last fall and a few have new growth starting. Won't I damage the plant or delay the blooms if I cut it back now?

Yours,
Rose in Roseburg

Dear Rose,

Yeah, a lot of people have that question and it doesn't just come up in the early spring. Anytime there is new growth on your roses the urge will be there to try and avoid cutting them back to preserve the blooms that show promise of being there. Still you must cut! Last fall you cut them down to around knee to waist height. Now comes the heavy pruning. Making those difficult cuts (traditionally around Presidents Day) will ensure that your plant will remain happy and healthy. The type of cuts you can make are removing dead and



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



Outward facing bud - this will promote growth outward and open the interior of the plant up.

diseased canes. Crossing canes can go too. These will rub together and create an opening in the cane for diseases to enter. Cut your plant down to around a foot tall (this may change if you have a climber, see the Garden Time website archive for stories on how to do that) looking for branches with outward facing 'eyes' that will cause the canes to grow outward and open your plant up for air circulation. You can also give your plant a shot of some good balanced fertilizer too.

I know it can be difficult to do this type of cutting now, but, speaking as a flower, we all feel good with a nice haircut!

Your friend,
Mortimer



Final pruning done - notice how much is cut out and how open the plant is.



**PHOTO CREDIT:
MIKE MC CUNE VIA FLICKR**



**PHOTO CREDIT:
K HURLEY VIA FLICKR**

Frost covering tender blades of grass makes them vulnerable to damage.

Dear Mortimer,

I heard that if I walk on my lawn when it is covered in frost that I will kill the grass. This sounds like a bunch of baloney. What's the truth!?

Sincerely,
Frosty the Lawn Lover

Dear Frosty,

Yes, it is true, you can damage your grass by walking on it when there is a frost. The frost itself is the problem. Moisture in the cells of the grass blade is having a hard time adjusting to the extreme cold. The water in those cells will expand and damage the blade, this can be serious if you have a long cold snap. You will see large patches of brown grass if there is prolonged cold. If you walk on a frosty lawn the cells will fracture and rupture causing even more damage to the blade. This damage will take longer for the plant to recover than it would take if it was just a simple frost. If you are a golfer you know this already. The course manager will not let you play until the frost is gone.

The long term outlook is not bad if it is light frost damage. The roots are probably fine and that means that once the spring arrives, you will have a nice lawn to start your season with. Remember that you will also need to fertilize and possibly treat for moss in the spring, but at least you won't have to do a re-seeding of the area.

Stay warm,
Mortimer

BLUE BY YOU

Love the taste of fresh blueberries? Got a lack of space or sun? Then growing them in a container is the perfect way to enjoy these garden treasures.

by
William
McClenathan



Blueberry 'Bountiful Blue'

It is never too early to dream about Spring. And within those light, delicate, gossamer threads of our minds comes the warm beauty and fresh flavors of the future pleasures in our gardens.

Recently my summer dreams have been considering container grown edibles. One which has been standing out is Blueberries. As I get older and with each passing year I am choosing to put the things I love the most in containers so they are easier to care for and collect.

Blueberries are ideal for containers. They are easier to grow, to maintain but most of all...to harvest.

There are pros and cons for doing this. The pros are fertilization and PH balance. In the ground you often waste most of the additives as water can wash it away. In containers it becomes shared directly to the roots.

And if shade is a problem, a container is movable, thus it can follow the sun wherever it may be. Much easier to move a container then move a plant in the ground.

But the best pro is the harvest. You can look out of the window and see when the berries are ripe and walk out the door to pick them.

The real question then becomes which blueberry does the best in containers?

In the last few years new blueberry varieties have popped up in many nurseries. Some even have been bred to grow in containers. Like ones with different leaf shapes and beautiful new colors of the leaves.

And several garden centers are promoting blueberries for containers this year again.

Great places like Garden Fever (www.gardenfever.com); Owner Lori Vollmer said they will certainly be carrying blueberries for containers again this year!

And Brian Bauman of Bauman's Farm and Garden (www.baumanfarms.com) will also have blueberries for containers again this coming spring.

But I also wanted more information on what blueberries were popular in the past and if any place would be bringing in new varieties for containers.

I decided to contact my good friend from Portland Nursery, Stephanie Mack, to get any good news on what they may be bringing in this year. I wanted to also hear her views as she

is the Yard Buyer for Portland Nursery and an avid gardener herself.

She informed me that her favorite for containers is 'Sunshine Blue'. In her own words, "Their flavor is different than typical commercial varieties (in a good way), they are compact (3-4') and evergreen in mild winters with purple tinged leaves".

But being the great buyer that she is, she also included the fan favorite, 'Blue Crop'. Larger in size, it would prefer a container the size of a half wine barrel. It's a vigorous grower and produces very well.

Her thoughts on the final two she suggested are that they are in a tie.

'Bountiful Blue' is similar to 'Sunshine Blue' in flavor and size. But what has delighted both her and the customers are its rounded blue-green leaves, which in her words are "super pretty".

Having seen this *Vaccinium* (the botanical name of the family) myself, I couldn't agree with her more!



Blueberry 'Sunshine Blue'



Blueberry 'Bluecrop'

As gardeners go more into growing edibles within unexpected places in the garden, like a perennial bed instead of a traditional edible garden, this one would be completely at home anywhere...including a container.

Which leads me to the last one Stephanie mentioned.

Cabernet Splash™ Blueberry. Discovered and introduced by Briggs Nursery, Elma, Washington, the new foliage on this blueberry bush emerges a deep, dark cabernet color, then mottles cabernet/green as it matures, finally changing to a fire-red color in the fall. It produces an abundance of medium-sized, delicious berries. Cabernet Splash™ works as an edible ornamental in deciduous backgrounds, in borders or mass plantings,



Blueberry 'Bountiful Blue'



Blueberry 'Cabernet Splash'

or as a container specimen. Needs full sun, in acid soil, with consistent moisture and fertility. It stays vigorous to 4 feet high and wide.

Now while that last descriptive paragraph came directly from Briggs, this is what Stephanie said about it. "Cabernet Splash is a new introduction with burgundy new leaves, so it has more ornamental qualities than a typical blueberry and is compact so we think it will be good in containers, but since it's new we haven't tasted the fruit yet".

I can also tell you that in my searching for pictures of the berries...I could find no pictures available yet.

I also asked Stephanie about availability. When would she expect the plants to be avail-



Leaves of the Blueberry 'Cabernet Splash'

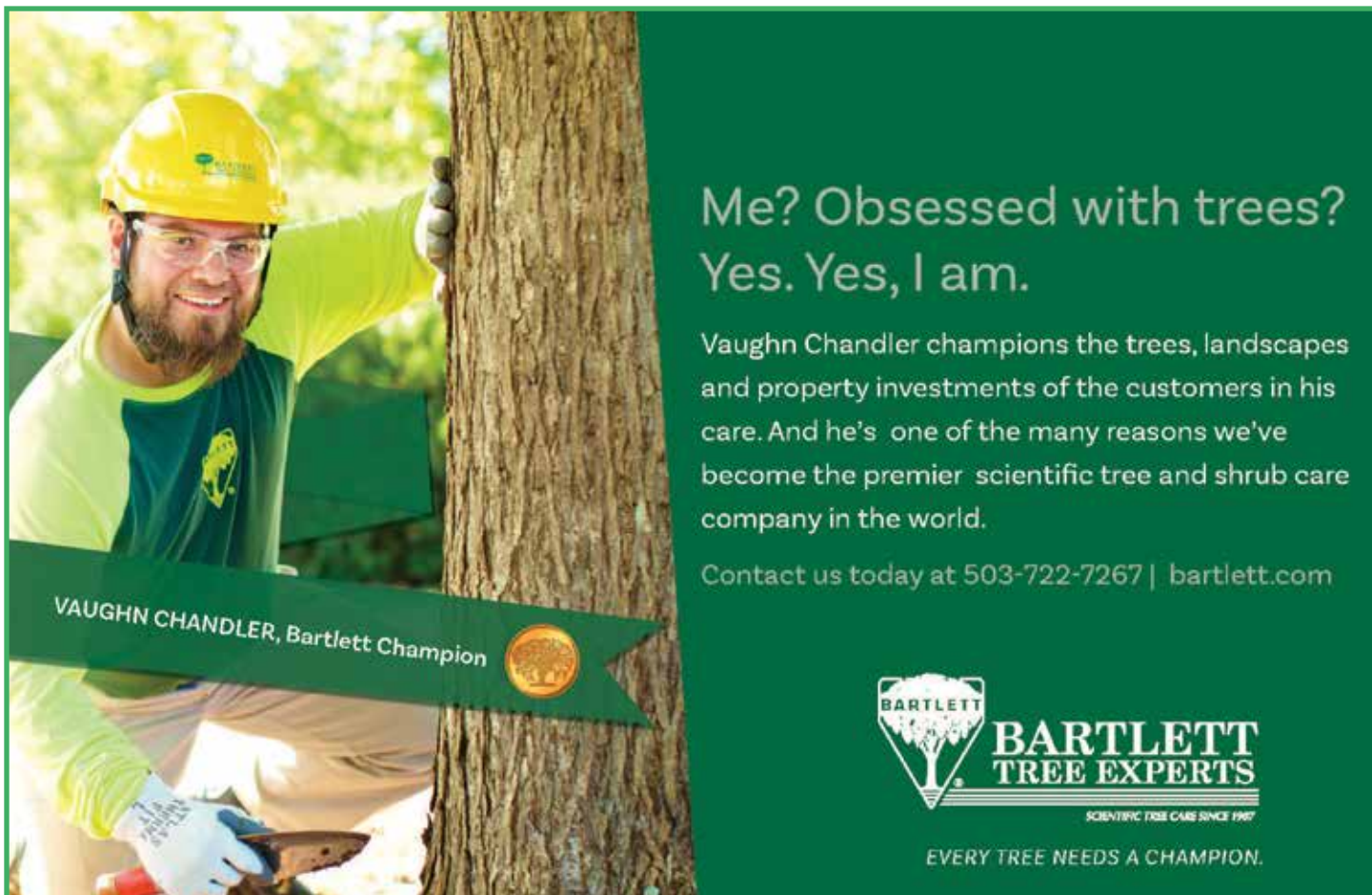
able to purchase?

She told me they should have plenty in February and March.

She suggested calling first! Just to make sure they are in stock and to check on the availability of specific varieties. And also to remind everyone they could hit them up on Facebook and/or on Instagram too.

I know I am already over excited for spring. After all, the bounty from last year which I canned and froze for this winter is already running low! Time to allow Nature to do what she does so very well.

Be sure to contact your nearest and most favorite garden center to find out when blueberries will be available...then let the gardening begin.



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Gaining Ground

In the battle of the concrete jungle, Depave is kicking asphalt and taking names.

by William McClenathan

Depave volunteers remove asphalt from the parking lot at Portland's Astor School in June 2016.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DEPAVE.ORG

At our editorial meeting to choose the topics we wanted to write about in 2018, Ron (who produces our magazine, and helps Jeff with all that unknown back office stuff which no one knows about, but we would be so much less without) suggested an article on Depave.

In full disclosure, I did not care for it. So of course, I ended up writing about it!

And boy was I wrong to not care for it. As I began the process of researching it, I found the idea refreshing; the value of what they do priceless; and the energy, passion and intelligence of the volunteers outstanding!

I had first thought it was about a concrete recycling company and thought, "But we already deal with 'The Wall' on the show, so why promote another company which does the same thing?"

Again, boy was I wrong.

So what is Depave?

It was founded by Arif Khan back in 2007. The concept was simple. You take a large (or sometimes smaller) area of concrete, often like a parking lot, remove parts of the concrete (they also remove blacktop) and make the earth breathe again. You can take out the gravel, redo the soil back to health and plant that area. Many of the new spaces get a tree. In smaller areas they get shrubs. And sometimes when the spaces are large enough they even turn them into water gardens or just beautiful plantings.

The concept was not just for the soil, water runoff, or plant life but for fauna as well. This allows for wildlife, especially birds, to begin to thrive again in those once concrete jungles.

Their mission is simple:

Mission

Depave promotes the transformation of over-paved places to overcome the social and environmental impacts of pavement. We engage communities and

reconnect urban landscapes to nature through action-oriented projects, education, advocacy and stewardship.

And just look at the results!

Results

- Over 151,000 square feet of asphalt depaved (almost exclusively by hand!) to create 52 new community greenspaces in Portland since 2008
- Over 3,531,000 gallons of stormwater diverted from storm drains annually due to these projects
- Nearly 4,000 volunteers engaged in depaving and greening activities so far

And from their website I copied this list on some other benefits of

urban re-vegetation...

- Cooling of homes and offices by shading the sun's rays and the protection against harsh winds.
- Ambient cooling from evapotranspiration of rain on the leaves.
- Aesthetic enhancement to areas and psychosocial benefits associated with greenery.
- Enhancing air quality by removing particulate pollutants and carbon dioxide from the air while producing oxygen.
- Visual privacy and reduction of noise from the street.
- Traffic calming when trees are planted along urban streets.
- Restoration of local habitat for

birds, insects and other wildlife.

- And if the previously-paved land is used for farming, this provides food and nutrition for local residents.

Because Depave is a non-profit organization, outside of a small group who run it, everyone else is a volunteer. And yes, they require crew leaders as well to support those volunteers.

"Please sign up below to attend our 2018 Crew Leader Orientation on May 12th 2018, from 9:30 until 1:30 (happy hour to follow. Details coming soon. Orientation attendance is required only for new Crew Leaders."

Another thing which greatly impressed me was that Depave does not just come in and fix a

HOW TO depave

The Guide to Freeing Your Soil

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DEPAVE.ORG



2016 Crew Leaders

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DEPAVE.ORG

problem then leave, never to be heard from again.

Nope. They even have a department which comes back twice a year to check on and survey the sights.

Common maintenance activities include:

- Pulling invasive or exotic weeds.

- Trimming or pruning tall vegetation.

- Planting new plants.

- Applying mulch.

- Removing sediment and/or loosening soil to promote infiltration.

- Clearing vegetation or other debris from clogged inlets or outlets.

- Removing and properly disposing of trash.

And on their website you can view the past work they have done. Like this on last October, 2017:

Saturday October 9 at the M&M Marketplace Depave & Green-up was a site to see, a wonder to witness. An energetic army of 150 volunteers assaulted asphalt, tore up turf, and transformed the outside of Hillsboro's Multi-cultural Marketplace by planting

and mulching hundreds of native shrubs and pollinator plants in rain gardens and elsewhere, installing a pervious outdoor vendor patio, and preparing the grounds for the installation of a pergola for the cafe, outdoor artwork, and flowering trees along side streets.

This is another part of what Depave does with each job. They document it so the world can see the big, beautiful difference of what can happen when people care about nature and each other.

And yes, they even have a sign up for the on-line program for those DIY-ers!

So you want to depave! And with good reason! Paved surfaces con-

tribute to stormwater pollution, whereby rainwater carries toxic urban pollutants to local streams and rivers, greatly degrading water quality and riparian habitats. Pavement also disconnects us from our natural world.

"This is a big job and before you under-take such a project it is best you know what you are getting yourself into. Before you begin, there are many aspects that need to be considered and this guide is intended as a resource to share our knowledge with others and help empower more people to take action."

Honestly, I was not prepared to go into this with an open mind. I suspected something, but it was



Volunteers at the M&M Marketplace depave project in October 2017: Lori Bounce (CWS), Eric Rosewall (Depave), and Jaime Miranda (M&M Marketplace)

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DEPAVE.ORG

not what I had thought at all. I had intended to just do my job and write the article. However, like removing concrete to open up the soil to breathe again, my efforts to research for this article did just that to me.

May I encourage you to look into Depave. Whether to possibly have some work done for your own location, to volunteer to help, or to donate to the cause. I can assure you it will be well worth your time!

And to Ron, I am so thankful he mentioned this then unknown concept to us at the show. I would be remiss if I did not thank him and give him the credit he deserves for bringing it to our attention.

Here is to allowing our cities to breathe healthy again!

Depave
www.depave.org



Kasandra Griffin launched Depave with Arif Khan in 2007-8.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DEPAVE.ORG



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Winging It



Sandhill Cranes

PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC SONSTROEM VIA FLICKR.COM

In the mood for a little bird-watching? You'll find more than a hundred species in Southern Oregon's Klamath Basin

by Therese Gustin

To experience the largest wintering population of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states, you only need go to Klamath Falls, Oregon. This year, the Klamath Basin Audubon Society will be celebrating the Bald Eagle and dozens of other species of birds at its 39th annual Winter Wings Festival. It is one of the largest all volunteer festivals in the nation. Through the year less than 20 volunteers plan all the activities and there are over 100 volunteers helping during the Festival weekend.

What makes this location ideal for the Festival is that the Klamath Basin is part of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south migration route from Alaska to Patagonia in South America. Migratory birds travel this Flyway in both spring and fall looking for sources of food, breeding sites and overwintering sites. Approximately 80% of the migratory birds that travel the Pacific Flyway stop in the Klamath Basin.

Typically 500 to 800 Bald Eagles can be found here as well as mas-

sive flocks of waterfowl and raptors. The Klamath National Refuge Complex includes six refuges containing the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge which is the nation's first waterfowl refuge. Each year about 130 bird species are counted at the Festival.

All the activities for this five day event (from Wednesday, February 14th through Sunday, February 18th) occur in the Klamath Basin. Onsite registration takes place at the Festival Headquarters located at the Student Union





Western Meadowlark



Bald Eagle

For detailed information about registration
and scheduled activities, contact:

winterwingsfestival.org

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Local Events February 2018

2018 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival
Wednesday-Sunday, February 7-11, 2018

Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA

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• www.gardenshow.com

Rose Care 101

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Come join rose expert Rich Baer, of the Portland Rose Society, to learn the basics of growing roses. He will cover the basics of various rose species, proper pruning timing and techniques, fertilizing and watering needs, pest and disease control.

• www.portlandnursery.com


Portland Spring Home & Garden Show

Thursday-Sunday, February 22-25, 2018

Expo Center, Portland, OR

Hours: Thursday-Saturday: 11:00am-8:00pm; Sunday: 11:00am-6pm. Courtesy of Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland.

• www.homeshowpdx.com


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Wildlife photographers snap some photos of tundra swans during a wildlife photography outing.

Building at the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls. There will also be several events that take place at sites away from the campus including the Running Y Resort Lodge, Olympic Inn, and the Favell Museum. There are also several pre and post festival overnight field trips that start and end at the Winema Lodge or Crystalwood Lodge. The Festival will provide buses for some of these off-site events. Activities include field trips, photography workshops, presentations, keynote speakers and receptions.

Online registration goes until midnight Sunday, February 11, 2018. Registration is required for all activities and most activities have an associated fee. Register early as field trips and photography workshops fill up early. There are waiting lists for most activities so if the activity is full you still may have a chance at a spot but there are no guarantees. Onsite registration will open up Thursday February 15, 2018 at 10:00am in the OIT Student Union Building.

If you would like to see some of the most beautiful scenery in Oregon, capture photos of majestic birds including Bald Eagles and learn a little more about our

feathered friends, visit the Winter Wings Festival in Klamath Falls, Oregon. This is truly a worthwhile experience.



A large flock of snow geese take flight to avoid a juvenile bald eagle.

2017 Winter Wings Festival : 114 species

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Greater White-fronted Goose | 47 Ring-billed Gull | 93 Bohemian Waxwing |
| 2 Snow Goose | 48 California Gull | 94 Cedar Waxwing |
| 3 Ross's Goose | 49 Herring Gull | 95 Dark-eyed Junco |
| 4 Cackling Goose | 50 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) | 96 White-crowned Sparrow |
| 5 Canada Goose | 51 Eurasian Collared-Dove | 97 Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| 6 Trumpeter Swan | 52 Mourning Dove | 98 White-throated Sparrow |
| 7 Tundra Swan | 53 Barn Owl | 99 Song Sparrow |
| 8 Gadwall | 54 Great Horned Owl | 100 California Towhee |
| 9 Eurasian Wigeon | 55 Northern Pygmy-Owl | 101 Spotted Towhee |
| 10 American Wigeon | 56 Barred Owl | 102 Red-winged Blackbird |
| 11 Mallard | 57 Great Gray Owl | 103 Tricolored Blackbird |
| 12 Northern Shoveler | 58 Northern Saw-whet Owl | 104 Western Meadowlark |
| 13 Northern Pintail | 59 Belted Kingfisher | 105 Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| 14 Green-winged Teal | 60 Acorn Woodpecker | 106 Brewer's Blackbird |
| 15 Canvasback | 61 Downy Woodpecker | 107 Great-tailed Grackle |
| 16 Redhead | 62 Hairy Woodpecker | 108 Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 17 Ring-necked Duck | 63 Northern Flicker | 109 House Finch |
| 18 Lesser Scaup | 64 American Kestrel | 110 Cassin's Finch |
| 19 Bufflehead | 65 Merlin | 111 Red Crossbill |
| 20 Common Goldeneye | 66 Prairie Falcon | 112 Pine Siskin |
| 21 Barrow's Goldeneye | 67 Black Phoebe | 113 Lesser Goldfinch |
| 22 Hooded Merganser | 68 Say's Phoebe | 114 House Sparrow |
| 23 Common Merganser | 69 Steller's Jay | |
| 24 Ruddy Duck | 70 California Scrub-Jay | |
| 25 California Quail | 71 Black-billed Magpie | |
| 26 Ring-necked Pheasant | 72 Clark's Nutcracker | |
| 27 Pied-billed Grebe | 73 Common Raven | |
| 28 Eared Grebe | 74 Horned Lark | |
| 29 Western Grebe | 75 Black-capped Chickadee | |
| 30 Clark's Grebe | 76 Mountain Chickadee | |
| 31 American White Pelican | 77 Oak/Juniper Titmouse | |
| 32 Great Blue Heron | 78 Bushtit | |
| 33 Great Egret | 79 Red-breasted Nuthatch | |
| 34 Black-crowned Night-Heron | 80 White-breasted Nuthatch | |
| 35 Golden Eagle | 81 Pygmy Nuthatch | |
| 36 Northern Harrier | 82 Brown Creeper | |
| 37 Cooper's Hawk | 83 Pacific Wren | |
| 38 Bald Eagle | 84 Marsh Wren | |
| 39 Red-shouldered Hawk | 85 Bewick's Wren | |
| 40 Red-tailed Hawk | 86 American Dipper | |
| 41 Rough-legged Hawk | 87 Golden-crowned Kinglet | |
| 42 Ferruginous Hawk | 88 Ruby-crowned Kinglet | |
| 43 American Coot | 89 Townsend's Solitaire | |
| 44 Sandhill Crane | 90 American Robin | |
| 45 Killdeer | 91 Varied Thrush | |
| 46 Greater Yellowlegs | 92 European Starling | |

BUZZ- Worthy

If good things come in small packages, then the mason bee is one of nature's biggest bargains.

by Ron Dunevant

A female mason bee on a scabious flower.

As any dedicated gardener will tell you, it takes a village. To get the most out of your garden, you need an arsenal of tools, seeds, amendments and fertilizers, not to mention time, energy, water and money. Yet, one of the most effective gardening gizmos is often overlooked. It comes in the tiniest of packages and speaks softly but carries a big shtick. It is the mason bee.

If your interest in gardening is anything more than a casual hobby, then you are aware of the mason bee, even if you couldn't pick one out of a lineup. Unlike their more brightly-hued cousin, the honey bee, they are dark in color, with tones of metallic blue, green or black. From a distance, it is easy to mistake them for a housefly. Compact in size, quick and agile, they are nimble and

efficient, traveling from plant to plant with the diligence of a UPS driver at Christmastime.

Benefits of Mason Bees

So what makes them so special? Well, if bees are the stars of the pollinator world, then mason bees are the superstars. They are considerably better than the honeybee when it comes to pollinating crops (in some cases, one mason bee can do the work of 50 to 60 honeybees). They pollinate about 95 percent of the flowers they visit, carrying the powdery substance in the hairs on the underside of their abdomens. Since they are non-aggressive, they integrate easily into urban areas, make a great hobby for the backyard gardener and are especially efficient in the pollination of fruit trees, a staple in the Pacific

Northwest yard.

A mason is defined as "a builder and worker in stone" and the mason bee has earned that moniker from the mud the female uses to build her nests. If you see mud in the cracks of your siding, you may be looking at the entrance to a mason bee condo. (It may also indicate that a wasp has taken up residence, as they also use mud for their nests, so be careful until you are sure!) Mason bee is the name now commonly used for species of bees in the genus *Osmia* of the family Megachilidae. About 500 species of *Osmia* have been identified around the world, with more than 130 species found in the United States and Canada alone.

The female mason bee is roughly the same size as a honey bee.

PHOTO CREDIT: ORANGEAUROCHS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

The male is slightly smaller, with light-colored hair on his face, and antennae that is longer than the female's. Unlike the social honey bee, which we often see in hives, mason bees are solitary, do not live in colonies and do not produce honey. They prefer a quiet, isolated life, but will build their nests adjacent to each other when possible.

Lifecycle of Mason Bees

The lifecycle and reproductive process for mason bees is fascinating and one of the more interesting bits of trivia is the female's ability to control the sex of each egg she lays, based on whether or not they have been fertilized. The fertilized eggs (diploid) become females; the unfertilized eggs (haploid) become males. Add in a nice meal, a little violin music, and a classic boy-meets-girl story and our expectant mother is ready to get to work.

The first step is to find a suitable home. Mason bees cannot create their own holes for nest-making, therefore they look for pre-existing holes or openings, such as a hollowed-out stem or a twig. If you want them to consider your digs, you can encourage them with some low-cost housing. More on that later.

Once a home is chosen, the bee will lay the female eggs in the back of the nest and the male eggs closer to the front. There are usually five to eight egg chambers per nesting hole. She then gathers nectar and pollen from nearby flowers, pollinating the plants as she goes. The collected ingredients are then combined to be used as a food source for the offspring, which is placed into each chamber with an egg. Finally, mud is used to seal the opening to the nest. Moving to a new nesting hole, this ritual will continue until the end of the season or until she dies.

Once the nest is filled and sealed, in less than a week, a legless, cream-colored larva will emerge,

feeding on the nectar and pollen left in the tube. A few days later, the larva will spin a cocoon, inside which it will transition into a pupa. From there, in the fall, the pupa becomes a fully developed adult. From that point, the cocooned adult bee goes into a dormant state, sleeping through the winter chill until the temperatures rise in late winter or early spring. At that time, because they are positioned closer to the entrance, the males will chew their way out of the cocoons and through the mud walls of the chamber, emerging first, so they will be ready to mate when the females are born.

The males will wait around the nest, watching, sometimes sparring with other males as they wait for the females to appear. As soon as she does, they will immediately swoop in and mate. Soon after mating, the male dies and the female begins the cycle anew.

Attracting Mason Bees

Adult mason bees are usually

active from March through May or mid-June, depending on the weather. However, with climate change and warmer temperatures, such as our recent 50-plus degree days, it is possible to see them out as early as January. Plan your garden so that something is always in bloom during the mason bee's active season. Native flowers and shrubs are preferred, as they will provide better nutrition. Mason bees collect pollen and feed on nectar from fruit trees like pear, apple and cherry. They are also drawn to dandelions and the Oregon grape. Even if you live in an apartment, you can attract mason bees. Look for flowers or flowering trees within a few hundred feet. If there aren't any, consider adding some appealing container plants to your deck or patio. As they say in the movies, "if you build it, they will come."

As was mentioned before, it is possible your house is already being subtlet by some mason bees, but if you would like to discourage that and encourage them to stay



From a distance, a mason bee can resemble a housefly.

PHOTO CREDIT: THENATUREOFPORTLAND.BLOGSPOT.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: ORANGEAUROCHS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

A male red mason bee

in a particular area, there are several easy ways to do it.

A good choice for nesting tubes is cardboard tubes with paper liners, 5/16th of an inch in diameter, about six inches long, and closed at one end. The liners are easily split to allow you to remove the cocoons for cleaning and storage during the winter. The cardboard tubes are reusable, too. The nesting tubes are then placed into a nesting house. Another good choice is a laminated block system, in which slots are cut into wood planks that can be stacked to create tubes. These blocks work well because they can be easily opened to remove cocoons for cleaning and storage.

Looking for something a little more decorative? Try a nesting house, which provides protection from wind and rain. The tubes or laminated blocks are placed inside the nesting house with the open ends facing out.

You should place your mason bee condo where it will be protected from wind and rain and afternoon sun, but with exposure to the morning sun. A south or south-east exposure is optimal. Place it between three and six feet off the ground where it cannot be accessed by predators. Some people place a wire mesh over the nest to keep unwanted critters at bay.

Whichever design you use, it is important that your mason bee hotel has tubes or slots that are at least six inches deep. In general, a mason bee will lay the female eggs further than three inches from the opening. Shorter tubes will result in a mostly male population. In general, a mason bee will lay two male eggs for every female egg.

If you clean your cocoons in the fall, you will help to reduce bee mortality the next year by removing pollen mites, wasps and fungal pathogens that feed on the pollen,

nectar, and developing adults inside. The Oregon State University Extension Service offers a comprehensive guide online which can walk you through this process.

Nesting materials made from plastic blocks, bamboo tubes or holes drilled into solid blocks of wood are less desirable, as they cannot be opened for cleaning and they tend to hold moisture, which can attract mold and parasites.

Mason bee supplies and kits are available at many local nurseries. You can also find them online at places like Amazon. Once you have made your initial investment, your mason bees should continue to be active and nest in your yard each spring.

Location, Location, Location

Just as human house-hunters search for the best neighborhoods, mason bees look for local amenities. At the top of their list

is a convenient source of mud. In order to build a nest, the female needs access to moist clay, used in constructing the chamber walls of the nesting hole. Luckily, in the Pacific Northwest, we have an abundance of clay in our soil. However, if you have covered your natural mud with groundcover plants, bark dust, sand, gravel or pavers, you may have reduced the “curb appeal” of your mason bee condo. A lack of available soil or mud that is too sandy to clump together will be passed over by our flying friends. If your yard suffers from a dearth of dirt, you will need to uncover some areas to reveal the ground. If that is not practical, you can set out a container of mud that is high in clay. Be sure to give it enough water to create different ranges of moisture, allowing the mason bee to choose the consistency that’s right for her. If a good source of mud is not nearby, the mason bee will not use your nesting sites.

The mason bee is also a homebody, preferring to stay within 200 to 300 feet of the nesting site. That makes the placement of the tubes, mud and plants even more important. Having all three elements within this distance will greatly increase your chance of success.

Encouraging Biodiversity

If you’re going to put up housing to attract mason bees, why not widen your influence? By installing tubes of mixed sizes, you may attract multiple species of bees, which will help to limit disease transmission and strengthen the bee population as a whole. In nature, bees live in a diverse ecosystem. By inviting other species, you will limit the influence of a particular disease or parasite and strengthen your mason bee population. It’s all about balance.

Additional species will also help to round-out the seasonal benefits. Mason bees are one of the first to emerge as winter transitions into spring, but their active time is limited, about six weeks. If you attract other bees to your yard, they will



Mason bee tubes in a container.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN HRTTZ VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

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

ORDER TODAY!

More information at The Garden Time Store

www.gardentime.tv/store



Garden Time

take over as the mason bee population winds down, keeping your garden “buzzing” throughout the summer. It’s also a boon if you’re into bee watching.

The Sting

If you’re concerned about (or allergic to) bee stings, inviting mason bees to your yard poses little risk. All bees native to the United States can sting. The honeybee (which is actually an immigrant, brought over by European farmers in the 1600s) can also punctuate its petulance with a barbed retort. But in general, bees are not interested in people at all, preferring to focus their attention on plants and flowers. The docile mason bee will generally tend to her business, and will sting only if trapped or handled roughly. In the insect world, you’re much more likely to be stung by a wasp such as a yellow jacket.

Finally, a tip to help all bee populations: Seventy percent of bees live underground and won’t be attracted to your bee hotel. You can help them -- and all beneficial insects -- by planting more flowers, using fewer pesticides and leaving some areas of your yard undisturbed. For more great advice or answers to specific questions, be sure to stop by your local garden center.

More information about Mason Bee care can be found online:

**Oregon State University
Extension Service
“Nurturing Mason Bees in Your
Backyard in Western Oregon”**

https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9130_0.pdf

**Oregon Department of
Agriculture Guides
“Common Bee Pollinators
of Oregon Crops”**

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/ODABeeGuide.pdf>

**NatureServe
Conservation and Management of North
American Mason Bees**

http://www.natureserve.org/sites/default/files/web_-_natureserve_osmia_report_brochure.pdf



Mason bee nest cells in a bee hotel.

PHOTO CREDIT: ORANGEAUROCHS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

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TRIP BOOKED THROUGH



A man with a beard, wearing a denim jacket over a colorful floral shirt, is shown in profile, focused on pruning a plant with long, feathery seed heads. He is using red-handled pruning shears. The background is a lush garden with various plants and flowers.

An Irish Blessing

Inspired by change and transformed by gardening, Hunting Brook Gardens' Jimi Blake now shares his love of nature with the Emerald Isle.

by
William McClenathan

Jimi Blake

This month's Horti is the affable and passionate plantsman, Jimi Blake.

We first had the privilege of meeting Jimi while visiting his outstanding garden, Hunting Brook, on our Garden Time tour to Ireland.

I instantly had a man-crush on him as his adoration of unique and wonderful plants was ubiquitous throughout his gardens. That bromance continues, even if we are on opposite sides of the planet.

This is also my first interview where the person I was interviewing was thousands of miles away. So I chose to let Jimi's own words which he sent to me be heard.

The first question I asked Jimi to share with me was what happened which inspired his passion for gardening, who inspired him to begin gardening, and any memories which he recalled which

became a turning point in his life.

His answer touched my heart and made me actually cry as I read them. The difference was that in my life it was my Grandparents in Texas who I was in the garden with, which were some of my earliest and fondest memories.

"From when I was a very young child I was gardening with my Mum. She always had gardening projects on the go for me. She bought me a tunnel [a poly hoop house] when I was nine and it was never empty. She always made gardening fun. As a kid I always dreamed of training in a Botanic Gardens, which I did after I finished school. I hated school as I was not out about being gay and it was gardening which brought such happiness to my life."

He continued by telling me about his earliest memories of gardening as he got older.

"I started collecting cacti when

I was just five years old and my room was always full of plants. The love of plants became stronger every year. I had jobs in local garden centers from an early age and then I sold plants on the side of the main road where we lived when I was a teenager. I grew up in a very large garden surrounded by amazing trees and Rhododendrons".

But even in those great memories, there were sad ones as well. He tells me about one tragedy which happened in his first glass greenhouse.

"I had a glass house full of wonderful plants when I was a teenager – one evening when I was filling the paraffin heater during frosty weather, I accidentally filled the heater with petrol instead of paraffin – and when I lit it the glass house went on fire and killed all my plants!! I did manage to put it out before it spread into the home."

As he went into young adulthood, I wondered what kind of jobs he held which might continue his passion in the world of gardening. He tells me he trained in the Botanic Gardens in Dublin where he worked for three years.

But where he really began to shine and create gardens using his own skills directly was in the Botanic Gardens he worked in called 'Airfield' in Dublin. "This was such a great start for me as I had to restore a huge garden, build up the plant collection and open it to the public during my 11 years there".

I asked Jimi what inspired him currently and he said, "I love change! I get bored so easily. It's important I have new projects always on the go to keep my designs fresh and me excited!"

But then he added this, which I suspect defines him, and so many other gardeners around the world.

"I give myself time to sit under my favourite tree in a valley in my garden, and listen to what the land has to say. For me it is a constant communication with the land here - so that I work as part of a team with nature and not just alone. I am not sure this is your thing but it's very important to me".

I can tell him that it certainly is 'my thing' as well.

Gardening has transformed his life. In his 20s and 30s, Jimi tells me, he drank a lot and took drugs, but gardening saved him from that. The more spiritually connected he became to the land the happier he became. It was a long road but gardening nurtured every cell of his body. He now knows he has been so lucky in his gardening career with so many amazing opportunities.

He was given 20 acres of land on the side of his family's farm. He imported a wooden house from Poland 16 years ago. He decided it was time to be his own boss and he wanted to create a garden





which could become one of Ireland's largest private plant collections. He wanted to share it with other people so he opened it to the public and started teaching courses.

When asked about his plans for the future, he says he will continue building up the plant collection and his designs, moving the gardens further into the valley (the one where his favorite 'contemplation tree' is) over the next few years and adding new paths and hopefully building a bridge across the valley.

He has also started his first book which he will write with Noel Kingsbury about his life in gardening and gardens. This will be for sale in autumn 2019. He will be doing lecture tours with the book once it is launched.

He will also continue to build up the plant collection which he is currently in the middle of cataloguing. Those collections include Araliceae, Salvias (245 different Salvias), spring Primulas, Dahlias, Snowdrops and foliage plants.

He is always trialing new plants to see if they are worth growing in gardens, and has changed all the lawn areas into meadows, now with 30,000 bulbs planted there just a few weeks ago! He also has



plans to make gardening courses available on-line over this next year.

Jimi will be speaking at the NPA Hardy Plant Study Weekend in Seattle this June, 22-24th, 2018.

And there you have it my friends.

And if you are looking for an ebullient and passionate speaker for events, Jimi is certainly available. You can contact him through his website or through his social media pages for more information.

And from my own experience with Jimi, I have found him to be an amazing human. I know he has faced some dark struggles in his life, the kind which in the moment can seemingly rip our souls apart, and yet he continues to allow his love of nature and gardening to make him stronger and better.

Jimi, like so many other amazing gardeners I know personally, continues to be a shining example to me personally on the secret success of gardening.

Which is; we who share our hearts and love with nature are always rewarded with the delight of becoming better, wiser and more loving humans.

There is wisdom to be found in Nature. But it is never forced, it must be chosen.



Hunting Brook Gardens

Lamb Hill, Blessington,
County Wicklow, Ireland

www.huntingbrook.com

[www.instagram.com/
huntingbrook](https://www.instagram.com/huntingbrook)

[www.facebook.com/
jimi.blake1](https://www.facebook.com/jimi.blake1)

Let There Be Light

Some
illuminating
information on
a bright idea.

by David Musial



Original Edison bulb.

We take most modern conveniences for granted and the light bulb is no exception. About the only time we think about them is when we flip the light switch only to find out the bulb has burnt out. With long

lasting bulbs, that does not happen as often, but that has not always been the case. In fact, bulbs that burnt out too quickly were a barrier to creating the first commercial light bulb.

If you're like me, you grew up being told that Thomas Alva Edison was the inventor of the light bulb. Like other things we learned, that is not entirely true. There were about twenty inventors of the 'light lamp' that preceded Edison and the first was over seventy-five years before he took out his first patent.

The year was 1802 and Humphrey Davy was experimenting with a battery, a wire and a piece of carbon. Connecting them, he discovered that the carbon glowed. The invention was known as the Electric Arc Lamp, but didn't produce enough light or for long enough to be practical. For the next seventy years, several inventors tried, but couldn't create a commercially viable light bulb.

Two scientists of note during the 1840s and 1850s were Warren de la Rue from Great Britain and Joseph Wilson Swan from England. While de la Rue used a platinum filament, Swan used carbonized paper; but both used a vacuum tube. With the high cost of platinum and poor vacuum technology, neither could create a bulb that was economical and provided the needed life span.

One last item of note before discussing the 'inventor of the light bulb'; it was on July 24, 1874 and a patent was filed in Canada by Henry Woodward and Matthew Evans. Their patent involved the use of carbon

rods in a glass cylinder filled with nitrogen. Although they did not find commercial success, they did find a buyer for their patent in 1879...Thomas Alva Edison.

One year before the purchase of the patent, Edison began research into creating a commercially viable light bulb and on October 14, 1878, he filed the patent for the Improvement in Electric Lights. However, it was the patent filed on November 4, 1879 for an electric lamp that used a carbon filament.

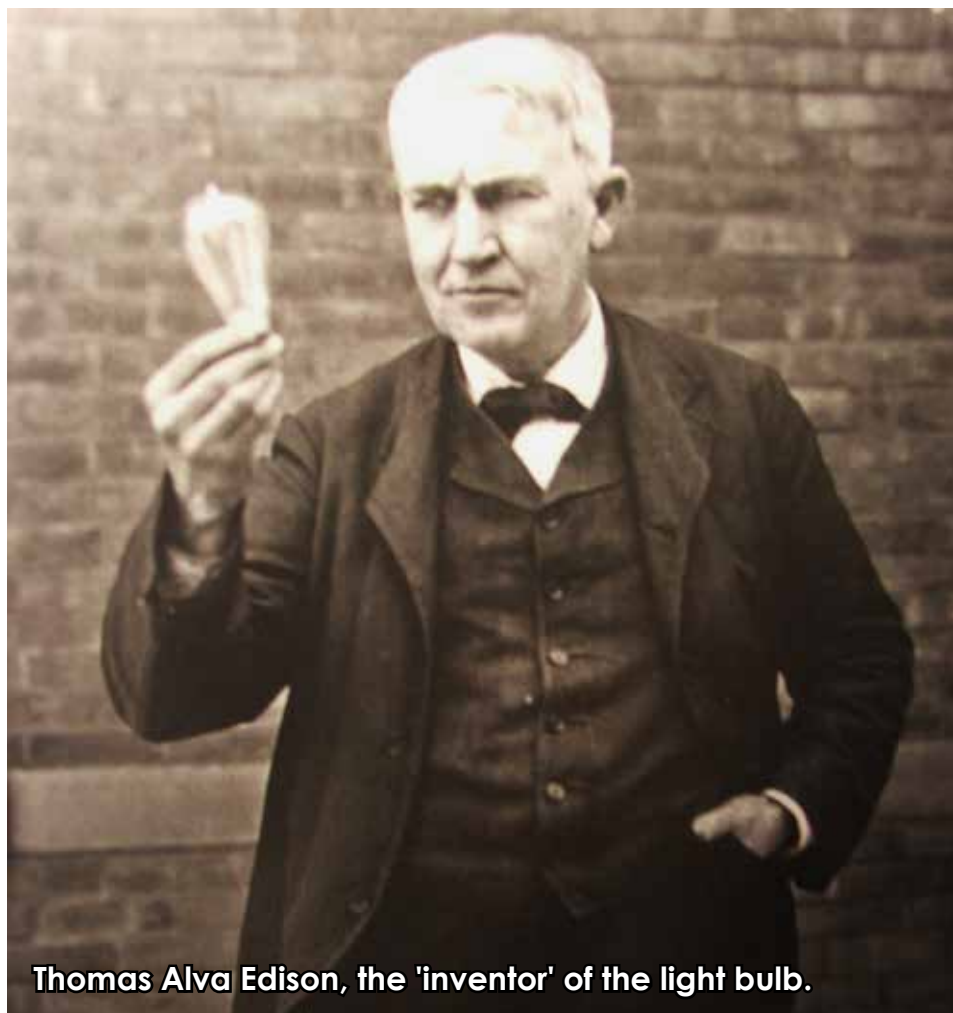
Several materials were used for the carbon filament; linen thread, wood splints, cotton thread and even paper. Months after the patent was granted, a carbonized bamboo filament was found to last over 1200 hours. This led to Edison Elec-

tric Light Company manufacturing and marketing a commercially viable light bulb in 1880.

Lighting choices are no longer limited to incandescent light bulbs and in going full circle they are being phased out around the world, including the United States, due to their poor energy efficiency. Current lighting options can be placed in three categories; incandescent, which includes halogen bulbs, fluorescent and compact fluorescent and light-emitting diode. Each has their benefits which we will explore below.

Incandescent

Current incandescent bulbs are not that different from the ones that Edison marketed in 1880. While Edison's bulbs used a



Thomas Alva Edison, the 'inventor' of the light bulb.

carbonized bamboo filament in a vacuum, modern bulbs use tungsten filaments in an inert gas filled chamber. Neither is energy efficient.

Although not energy efficient, there are several reasons to use incandescent bulbs. To start, they have always been cheap and there are no toxic materials like fluorescent bulbs. They produce even lighting at the flick of a switch and with a pleasing color quality. Lastly, we like them because they

are familiar and we have used them for years.

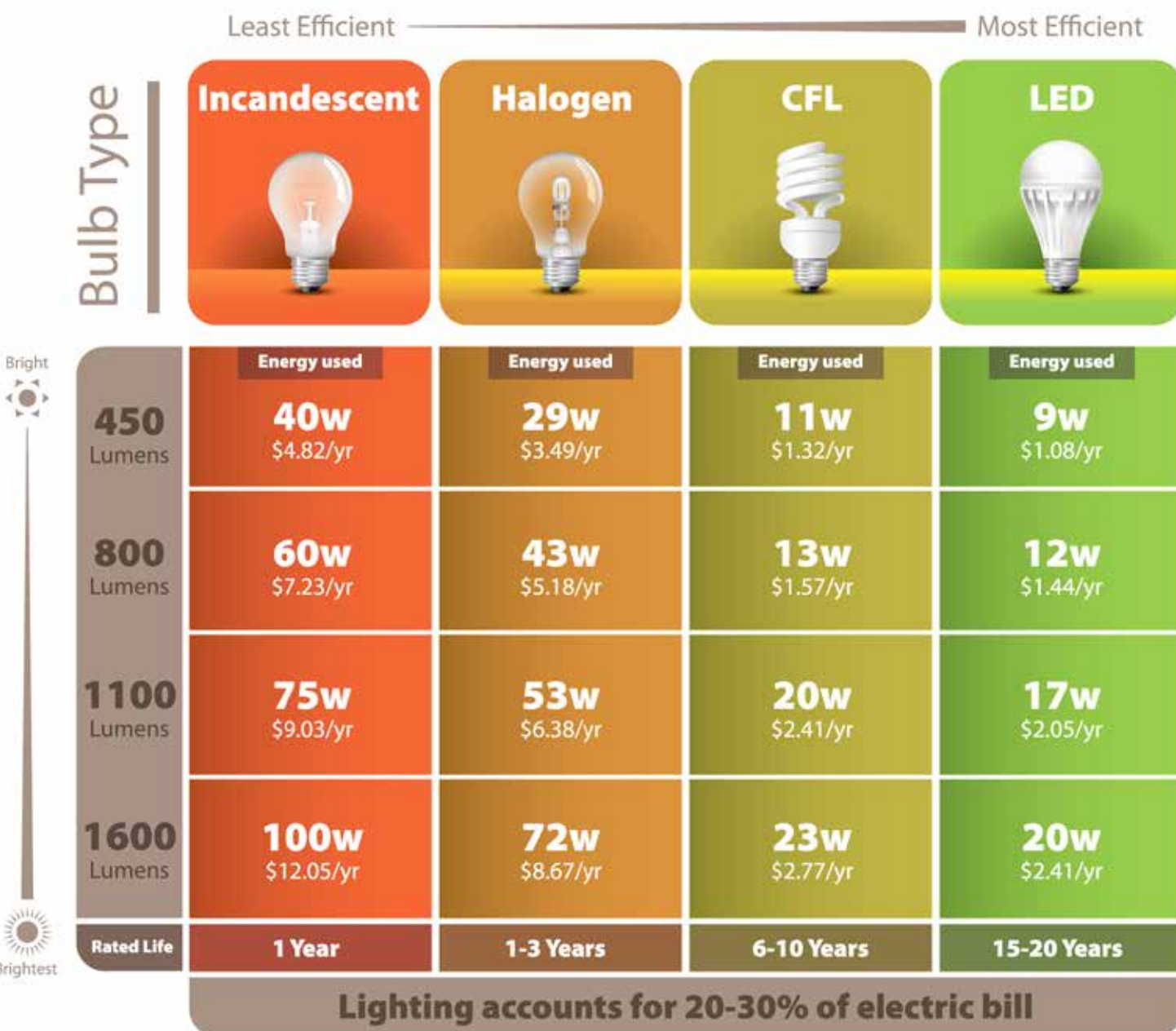
Halogen bulbs are a more efficient type of incandescent light source. Not only are they more efficient, they have a longer operating life due to the use of a halogen gas in the bulb. They burn hotter which produces brighter light while also creating a potential fire and burn hazard if not used properly. They are more expensive than a standard incandescent bulb, but the cost savings is in the

efficiency and longer operating life.

Halogen bulbs come in the shape of standard household lights so can be used to replace traditional incandescent bulbs while providing the same lighting with increased efficiency. They also make ideal spot and flood lights.

Fluorescent and Compact Fluorescent

Florescent tubes have been



Estimated energy cost per year is based on 3 hours of use per day at 11 cents per kWh in an average single family home according to the Dept. of Energy

around for years and are still available. We are used to seeing them in shops and factories to illuminate large areas. Most associate them with the buzz that is quite often caused by the ballast. There is now a new generation of fluorescent lights known as compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFL.

CFL light bulbs are redesigned versions of the fluorescent

tube. They are 50-80% more efficient than a traditional incandescent bulb. Although more costly, the energy savings and long life of the bulb create a true cost savings.

They have been redesigned to eliminate the buzz and are available in a three-way and dimmable bulb. Additionally, they give a warmer light as opposed to the cool white light of

fluorescent tubes. Drawbacks include the fact they contain a small amount of mercury, take a little time to fully brighten and are not designed to be repeatedly turned on and off. Best for areas where once turned on, they will remain on for awhile.

They can be used in most of the same applications as incandescent bulbs and come in a variety of shapes and styles

Directional Bulbs (medium screw base)

Phase Out
by 7/14/2012

Replace with



50W PAR20



40W PAR20
Halogen

or



14W
Compact Fluorescent



8W
LED



50W PAR30LN



40W
Halogen

or



15W
Compact Fluorescent



15W
LED

75W PAR30LN

60W
Halogen

or

16W
Compact Fluorescent



50W PAR30



40W
Halogen

or



16W
Compact Fluorescent



11W
LED

75W PAR30

60W
Halogen

or

23W
Compact Fluorescent



80W BR40



60W
Halogen

or



19W
Compact Fluorescent



23W
Compact Fluorescent

Phase Out
by 7/14/2012

Replace with



45W PAR38



35W
Halogen

or



19W
Compact Fluorescent

or



18W
LED

50W PAR38

40W
Halogen

23W
Compact Fluorescent

75W PAR38

60W
Halogen

23W
Compact Fluorescent

90W PAR38

70W
Halogen

23W
Compact Fluorescent

100W PAR38

70W
Halogen

120W PAR38

80W
Halogen

Why wait? Start saving now.
DOE rulemaking being conducted.

Current Bulb

Replace with



65W BR30



50W
Halogen

or



15W
Compact Fluorescent

or



15W
LED



65W BR40



50W
Halogen

or



23W
Compact Fluorescent

or



15W
LED

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.JIMONLIGHT.COM

to meet the needs of the home. Shapes available include the standard lamp, globe and candleabra.

Light Emitting Diode

Light Emitting Diode or LED bulbs have several benefits. They use the least amount of energy, have a long life, don't contain mercury and produce less heat than other options. Like CFL's, they are available in standard and decorative shapes, and have a three-way option.

Early LED bulbs had a cooler blue tone, but are now capable of providing a range of color. This wide range of lighting makes them ideal for any lighting situation.

The biggest downside is the initial cost, but that will be made up over time with the energy savings and long life.

Since 40, 60, 75 and 100 watt bulbs are no longer produced in the US and supplies are limited, your choice is to stock up or go with new technology. Although we have provided some basic information on other options, here are some tips on buying halogen, CFL or LED light bulbs:

- Bring your old bulb with you to be sure you are getting the right fit.
- We are used to buying bulbs based on wattage and now they are listed as lumens. Check the label as they will generally provide a wattage equivalent.
- If you need a dimmable or three-way bulb, be sure to read the label. Although a bulb may be available in three-way or dimmable, be sure the one you are selecting meets those requirements.
- If you want a bulb for outdoors, be sure the bulb is rated for the same.
- Colors range from warm yellow to bright white. Ratings may be in degrees Kelvin (K), but it is probably easier to read the label to understand the color.


















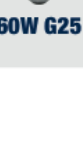



Some may think that Edison would be upset with the demise of the incandescent bulb. I like to believe that if he were still around, he would have 'invented' the LED bulb!

One thing I forgot to mention was the origin of the word incandescent. It is derived from the word incandescence which means light through heat. As a light bulb produces light from a heated (by electricity) filament, the name became incandescent lamp and later light bulb.

This article has provided a lot of illuminating information, but failed to provide the meaning of the term 'the lights on but nobody's home'. Does it refer to the use of a timer to turn on your lights when you are away or a person that just doesn't get it? We will leave it for you to decide.

General Purpose and Decorative Bulbs

(medium screw base)

<div>Phase Out by 1/1/2012</div>  <p>100W A19</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>72W Halogen</p> <p>or</p>  <p>23W micro mini</p>
<div>Phase Out by 1/1/2013</div>  <p>75W A19</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>53W Halogen</p> <p>or</p>  <p>19W Compact Fluorescent</p>
<div>Phase Out by 1/1/2014</div>  <p>60W A19</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>43W Halogen</p> <p>or</p>  <p>13W micro mini</p> <p>or</p>  <p>12W LED</p>
 <p>40W A19</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>28W Halogen</p> <p>or</p>  <p>10W Compact Fluorescent</p> <p>or</p>  <p>8W LED</p>
 <p>60W B10</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>40W Incandescent</p> <p>or</p>  <p>7W Compact Fluorescent</p>
 <p>60W G25</p>	<div>Replace with</div>  <p>40W Incandescent</p> <p>or</p>  <p>14W Compact Fluorescent</p> <p>or</p>  <p>8W LED*</p>

*Equivalent to a 50W

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WTDITG

February, the month of Valentine's Day, is for lovers... of gardening! Sure, it's still a little cold, but your plants are preparing for their spring debut. Now is the time to give them a head start by pruning, cleaning, spraying and planting. Everything you do today will pay dividends for the rest of the year.

PLANNING



- Don't forget to add entries into your gardening journal! Planning ahead means you can be more focused on the important projects lined up for your garden spaces this year.

- Mason Bees: If you don't already have a Mason Bee nesting block, then this is the time to get one set up

so you can be ready to attract your own crop of pollinators. Mason Bees will start emerging late February or early March.



- Start thinking and planning what landscaping you want to do this year. Bring photos of spaces you'd like help with into your local independent garden center and ask for their advice.

PLANTING



- Fruit time! Plant blueberries, strawberries and cane berries.

Most of the plants will be available sometime in February - early shopping yields the best selection.

- Bare root fruit trees are available this month.

- Plant sweet peas! These fragrant pretty flowers should be planted late winter or early spring directly into their garden space.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Pruning can be done this month on fruit trees, blueberries, shade and flowering trees, as well as most shrubs. Rose pruning should be delayed until the last half of February. Please do some research before hacking away!

Briefly, pruning is done to improve the shape of the plant, to

open it up to allow more sun in and air to circulate through the foliage. Start your pruning by removing any dead or broken branches or crossing limbs. Suckers and water sprouts can be removed at



this time.

- Prune fall-bearing raspberries now. Check your local garden center for instructions.

- Hose off Blue Spruce and Alberta Spruce, or any spruce for that matter, with a hard stream of water to knock off any aphids feeding on the foliage.

What To Do In The Garden FEBRUARY

- Dormant Spray with Bonide's All Seasons Spray Oil - a safe and natural pest control that smothers over wintering insects. If needed, dormant spray for diseases with Bonide's Copper Fungicide (dust or spray). Spray according to label directions. (Don't spray dormant oil on blue spruce.)



- Peach trees second spraying can be done this month for peach leaf curl with approved fungus control labeled for

peaches, like Fungonil or Micro-cop.

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

- Fertilize trees, shrubs and perennials with slow release fertil-

izer like 'All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer'.

- Soil prep for the garden. Dump on compost and turn over with a spade as it's too early and wet to rototill. You may find it interesting to know that spading the soil instead of rototilling is better for the soil structure, so don't fret if you don't have a tiller. Keep weeds pulled or smothered as you see them.



- Prune roses. The best month for pruning rose bushes is February. Please research good pruning methods for your rose bushes.

- Get your lawn mower ready for the months ahead with a sharper blade and maybe an engine tune up.

- Boost your lawn now with a

good lawn fertilizer. Do not apply grass seed until late April.

- Look for slug eggs out in the garden. The eggs look like little white BBs and can often be found under rocks and debris in the garden. Raking up and destroying all that you find now will eliminate many hungry adult slugs later. Use Slug magic to get rid of adults. Slug Magic is a very safe product that is only iron phosphate so the pets will not be harmed, but is deadly for slugs and snails. The broken down iron then gets to be consumed by the plants!



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures for best planting times for crops desired. Refer back to soil temperature chart (January issue) for best seed sowing times and soil temperature for planting out young starts.



- Plant horseradish, rhubarb and asparagus starting this month. Make sure you hydrate asparagus crowns first by soaking the crowns in water for about 30 minutes to one hour just before planting. This will ensure the roots are well hydrated.

- Plant these veggies and herbs outdoors: peas, arugula, onions, garlic cloves, fava or broad beans, onion sets, chives, parsley and radish.

- Start these veggies indoors: artichokes, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, celeriac. At the end of this month, start seeds for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant indoors.

- Plant onion sets, yellow, white or red.

- Watch for Walla Walla Sweets plant starts to come out late in the month or early March. It's a good idea to trim off any brown leaves from the green tops as well as set the roots into water to re-hydrate for one-half hour to one hour before planting out.





PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Hanakago: The Art of Bamboo and Flowers **February 3-April 1, 2018 • Garden Hours** **Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

Our first exhibition of 2018, Hanakago (flower basket), features more exquisite bamboo masterpieces from Portland resident Peter Shinbach's incredible bamboo art collection, highlighted by the ikebana art of Mrs. Etsuho Kakihana, master teacher of ikebana of the Saga Goryu School at Daikakuji, one of Kyoto's oldest and most revered Buddhist Temples. Kakihana sensei travels from Kyoto with two prominent ikebana teachers to celebrate Kyoto with floral displays for the exhibition opening. A selection of baskets, including one by a Living National Treasure artist from Kyoto, will be paired with Saga Goryu ikebana arrangements. Staged in the Pavilion and Tanabe Galleries, this is the first bamboo art exhibition of its kind to feature flowers in the baskets designed originally to hold them. Location: Pavilion Gallery & Tanabe Gallery. www.japanesegarden.org.

Mary's Peak Orchid Society Annual Orchid Show & Sale **Saturday, February 3, 2018 • 9:00am-4:00pm** **Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR**

We are honored to once again host the Mary's Peak Orchid Society for their Annual Orchid Show and Sale! Join us for this exceptional day all about orchids. There will be exhibits and judging of an array of incredible orchids. Shop the beautiful and unique orchid varieties, receive expert orchid advice, and bring your own orchids in to be repotted for a fee. No registration required. FREE, and open to the public. www.garlandnursery.com

Fruit Tree Pruning Basics **Saturday, February 3, 2018 • 10:00am(G,V)** **Al's Garden & Home, Gresham, Wilsonville, 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.

Create Your Own Topiary **Saturday, February 3, 2018 • 11:00am(W)** **Saturday, February 10, 2018 • 11:00am(S)** **Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 11:00am(G)** **Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 11:00am(V)** **Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood,** **Gresham, Wilsonville(V), OR**

Imagination and creativity are a must for this fun class!

continued next column

Children will learn about the art of topiary while getting firsthand experience creating their own topiary design out of soft wire. After making their own unique topiary shape, children will plant a vine at the base to climb up and cover the wire. Cost: \$7.50.

Fruit Tree Pruning **Saturday, February 3, 2018 • 11:00am** **Saturday, February 10, 2018 • 11:00am** **Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 11:00am** **Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Mid-winter, while our fruit trees are dormant, is the best time to give them some much needed TLC. Join us as Jim Chennault advises on fruit tree pruning, teaching different techniques to control growth, remove dead or diseased wood or stimulate the formation of flowers and fruit buds. Plan on staying to attend our next class, Dormant Spraying at 1:00 p.m. To get the most out of your fruit trees, plan to attend both Fruit Tree Pruning and Dormant Spraying. www.tsugawanursery.com

What to Do in the February Vegetable Garden **Saturday, February 3, 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 February. Learn how to plan your garden for the year. This includes selecting the garden site, how much space you need to feed your family, crop rotation planning, and garden mapping! www.portland-nursery.com

Dormant Spraying **Saturday, February 3, 2018 • 1:00pm** **Saturday, February 10, 2018 • 1:00pm** **Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 1:00pm** **Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Join us for one of our most popular first-of-the-year classes, Dormant Spraying. Jim Chennault will share the proper use of dormant spray for fruit trees and deciduous shrubs in preventing the spread of fungal diseases and controlling harmful insects. Arrive early and attend our 11:00 a.m. Fruit Tree Pruning seminar. To get the most out of your fruit trees, plan to attend both Fruit Tree Pruning and Dormant Spraying. www.tsugawanursery.com

Soils: Part 1 **Sunday, February 4, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm** **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

continued next page



With Marc Scheidecker. This class looks at the types of minerals and organic matter that makes up our soils. These help determine the nutritional value of the plants we grow because "if it's not in the soil it's not in us." Another important gardening axiom is "First, do no harm," we'll look at how to avoid unintentionally harming our soil. We'll also discuss the importance of getting a professional soil test done.

Re-potting for Beginners: Deciduous Tree
Sunday, February 4, 2018 • 1:00pm-3:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Instructor Theo Bennett will cover basic re-potting, pruning, wiring, techniques and care of a deciduous bonsai which you will take home. Cost: \$50. Includes plant, pot, soil. www.garlandnursery.com

Pollination and the Pollinators: Sex and the Single Flower
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 • 6:50pm
First Baptist Church, Beaverton, OR

By Bob Falconer. Starting with the primordial soup, this presentation takes a look back to the origins of flowering plants and their pollinators. Bob describes their relationship and why the relationship is so important to both. Location: First Baptist Church, Beaverton 5755 SW Erickson Beaverton, OR 97005.

2018 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival
Wednesday-Sunday, February 7-11, 2018
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA

Your gardening desires will blossom when you gaze at the spectacular Show Gardens created by the most respected garden designers and landscapers of the region. Our full acre of show gardens are brimming with ideas that will inspire your garden projects. No matter your style or needs, you'll find inspiration for outdoor living, edible gardening, sustainability, and more. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday: 9:00am-8:00pm; Sunday: 9:00am-6:00pm. www.gardenshow.com

Chic Airplant Wreath
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 • 4:30pm(W)
Wednesday, February 14, 2018 • 4:30pm(V)
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 • 4:30pm(S)
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 • 4:30pm(G)
Al's Garden & Home, Woodburn, Wilsonville(V),
Sherwood, Gresham, OR

Need an easy-care houseplant that adds a unique and classy touch to your decor? These great wreaths made

continued next column

from stylish metal rings and tillandsia airplants are just the thing. It will surely be a conversation piece in any home. This is a Wine & Workshop Wednesday, so we will have wonderful local wines available to sip and a light dinner. 21 & over only, please. Cost: \$40.00.

Happy Hellebore Days
Friday-Saturday, February 9-10 & 16-17, 2018
• 10:00am-4:00pm

Out in the Garden Nursery, Molalla, OR
 We are fortunate to live in the mild Pacific Northwest where we can garden year around. We have lots of blooming hellebores, sarcococca, evergreen grasses and ferns, winter interest shrubs, cyclamen and more. Explore our greenhouse and gardens to find treasures to enhance your winter and early spring gardens. Need some plants but cannot make these days? Give us a call and set something up. We are glad to accommodate you. 32483 S Mathias Road, Molalla. 503-829-4141.

Orchids 101
Saturday, February 10, 2018 • 10:00am(S,W)
Saturday, February 10, 2018 • 1:00pm(V,G)
Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, Woodburn,
Wilsonville(V), Gresham, OR

Would you like to grow orchids but need some basic knowledge? The Oregon Orchid Society will lead this class, so come learn which orchids are best suited for your home or office, and what conditions they need to thrive. You can enjoy these colorful, long-blooming, exotic beauties with a few simple care requirements. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

Organic Vegetable Gardening 101: Basics for Beginners
Saturday, February 11, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Gardening Goddess, Jolie Ann Donohue. If you are excited to grow your own food but have little to no experience or you are new to gardening in the Portland area, this is the class for you! Jolie Donohue, The Gardening Goddess www.jolieannndonohue.com will discuss the basics of organic edible gardening, including site preparation, crop selection based on site elements, planting and care techniques. With her two decades of gardening experience, Jolie will demystify growing your own food and share her tips and techniques for beginner success! www.portlandnursery.com

continued on next page



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

Organic Vegetable Gardening 102:

Crop Rotation & Companion Planting

Saturday, February 11, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Gardening Goddess, Jolie Ann Donohue. Take your vegetable garden to the next level. This is a great class for gardeners with a little experience under their belt now wanting to dig deeper! Join Jolie Donohue, The Gardening Goddess www.jolieannandonohue.com and learn the benefits of practicing crop rotation and companion planting for the healthiest, happiest plants possible. Drawing from two decades of gardening experience, Jolie will discuss tips and techniques for crop rotation, great crop combinations and methods for inter-planting, and strategize about how to rotate crops in small urban plots.

Fruit Pruning

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 • 10:00am-11:30am

Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro, OR

By Joanne DeHaan. Techniques for pruning blueberries, grapes, cane berries, and trailing berries will be the subjects. Bring your bypass clippers and have some fun. Location: Demonstration Garden at the Washington County Fair Complex. 882 NE 28th Ave. Hillsboro.

Pruning Demonstration

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 9:00am-12:00pm

Hillsboro, OR

By the Tualatin Valley Garden Club and Washington County Master Gardener Association. Enjoy hot drinks and cookies while learning correct pruning techniques for cane berries, grapes, fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees and roses. Tool care discussed and tool sharpening available. Please bring pruners and gloves for hands on experience. For questions, call 503-648-4236. Location: 3850 Minter Bridge Road, Hillsboro

Painting Party – Rainbow Sedum

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 9:30am-12:30pm

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Unleash Your Inner Artist! Join Bottle & Bottega at Bauman Farms for a painting party! No experience needed. We believe that art is for everyone! We supply all of the art supplies you need – paint, canvas, brushes, everything! – so all you have to do is embrace your inner artist! Step-by-step painting instruction provided by one of our artists. Cost: \$40. www.baumanfarms.com

continued next column

Raising Mason Bees

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 10:00am-12:00pm

PCC-Rock Creek, Portland, OR

By Ron Spendal. Focuses on the environmental needs of the mason bees, nesting behaviors of mason bees, nesting and housing devices attractive to mason bees. Come learn how to build a "happy home" for these wonderful pollinators. Approved for MG education credit. Location: WCGMA Education Garden at PCC-Rock Creek Building 4 Classroom. 17705 NW Springville Rd. Portland, OR 97229.

Roses 101

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 10:00am(S,W)

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 1:00pm(G,V)

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

We aren't called Rose City for nothing, and since we are known for our roses we thought we should host a class on how to grow and care for them. This class will cover pruning, fertilizing, and general care. Our experts will also assist you in finding the best roses for your yard and lifestyle. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

Mason Bees 101: A Beginners Guide

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Tiffany Garner of Portland Nursery. Mason bees are solitary bees that pollinate up to 100 times more effectively than honey bees. They are easily managed, gentle and non-aggressive. Join Portland Nursery's own Tiffany Garner in this beginner's guide to managing mason bees in your home garden. We will discuss why, how and what you need to raise your own happy pollinators. www.portlandnursery.com

Inviting Mason Bees to Your Garden

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

This class will focus on a wonderful little insect...the Mason bee! We are excited to have Master Gardener Billie Bevers back to share with you her knowledge of these proficient pollinators and how you can encourage them to visit your garden and orchard this season, increasing the abundance of your harvest. Learn about their nesting habits and how to establish an environment that will encourage them to keep a regular home in your garden. This class covers equipment, seasonal management, bee biology and management of pests. www.

continued next page



tsugawanursery.com

Bonsai Class: Repotting Your Bonsai
Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 11:00am
Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Learns the whens and whys of repotting your bonsai. 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. Call us for more information. www.tsugawanursery.com

Rose Care 101
Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Rich Baer, Portland Rose Society. February is here and it's time to prune your roses! Come join rose expert Rich Baer, of the Portland Rose Society, to learn the basics of growing roses. He will cover the basics of various rose species, proper pruning timing & techniques, fertilizing & watering needs, pest & disease control, and other helpful tips to keep your roses healthy, happy, and blooming!

Painting Party – Lavender Fields
Saturday, February 17, 2018 • 1:45pm-4:45pm
Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Unleash Your Inner Artist! Join Bottle & Bottega at Bauman Farms for a painting party! No experience needed. We believe that art is for everyone! We supply all of the art supplies you need – paint, canvas, brushes, everything! – so all you have to do is embrace your inner artist! Step-by-step painting instruction provided by one of our artists. Cost: \$40. www.baumanfarms.com

Spring Tonics
Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Missy Rohs, The Arctos School. Green things are just starting to peek out from the ground! Join community herbalist Missy Rohs of the Arctos School to learn about weeds, garden plants, and nutritious foods to support bodies through the transition from winter to spring. We'll talk about cleanses, mineral-rich infusions, and health-supporting vinegars.

Rose Pruning
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 • 10:00am-11:30am
Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro, OR

By Bill Klug. You will learn how to prune your existing roses by pruning the 30 roses at the demonstration garden. At-

continued next column

tendees are encouraged to bring your own pruners and gloves. Pruning tools will be sharpened for you. Location: Demonstration Garden at the Washington County Fair Complex, 882 NE 28th Ave. Hillsboro.

Portland Spring Home & Garden Show
Thursday-Sunday, February 22-25, 2018
Expo Center, Portland, OR

Hours: Thursday-Saturday: 11:00am-8:00pm; Sunday: 11:00am-6pm. Courtesy of Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland. Parking will be FREE after 4:00pm on Thursday and Friday. www.homeshowpdx.com

The Seasons of a Pine
Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Tom Dufala of Bentwood Tree Farm. Tom Dufala of Bentwood Tree Farm will visit us to explore Japanese garden styled pine trees. Learn about pine tree culture & best methods to guide your pine tree into its own character. Tom will discuss pine varieties, garden siting for best growth, and how to care for and prune pine trees for a Japanese garden style. www.portlandnursery.com

Soils: Part 2
Sunday, February 25, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:30pm
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Marc Scheidecker. Learn how to feed your soil and the billions of soil microorganisms that in turn feed your veggie plants. Foliar fertilizing, soil drenching, side dressing, and manures will be discussed. Also it is important to avoid over fertilization, which can be quite harmful. We'll talk about an ongoing, season long, fertilization plan.

Re-potting for Beginners: Conifer Tree
Sunday, February 25, 2018 • 1:00pm-3:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Instructor Theo Bennett will cover basic re-potting, pruning, wiring, techniques and care of a conifer bonsai which you will take home. Cost: \$50. Includes plant, pot, soil, etc. www.garlandnursery.com

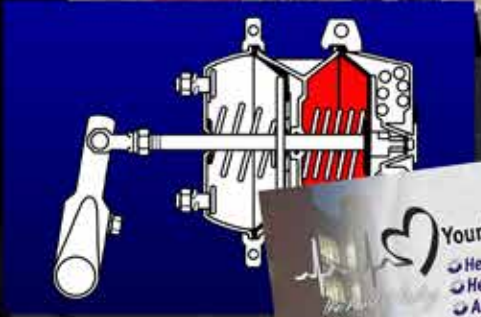
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www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

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