

April 2018

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home



Plant Buy Me Love

Veggie of the Year: Beets
Popular Tomato Varieties

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Happy gardeners gather
at GardenPalooza 2017



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Let There Be Light!

The dark days of winter are behind us, or so we think. The cold days still seem to be with us, but you can feel the change coming! Spring is all about emerging from darkness. The freezing, dark days of winter are receding into the past and we are now experiencing the brightening of spring days. Not just the aspect of more sun, but also the brightening of color. Tulips, daffodils, crocus and many other plants are starting to bloom in the garden, joining with us in welcoming the warmth of the sun. The garden is now becoming a palette of colors and not just variations of brown and grey. The flower stalks of these early blooming plants are like a sundial in the garden. With the spring solstice in late March, the sun is now moving north and that means more daylight. It is a wakeup call for the gardener! The increasing light also means that I'm spending more time in the garden, enjoying the birds, smells, new growth and chores! Still, it is a joy to get outside again!

Ah, chores! Clean-up, pruning and dividing your plants are top garden priorities right now. In this month's magazine we try to help you with the last one of those topics, plant dividing. Judy covers the spring dividing of your summer perennials. She has a couple different techniques for dividing and a great list of perennial plants that could benefit from a good slicing. Spring is also a time for thinking about edibles for your summer garden. William tackles one of the most popular vegetables of the summer garden, the tomato. He has found some of the best of the newer varieties available on the market. Some of these are a combination of the older heirloom varieties and some of the newer introductions. Then, Ron will tell us about the Veggie of the Year, the beet, an underappreciated, yet incredibly delicious root crop. Plus, David talks about the distinctions between GMO, natural and organic foods and what those words really mean.

Let's not forget that April is also the month for GardenPalooza! This year's event is on the 7th of April at Fir Point Farms. Therese fills us in on this 16th annual FREE event. Come on out to see us and enjoy the day surrounded by fellow gardeners.

Let the 'lightness' of the spring season get you excited for days of sun and warmth to come!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

Garden Time Magazine • April 2018 • Volume 10, No. 4, Issue #109

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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer



Lichen in a tree...let it be.

Dear Mortimer,

I am seeing a lot of moss and lichens on my trees. Is it going to hurt my trees and how do I get rid of it?

Signed,
Not Lichen This at All

Dear Lichen,

It may seem like your trees and older shrubs may need a good shave, but that moss and lichen are not generally a problem for your trees. According to the experts at OSU Extension, if your tree is healthy it shouldn't be a problem. The only main problem that may occur is if there is an extreme load of moss and it gets really wet. This will add additional weight to your tree and it could lose branches in a storm. The key here is to make sure that your tree has been properly pruned. If done by a certified arborist, this should eliminate any increased risk to your tree. A good pruning will also open up your tree and allow for more sun and better air circulation, which will also help reduce the moss growth.

There have been a few cases where the increased moisture that comes from a large amount of moss may allow the moisture in the moss to compromise the tree because the tree doesn't dry out creating a pathway for problems, but that generally happens when the tree is already stressed or diseased. Once again, I would recommend a good check up with a certified arborist.

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

If the moss is still bothering you, there are a few chemical solutions that contain a copper solution and should be sprayed before the tree buds break for the season. The best way of removing it is by hand. This prevents damage to the tree and the new growth. Some people say that you can use a power washer to knock the moss down, but that too runs the risk of long term tree damage.

As a plant myself, I would recommend that you enjoy the look of the moss and make it part of your garden aesthetic.

Enjoy!
Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I'm being swarmed! When the sun comes out, my house is covered in stink bugs! I know that these are pests and a danger to fruit growers. How do I control them?

Signed,
Raising a Stink in Salem

Dear Stink,

I'm not sure that what you are seeing are stink bugs. This time of year the Box Elder bugs are coming out in full force on those sunny warm days. You will usually see them on the south side of trees and buildings. The



Box Elder: suck it up.



Stink Bug: make the call.



Moss on a trunk...you're not sunk!

appearance of both bugs on your home is not uncommon though.

The Box Elder is a skinnier bug with red markings on its body. It is just a nuisance bug and can be sucked up with a Shop Vac if you want to get rid of them. If they get inside your home they will leave little brown spots from their excrement. The stink bug that is a problem in our area is the Brown Marmorated Stink bug, a recent arrival in our area from the East Coast. This guy has a much wider body (a shield shape) with white markings along its body and on its antennae. This bad boy is a sucking insect and a threat to agricultural crops in our area. If you see this guy, you should contact the Oregon State Department of Agriculture, so they can come out and set up traps. Also be aware, there are native stink bugs in our area that are not as dangerous to our crops. Make sure you know the difference when you call.

So to recap... if it is a Box Elder, knock it down and suck it up. If it is a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, catch it and call the Ag Department.

Thanks for bugging me with this one!
Mortimer



Drop by and say hello to Garden Time hosts Judy Alleruzzo and William McClenathan.

Plant Buy Me Love

If you like gardening, landscaping or being in your yard, there's a lot to love at this year's GardenPalooza. *by Therese Gustin*

Hard to believe that it's our 16th year celebrating all that is good with gardening! Yes it is time for GardenPalooza again!

Each year it gets better and

better and this year is no exception. We are honored to be partnering with our friends at Dramm (www.rainwand.com), creators of those amazing high quality colorful watering tools, hoses, pruners and even fertilizer again this year as our title sponsor. Stop by the Garden Time booth to see what great Dramm products we have to give away this year.

GardenPalooza is the perfect place to find that unique plant, tool or perfect piece of garden art to adorn your garden. There will be some new vendors and old favorites

16TH ANNUAL SPRING
GardenPalooza
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for your shopping pleasure.

Just take a short trip along I-5 into the Aurora countryside and you'll find the ideal event that will fulfill all your gardening desires! Saturday, April 7, 2018 marks the 16th year of this much anticipated exciting, fun and FREE event! Spend the day from 8 am to 4 pm at Fir Point Farms in Aurora.

Some of the most unique nursery and garden art vendors in the Northwest are all together in one location. It's a great opportunity to get a jump on your gardening needs. Come early and shop from over 40 local plant and garden art vendors who will tempt you with their gardening treasures. Don't forget to visit the vendors in the permanent hoop house behind the glass greenhouse.

The hosts of the Garden Time TV show, William McClenathan and Judy Alleruzzo can be found in this back hoop house and would love to meet and talk with you. Be sure to find them as they will be offering many drawings throughout the day.

Dramm has again provided lots of their great colorful watering wands, pruners, aprons and sprin-



Over 40 vendors will be on-hand to help you get excited about gardening.

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Local Events April 2018

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

March 23-April 30, 2018 • Daily, 9:00am-6:00pm
Wood Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

Stroll through 40 acres of stunning beauty, experience expansive views of vineyards, distant mountains, and a few mud puddles. Fresh flowers, food, and fun for the entire family, including well behaved dogs on leashes!

• www.woodenshoe.com

GardenPalooza

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • 8:00am-4:00pm
Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

We'll have over 40 vendors to get you excited about gardening. See hundreds of plants, tools and garden art. People can also enjoy shopping at the country store, fresh doughnuts, delicious food and much, much more! Lots of free on-site parking! Meet William McClenathan and Judy Alleruzzo from TV's "Garden Time."

• www.gardenpalooza.com

Hulda Klager Lilac Days

April 21-May 13, 2018 • Daily, 10:00am-4:00pm
Hulda Klager Lilac Garden, Woodland, WA

The gardens are open daily 10:00am until 4:00pm year around. A \$5.00 gate fee is payable at the gate. Children 12 years old and under enter free when accompanied by an adult.

• www.lilacgardens.com



capitolsubaru.com

klers to give away again this year. We will also be giving away Black Gold carry bags and gloves while supplies last. You can also sign up for drawings of Al's Garden Center and Portland Nursery gift card giveaways. William and Judy will be pulling names every half hour throughout the day.

We will be giving away a Farm Style barn metal raised bed with an attachable trellis donated by Don Sprague of Garden Gallery Iron Works. William and Judy will have signup sheets available at the Garden Time booth for these giveaways.

The complimentary Plant Holding area is located on the west side of the Country Grains/Fir Point Farms store. You can drop off your purchases, go back for more shopping and when you are finished, drive around and pick everything up! If you don't need to pick anything up from the Plant Holding area, you



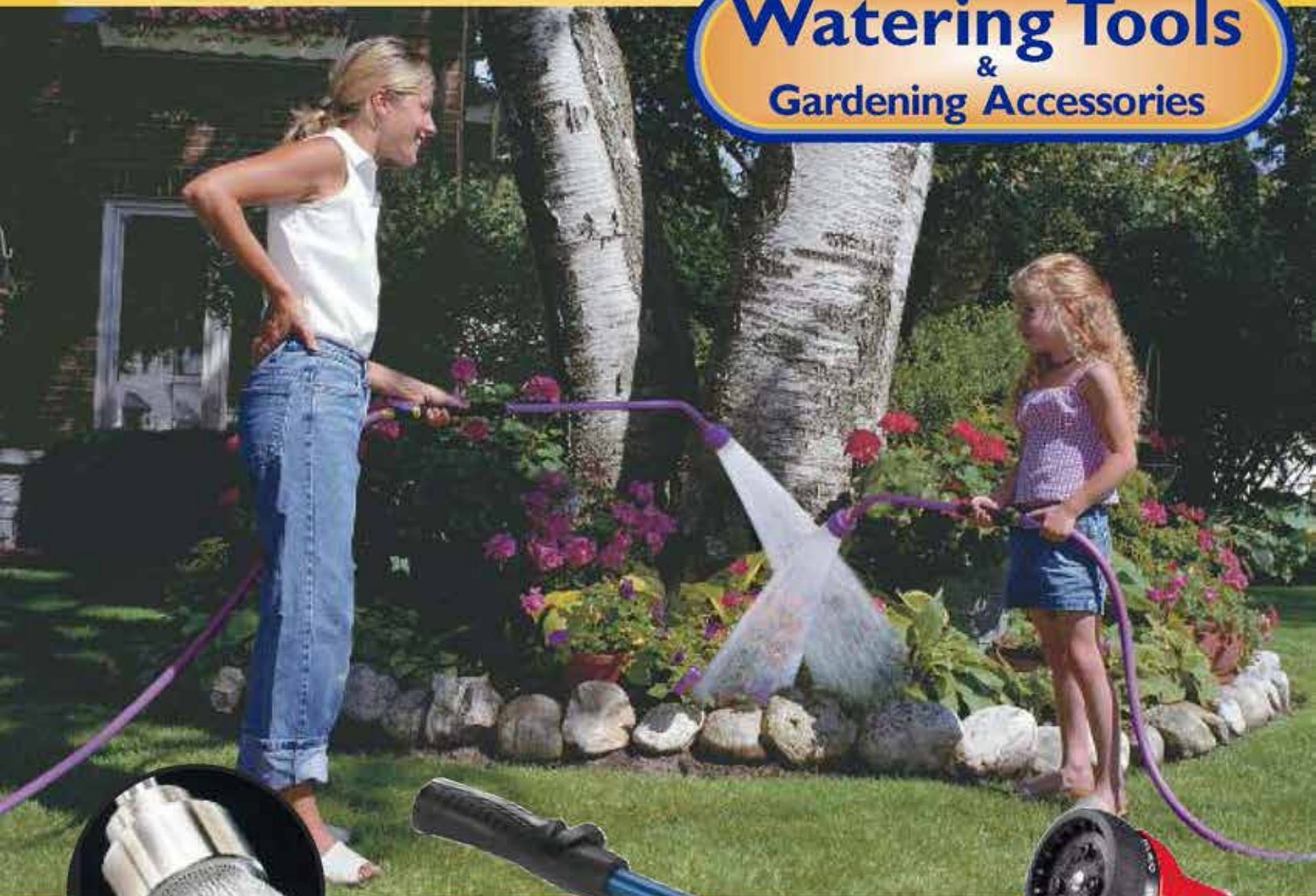
You could win a Farm Style barn metal raised bed from Garden Gallery Iron Works. See William and Judy to sign up!



The raised bed is great for growing vegetables on a deck, porch or patio!

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can exit the parking area to the right and leave through the Farm's back exit.

Not all of the vendors take credit and debit cards so bring your checkbooks, just in case. If all that shopping wears you out, take a break and enjoy some delicious food provided by the owners of Fir Point Farms, Country Grains. Their cinnamon rolls, sandwiches, soups and salads are great for filling you up and energizing you for an afternoon of shopping. Be sure to pick up something delectable from their bakery to take home with you.

If you bring your children, take a stroll and visit all of the farm animals while you are there. One of the best parts of this family friendly adventure is that it is free to attend. There is plenty of free parking on site so all that savings can go towards supporting your plant addiction!

If you check out GardenPalooza.com, you can print out vendor coupons, get directions, check out the parking situation, view pictures from past year's events and see which vendors will be participating.

Add a dose of color to your garden! Rain or shine, put on your boots, come on down to Fir Point Farms in Aurora and don't miss GardenPalooza 2018, sponsored by Dramm, Garden Time and Fir Point Farms. Hope to see you there!



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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>>

Join us for this exciting Garden Time Tour!

Participation is limited. We recommend you book early.

Link to this information on the *Garden Time* website:
www.GardenTime.tv/tours

For more information, call Carolyn Horne, *Time To Travel* Tours • (503)684-5997

TRIP BOOKED THROUGH



Divide & Conquer

Dividing perennials is not a difficult chore and it will help you enjoy them even more this summer.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Dividing an iris

PHOTO CREDIT: SHREINERS IRIS GARDENS

Yay, it's spring and all winter you have made lists of garden chores. We all do this and now is the time to start getting to work on those projects. If your list is like mine, there is an entry to divide perennials in your garden. Dividing perennials is not a difficult chore and once you get started, it becomes an all out process to renovate your perennials and enjoy them even more this summer.

Early spring blooming varieties can be divided right after they finish blooming:

Aubrieta
Creeping Phlox
Basket of Gold, Alyssum
Saxifraga

April is also the time to divide perennials that are just starting to leaf out to

bloom in mid-summer to fall:

Bee Balm, Monarda
Black Eyed Susan, Rudbeckia
Catmint, Nepeta
Creeping Thymes

Daylilies, Hemerocallis can be divided any time but spring is the best season

Hostas can be divided if not up leafed out more than two inches

Mints, Menthe
Ornamental Grasses
Shasta Daisies, Leucanthemums
Yarrow, Achillea

Other seasons to divide specific perennials or bulbs:

- Asiatic, Oriental or Trumpet Lilies

Snip off spent flowers. Let stems die down to add nutrients to

bulbs

Divide and replant bulbs mid to late fall

- Bearded Iris

Best to divide the Iris clumps (rhizomes) right after they bloom in mid to late summer. Old Iris clumps not blooming well can be divided this month to revitalize them.

The Iris may even flower!

- Herbaceous Peonies - Divide in fall only after the plants have gone dormant

- Oriental Poppies - Divide in July-August after they go dormant

Last spring, summer or fall, you may have seen these symptoms in the perennial varieties in your garden. By dividing perennials

that have these symptoms, you can have improved foliage, flowers, texture and more healthy plants in your garden or landscape.

- Huge clumps taking over its neighbor
- Huge clumps with a dead center
- Huge weeds in the perennial clump
- Huge perennial clumps but minimal flowers
- Huge clumps that you just love and want to have a few more to plant in the garden

Here are several tips to make the division process easier and more successful.

- Try to work on a cloudy day so fine roots don't dry out very quickly
- Trim back foliage to just a few inches tall so you can see the perennial's growing points
- Use sharp tools and divide the clump into big chunks at least 5-6 inches in diameter.

These large divisions will have enough roots to establish the perennial quickly and possibly produce a few flowers later in the summer. You can divide the clump into smaller chunks for perennials that will bloom next spring. They have a longer time to settle in and establish in the garden.

- Use a sharp knife like a chef's knife or bread knife. I get the best knives at Goodwill or garage sales. Examine the crown of the perennial clump and cut in between the growing points in the crown of the perennial. A few growing points may be sliced through but you will still have large chunks to replant.
- Use a sharpened spade so you won't have to work so hard digging up the perennial.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE ENGLISH GARDEN UK

- Compost or put the excess plant material in your debris container.

- Replant the newly divided perennials or pot up and share with a friend, family or neighbor.

Now that you know which perennials to divide and have gotten all your tools together, here are Three Division Techniques that allow for different situations in the garden or landscape.

STEP #1

Follow these steps if the perennial clump is growing into another plant. You love where that



PHOTO CREDIT: THE ENGLISH GARDEN UK



perennial is planted but it is crowding its neighbor to the point of ruining the shape or health of the other plant. This technique just removes the part of the clump too close to the other plant.

Take a sharp garden spade and slice down about 1-2 inches from the edge of the perennial that is crowding that other plant. Work your way around the perennial clump and then slice through the center, bisecting the clump. Using the spade, dig under the clump allowing enough roots to make a good sized division. The piece you remove can be planted in another

part of your garden or landscape or given away. The part of the perennial that is in the right place can stay in that place. Just add fresh soil or compost to fill in where that piece was taken out.

STEP #2

This technique is to revitalize a perennial plant that is growing just at the edge of the clump with a dead center or to remove a very invasive weed. With a sharp spade, slice down around the perimeter of the perennial about 1-2 inches from the edge of clump. Take that clump out of the planting hole and slice out the dead center or weed and its

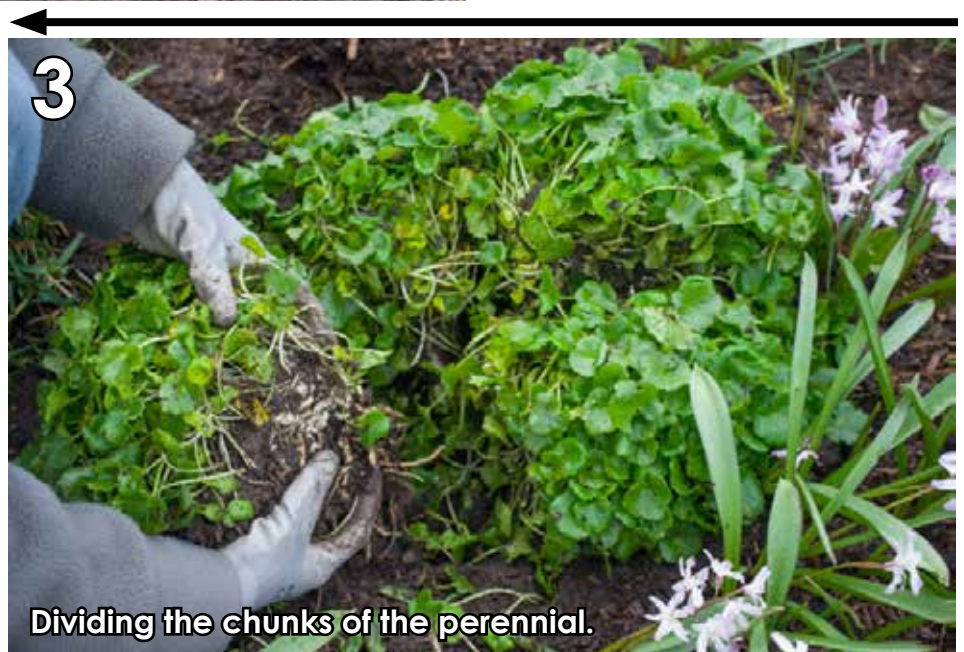


PHOTO CREDIT: THE ENGLISH GARDEN UK

roots. Divide the perennial into large clumps. Replant the pieces in your garden or pot up and give to a friend.

STEP #3

I love this division technique as I love to share perennials with my friends. This technique is for that favorite perennial that is just huge and you want to reduce the size or it is in need of rejuvenation as the plant is just not flowering well. It is a great candidate to make divisions to plant in other parts of your garden or to give away.

With a sharp spade, slice down around the perimeter of the perennial about an 1-2 inches from the edge of the clump. Take the perennial out of the planting hole and cut into large pieces. Now you have the new divisions to replant in your garden and also pieces to share.

Really that's all there is to



Replant the perennial clump.

dividing perennials. Yes, it is a little work and you may get a little muddy but think about what the end result is, MORE perennials for you and your garden friends.

Here is a fun idea:

A friend of mine has a "Perennial

Dividing Party" complete with potluck and adult beverages.

This is a great idea to get help in dividing perennials, give away plants to your friends and it's a party! Well, it's kind of a Tom Sawyer kind of party, isn't it? Well any way you slice it, ha-ha, have fun in your garden this spring!

PHOTO CREDIT: THE ENGLISH GARDEN UK

Watch these *Garden Time* stories for more tips!

Dividing Iris with Ben Schreiner from Schreiner's Iris Gardens
Episode 407 • August 6, 2016

Dividing Hostas with Thomas Johnson from Sebright Gardens
Episode 276 • April 13, 2013

More Information

Check out this wonderful book by Tracy DiSabato-Aust

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: The Essential Guide to Planting and Pruning Techniques, 3rd Edition

This book is an encyclopedia of perennial by genus. Tracy covers where to plant the perennials and how to take care of them including dividing seasons and techniques.

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LITTLE PRINCE

2018 Vegetable of the Year

We Got the Beet

Long a popular mealtime staple, there is a lot more to these healthy roots than what you see at the salad bar.

by Ron Dunevant

Growing up, I was fortunate to have an “old-fashioned” grandmother. She and my grandfather lived in the family home built by her father in 1910. She washed her clothes in a wringer-washing machine and hung them on a clothesline strung in the backyard. They mowed the lawn with a push reel mower and heated the house with a wood burning stove. Every Sunday, as was tradition, she would spend hours preparing – on that same wood-burning stove, no less – a fancy dinner that usually included chicken, a canned ham, mashed potatoes (with American cheese!), carrots, beans, brussels sprouts and, one of my personal favorites, diced beets. As a kid, the sweet taste, dark purple color and their tendency to turn my mashed potatoes a bright shade of pink, made eating them a particularly enjoyable treat.

I never lost my love for beets, but admittedly, I haven’t cooked them myself. Seeing them in the salad bar at Sweet Tomatoes, though, brings back a flood of good memories, and I always add a big scoop to my plate in honor of grandma.

So, it was with a bit of nostalgic pride that I learned that the National Garden Bureau, a non-profit organization that promotes the benefits of home gardening, has chosen the beet as their edible plant of the year. Each year, the NGB selects one perennial, one annual, one bulb and one edible plant to celebrate. By shining the spotlight on a specific plant in each category, they hope to encourage casual gardeners to discov-

er new varieties and learn more about plants that may already be in their gardens. Last month, we told you about their perennial pick, the Coreopsis. This month, we focus on the beet, a root vegetable that, I was surprised to learn, comes in more colors than just purple.

Beets, known botanically as *Beta vulgaris*, trace their origins back a millennium to the sea beet, a coastal plant that grows naturally in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It was cultivated for medicinal purposes, to treat fever and constipation, and as an aphrodisiac. The leaves were considered edible, but the root itself was not, since the wild variety had woody roots.

The origin of the bulbous vegetable we know today is sketchy, but possibly came from more tuberous-rooted plants found in North Africa. It was so popular in Ancient Rome and Greece that, despite growing best in the spring and fall, methods were created to produce them during the summer, as well. It was not until the late 1500s that they became popular in Germany and Russia. It took another two centuries to catch on in the rest of Europe.

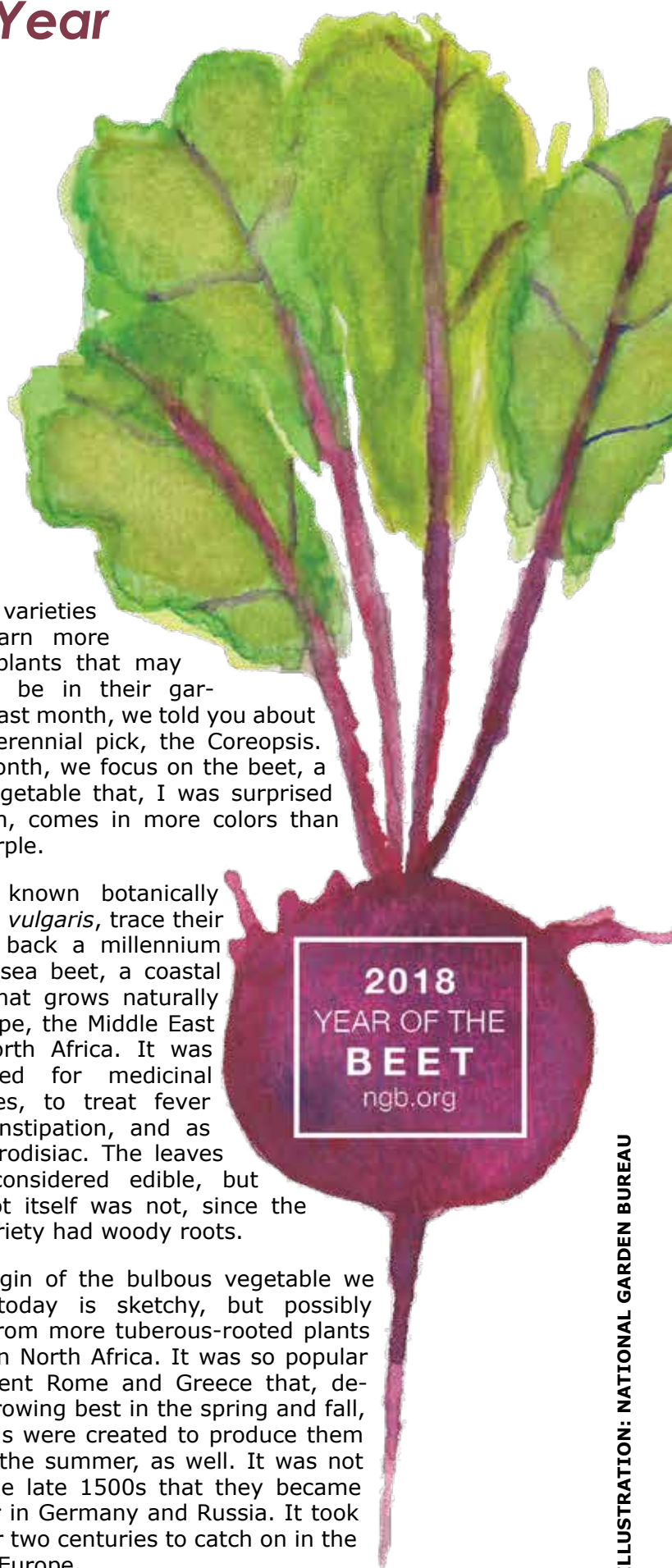


ILLUSTRATION: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beets are biennials, usually producing flowers the second year. Grown from seed, however, they are generally treated as an annual crop, sown in the spring for a summer harvest or in late summer for a fall harvest.

In milder climates, beets can be sown in the fall as a winter crop.

The flowers are wind-pollinated and any beet can cross-pollinate with any other.

While the greens are what appears above ground, it is the tasty root, nestled below the surface, that we have come to love. The reddish-purple orbs you see in stores and restaurants is the best-known variety, but certainly not the only one. There are also yellow and golden beets, white beets and striped beets (sometimes referred to as "candy cane" or chioggia beets) with distinct red-and-white or yellow-and-orange roots.

They can also come in different shapes. The most common is the globe or round shape, but some varieties feature cylindrical roots, similar to carrots. These are great for slicing as "chips" and also allow you to grow more beets in the same amount of space.

Beets generally fall into four categories:

Red Beets • These are the type that generally come to mind when we think of beets. Dark red to purple, inside and out, they can be used in a variety of dishes. They feature leafy greens that can be eaten, as well. Red beets do very well in storage, too, becoming sweeter (but, perhaps, a little less tender.) Roasted, boiled, used in soups (borscht), they can also be pickled, which is generally what you will find at the salad bar.

Golden Beets • While not as sweet as red beets, they have a more mellow flavor. The bright yellow color adds a particular zest to salads, or roast them for a treat. They work well combined with other roasted vegetables as the yellow color does not stain the way red beets do.



'Merlin' beets feature a striped interior.

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

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Beet 'Touchstone Gold'

Vibrant yellow to golden, with medium-sized crowns and tap roots. It has a mild sweet flavor that is delicious. Great for home garden. Retains its color when cooked.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: Orange-Red

Interior: Yellow

Days to maturity from seed: 85-90

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beet 'Detroit Supreme'

With a smooth shaped root with tall tops, this variety has a refined medium sized crown and tap root. Great for home gardens. Improved root characteristics, tall strong tops.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: Red-Dark Red

Interior: Deep Red

Days to maturity from seed: 85-90

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beet 'Boltor'

Featuring improved uniformity and vigor with light green tops. Sweet and delicious when juiced, shredded in salads, or roasted. Keeps its color when cooked.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: Orange-Brown

Interior: Bright Yellow

Days to maturity from seed: 51-55

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Chioggia Beets • Naturally striped, some varieties feature a dazzling red-and-white “candy cane” effect while others are an appealing orange-and-yellow combination. They can be prepared like other beets, but the striping usually fades when the beets are cooked.

Baby Beets • You may have seen these at your local grocery store. They are simply the beets that are removed from the field to make room for other beets to grow larger. They are very tender and have luscious greens attached. Many people prepare the roots and greens together.

There are several ways to prepare your beets. They can be boiled or roasted. Both methods have their fans, although when boiled, the skin is much easier to remove. They can

also be steamed, served raw or pickled. Some diners prefer them cold while others enjoy them while still warm. Whether sliced, diced, mashed or grated, they are tasty on their own or mixed into soups and salads.

Beets are healthy, too. High in fiber, vitamins A and C, antioxidants, calcium, phosphorus, potassium and folic acid, they are also a great source of iron. Beet juice is a popular nutritional energy drink. Beet powder is sold as a nutritional supplement. Dried sliced beets are marketed as healthy chips. You can even make wine from beet juice. Talk about versatile!

If you’re interested in growing your own beets, it’s both easy and fun: Seeds are sown directly in the garden in early spring or late summer. They can



Beet soup, a.k.a. “borscht”.



Roasted beets used in a salad.

PHOTO CREDITS: BREVILLE USA VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; LIZ WEST VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



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Beet 'Ruby Queen'

A standard variety for home gardeners, with a small crown and tap root. It has medium green tops that have an upright plant habit. Suitable for canning.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: Red

Interior: Bright Red

Days to maturity from seed: 85-90

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beet 'Avalanche'

Snow white roots have all the sweetness of ordinary beets without any bitterness. Nice for slicing and roasting, can be grated raw into salad, or juiced.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: White

Interior: White

Days to maturity from seed: 50-55

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beet 'Lutz Green Leaf'

These crimson roots have a scrumptious flavor that becomes sweeter with time. Enjoy them boiled, pickled, roasted, or fresh in salad. Lasts a long time in storage.

Shape: Globe

Exterior: Crimson Red

Interior: Red to Pink Rings

Days to maturity from seed: 65-70

Open pollinated



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

Beet 'Taunus'

Harvest full size or as baby "fingerling" beets. Uniform size makes great chips when sliced. An excellent beet for slicing, pickling and chipping. Tops are quite tasty, as well.

Shape: Cylindrical

Exterior: Purple-Brown
Interior: Deep Red-Purple

Days to maturity from seed: 60

Hybrid variety



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

even be grown in containers. Because the "seeds" are actually little seed clusters, several will germinate and they will most-likely need thinning. This will encourage larger and better-shaped roots in the remaining plants. They prefer acidic soils and will grow in places few other plants will tolerate.

Most varieties of beets will mature in 50–95 days. See the instructions on your seed packet for specific details. Harvest them by gently pulling the tops or digging the roots when they are about 2 1/2-to-3 inches in diameter, but if you like "baby beets," you can harvest them earlier.

The varieties highlighted in this article are just a few of the many that you can find in seed catalogs, seed and nursery websites and at your local garden center. To learn more about this delicious and sometimes overlooked vegetable, check out National Garden Bureau website at ngb.org.

Available Now! Garden Time Flowers

In celebration of Garden Time, we are proud to tell you about three flowers that have been named in our honor. 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. Check them out and put a little *Garden Time* in your yard!



Garden Time Dahlia



Garden Time Rose



Garden Time Iris

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To•may•to... To•mah•to...

Let's call the
whole thing off?
Not a chance!

by William McClenathan



Atlas Hybrid



Atlas Hybrid



Shimmer Hybrid

Most of us recall the words from this song. But I am not going to 'call the whole thing off' because I LOVE tomatoes. Whether they are tiny grape tomatoes you can eat by the handfuls, to the massive Beefsteak varieties, which with one slice can cover an entire sandwich, I love them all!

In recent times, there has been an explosion of new varieties hitting the market. While some which are promoted as 'new', are often Heirloom varieties which have been found and brought into our current market, there are still so many actual new varieties. Some have one parent which is an Heirloom. Others are created with more current varieties. There are many reasons why breeders do this. They include but are not limited to, hardiness, texture, size (of both the fruit and the plant), flavor, color, disease, and form.

So I went on an adventure to search out some new varieties for 2018. What better thing to accomplish on a cold winter's day? I found far too many to write about, but here are a few that I want to try in

my own garden this year.

Atlas Hybrid

First-ever beefsteaks for porches and decks in warm, sunny conditions everywhere.

Big, tasty beefsteaks right outside your door! First-ever beefsteaks for porches and decks in warm, sunny conditions everywhere. New bushy, compact 'Atlas' plants easily shoulder their bountiful loads of one-pound tomatoes. This vigorous, neatly growing paragon of the patio combines modern performance with old-time flavor. Fruits deliver unsurpassed balance of sweetness and acidity. Semi-determinate plants.

From Burpee seeds • www.burpee.com

I love this huge family of tomatoes. But I consistently struggle with them cracking. Plus a container Beefsteak I can grow on a patio? It is just too seductive not to try!

Shimmer Hybrid

Enchanting small, plum, cocktail-type tomato bursting with succulent flavor.

One precious tomato you won't want to give away, but with yields of 300–350 fruits in a season, you'll have plenty, plus your neighbors will love you. Enchanting plum tomato is larger than a cherry but smaller than a Roma, with green stripes, touches of shimmering gold, unique almond shape and sweet succulent flavor. Color your salads with greens and golds, or enjoy snack-sized fruit fresh from the vine.

Burpee seeds • www.burpee.com

Like many of you, my fellow gardeners, I am often seduced by the pictures and the words describing the fruit. Ample harvest, amazing color, and a wonderful size for salads. You bet I would try that!

Damsel Hybrid

Dainty, compact, indeterminate plants yield pink, round, beefsteaks with beautiful late blight resistance. 'Damsel' offers outstanding heirloom flavor with uniform fruits in the 12 oz. range. Combined disease package of late blight, verticillium wilt and nematode resistance guarantee harvests starting 75 days from transplant.

Burpee seeds • www.burpee.com

Sure it is a lessor sized beefsteak, but it also is such a beauty. Plus I was intrigued by the disease resistance sales pitch. After all, each of us has failed in the garden...so you bet I would give this one a try.



Shimmer Hybrid



Damsel Hybrid



Damsel Hybrid



Valentine

Valentine

New! Delicious high-lycopene grape.

Massive early yields, deep red color, and unusually rich flavor. Developed in collaboration with Dr. Majid Foolad of Penn State University, Valentine marries the best of wild-type tomato genetics with flavorful high-performing strains. This vivid red, high-yielding, and early blight resistant tomato is the first commercial variety developed with Penn State's patented high-lycopene breeding lines. Excellent color contrast when mixed with Nova or Golden Sweet. Also adds diversity to a small tomato mix. Avg. fruit weight 12-14 gm. For best flavor, harvest when fruits are deep red. Long shelf life. AAS winner. U.S. Patent #8,524,992. Intermediate resistance to alternaria (early) blight. Indeterminate.

Johnny's Selected Seeds • www.johnnyseeds.com



Valentine

In full transparency, I chose this one because at the end of the day, I love the back story and history of plants...because I'm a nerd. And it's a grape variety. Summer candy here I come!

Aftershock

Aftershock is a new dwarf variety introduced this year. Look at this beauty! Fabulous flavor, succulent, rich and perfectly balanced.

Big striking, striped tomatoes on a shrubby 3 to 4 ft. plant. A stunning red bulls-eye in the center of ripe fruits -- the flavor is a mind blower. Beyond delicious!

Sweet with perfect tang found in some of the green when ripe tomatoes like Green Giant. Loves the heat. Great for containers or in the ground.

Laurel's Heirloom Tomato Plants

• www.heirloomtomatoplants.com

I do find a delightful uniqueness to the Heirloom tomatoes. They also sold me on the description! Who doesn't love their mind blown by flavor? And another container specific plant for patio gardeners.

Lucky Cross

This golden-red bi-color 8 to 10 oz tomato has Brandywine in its parent line so the depth of flavor is stunning, rich and sweet with a perfect balance of tang in the background.

Another astonishing variety from Craig Lehoullier, Lucky Cross is one of the best tasting bi-colors you'll ever find.

Disease resistant, delicious--a fabulous tomato.



Aftershock

Laurel's Heirloom Tomato Plants

- www.heirloomtomatoplants.com

If it has yellow, I'm gonna try it.

Heirloom Marriage™ Marzinera

NEW! 70-75 days. By crossing 2 beloved heirlooms together, the resulting cultivar bears the best qualities of both parent varieties with the added benefits of hybrid vigor, disease resistance, uniformity and yield.

Arguably among the richest, most flavorful saucing tomatoes. The union of San Marzano and Cream Sausage produces early and continuous harvests of elongated, meaty, flavorful fruit. Loads of brilliant red, 2-3 ounce tomatoes ripen early on these indeterminate plants for abundant sauce, salsa, ketchup and paste.

Territorial Seed Company

- www.territorialseed.com

I am very intrigued by this cross between two Heirlooms. And that is touted for making great sauces with extreme flavor? Well, they had me at flavor. It was also the only site I researched which sold plants as well as seeds. That does not mean other places do not exist, just that none I researched promoted that they do. And that we have filmed at Territorial and they are a local company just makes it all the better.

I did the courtesy of including what each website said about their new varieties, plus the name of each company and their websites for you to check out.

I must say, I was not prepared for the many different new introductions for 2018. We all have our favorites, those we tend to grow each year. But I also do try to add a new one or five to test out, just to see if it makes the cut for the following season.

One of my favorites to grow is Lemon Boy, but I find I never grow enough to quench my desire for that lightly acidic, flavorful, yellow beauty. I also always grow some form of cherry or grape tomato as they are my summer time candy. Oh! And Romas, because they make such delicious canned and fresh sauces.

All other tomatoes tend to be on what peaks my interest for that year. Even if you don't buy seeds to start your tomatoes, aren't we thrilled we have so many amazing garden centers that actually carry wonderful varieties.

The weather may be cold and stormy but there is no shame in dreaming about fresh tomatoes. Enjoy!



Lucky Cross



Lucky Cross



Heirloom Marriage™ Marzinera

Dynamic Duo

Deb Zaveson and Norm Jacobs lived fascinating lives.... Then they met and things got really interesting.

by
Judy Alleruzzo



Deb Zaveson and Norm Jacobs

Oregon and Washington are very lucky to have so many cool nurseries with people that love plants, love to propagate them and lucky for us all, love to sell them! Since 2010, SE Portland is home to Deb Zaveson, Norm Jacobs and Arbutus Garden Arts. A loss for Yamhill where they lived and gardened since the mid-'80s and opened their business in 2001 but great for the Portland area!

Deb and Norm's gardening experiences were similar when young. They learned to garden from members of their family. The locations of their homes were different but the satisfaction of planting and watching plants grow were the same. Deb and her family moved around quite a bit as her Dad was in the US Air Force. She told me, "I was an air force brat, born in Ohio, lived in Florida, Spain, Upper Peninsula of Michigan, southern California twice, northern California, and Oregon since 1984."

Her mom, Jean, "grew a spectacular garden of ornamentals to rival Sam's veggie garden, wherever we happened to be living at the time. Once my dad retired from the air force and could put down roots their gardens became still more elaborate."

Norm lived in the U.S his whole life, in New Jersey until he was 15 then Southern and Northern California before buying that land in Yamhill in 1980. I asked about who he gardened with as a child and he said, "My old-country grandmother was my mentor, in whose garden I began at around age five; pruning roses, staking tomatoes, hedging the boxwood, and tending the other vegetables in her victory garden. I have to say though that it was Deb that turned my attention from edibles to ornamentals."

Deb and Norm lived interesting lives before meeting in the late '70s. Deb studied and received a degree in Botany from UC

Santa Barbara and Norm was a Physics major. Like many people, they worked in and out of their area of study. Deb went on to manage Nike's footwear materials testing labs in many sites around the world. Norm was making wine, and even taught vineyard installation. Norm remembered, "We met in a restaurant in Los Gatos California through a friend of mine with whom she had studied Botany at UC Santa Barbara. In conversation I learned that she was commuting to work on a bicycle in poor repair. Being a cyclist, I volunteered to give it a tune up. We began riding together and haven't stopped." I said there had to be a garden visit or woodland hike on those first dates? Norm said, "Yes, there was a hike shortly thereafter in beautiful woodlands (on Mount Tamalpais) where I discovered that my learning botanical Latin was likely."

The conversation went



**'David's Barberry, California Lilac
and 'Mikjawa Yatsubusa' Japanese
Maple - Spring Scene**

scratch. Time went by and the garden grew. Norm studied nursery practices and put that knowledge to work and began the nursery in the 1990s with the formal business opening in 2001.

"We named the business for the gorgeous *Arbutus menziesii* (Pacific Madrone) that grew wild on the dry hillsides of our farm in Yamhill where we lived for 30 years. Our business was originally a storefront combining nursery stock, a garden art gallery with works from various artists, garden tools, and landscape design services."

A few years later, around 2006, Deb and Norm started to plan on downsizing the nursery and business. They love Portland and decided to look for a new site for their home and Arbutus Garden Arts. We had always come to Portland for culture, restaurants, and other urban pleasures, and eagerly anticipated having all that within walking or biking distance.

By 2010, they found a new property and home in SE Portland and once again started to plant a garden and this time, renovate a house. They knew this was going to be a few years in the making as both the house and garden needed work. They had a strategy of selecting just a handful of plants to dig up and transplant to the new design. All

something like this:

Him: *"I need to take a picture of the sunlight through these huge pines."*

Her: *"They're not pines."*

Him: *"But they have needles - are they firs?"*

Her: *"They're not firs."*

Him: *"Wait a minute, I was once a boy scout.... Aren't these Douglas Firs?"*

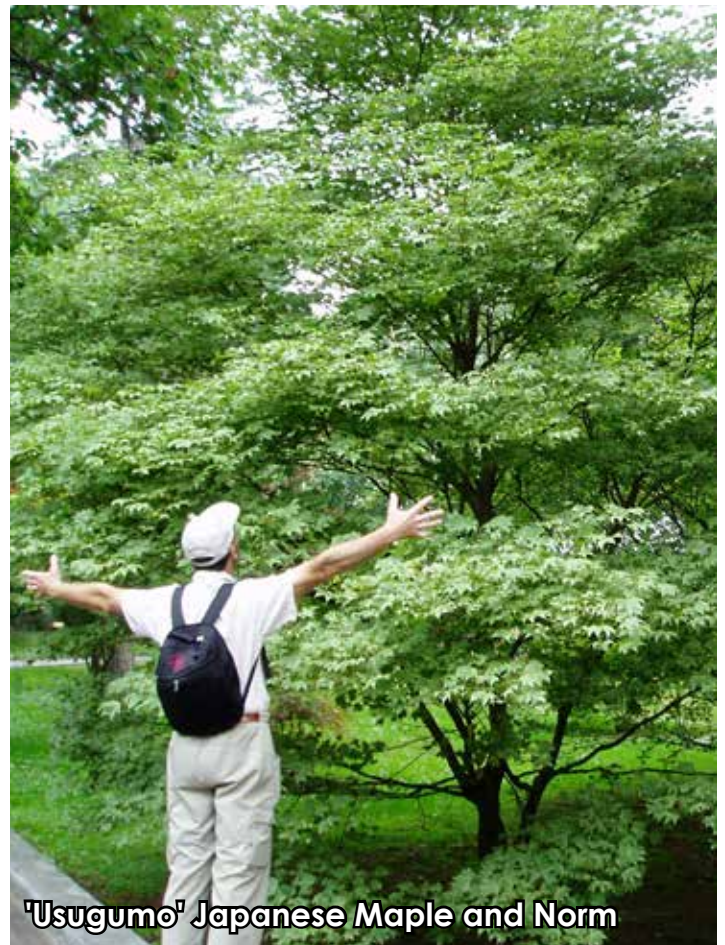
Her: *"Douglas Firs aren't firs, they're Pseudotsuga."*

Him: *"So they're impostor-somethings, what's a tsuga?"*

Her: *"A hemlock."*

I love that story!

In 1980, Deb and Norm bought the land in Yamhill, Oregon that would become Arbutus Garden Arts and began planting trees as soon as the papers were signed. We found a piece of bare property we could afford, and at the time were both involved in the wine business. We wanted to build a farm from



'Usugumo' Japanese Maple and Norm

of the other plants were propagated and grown at the new nursery until they were ready to be planted too. This new garden is only one third of the twenty acres of the Yamhill site, but a well thought out design with wonderful plants.

Deb and Norm design their own gardens and also for clients. Deb's creativity uses more of an "eclectic mix of plants" and Norm has formal training in the Japanese style of gardens.

I asked about how they decided on species to plant in both of their display gardens and to propagate and sell in the nursery. Since the Pacific Northwest has so many plants that grow well here, I always wonder how designers and growers choose plants for their own gardens and retail nurseries.

Norm told me, "We take a broad view of native plants, expanding that palette to include close relatives and others which are proven, easy-care, non-invasive, and suitable to fit into our local web of soils, micro-climates, and wildlife. Consider for instance the very close relationship between the vine maple and its Asian cousins, between *Vancouveria*, *Mahonia*, and *Epimedium*, and between conifers of local and non-local origins. We first grow new-to-us varieties and selections for several years in our own garden before deciding to



**Display Garden in NW Corner -
Acer buergerianum White
Foliage that Craves Shade**



**Nursery Stock and
Rainwater Storage Tank**

propagate it for nursery stock."

He went on to say, "Here are the major criteria for selection. While we collect a wide range of new introductions, they are first grown in containers or in the display garden until we can evaluate them before propagating them for the nursery, or recycling them as mulch. (We have a well-used chipper/shredder.)

- Distinctive foliage/form/flower (if appropriate)/growth rate
- Adaptability to a range of soils, moisture conditions, and sun/shade exposure
- Non-fussiness - extra points for zero maintenance once established in an appropriate situation.
- All - season interest, even if only the form of the bare branches - extra points for conifers and *Epimedium* that change foliage color with the seasons and for maples with either constantly changing foliage color, or especially beautiful color in a particular season.
- No invasives, over enthusiastic spreaders or rampant self-seeders - limited tolerance for mild spreaders and limited self-seeders whose offspring

can be easily removed in one go."

Norm talks to this point when describing an area of the display garden, "The NW corner demonstrates how we like to use a mix of sizes, colors, and shapes of Japanese maples to assemble a woodland. Shade is provided by *Acer palmatum* 'Seiryu' - largest tree in the background. The white foliage in the foreground is *Acer buergerianum* 'Wakonishiki' which craves shade, The red/purple is *palmatum* Amagi shigure, and the green flat-to-the-ground is *Acer palmatum* 'Kiyohime'. The relative heights of these trees will remain proportional even as they gain height and width, although I anticipate some minor pruning for aesthetic purposes. There is a *Mahonia gracilipes* in the left background which provides fall bloom and an evergreen presence in winter. Groundcover and perennials not altogether evident in this photo include *Trillium*, *Epimedium*, ferns, and the *Kirengeshoma palmata* that is visible in the foreground. One of their new favorites is *Epimedium wushanense* 'Big Pink'. This variety is an example of an *Epimedium* selection which we are just in the process of introducing. The "X" denotes that while its seed parent is *E. wushanense*, it was "open pollinated", which is to say that we don't know who the pollen parent is. The name is not only descriptive, but also a nod to the seminal album by The Band, as another soon to be introduced *Epimedium* of ours is named "Stardust" as a nod to the late Ziggy."

Unique to Arbutus Garden Arts display garden is a rainwater storage system designed



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to get berries
in the ground.

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by Norm. He also designs these systems for customers. Deb told me, This is Norm's specialty, and grew out of necessity as our Yamhill property had limited ground-water (wells and a spring), so to garden and eventually have a nursery we built a rainwater storage system storing twenty seven thousand gallons per year, and limited our enterprise accordingly. Fast forward to the new property, "In Portland we have only 3,000 gallons of storage with space for another 3,000 if needed in the future. The most dollar-efficient storage is a 3000 gallon cylindrical tank 8ft in diameter and 9ft tall – so how many can you fit and disguise with plants?" This interesting rainwater storage system is yet another reason to visit Arbutus Garden Arts.

Even plant lovers and nursery people need to take a break from work and go on vacations. Deb and Norm love to visit countries around the globe and tour gardens. They have been to many cities and botanical gardens in the U.S, countries in Europe including The Czech Republic, Austria, The Netherlands, England, Italy and Japan, and also in the southern hemisphere, New Zealand. In earlier times, Norm was a professional photographer taking photos of musicians at rock concerts. His photo subjects are just as cool these days but they just stand still for their moment of fame. Norm related many stories of their travels. It sounded



**'Emerald Lace' &
'Royle' Japanese Maples**



**Foundation Garden with
Dogwood and Japanese Maple**

like their trip to The Czech Republic was very memorable for both of them. They enjoyed the conservatory at the botanical garden in Prague and told me what was "even more amazing is the half-underground contrived-climate conservatory with everything from desert to rain forest and tropics to down under in an ultra modern structure called the Fata Morgana."

Norm dazzled me with many stories of gardening and travel and this one includes both subjects! "Acer truncatum ssp mono 'Usugumo' (sometimes identified as Acer pictum) is my (Norm's) best example of obsession with a particular plant. First seen in J. D. Vertrees book Japanese Maples it was immediately sought out but to no avail. There was one in a pot outside the library at San Francisco's Strybing Arboretum, but that was all that could be found in the USA at the time, twenty five years ago. When we were garden touring in Europe in 2002, one of our destinations was the gardens of Villa Taranto on Lake Maggiore in northwest Italy. Walking and admiring with no particular goal in mind, what do we find peeking out from among much larger trees but this magnificent specimen! About eighty years old at the time, it is one of the first specimens of the variety planted outside of Japan. This only fueled the obsession further and finally a plant was acquired. This was followed by

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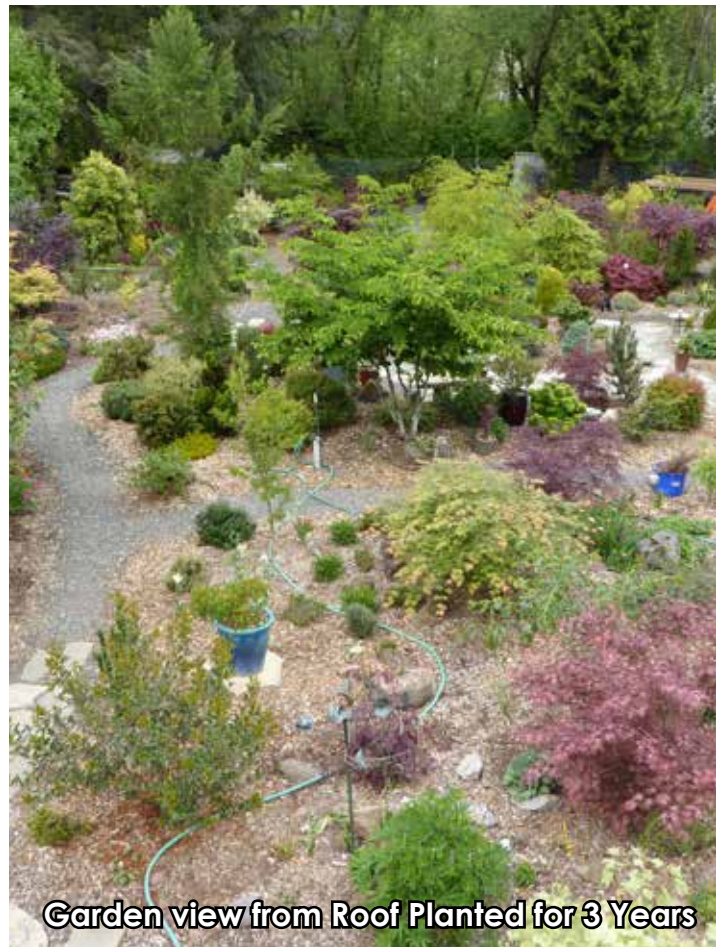
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DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS AT WWW.GARDENPALOOZA.COM

several frustrating years of poor grafting success, but now - twelve years further along - we've pretty much solved that puzzle and are now pleased to offer this superb small tree to gardeners." Norm goes on to tell me part 2 of this story, "A funny anecdotal sidebar: Shortly after we acquired our first specimen of 'Usugumo', we hosted the Maple Society at our display garden. One particular visitor, a professional nurseryman and maple specialist, focused on the little tree in its pot and mentioned the photo on the internet of Acer mono 'Usugumo' with "some guy with his arms outstretched standing in front of a startlingly.". He gave me a deer in the headlights look, so I turned around and put my arms out. We had a good laugh." Norm and Deb have traveled to many cool places around the world. I think they would be excellent tour guides for the next Garden Time Tour.

This month, Deb and Norm will be at GardenPalooza at Fir Point Farms in Aurora.

I asked what plants they will be bringing to the sale. (Please remember this list of plants is their plan, if for some reason they do not bring these specific plants, please ask if the plant you are looking for is at the nursery. It's a great excuse to stop in for a visit to the nursery).



Garden view from Roof Planted for 3 Years



**Garden View from Roof
Now at 6 Years Old**

They will be selecting plants looking their best for the show including Japanese Maples, Epimediums and dwarf conifers. They also will be bringing 2 species Peonies. They have been trialing *Paeonia obovata* and *P. corsica* seedlings in the dry shaded areas of the Yamhill garden and in the easier growing conditions in the new SE Portland garden. "Their unexpected success has made us advocates" of these species Peonies and they want to share them with us all.

They always try to bring unique varieties to showcase at GardenPalooza. "We also grow a few non-maple small trees that we just love, and will bring any that are showing well to GardenPalooza."

- *Styrax japonicus* 'Momo shidare' (pink-flowered weeping habit) and *Styrax* 'Evening Light' (White flowers, dark purple foliage with dark green overtones)
- *Cornus kousa* 'Aka tsuki' (green foliage with white margins and pink flush, with red flowers)
- *Cornus alternifolia* 'Argentea' - Variegated Pagoda Dogwood (Green foliage with white edges, White flowers in Spring)
- *Carpinus betulus* 'Columnaris Nana' - Dwarf



Japanese Dwarf Maple
'Kawaii' , Mahonia and Epimedium

Columnar Hornbeam

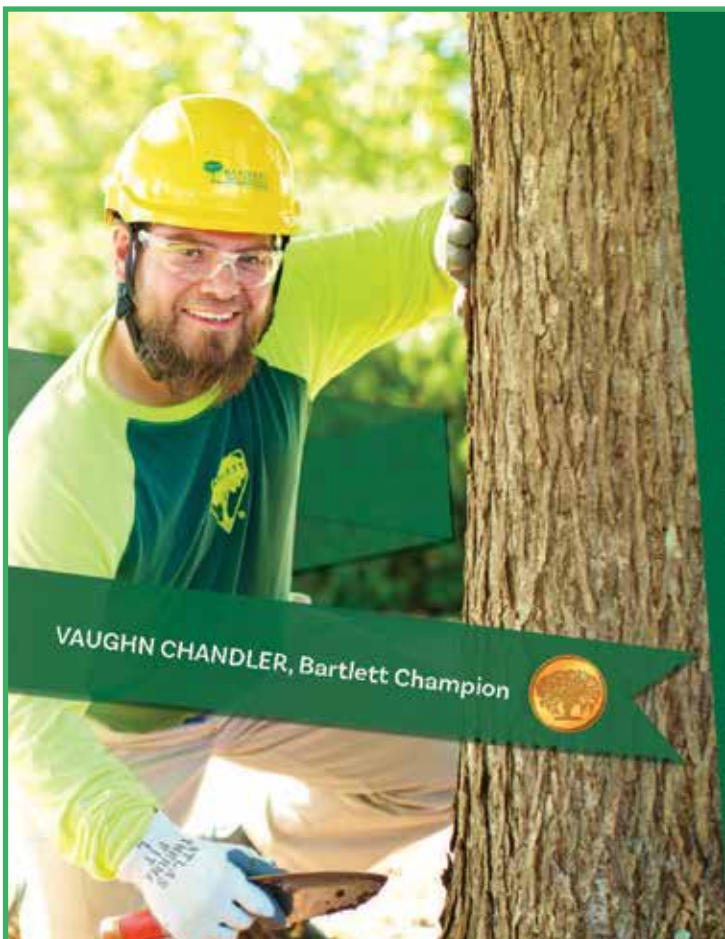
I asked them if there was anything else to add to the interview. Norm told me about a day in his garden that happened a few weeks ago. He was "Taking some photos of some winter flowers, I wondered why the assortment of birds that habituate our garden suddenly took flight. Then I just caught a glimpse of a bald eagle before he/she passed behind some tall Douglas Firs – it made my day."

That story of enjoying the wonder of nature kind of sums up this Hortie duo. They are sensitive to the plants in their garden and nursery, plus they have the joy of seeking new plants and the awe of a flight of a bald eagle on a late winter's day. Jot down the address of Arbutus Garden Arts to visit the display garden and nursery, plus stop at their booth at GardenPalooza!

Arbutus Garden Arts

4235 SE Harney St.
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You Are What You Eat

PHOTO CREDIT: WALMART VIA FLICKR



...or so we have been told. But what we eat may be less important than how and where it was grown. A look at the differences between organic, natural and GMO.

by David Musial

In 1826, a French lawyer and epicure wrote, 'Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are'. In 1863, a German philosopher repeated the idea in the phrase 'man is what he eats'. The saying was updated in the 1920s by an English nutritionist who said, "Ninety per cent of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat."

The phrase 'You are what you eat' has stuck and its use has been common since the whole food movement of the '60s. Loosely translated, it has come to mean that you need to eat good food to be healthy and fit.

In an effort to eat 'good' food, we now try to buy foods that are natural and organic. While it is true that these foods are good for you, many don't understand the difference between natural and organic.

Many people believe that the phrases natural and organic, as they relate to food, are interchangeable. The fact is they are not and this misunderstanding creates a lot of confusion with consumers. In simple terms, the word natural is not regulated and the word organic is.

You will find the word natural listed on food packaging throughout your grocery store, but the word actually has no formal legal definition. From the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website:

Although the FDA has not engaged in rulemaking to establish a formal definition for the term "natural," we do have a longstanding policy concerning the use of "natural" in human food labeling. The FDA has considered the term "natural" to mean that nothing artificial or synthetic (including all color additives regardless of source) has been included in, or has been added to, a food that would not normally be expected to be in that food. How-

ever, this policy was not intended to address food production methods, such as the use of pesticides, nor did it explicitly address food processing or manufacturing methods, such as thermal technologies, pasteurization, or irradiation. The FDA also did not consider whether the term "natural" should describe any nutritional or other health benefit.

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm456090.htm>

So what does natural mean on a food label? That depends on the packager or manufacturer. Without a legal requirement, the use of the term has pitted the consumer against the labeler in a court of law. Due to this, both the consumer and the labeler are looking to the FDA for direction.

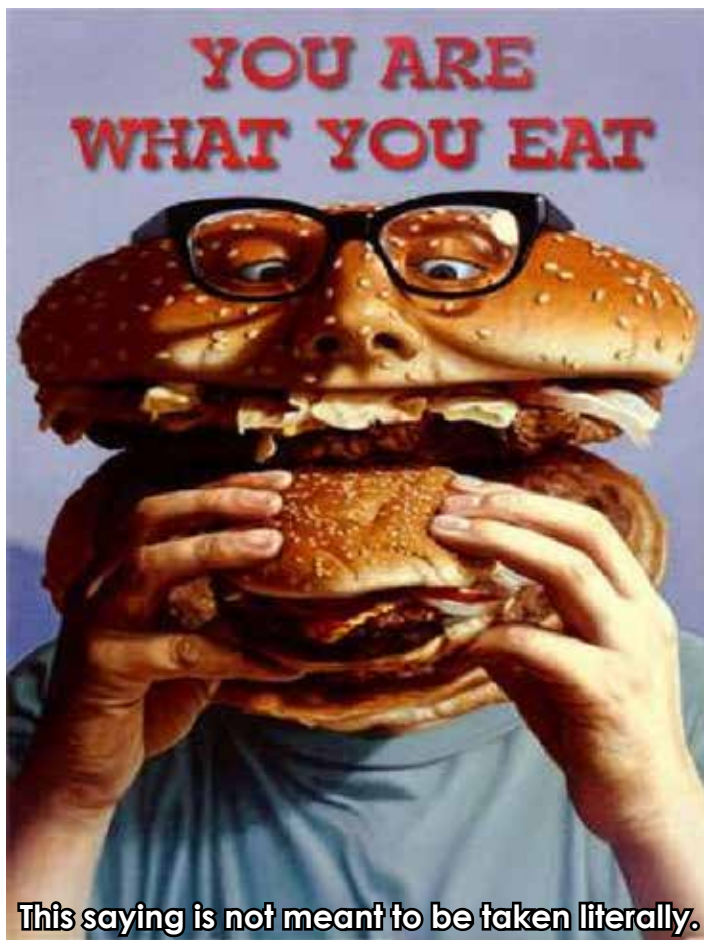
Having said this, most food processors adhere to the spirit of no food production using artificial or synthetic products. However, until lawmakers establish rules, it will be up to the consumer to determine if the product being bought is truly 'natural'.

If you want more assurance of how your food has been grown or processed, look for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Organic label. The use of the USDA Organic label is supervised and regulated under the Organic Food Products Act, and the certifying agency is the USDA National Organic Program.

Basically, food with the USDA Organic label must be grown without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides (there are a few exceptions), antibiotic, growth hormones, genetic engineering or irradiation. As simple as this sounds, keep reading.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.GOODGUIDE.COM



The USDA has created four separate categories that can contain the Organic label. They are:

100% Organic Label

Raw or processed agricultural products in the "100 percent organic" category must meet these criteria:

- All ingredients must be certified organic
- Any processing aids must be organic
- Product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel

Organic Label

Raw or processed agricultural products in the "organic" category must meet these criteria:

- All agricultural ingredients must be certified organic, except where specified on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List)
- Non-organic ingredients allowed per National List may be used, up to a combined total of five percent of non-organic content (excluding salt and water)
- Product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel



Made with Organic Label

Multi-ingredient agricultural products in the “made with” category must meet these criteria:

- At least 70 percent of the product must be certified organic ingredients (excluding salt and water).
- Any remaining agricultural products are not required to be organically produced but must be produced without excluded methods (e.g., genetic engineering), ionizing radiation, or sewage sludge
- Non-agricultural products must be specifically allowed on the National List
- Product labels must state the name of the certifying agent on the information panel

Specific Organic Ingredient

Multi-ingredient products with less than 70 percent certified organic content:

- May only list certified organic ingredients as organic in the ingredient list and the percentage of organic ingredients. Remaining ingredients are not required to follow the USDA organic regulations

So in summary, we have 100% Organic, 95% Organic, 70% Organic and specifically stated Organic ingredients. Although a little confusing, when buying food that is labeled Organic, you now know how organic it is.

Mentioned above in the rules for organic labeling was the term genetic engineering. This is another hot topic in the food, health and agriculture industry. Most of us are familiar with GMO’s or genetically modified organism. GMO’s are created by genetic engineering or modifying which is the laboratory process of splicing a gene from one species; plant,

animal or organism, with a dissimilar species. In essence creating a new species. Although this sounds similar to crossbreeding, which has gone on for centuries, crossbreeding is done within the same or closely related species.

The purpose of creating a GMO is to develop a desirable trait that does not exist within a species. For example, some plants have a natural tolerance to specific herbicides while others produce a pesticide that deters insects. By splicing that gene into a plant without the trait, you create an herbicide tolerant or insect repelling plant. This can reduce labor costs and potentiality increase crop yield. This is a win for the farmer but is it a win for the consumer?

The jury is still out on GMOs, but here are few facts are worth noting:

- The effects on humans consuming genetically modified foods are unknown
- Genetically modified crops have cross-pollinated and contaminated nearby crops
- Over sixty countries around the world have restrictions or bans on GMO’s, the US is still working on regulations
- GMOs are in many processed foods and don’t require labeling

Currently, over 75% of processed foods in the US contain ingredients that have been genetically modified. The list of GMO ingredients include canola, corn, soy and sugar beets.

Labeling may not be required for GMO ingredients, but there are third party organizations that pro-





Marchers protest GMOs at an Olympia rally.

vide information on products with GMOs. One such organization is the Non-GMO Project. They verify that food does not contain GMOs and provide the information through labeling, a shopping guide app and online. To date, they have over 25,000 verified products from 1,500 brands. Certified Naturally Grown is another third party organization that certifies farmers that don't use synthetic herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers or GMOs.



A dog at the Science March in Brussels wears a sign reading "I am a GMO."

It would seem that we covered all the hot topics, but we left one out...local. What does it mean for a product to be local? Some say food that has traveled less than 400 miles. Ask a locavore (one whose diet is principally local) and they may say 200 miles. Other groups would say that what is important is the carbon footprint of your food and that local food can have a larger carbon footprint, but we will save that topic for another day.



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WTDITG

April showers bring May flowers! They also make gardening a little trickier, when you have to dodge between the drops. If you prefer not to get wet, we recommend you invest in an inexpensive plastic poncho. Remember, your plants need you, rain or shine.

PLANNING

- Remember to make entries in your gardening journal!



- Plan on creating raised garden beds for veggies in spaces where the soil is hard to warm each spring or you have drainage problems.

- Observe the Mason Bees. Watch your bee population increase as more nesting block

tunnels are filled with bee eggs and sealed over with a mud plug. More bees equals more fruit! You still have time to put up nesting blocks this month

to attract native bees to take up residence and start working for you and your garden.

- Plan a visit or two or three to your local garden center as the weather warms and spring is sprouting out everywhere. There you will come across plenty of bulbs, flowers, veggies and herb starts, as well as all the trees and shrubs for any landscaping project you may have. This time of year, many garden centers will have new plants arriving daily, so plan to visit them often.



PLANTING

- Plant summer bulbs like dahlia, gladiola and lilies. Wait one more month to plant out begonias and cannas.



- Start planting perennials. Now is a great time

to start finding more and more

varieties available at your local nursery.

- April is a good month for planting, period. Edibles like blueberries and strawberries, landscape plants, ground covers, perennials or any other tree and shrub for the garden.

- Plant out glad bulbs and pot up dahlias if you want to pre-sprout the dahlias before May's planting. It is safe to plant lily bulbs

out now.

- Sow seed for alyssum, forget-me-nots, pansies, lobelia, portulaca aka Moss Rose and daisies this month just to name a few. Check the back of seed packages to see when the best time would be to sow your favorite flowers.

- If you have wintered over any fuchsias or geraniums now is the time to repot them into a larger pot with fresh potting soil.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Prepare garden beds for planting, adding organic compost to garden beds and work in if this hasn't been done yet this year.

- Check the plants under the eaves of the house for water needs.

- Monitor soil temperature with a soil thermometer. When garden soil is consistently above 60 degrees F, the warm season crops can be planted out.

- Fertilize cane berries, blueberries, currants and strawberries.

What To Do In The Garden

APRIL

- Spray apples and pears if needed to prevent scab. Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide is a good spray for the organic gardener for this purpose.



recommendaions for the best food for the Northwest climate.

- Thatching and lawn aerating are great to do in months of April or May. Grass seed can be put down safely the last half of April, avoiding most frosts. May and June are also good months to seed or

- Fertilize your lawn with a good organic lawn food. Check your local garden center for their

overseed the lawn.

- Apply Calpril lime to the lawn. Lime raises the soil ph to a level the grass enjoys, helping it to grow thicker and greener.
- Watch for frosts and cover tender transplants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover.
- Prune evergreen conifers now. The months of April and May are great for pruning your various conifers. Cypress, spruce, junipers and cedars will respond to pruning by becoming fuller and bushier. Cut into only the green leafy part of the plants. Going back too far into the brown woody portions may mean that branch or section won't be able to re-grow more

foliage from that point.

- 'Candle pruning' pines are an easy way to control their height and width. As the new growth at branch tips in the form of a 'candle' lengthens, you can snap the new growth in half or even a little shorter. This type of pruning on pines is easy to do and won't leave visible scars.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Plant perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish now.

- April is a good month to plant seeds outdoors for peas, carrots, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, celery, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, lima beans, onions, radishes, scarlet runner beans, spinach, swiss chard, parsnips and turnips.



- Artichoke plants can go in now.

• Seed potatoes can be planted now after they have been chitted. Refer to March planning section for an explanation on chitting or pick up an info sheet in the garden center on growing potatoes.

- Plant Walla Walla onion plant starts and red, yellow or white onion sets.

- The warmer weather crops like tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, corn and beans should not be

planted out until the soil temp is above 60 F consistently.

- Start indoors, or pick up plant starts next month at your local garden center: basil, cucumbers, melons, and pumpkins.

- Use a floating row cover like Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover to prevent insects like leaf miners, cabbage maggot flies and carrot rust fly from attacking the veggies.

- Harden-off any young plant started indoors, before planting outside, by setting the plants outdoors in a protected area, away from direct sun, for a few hours a day. Bring indoors at night. Increase time left out a half-hour each day, slowly exposing the seedlings to more sun, wind and rain. This helps to toughen up the leaves with a thicker cuticle and stronger stems.





PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

March 23-April 30, 2018 • Daily, 9:00am-6:00pm

Wood Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

Our favorite time of year is when the tulips bloom! The Wooden Shoe Tulip Fest is an invitation from our family to yours to enjoy all things that make spring in the Northwest. Stroll through 40 acres of stunning beauty, experience expansive views of vineyards, distant mountains, and a few mud puddles. Fresh flowers, food, and fun for the entire family, including well behaved dogs on leashes! 33814 S Meridian Rd, Woodburn, OR 97071. www.woodenshoe.com

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.

Washington County Master Gardeners:

Heuchera and its Kissing Cousins

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 • 6:50pm

First Baptist Church, Beaverton, OR

By Dan Heims. Heucheras are hot — the palette of foliage colors alone is amazing! — in this overview of how Heucheras and Heucherellas are used around the world. Learn how these multipurpose plants can be used to their best advantage in garden centers and landscapes. There is no registration, events and

continued next column

parking are free. www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

A Grape Fairy Garden: Wine Workshop Wednesday

Wednesday, April 4, 2018 • 5:30pm(W)

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 • 5:30pm(V)

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 • 5:30pm(S)

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 • 5:30pm(G)

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

Includes supplies, plants, expert instruction, local wine, and a light meal. This whimsical fairy garden design is sure to be an eye catcher. Using natural grape vine twisted into a hollow ball, we create a peek-a-boo garden perfect for attracting fairies and compliments alike. Cost: \$40.

GardenPalooza

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • 8:00am-4:00pm

Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

We'll have over 40 vendors to get you excited about gardening. See hundreds of plants, tools and garden art. People can also enjoy shopping at the country store, fresh doughnuts, delicious food and much, much more! Lots of free on-site parking! Meet William McClenathan and Judy Alleruzzo from TV's "Garden Time." Fir Point Farms, 14601 Arndt Rd., Aurora, OR 97002.

Rhododendron & Daffodil Show and Sale

Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8, 2018 • 9:00am-5:00pm

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Portland, OR

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden will host the Portland Chapter American Rhododendron Society's and Daffodil Society's Annual Show and Sale. Events: a judged flower show in the Exhibit Hall; a sale in the parking lot beyond the Exhibit Hall. To enter, bring your rhododendron trusses to the Exhibit Hall, 6:00pm-8:00pm Friday night or 7:00am-9:30am Saturday. Presented by the Portland Chapter of The American Rhododendron Society. All proceeds benefit the garden. Address: 5801 SE 28th Avenue in Portland. More information: www.rhodies.org or 503 771-8386.

continued next page



Egg Carton Greenhouse

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • 9:30am (V,G,S,W)

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

Recycling and reusing are important concepts in today's world. We are going to do both and grow beautiful plants by starting vegetable seeds in an egg carton. Get your garden started right with our egg carton planter that serves as a mini-greenhouse for your seeds. www.als-gardencenter.com

Newberg Camellia Festival

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg, OR

The camellia has been part of Newberg's history decades, and it was adopted in 1949 as the official flower of the city. The plant's elegant flowers and dark green foliage bring beauty to residents' yards, city building landscapes and even Newberg's flag. Since 2009, the annual Camellia Festival has put the spotlight on the early bloomer with a variety of events that introduce visitors to the stately flower. Chehalem Cultural Center, 415 E Sheridan, Newberg, OR 97132. www.newbergcamelliafestival.com

How to Grow an Amazing Organic Garden at Home

Saturday, April 7, 2018 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Malibu Compost will be here to teach you the best organic practices for your home garden. These practices are great for your health and for the environment. Cost: Free to the public! www.garlandnursery.com

Pruning, Wiring & Styling: Juniper

Sunday, April 8, 2018 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Pruning, Wiring & Styling series is for beginning bonsai students. This class covers basic care and concepts for a Juniper. Student will go home with a trained Juniper in plastic container to grow on. Cost: \$25.00. www.garlandnursery.com

Washington County Master Gardeners:

Attracting Bees, Butterflies, Birds

continued next column

Thursday, April 12, 2018 • 10:00am

Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate, Beaverton, OR

By Kassia Rudd. This hands-on session will prepare you to incorporate wildlife friendly plants and features into your yard. Already gardening for wildlife? We have something for you too—this session will end with an overview of citizen science opportunities for wildlife gardeners. Whether you are a pollinator fan, or nuts about birds, this session has something for you. There is no registration, events and parking are free. www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

Tomatoes!

Thursday, April 12, 2018 • 5:30pm(W,S,G,V)

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

If you are looking for a beginner's edible that is easy to grow and yields tasty fruity, look no further than the tomato. Whether you like to can, you crave fresh salsa, have a great sauce recipe from Grandma, or are just looking for a meaty slicing tomato for your backyard barbeque burgers, we've got you covered. This class will cover all the many varieties of tomatoes we carry here at Al's as well as how to plant and care for them. Careful, though. Once you grow your first tomato, you will be hooked! Free & open to the public. Registration is encouraged, but not required. www.als-gardencenter.com

Hortlandia

Saturday-Sunday, April 14-15, 2018 •

10:00am-3:00pm

Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR

In April of every year, HPSO sponsors an event that is one of the largest of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Vendors from far and wide – from nearly the Canadian border to the California border – come to Portland to offer the latest plant introductions as well as the time-tested (and hardiness-tested!) plants. Complementing the plant vendors are specialty garden art vendors bringing one-of-a-kind pieces made from metal, wood, glass, ceramic, fabric, and stone. Each work of art is handcrafted by the vendor. This is a wonderful event, and it's particularly nice to have so

continued on next page



PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

many nurseries and artists, with so many plant choices and specialty works, all under one roof! Admission is Free. Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Dr., Portland, OR 97217.

Little Sprouts: Create a Fresh Herb Planter
Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Having children learn about how their food is grown is a great way to get them to try new things! They will learn how to care for the herb planters that they will take home. They may even want to help with the cooking! Cost: \$7.00 – Includes herbs, pot and soil. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330 United States. www.garlandnursery.com

Spring Open House
Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22, 2018
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

We will have an explosion of spring color, classes, events, food and drink for you this weekend. Don't miss the fun and festivities. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Leach Botanical Garden Plant Sale
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 9:30am-2:00pm*
Floyd Light Middle School, Portland, OR

Choice selection of trees, shrubs, perennials and Northwest natives from specialty nurseries and the Leach Garden Collection. All proceeds support operation of Leach botanical garden. *9:00am early admission for Garden members. Free parking. 10800 SE Washington St., Portland, OR. www.leachgarden.org

Washington County Master Gardeners:
Veggie Garden Rotation Gardening*
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 10:00am

Learning Garden at Jenkins Estate, Beaverton, OR
By Tim Lanfri. Learn basics for successful vegetable planting, maintenance and harvest. How to optimize garden space and use crop rotation to lessen the need for pest control, reduce the spread of soil-borne disease and avoid nutrient depletion in the soil. *Approved for MG education credit. There is no registra-

continued next column

tion, events and parking are free. www.washington-countymastergardeners.org

Earth Day
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 10:00am-4:00pm
The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Join us for the 19th annual Earth Day, presented by Marion County at The Oregon Garden, April 21, 2018 from 10am to 4pm. www.oregongarden.org

Hulda Klager Lilac Days
April 21-May 13, 2018 • Daily, 10:00am-4:00pm
Hulda Klager Lilac Garden, Woodland, WA

The gardens are open daily 10:00am until 4:00pm year around. A \$5.00 gate fee is payable at the gate. Children 12 years old and under enter free when accompanied by an adult. No pets are permitted, this includes therapy or comfort dogs. Only service dogs as defined by ADA.gov are permitted to enter Gardens. The Lilac Gardens are located off I-5 exit 21, 30 minutes north of Portland, Oregon or 2.5 hours south of Seattle, Washington at 115 South Pekin Road, Woodland, Washington 98674.

Bonsai Class: Topic TBA
Saturday, April 21, 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

Planting for Privacy – Create Your Own Paradise
Saturday, April 21, 2018 • 1:00pm-2:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Lee Powell will discuss different plant options that will work well to create your own private sanctuary in your yard. Cost: Free to the public! 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Washington County Master Gardeners:
Growing Tomatoes in a Home Garden*
Tuesday, April 24, 2018 • 10:00am-11:30am

continued next page



Demonstration Garden at the Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro, OR

By Tim Lanfri. This class will teach you the basics of growing tomatoes in a backyard garden and will go "beyond the basics" to describe how you can grow a large crop of high quality tomatoes in a limited amount of space. He will share techniques and tricks he has used to successfully grow tomatoes in the local area over the last 40 years. *Approved for MG education credit. There is no registration, events and parking are free. www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

Washington County Master Gardeners: Native Plant ID Wednesday, April 25, 2018 • 10:00am-11:30am WCMGA Education Garden at PCC-Rock Creek, Portland, OR

By Elizabeth Brewster. Join us for a walk in the woods to identify spring-blooming native plants including trees, shrubs and herbaceous species. Learn about plant communities and see how the ecology of a site affects its plant composition. Wear sturdy shoes and weather appropriate clothing. We'll be doing a fair amount of walking. Location: WCMGA Education Garden at PCC-Rock Creek. Meet at the Events Parking Lot behind Building 9. There is no registration, events and parking are free. www.washingtoncountymastergardeners.org

Vegetable Gardening 101 Thursday, April 26, 2018 • 5:30pm(W,S,G,V) Al's Garden and Home, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, Wilsonville(V), OR

Harvesting and eating your favorite herbs and vegetables is a wonderful feeling. We will cover planting times, fertilizing, watering, and tips & tricks for growing a wide variety of vegetables. If you are new to edible gardening, this class will get you set up for success in your very own edible garden. Free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged, but not required. www.als-gardencenter.com

Home & Garden Idea Fair Friday-Sunday, April 27-29, 2018

continued next column

Clark County Event Center, Ridgefield, WA

Hundreds of home and garden businesses, indoor landscape displays, one of the largest plant sales in Clark County, local farmer's market vendors and a variety of free hands-on activities for the whole family. Hours: Friday: 9:00am-6:00pm; Saturday: 9:00am-6:00pm; Sunday: 10:00am-5:00pm. Admission is FREE. Donations of canned foods for local food banks, or cash donations to Operation Warm Heart will be graciously accepted (but are not required for entry). Clark County Event Center, 17402 NE Delfel Rd., Ridgefield, WA 98642.

Oregon AgFest Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29, 2018 Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR

Last year nearly 22,000 people attended Ag Fest to touch, taste and experience the incredible world of Oregon agriculture, in a fun-filled, festive environment. Our two-day event, aimed to help families better understand where their food, fiber and flora come from, is a unique learning experience, where hands-on exhibits make learning about Oregon's vast agricultural industry educational and entertaining. We strive to bridge the gap between urban and rural life, and to share the wonder and abundance of Oregon's bountiful and diverse harvest. Most importantly, we do this in a family friendly way, where kids 12 and under receive free admission, and virtually all activities at the event are free of charge. Thanks to our sponsors, kids ride ponies, plant seedlings, watch sheep get sheared, pet farm animals and much, much more! Come check it out for yourself: join us the last weekend in April for the 31st annual Oregon Ag Fest.

Free admission for children 12 & under. \$9 entry fee for ages 13 & up. Free parking. Hours: Saturday: 8:30am-5:00pm; Sunday: 10:00am-5:00pm. Oregon State Fairgrounds, 2330 17th St NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Lake Grove Garden Club Plant Sale Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 8:00am-12:00pm Our Lady of the Lake School, Lake Oswego, OR

continued on next page

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

Enjoy great plants at great prices at our 93rd annual plant sale! Included are annuals, perennials, shrubs, natives, pollinators, herbs, potted containers and garden art. Proceeds from the sale support our scholarships, conservation, beautification and educational endeavors. ?Come early for best selections!? Our Lady of the Lake School, 650 A. Ave, Lake Oswego.

55th Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 8:30am-5:00pm

Washington County Fair Complex, Hillsboro, OR

A great selection of vegetables, particularly tomatoes and herbs, are available for home gardens. A variety of landscape plants, such as annuals, perennials, shrubs, small trees, and natives are also for sale. In addition, the sale features garden related materials and specialty plants. Numerous vendors will help customers on how to successfully grow vegetables, herbs, and enhance home landscapes. Communities that sow together, grow together! For more information, contact Joy Russ at 503-647-9980 or Dave Russell 503-648-4236. Location: The Washington County Fair Complex's east entrance at 34th and Cornell Road in Hillsboro. www.tualatinvalleygardenclub.org

Columbian Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 9:00am-2:00pm

Corbett Fire Hall, Corbett, OR

Columbian Garden Club (non-profit) is holding its annual plant sale on April 28th. Plants for sale include: trees, shrubs, perennials, natives, fruits, roses, vegetable and specialty items. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Edie Faught/Columbian Garden Club Scholarship at the Corbett High School. Free parking behind the Fire Hall. Corbett Fire Hall, 36930 East Historic Columbia River Highway, Corbett, Oregon. Easy access off I-84 East to Exit 22.

Aloha Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 9:00am-2:00pm

Aloha Huber Park Elementary School, Aloha, OR

Come early for the best selection of a variety of plants, including perennials, ground covers, shrubs, trees, and garden art at great prices. Debit and

credit cards will be accepted. All proceeds from this sale are returned to our Washington County community in the form of Grants and Scholarships. The Aloha Garden Club annual Plant and Garden Art Sale will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the covered playground of Aloha Huber Park Elementary School, which is located at 5000 SW 173rd Avenue in Aloha, just off Farmington Road.

Screening & Lecture: Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America

Saturday, April 28, 2018 • 7:00pm-8:30pm
Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Presented by Laurence Cotton, originator and principal researcher. Doors open at 6:30pm. With gorgeous cinematography, creative animation, and compelling commentary, Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing America presents the biography of a man whose parks and preservation work are an essential part of American life. Olmsted co-designed Central Park, headed the first Yosemite commission, led the campaign to protect Niagara Falls, designed the U.S. Capitol Grounds, and planned Boston's "Emerald Necklace." In 1903, his sons brought the Olmsted vision to Portland, resulting in a comprehensive plan for the city's neighborhoods, regional parks, scenic boulevards, and pedestrian pathways. Prior to viewing the film, Cotton will briefly describe the path that led to its creation. Afterward, he'll discuss Olmsted's life and career, and the legacy of Olmsted designs across America.

Laurence Cotton, writer, historian, and filmmaker, has worked in public radio as an independent producer, an executive producer and host of nationally syndicated Cambridge Forum. \$15/person (\$10 for Leach Garden Friends/Members). Reservations required for everyone. Limit: 40.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

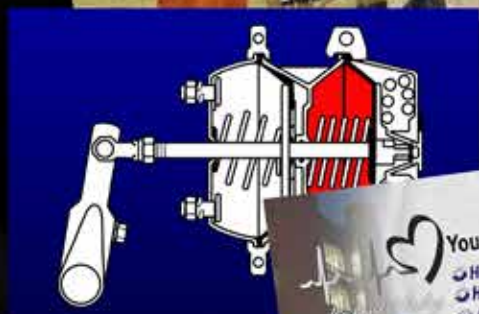
You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm

continued next column

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