

November 2019

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

**Lan Su Chinese  
Garden**  
Mum's the Word!

**Crevice Gardens**  
**Sanseveria**  
AL'S GARDEN & HOME'S  
Mark Bigej





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**Bonjour!**

I've been waiting to say that since we returned from our Garden Time tour a couple weeks ago. The typical French greeting is great right now as we say hello to the change of seasons and hello to our last month of shows in our 14th season. I am torn about my feelings for fall. On one hand I always want the summer to last just a little bit longer... on the other hand I love the crisp air and colors of fall. Going from summer fires in an outdoor fire pit to winter fires in the woodstove or fireplace seems to be a tough transition to make sometimes, but for me this has been a splendid fall and it makes me look forward to the coming winter. Trips to the garden become less frequent this time of year too. Tender plants are all put away, spring bulbs are planted (including garlic) and the lawn has gotten a final hair cut too. Bring on the cold and rain, my garden is ready!

The one thing I'm not looking forward to this time of year is the end of our 14th season of the show. We will wrap up this current season on the 30th of November. That gives us only five more shows for this year. Not to worry, we have another year on the horizon with all three TV stations and I've already been putting dates in the calendar for 2020. We will be starting our 15th season on the 7th of March. We are even in the final planning stages for our next Garden Time tour to Spain and Portugal next fall. We will have more information on that soon including a detailed itinerary and prices in a few days on the Garden Time website. You can click on our tour link to get all the info.

In this month's issue we start to get ready for the upcoming holidays with a few articles. We start with a story on Mumvember. This annual event at the Lan Su Chinese Garden is a kick off to the holiday season by featuring the wonderful Chrysanthemum. In the 'Eats' section of the magazine we talk about capers. These little tasty nuggets which find their way on to many holiday tables are the flower buds from the caper plant. They are harvested and preserved into the ones we see on the shelves of our local store. They can get pretty tall and are really not hardy for this area, but are an interesting plant that we found last year at One Green World in their greenhouse. Finally, since we are all entertaining more during this holiday season David fills us in on how to remove all those tough stains that happen during the holiday festivities. Wine, cranberry sauce and gravy are not the only culprits; remember this article when spring rolls around next year for those tough grass stains too!

So as we say 'Au revoir' and 'Adieu' to this fall season and the Garden Time season, remember that you can stay up to date with everything we do any time of year by checking our website and our Facebook page.

**Happy Gardening!**

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



## Ask Mortimer

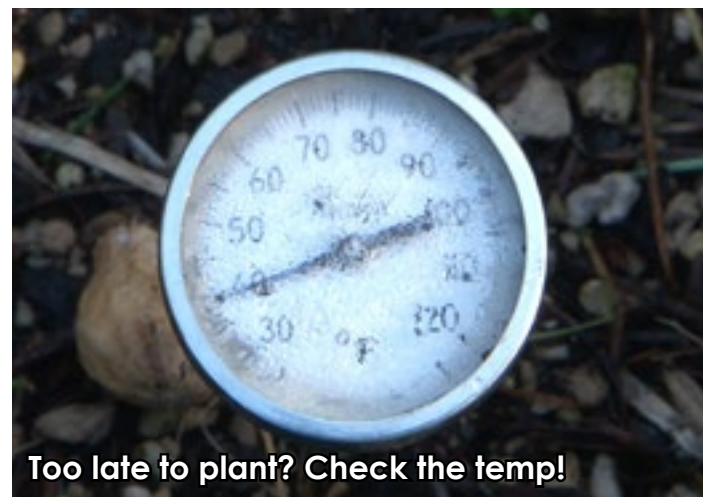
Mortimer,

I know that fall is the time for planting new plants, but when is it too late to do that? Also, what should I do to prep my garden for winter?

Thanks,  
A Fan of Fall

Dear Fan,

I too, am a fan of Fall! You would think that a plant like me would be more of a 'summer' fan, but this time of year is when I get to get a little rest. That being said, I think we are nearing the end of the planting season for the Northwest gardener. Remember last spring when Jan McNeilan from OSU gave us some tips about planting when the ground is too cold? Soil temperatures have to be warm for the plant to become established. That holds true this time of year as well. There is a little transplant shock that occurs when you plant something and battling the extreme or extended cold will just add to that shock. A hard frost on the ground is a good indication that you should maybe hold your plants in a warm area until spring. There are two times when you can plant after the frost... One is if you are planting bulbs. Since they are going underground they can go in a little later than a regular potted plant. The second time you can still plant after a frost is if it is a light frost and then the temps warm up again for an extended period, or if you have a nice protected area for your new plant. These conditions will still allow time or a sheltered area for your plant to establish.



Too late to plant? Check the temp!

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

As far as garden prep, your tender plants should already be inside if you wanted to keep them. For the vegetable garden a cover crop would help rejuvenate your soil, though once again, it is getting kind of late for that crop to germinate and grow. You can still try and seed it, if it establishes great, if not you're just providing a feed for the local birds.

Good luck with your garden,  
Mortimer



Dear Mortimer,

When moving my plants indoors and into the greenhouse, I noticed that my deck and under every planter were lots of pill bugs or roly polies. They seem to be everywhere! What, exactly, are roly polies and how do I get rid of them?

Signed,  
Bugged in Beaverton

Dear Bugged,

These little guys, also known as pill bugs, roly polies or potato bugs, are generally good bugs. They get rid of decaying and dead material in your garden. We are finding them under our pots on our deck and patio too. We just brush them off because they are just a nuisance right now and when we put them back into the garden they digest organic matter and help feed the neighborhood birds. If you are finding them in the house, they are just looking to get warm. They are not a big problem for your plants. Send them back outside because soon they'll be gone. If you have a wood deck check where they are hiding under your plants, it may also be an indication that you could have rotting wood on your deck.

Thanks for your question,  
Mortimer



A pill... but not a problem.

## A Mortimer Follow-Up

Dear Readers,

In the past we have talked about using a wound paint after you cut off a branch of a tree. This is a little follow-up to that article. Recently the Garden Time crew led a tour to Italy and France, while there they found a perfect example of why this is a bad idea. A tree that had wound sealer applied had rot forming under the paint. Not a desired outcome for the arborist who did this. Remember to check with your local Extension Office or Garden Center to get the best information for doing any garden chores.

Mortimer



Sealer used on a tree in France. What rot!





## Mum's the Word!

The Chinese have long been masters at chrysanthemum cultivation and Lan Su Garden celebrates that every 'Mumvember'.

by William McClenathan

Each year in November there is a wonderful event at LanSu in downtown Portland called Mumvember.

If you are anything like me, by this time of year you are already missing the veritable massive pallet of flowers which occur from spring to early fall in our gardens. So to be able to go to a place which becomes literally filled with blooming mums makes this event like that last deep breath so many of us take to tolerate the dark days of winter taking over until March.

Have you ever been to this bright and colorful time at LanSu?

It happens from Friday, November 1, 2019 through Saturday, November 30, 2019.

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

More than 75 different chrysanthemum varieties will unfurl in all colors, shapes and sizes including: spiders, quills,

spoons, regular incurves, irregular incurves, reflexes, semi-doubles, anemones, brush, thistle, exotics and more! Take in the oranges, reds and yellows of autumn to unusually bright pinks, pale lavenders, lime green, and even stripes of the chrysanthemum."

I have many times and every time it is the highlight of the season for me. Not only can you see amazing mums of almost every imaginable shape, form and color, but there is also beautiful music and wonderful food and drinks.

And let's not forget the floral displays. This part of the month long event is called, "Ninth Moon Floral Showcase".

In conjunction with Mumvember, LanSu hosts the Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase presented in partnership with the Floral Design Institute, showcasing the work of 25 of the region's best floral designers along with floral demonstrations, presentations, and talks.

This is just an added delight at this time of year to see such artistic creations created by so many of the top floral designers in our area.

This year's dates for this wonderful part of this event are Friday-Sunday, November 1-3, 2019.

But still of course the chrysanthemum takes the spotlight as it should, because Chrysanthemums are mentioned in Chinese literature as early as the 7th century BCE and inspired more writing in China than any other plant—likely the result of early praise by the famous poet Tao Yuanming (365-427 CE) whose poems about chrysanthemums have been recited by generation after generation.

"Along with the plum, orchid and bamboo, the chrysanthemum has become known as one of the "Four Gentleman of Flowers." Revered for its late and long-lasting bloom, these characteristics were likened to those of the mature "gentleman" scholar whose wisdom and integrity grew with each year.

The Chinese have long been masters at chrysanthemum cultivation developing more than 20 cultivars by the 10th century and 2,000 by the early 19th! Chrysanthemums have many practical uses including as a source for tea, wine and medicine.

Some of the varieties which will be on display this year are:

**Mumvember**  
**November 1-30, 2019**  
**Lan Su Chinese Garden**  
**239 NW Everett St,**  
**Portland, OR 97209**

<https://lansugarden.org/things-to-do/events/mumvember/>

## Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



### Local Events November 2019

#### Al's Evening of Lights

Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(S)  
 Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 3:00pm-7:00pm(W)  
 Thursday, November 14, 2019 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(V)  
 Saturday, November 16, 2019 • 3:00pm-7:00pm(G)  
 Al's Garden & Home, Sherwood, Woodburn,  
 Wilsonville(V), Gresham, OR

Dozens of designer decorated trees await you, along with our annual Poinsettia Collection.  
[www.als-gardencenterevents.com](http://www.als-gardencenterevents.com)

#### Night of Good Cheer

Friday, November 15, 2019 • 5:30-7:30pm  
 Smith Berry Barn, Hillsboro, OR

Appetizers, wine tasting, shopping discounts, raffle prizes & more!  
 • [www.smithberrybarn.com](http://www.smithberrybarn.com)

#### Christmas in the Garden

November 29, 2018-January 5, 2019  
 The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Enjoy an immersive holiday event based on a traditional European-style Christmas Market, where you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season with over one million lights on display.  
 • [www.oregongarden.org](http://www.oregongarden.org)







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- Pink Cushion • Pink Fleece
- Pink Splendor • Powder Puff
- Prom King • Prom Queen
- Purple Light • Quan Yon Hung
- Radiant Time • Raspberry Ripple
- Red cushion • Redwing
- River City • Rose Maiko
- Saba • Safina • Saga Nishiki
- Santa Claus • Seaton's Ruby
- Seaton's Toffee • Seizan • Shock
- St. Tropez • Statesman
- Trendy Time • Vernal Falls
- Vesuvio • Vienna Waltz
- White City • Wisp of Pink
- Xena • Yodogimi

The names alone are so inspiring!

So if like me, you are also already missing the multitude of beautiful flowers in our gardens, head out to LanSu and enjoy the beauty of Chrysanthemums. It will help you make it through the dark, cold days of winter.



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# Snake Charmer

Bring a tropical touch to your home this winter and enjoy the benefits healthier, cleaner air... even at night!

by Judy Alleruzzo

*Sansevieria* 'Black Gold'

Sansevierias have many common names, Snake Plants, Mother in Law's Tongues, Devil's Tongues and Bow String Hemp to name just a few used around the world. I loved my Mother in Law and I don't mind snakes in my garden so I will be using Snake Plant to refer to them in this article. I have known this plant for so many years as I remember them at my Gramma's home in Bridgeport Chicago. They sat right next to the Coleus on her indoor window sill.

Snake Plants as houseplants have been gracing indoor rooms for a very long time. The genus *Sansevieria* includes around 70 species which are

native to Africa, Madagascar, and southern Asia. There is a little controversy as to who first named the genus *Sansevieria*. Plant historians give credit to both Vincenzo Petagna, naming the genus in 1787 for his patron Pietro Antonio Sanseverino and to Swedish botanist Carl Peter Thunberg in 1794, naming the plants after the 18th century Italian scientist and inventor, Prince of Sansevero, Raimondo di Sangro. To add more confusion both of these spellings, *Sanseveria* and *Sansevieria* can be found in resources. And one more bit of confusion, I have also heard rumors that the botanists have been researching Snake Plant DNA and are now saying this plant is really in the

*Dracaena* genus. Looking at both of these plant's flowers, there are similarities.... stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Snake Plant varieties are found in an assortment of leaf colors including green, yellow, silver, creamy white and a dark green that almost looks black. The leaves are rigid with a thick substance and either with vertical or a rosette/bird's nest leaf form. In regards to the plant's uses, Ambius Plant Care Company writes that *Sansevierias* are the "Swiss Army Knife of the Plant World" as the plant has many household, health and cultural uses.

- "In most African countries, the leaves are used to produce fiber for things like rope and baskets.
- The sap can be used as an antiseptic.
- *Sansevieria* leaves are used to make bandages for first aid kits.
- Koreans use the plants as a welcome offering for businesses or events.
- They are renowned for their air purification qualities as they remove toxins such as formaldehyde and xylene from the atmosphere. They make very good bedroom plants too as they remove carbon dioxide and produce oxygen mostly at night times. For over 20 years, NASA has used the plants on their space shuttles.
- Some experts believe that having *Sansevieria* plants near children in school environments can reduce abrasive behavior.
- *Sansevierias* are commonly used for house and office plants in feng shui"

Talking about health uses, this is the most beneficial use of Snake Plants. All plants take up CO<sup>2</sup> (carbon dioxide) during the day and release oxygen during the process of photosynthesis.

Snake Plants are even more beneficial in our homes as they "can uptake CO<sup>2</sup> during the night as well because of their ability to perform a type of photosynthesis called Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM)" and release oxygen. Not many plants add extra oxygen to a room at night, so *Sansevierias* are the #1 plant that should be grown in your bedroom! Plus, they have very low light and very low water needs so they are an easy care plant for your home.

According to a 1989 research study by NASA, which is still the standard for indoor plant benefits, *Sansevierias* absorb many indoor toxins like formaldehyde, xylene, toluene, and nitrogen oxides which may be contained in household surfaces like carpets and indoor paint. This study recommended



*Sansevieria cylindrica*



*Sansevieria* 'Bantell's Sensation'



15 to 18 medium-to-large size plants for a 1,800 square-foot home to help mitigate the noxious chemicals in an average home. I think this is a grand idea. Indoor plants are healthy to our bodies but also healthy to our mind when we are surrounded by them!

### Easy Care Tips for Snake Plants

- Indirect to low light
- Let soil dry out a bit between waterings. Let dry longer between watering in winter.
- Be careful to not get water directly on crown of the plant.
- Excess water may rot the crown
- Make sure soil is well draining.
- Use a cactus mix for the best drainage

Re-potting - Only re-pot to a 1-2 inch larger container when root ball is large. This enables the plant to not stay too wet.

- Clean off the leaves of any accumulated dust. This ensures maximum light absorption and as an insect deterrent.
- Fertilize – Apply half of recommended dose every four weeks in April to August
- Propagation – Leaf Cuttings – Cut a leaf, let

cut dry a few hours. Stick in a small container of moist soil. Roots will form in several weeks. You can also divide a large plant by separating the rhizomes or underground stems. Make sure to use a cactus mix soil and small container in proportion to the root ball.

If you are new to caring for indoor plants or just a busy person that doesn't have time for a fussy plant, Snake Plants are the plant for you. There are dozens of different shaped leaves and leaf colorings available at your favorite plant store. Pick one out for more oxygen in your bedroom or for that low light space in the living room. Bring a little tropical touch to your home this winter and enjoy the benefits.

Sansevieria 'Boncel' - Starfish is the common name for this newer Snake Plant variety in the houseplant market.

It is actually a compact variety of Sansevieria cylindrica. The round leaves radiate in a fan pattern from the plant's crown. Whereas Sansevieria cylindrica leaves can get quite long, I have not seen Starfish plants taller than 6-8 inches.

Sansevieria 'Bantel's Sensation' is another newer variety of Snake Plant. It is the first variety to have an almost white vertical stripe alongside the traditional green stripes. Because of the white color in the leaves, this variety is less tolerant of extremely low light sites so allow a little more diffused light for 'Bantel's Sensation'.



Sansevieria zeylanica



Sansevieria Rosette or Bird's Nest varieties



Sansevieria cylindrica 'Boncel' Starfish



Sansevieria Assortment

## WREATH MAKING PARTY!

Set aside a date to do something creative and fun with friends and family - make wreaths for your own home or as a gift!

Parties available December 1<sup>st</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> between 9:30am and 3:00pm for groups of 5-10 people.

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# Finding Your Niche

**Crevice gardens are a new take on a rock garden and a fun and creative way to grow plants that don't like our soppy Northwest soil.**

**by Ron Dunevant**

One element of gardening that you are probably aware of, but may not have given much thought to, is irony. From the serious to the casual gardener, we put our minds, hearts and backs into making our gardens the best they can be. We plant, we dig, we fertilize, we water and we weed. And, if we're lucky, our labors yield fruits (or vegetables, or flowers, or...what-ever!)

The *ironic* element is that many times, the plants that thrive are the ones that receive the least attention. Our grass turns brown and bare spots appear, but over in the flower bed, or among

the bark dust, new blades appear and spread like wildfire. Our hanging baskets need just the right amount of water and sun or they don't bloom, but in the cracks of the driveway, the weeds flourish, bloom and propagate, despite our best efforts to kill them.

It is this conundrum of gardening that must have inspired the creation of the crevice garden. If the plants growing in the cracks and seams of the concrete look unsightly, then let's give them a more appealing place to reside. Let's make an area that's ALL cracks and seams and see what will grow there.

A crevice garden is an offshoot of what we would call a "rock garden," and residents of the Czech Republic are given credit as the first formal crevice gardeners. Prior to the fall of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, Czech gardeners were collecting seeds and honing techniques that would add a new element to their beloved rock gardens.

If you've seen a rock garden or made one yourself, you know that it uses small growing plants to create miniature landscapes. The plants, which often come from the high elevation regions of the world, have deep tap roots and require fast-draining

soil. That created a challenge for lowlanders with drippy dirt. The Czechs overcame this problem by turning it on its head, or rather, its side. Instead of placing rocks flatly into the mounds of soil (like a stepping stone) they used flat pieces of flagstone or slate inserted into the soil vertically, leaving deep, narrow channels. The result is a landscape that is both beautiful and unusual, an appealing combination of flora and strata, a three dimensional rock garden, if you will.

A crevice garden actually provides a gardener with many benefits. The combination of rock, soil and elevation allows for the cultivation of a wider variety of plants. A crevice garden, like a rock garden, utilizes smaller plants, allowing more to be planted in the same space. The

peaks and valleys create microclimates: shady spots, cool recesses, moist pockets and channels for drainage where none previously existed. Together, these elements encourage deep root growth. Best of all: A crevice garden requires little maintenance.

## Creating Your Crevice Garden

Like any garden, planning ahead is the secret to success. Creating the space for your crevice garden will take diligence, strength, patience and more than a little time. Once completed, however, you will have a garden that can last for decades and allow you to grow plants that will impress visitors throughout the seasons. It really is a work of art.

When selecting a location for your crevice garden choose a

site away from trees, if possible. Nearby trees may have spreading roots that will compete for moisture with smaller plants. Falling leaves will also increase maintenance chores and may cause damage to small plants when extracted.

Determine the size of your garden based on available space, nearby plants and structures, and the amount in your budget. The cost of rocks and plants can add up, and the time needed to complete these initial tasks can quickly overwhelm you. Best advice? Start small. A crevice garden is easily expanded and, as you complete each section, you will develop new ideas that you can experiment with in the next section.

The integral part of the project will be creating the crevices by



PHOTO CREDIT: BREWBOOKS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A crevice garden prepared for planting Alpine plants.



partially burying wide, flat stones vertically, then filling the in-between portion with a soil mix that will drain well. The plants placed in these slots will grow along the rocks, which will guide them to the moist clay soil below and help with drought tolerance. The sandy soil will drain well, preventing root rot. This condition is what makes a crevice garden optimal for growing plants. This type of garden is an excellent example of a concept known as xeriscaping, which is designing landscapes to reduce or eliminate the need for irrigation.

If you don't have the stones already in your yard, you will need to purchase them, which can become expensive, as the vertical alignment of the stones requires much more rock to cover the same amount of ground. Pieces of flagstone or slate work well, but enterprising and penurious gardeners have found success with common stones, river rock, concrete pavers, recycled cement and even ceramic tiles. Part of the fun of this garden is trying something new and seeing how it performs.

On a flat area, create the foundation for the stones beginning from the outside and working your way in, with smaller stones in the middle. For soil that is already elevated or hilly, work from the bottom and go up. Bury your stones deep enough that they will support the next layer and not fall over. Place them together so they touch one another, for mutual support, and leave about one inch between rows, which is optimal. If your intention is to include some larger plants, you can extend this space specifically for them, but remember that the closer each layer is, the better the drainage.

You will actually end up with almost all of the stone below ground, so plan for the most interesting or most attractive side of the stone to be at the top,



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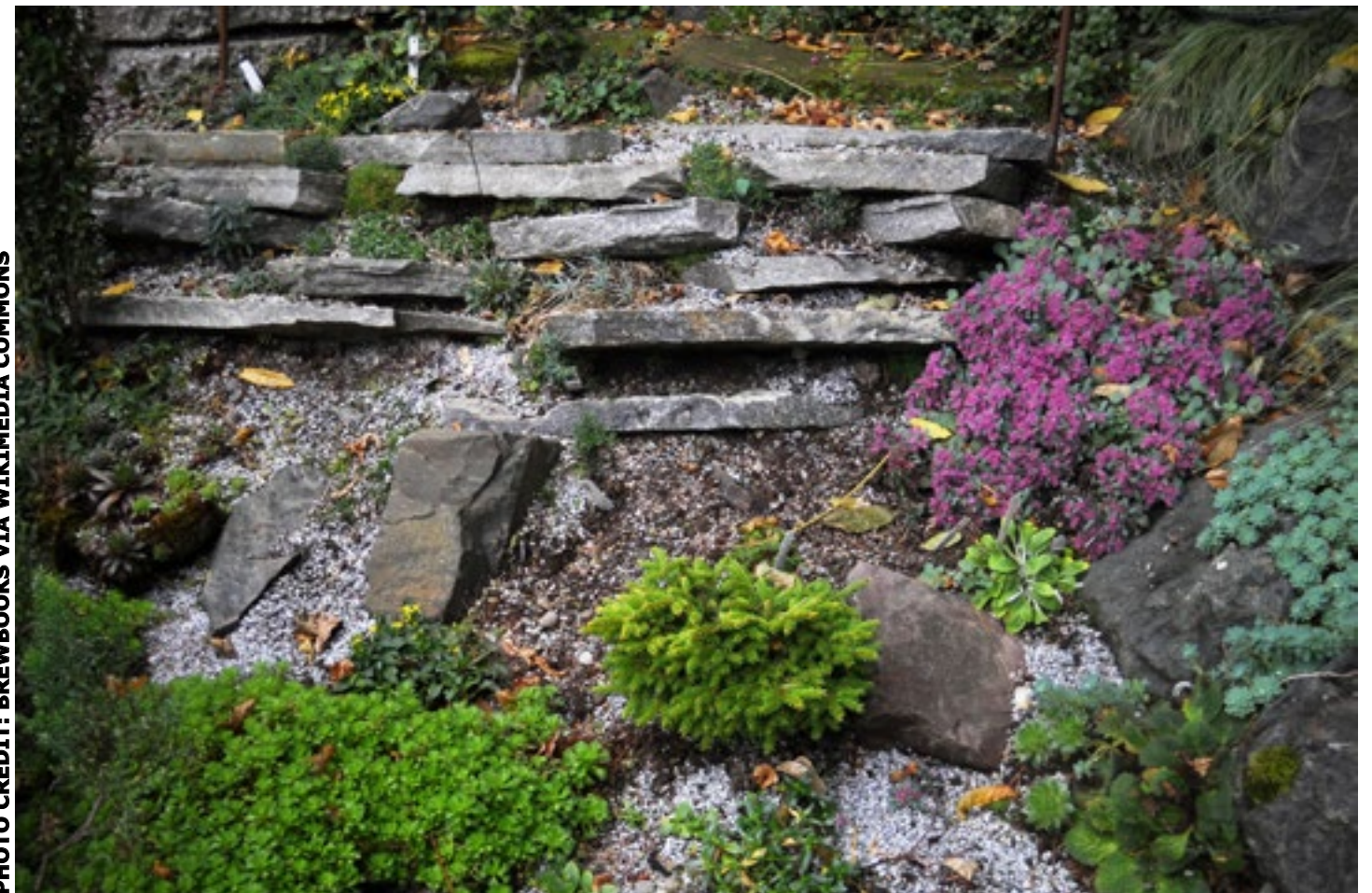


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because that's likely all that you will see. For inspiration, you can look at rock formations in nature, in which large stones often crack and break over the centuries, allowing plants to grow between them.

Once you have laid out your stones, fill in the fissures with soil made up of a mixture of concrete sand or builder's sand and gravel, in a 50-50 ratio, with no organic material. A layer of gravel over the top will prevent the sand from washing away. Note that this mixture may settle some over time, so add a little more than you think you will need, or you may need to top it off later.

In creating your garden, think ahead to what it will look like when it is completed. Plants

must be accessible for maintenance, so be sure to leave areas that will allow you to reach all the interior sections without stepping on plants on the way in.

In acquiring your plants, look for a nursery that sells flora for rock gardens and ask your local nursery for their advice on which plants to use in a crevice garden. The first crevice gardens were created to grow alpine plants, but you can grow almost anything that likes sandy soil and good drainage. Dwarf plants, cool hardy cacti, small shrubs and succulents should do well. You can also grow low water plants such as Lavender, Salvia, Penstemon, Lewisia, Campanula and Agastache.

As for the actual planting, many gardeners have found success

with bare roots, stripping the soil away from the plants and inserting them into the sand with a knife. This forces the plant to grow deeper into the soil to reach the moist layer and promotes good drainage. Planting bare-roots is ideally done in early to mid-spring or in the fall, before daytime temperatures become too hot. However, if you can provide shade and irrigation, you can also add plants in late spring and summer.

Crevice gardens are a great way to grow distinctive plants that won't survive in a regular garden. It is also a terrific outlet for your creative side, and a project that can be adapted to your specific tastes and level of ambition. Try it out for yourself and discover your niche as a gardener.



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# Garden Time Tours

Travel with *Garden Time* to  
**Portugal  
& Spain**  
October 5-19, 2020



Lisbon, Portugal



Madrid, Spain



Granada, Spain



Seville, Spain



Cape Sagres

**14 Days/13 Nights • All Breakfasts plus 13 Additional Meals Included**  
Join the Garden Time Gang on our next tour of fabulous Portugal and Spain, with scheduled stops in Lisbon, Cape Sagres, Seville, Grenada, and Madrid.

As with every Garden Time Tour, you'll see local gardens and landmarks, with tours set up especially for our group. Plus, we'll stay at fine hotels, enjoy excellent meals, drink delicious wines and experience the sights and sounds of these amazing destinations.

We're still finalizing the details, but mark your calendars for October as Garden Time Tours hits the road on another unforgettable trip!

**\*TOUR DATES, DESTINATIONS AND DETAILS ARE NOT YET FINALIZED AND MAY CHANGE. SEE THE TOURS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION.**

**Join us for this exciting Garden Time Tour!**

To get on the list to be contacted when this tour opens up, email your name and contact info to: [gardentime@comcast.net](mailto:gardentime@comcast.net).

These tours fill up fast so don't wait!

[www.GardenTime.tv/tours](http://www.GardenTime.tv/tours)



# Unraveling the Capers Caper

**This little flower bud was a mystery to me...  
one I was determined to solve.**

**by William McClenathan**

Capers bloom

I know nothing about Capers. And when I don't know something, I throw myself into the fray and learn about it.

So when this article came up in our yearly meeting for the stories for the magazine, back in October 2018, I chose to write it.

Of course, going online gave me tomes of information to research for accuracy. But to me, most of the information I found seems boring and repetitive. It did not help that what I thought I knew was mostly inaccurate.

Just the facts please. And if you can add some levity to the info, that makes it all the better!

As we had just done a segment with Sam at One Green World ([www.onegreenworld.com](http://www.onegreenworld.com)) which included a capers plant they were testing, so I became even more intrigued to write this article. And at the time of writing this article, I had just received an email from Sam

telling me that they had capers back in stock to sell! Seemed like perfect timing.

As I often do, I also went to this website ([www.missouribotanicalgarden.org](http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org)) -- one of my favorites, to gather some good and accurate information on this plant.

So the common name is 'Caper'. Although other common names exist. It is a broad-leaf evergreen of the family Capparaceae. I was also not aware to where it is native to, which is Southern Eurasia and Australia. I always want to know where plants are native to because it reveals the places where plants thrive, not simply survive.

I did find it interesting that it is listed to live in our zones of 8-10, although zone 8 does really push the 'zonal envelope' to its limit. I also was surprised that it is more wide than high, it can get 3-4 feet tall but 3-6 feet wide.

Natively, it blooms from May to September.

It wants full sun and enjoys dry to medium amounts of water. It prefers well-drained soil and thrives in areas with poor, dry, rocky or sandy soils in hot sun. But it is intolerant of shade. Established plants require little watering. Avoid overwatering. Plants will not survive winter when temperatures dip below 18 degrees F. This is why it is on the fringe of hardiness in our area.

Once established it takes a medium amount of maintenance, and although what we eat mostly from this plant is the buds of the blooms, what we call capers, it is the blooms themselves which are breathtaking to behold. White with purple stamens, they are rather showy and fragrant.

They also have thorns which may be why it is said capers are tolerant of rabbits and deer. I have found though that if hungry enough, animals will eat anything they can find.

The unopened flower buds of this shrub are picked and preserved in salt or pickled in vinegar as the culinary capers which are now enjoyed world-wide as garnishes or as pungent flavor additives to a large number of foods including sauces, butters, salads, fish, meats, pizza toppings and hors d'oeuvres. The capers commercially harvested for human consumption come primarily from plants growing in southern Spain, France, Italy and Algeria. Culinary use of capers extends back in history at least 2500 years.

And this is how we actually harvest capers.

The attractive flowers only last one day, but bloom profusely



Campanelle with eggs and capers

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Blooms on a Capers plant

from May to early autumn. The unopened buds of these flowers are the capers. Flower buds are picked prior to opening when still tight, washed in salt water to remove grit, dried, and finally salted down or pickled in vinegar. Buds are often picked daily because the youngest buds have the best quality. Unpicked buds open to flowers which are followed by oblong, multi-seeded, edible fruits known as caperberries. Caperberries and young shoots with leaves may also be picked and pickled. Small, round to ovate, dark green, semi-succulent leaves (to 2" long) are evergreen. Leaf stipules (which is a part of some plants that are small, paired, often leaf like appendages at the base of a leafstalk in many flowering plants). On capers species the plants develop a pair of sharp hooked spines at the base of each leaf petiole. Hands are easily scratched when harvesting capers and clothing may catch on the hooked spines when brushing up against a shrub.

The genus name comes from kapparis, which

is the ancient Greek name for the caper bush. Although it is a beautiful flowering shrub for dry sunny areas of the landscape and a source of culinary capers, it is still infrequently grown in U.S. gardens.

In full disclosure, I realized while writing this article I had thought I had grown capers in my gardens at Viscaya. I was wrong. I searched for hours the old pictures of the gardens there and no capers were to be found.

So I am planning on getting one soon to try in my current garden. I know they will be difficult because truly they are very dry climate plants and they do NOT want fertilizing, which we Americans love to overuse fertilizers. A bad habit I am trying to fix in myself!

But I am still going to give Capers a try. If you choose to as well, be sure and let me know what success or failure you have! Both are the best ways to learn firsthand about Nature and new plants to try in our own gardens.



Cauliflower steaks and puree with walnut caper salsa

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# All For One... and One for Al's



Mark Bigej, Chief of Operations at Al's Garden & Home

Continuing a 70-plus-year tradition, Mark Bigej oversees Al's Garden & Home as it flourishes in the 21st century.

by William McClenathan

Each time I interview our Hortie of the month I always find information which inspires me about those people. This month's Hortie is certainly no different.

His name is Mark Bigej, the Chief of Operations at Al's Garden and Home.

Let's begin with a little history of this business most of us call Al's.

I found this great article in the Digger Magazine ([www.diggermagazine.com](http://www.diggermagazine.com)) and thought it worth adding!

"On May 2, 2018, Al's Garden & Home celebrated its 70th anniversary as a family-owned business. Over that time, the company has grown from a single fruit stand in

Woodburn to a garden center and grower with four retail locations.

Al and Ann Bigej founded the company in 1948, housing the fruit stand originally in an unused chicken coop along Highway 99E. Their son Jack, the father of Mark, joined the business in 1959. He had a passion for horticulture and believed they could offer customers both fruit and nursery stock. The business expanded, becoming Al's Fruit & Shrub Center.

In 1982, the company expanded again by building greenhouses so they could grow plant products to sell to their customers. Today, Al's has growing facilities in Hubbard, Mt. Angel and Gresham, where they

grow 90 percent of the soft-stemmed annuals and perennials they sell at their retail locations. The company is also known for its beautiful hanging baskets and poinsettias.

Today, Jack serves as chief executive officer of the company and is joined in the management of the business by three of his children: Chief of Operations Mark Bigej, Chief Financial Officer Darcy Ruef and Chief of Growing Operations Dorothy Russo.

The company added its fourth retail location in Wilsonville in 2017; the others are in Woodburn, Gresham and Sherwood. The company changed its name to Al's Garden & Home in 2017 to reflect the breadth of lifestyle products now offered in the four stores."

Al's has become the largest privately owned garden center in our area, and a lot of that current credit goes to Mark.

I have always considered Mark a friend in the Horticulture Industry. His gentle nature and foresight about things has consistently impressed me.

Mark met his amazing wife, Amy at college. They had just finished a term at Oregon State and the students were all celebrating that it was over. Mark was walking down a hallway in the dorms and saw an open door on a room. As Mark's dorm was next door to where Amy's dorm was, a group of guys went over to celebrate the ending of the term with the ladies. He looked inside that open door he was walking by in a hallway and saw a lot of family pictures on a wall, so he went in to look at them. Clearly to Mark, family was important. The room happened to be Amy's and she caught him looking at the pictures. Mark says that Amy was not instantly impressed with him, but seemed to enjoy that he was a guy which obviously wasn't like the other college dudes she had met at OSU.

As often happens, chance meetings can lead to something greater than just 'chance' and as

their history now shows, they did eventually fall in love and get married.

In Mark's relating this information to me, it was endearing how much he still adores his amazing wife. And how could he not? Anyone who meets her would agree how adorable and amazing Amy continues to be.

They now have five delightful children; Ryan - 22, Jack - 20, Rachel - 17, and the twins, Mckenzie & Madison - 12.

But let's take a step back in Mark's personal history. I asked him when he became involved with Al's as a business. I was amazed that it was very young. Mark's mother and all four of her kids started 'Little Bigej Nursery'. They got to keep the money they made in this endeavor which Mark says lead to, over time, the lesson of saving money. This also allowed Mark (and his siblings!) to pay for their own college degrees.

Mark tells me that he never felt forced by his father Jack to work at Al's, because he enjoyed spending time with his dad so much that to him, working with Jack was always a way to get to spend time with Dad...so Mark didn't even feel like it was work.

This feel-



Mark's grandparents, Al and Ann Bigej



ing of the value of family continues to this day in the ever growing Bigej family.

I always ask those I interview what future plans they may have. I personally was delighted by Mark's response at this question. I also asked him if I could share this information and he said I could.

Mark is extremely interested in investing in online sales. As I had wondered about yet another 'brick and mortar' store, we had a long conversation about the negative and positive benefits of online sales, and the costs required to do it well. Mark and I have often agreed on and questioned the same things in our past conversations about things happening in our Industry. I was so happy that once again, we seemed to be heading in the same direction about online sales.

Mark sees it as a necessity for the future success of



*The early Bigej family, Mark's at the upper right.*

Al's to stay current and a leader in the garden center arena. I couldn't agree with him more. Al's continues to be a leading powerhouse of ideas and looking into the future for what is happening in our industry and the world of business. Having such a long history of interacting with this amazing Garden Center, I expect that in the near future, this will be the next big thing they do, with resounding success.

From their beginning, Al's has consistently looked at the many different aspects of business and growth. I can't imagine that this possible new chapter will be any different.

We all know that there are so many places to shop for plants. And certainly, the entire internet as well! But I must say that each time we film at Al's, I continue to get inspired by



*The original Al's Fruit Stand, opened in 1948.*

these delightful locations.

If you too are looking for inspiration in your garden and home, may I suggest that if you haven't already, you visit one of the four Al's Garden and Home locations.

**Al's Garden & Home**

**Woodburn**  
1220 N Pacific Hwy.

**Sherwood**  
16920 SW Roy Rogers Rd.

**Gresham**  
7505 SE Hogan Rd.

**Wilsonville**  
27755 SW Parkway Ave.

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



*The Mark Bigej family.*

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# Stain, Stain Go Away



When you have a pet, carpet stains are unavoidable.

**Dirt and stains are a fact of life, and there are almost as many ways to clean them as there are types of stains.**

by David Musial

Accidents involving spills and stains are a part of life and we all have a story about where 'that stain' came from. My story involves my ten year old son and a gallon and a half of grape juice. More on that later. This article is focused on removing stains so the story that you tell will be about the spill, not the stain.

Any discussion about household stains can be broken down by room; such as bathroom or dining room, type of material impacted; such as carpet or wood or offending spill; such as red wine or coffee. This article, will focus on what some consider the more challenging and/or prevalent stains; water and heat marks on wood, wax, grease, and lastly, cabinets and drawers.

Full disclosure, if I mention a product by name, I am not a paid spokesperson. Wish I were, but I'm not!

To begin, let's start and tackle an easy one, cabinets and drawers. Kitchen cabinets and drawers get very dirty and grungy over time. They give a kitchen the appearance of not being clean. There is an easy solution, use the handles and knobs instead of grabbing the drawer or door. Since you didn't, the solution is fairly simple and twofold. First, use a Magic Eraser® or foam eraser. This product easily removes dirt and grime from cabinets. They are truly a miracle product. Who would have thought a sponge alone could clean so well.

The second step is to apply touchup paint to areas that are a little bare. The easiest way to handle this is to store the cabinet paint in a small bottle kept in the kitchen. This can then be applied as needed to small areas. Combined with the cleaning of a foam eraser this will keep the kitchen looking neat and clean. And don't forget to use the knobs and handles after you clean.

Moving on to a more challenging and unattractive stain is the water ring left on wood coffee tables from not using a coaster or the white mark from placing hot items on the dining room table.

For water ring removal, a little trial and error is required, but here are three methods to try. Start with the first and progress to the third if results are not satisfactory. The first method is to rub a little mayonnaise onto the ring. Yes, mayonnaise. Leave for two to 24 hours and wipe off. If the oil in the mayonnaise displaced the water ring, great, if not, move to the second method.

The second method is to place a small amount of white, non-gel toothpaste onto a rag and gently rub on the mark. Wipe clean when done. If this does not meet with the desired results, give the third method a try. This method is the same as the second, but you will use equal parts of the toothpaste and baking soda. This will be a little more abrasive, so rub carefully and then clean off the residue.

When satisfactory results have been achieved, apply some furniture oil or wax to protect and create a beautiful finish.

For removing heat marks left on a table, the third method above will achieve the best results. If this doesn't work, there are products on the market that claim to remove the marks and they may be worth a try. Anything is better than sanding down and refinishing furniture...unless you like that kind of thing.

A couple of pieces of advice; leave the beer coasters out so they'll be used and keep a trivet or two on the dining room table so you won't be tempted to set down a hot pot without protecting the table. Remember that food doesn't have to be extremely hot to cause a mark. Even a hot bowl of soup can damage the wood finish.

There is nothing quite like candles to create ambience and there is nothing quite like the mess they can make if hot wax flows onto the mantle and down to the carpet.

Wax that has melted onto a wood surface needs to harden before it can be removed. The quickest way to assist the hardening is to freeze the wax by applying ice. This is easily accomplished by filling a baggie with ice and placing on the wax.

Once the wax is hard, use a plastic scraper or even an old credit card to scrap the wax off. Be careful to not damage the wood further by scratching it with the scraper. Any remaining wax can be removed with a cloth and if necessary using a small amount of liquid furniture polish to finish up the job.

Wax on carpet is a little trickier, but it starts with the



'Magic Sponges' help to keep the kitchen looking clean.

PHOTO CREDIT: PH.SELLPRICE.CO



Mayo, not just for sandwiches!

PHOTO CREDIT: MARGEBURKELL.COM



A little late for coasters.

PHOTO CREDIT: PINTEREST.CA





Wax on the carpet can create a cleanup challenge.



Game day snacks just waiting of make a mess on the couch.



Red wine stain.

ice treatment and removing as much wax as possible after frozen, by using a knife. Next vacuum lightly to pick up any pieces left behind. At this point, there is certain to be wax on the carpet fibers and heat is required to remove.

Grab an old terrycloth towel or heavy paper bag; used to absorb the wax, and an iron. Set the iron on low (no steam) and place the towel or paper bag (if it has printing, keep print side up) over the wax. Run the iron over the chosen absorbent material and the heat will melt the wax and adhere to it. As carpet can melt, use a low temperature and move the towel or bag often so the wax will have a clean surface to adhere.

One key thing to remember is that the dye in candles can make the stain worse, so quick action is required.

So many foods can cause grease stains; chips, wings, French fries, pizza and nuts to mention a few. What these foods have in common is that they are eaten while watching the big game with friends or relaxing on the couch watching a movie. These foods and activities are a perfect storm for spills and grease stains. Due to the likelihood of encountering this type of stain, it's a great idea to know how to remove. The good news is that it is not that difficult.

For upholstery, the first step is to scrape any food sticking to the fabric. Next, sprinkle some talcum powder or baking soda on the grease (allow to sit 10-15 minutes), which will absorb some of the grease, and then vacuum with the brush attachment. Next, check your furniture to see if it has a label. If it does, it may list a W, S or S/W. The W stands for water based cleaners and the S stands for solvent based cleaners. The S/W means either is appropriate.

For upholstery with a W, the best method is to use dish soap. Apply a few drops of dish soap onto a damp rag and gently dab into the upholstery. If the stain does not come out, repeat two to three more times. Finally allow to dry. Note that it is best to use a dish soap that is uncolored and grease cutting. If the dish soap did not do the trick and the label is SW, try a commercial solvent.

If the label is an S, follow the other steps up and until using the soap and at that point, follow the directions of the commercial solvent. If there is no label, it will be necessary to test the cleaning method of choice on a small piece of fabric.

A few good rules to follow when dealing with accidents, spills and the like:

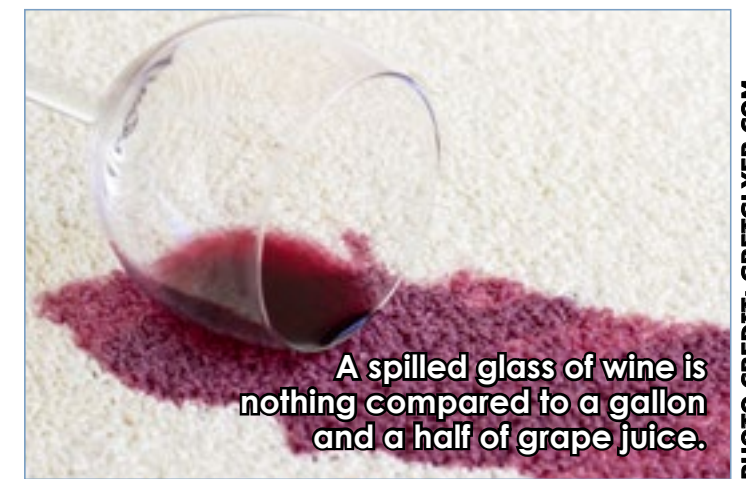
- Act fast. Don't wait until tomorrow to deal with cleanup.
- Before using a new chemical to tackle a stain,



Spilled coffee on carpet.



Blotting stain with a cloth.



A spilled glass of wine is nothing compared to a gallon and a half of grape juice.

test it in an inconspicuous area first.

- When cleaning up spills on fabric; carpet or couches, blot, don't scrub or rub.
- Read the furniture label; if one exists, to determine how best to tackle a stain.
- When using commercial chemicals, read the label, follow the directions and wear gloves.

Back to my son and the grape juice spill. Long story short, my son spilled all one and a half gallons of freshly made, deep purple Concord grape juice on the carpet. Net result was a big spill and loss of a lot of a hard work...and a terrified son. What did I learn about handling this spill and stain? Two things... spilled grape juice will smell like wine in a short period of time and how I handled the situation with my son was more important than the spill or the stain.

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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!



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**Garden Time**



# W T D I T G

# What To Do In The Garden NOVEMBER

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

## PLANNING

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



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

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



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

## PLANTING

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



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

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

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



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



## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

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



a registered spray. Dormant oils help to smother overwintering insects.

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

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

cold weather is coming.

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

## VEGETABLE GARDEN



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

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

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

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



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





# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town

**Mumvember**  
**November 1-30, 2019**

**Lan Su Garden, Portland, OR**

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

**Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase**

**Friday, November 1, 2019 • 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Lan Su Garden, Portland, OR**

The Ninth Moon Floral Design Showcase is a juried floral show with each entry including chrysanthemums as a part of the display. Designers will use floral design styles and forms that utilize fresh floral materials and foliage in their entry. The exhibition is designed to celebrate the beauty and significance of chrysanthemums and recognize the floral art and creative talent of floral designers in the Pacific Northwest. [LanSuGarden.org](http://LanSuGarden.org)

**80th Annual Chrysanthemum Show**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 9:00am-6:00pm**

**Sunday, November 3, 2019 • 9:00am-4:00pm**

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

The Portland Chrysanthemum Society is pleased to present our 80th annual show at Portland Nursery at 9000 SE Division St. in Portland. The theme is "A Bouquet Of Memories: 80 Years Of Mums" and the show will feature judged horticultural displays of spectacular exhibition chrysanthemums and creative themed artistic floral designs based on the colorful history of Portland. The show is free and open to the public, and the hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday November 2, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday November 3, 2019. Please visit us on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Portland-Chrysanthemum-Society>

*continued next column*

mum-Society-261038930632595 for show updates, photos and more!

**Kid's Club: Bird Seed Wreaths**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 11:00am(W)**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 11:00am(S)**

**Saturday, November 23, 2019 • 11:00am(G)**

**Saturday, November 30, 2019 • 11:00am(V)**

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

As the weather turns colder outside, it is important to remember our feathered friends. Create a wreath that is also a tasty birdseed treat for the birds. Learn all about our Pacific Northwest birds and what they need to survive the winter. Cost: \$7.50. [www.als-gardencenterevents.com](http://www.als-gardencenterevents.com)

**First Saturday Guided Tours of Leach**

**Botanical Garden**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Join Gardener/Curator Courtney Vengarick for seasonal explorations of the Garden. She will show you what's blooming and of seasonal interest, provide useful and engaging information, and share fun stories about the adventurous creators of the Garden, Botanist Lilla Leach and pharmacist/civic leader John Leach.

Meet in front of the Manor House. Free. No registration required. First come, first served. Maximum tour size 15 visitors. Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org)

**Mums, Start to Finish**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019 • 1:00pm**

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

With Tamara Bliley of the Portland Chrysanthemum Society. We are kicking off the Chrysanthemum show this weekend with a demonstration and discussion of all things Mum. Topics will include: making rooted cuttings; when to pinch; staking and tying; fertilizers and insect control; benefits of using organ-

*continued next page*

ic vs. toxic products; how, when, and why to disbud; how to use as season extenders in mixed containers. Enjoy a stroll through the Mums show after the class! [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Honeybee Hikes**

**Wednesdays through December 10, 2019**

**• 10:00am-11:00am**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Your little honey bee will walk the trails - listening to the wind and the creek, touching soft leaves and looking for wildlife like bunnies, woodpeckers and deer. Our wonderful guides will then read a story and help the children craft something fun. Each week is different with seasonal themes. Ages: 2-5 years, accompanied by an adult. Meets at the Manor House. Dress for the weather! \$3.00 per child, non-walkers free.

Punch cards available in the Leach Garden Gift House—purchase 5 hikes and get the 6th one free. Groups with 10+ children/adults must preregister by contacting the Education Coordinator, 503-823-1671. Please check our website for possible cancellations due to weather or the impacts of our upper garden construction project.

Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. <https://www.leachgarden.org/>

**Al's Evening of Lights**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(S)**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 3:00pm-7:00pm(W)**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019 • 4:00pm-9:00pm(V)**

**Saturday, November 16, 2019 • 3:00pm-7:00pm(G)**

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

**Woodburn, Wilsonville(V), Gresham, OR**

Started many years ago as an employee Christmas party, this event is one not to be missed. Dozens of designer decorated trees await you, along with our annual Poinsettia Collection. Made up of over 40 different varieties, the Poinsettia Collection never ceases to amaze. Don't forget to stop by and see

*continued next column*

the train and pick up your Ice Apples® while you nibble on holiday gourmet treats. This event gets everyone in the Christmas spirit! [www.als-gardencenterevents.com](http://www.als-gardencenterevents.com)

**Introduction to Mushrooms**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 10:00am-12:30pm**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

In this class, local mushroom enthusiast Leah Bendlin will teach the basics of mushroom identification for beginners, including physical features, ecology and anecdotes about mushroom oddities and beauty. Then we'll take a walk in the Garden to see mushrooms fruiting in their natural habitats and to practice our new ID skills! If they have them, participants are encouraged to bring their own field guides for reference in the field.

Begins in the Manor House, and then we'll head outdoors. General/\$35 Leach Garden Friend/\$25 <https://lbg.yapsody.com/event/index/454146/introduction-to-mushrooms>.

Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org)

**Make Your Own Kombucha**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm**

**Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Kombucha is a fermented beverage dating back almost 3,000 years and has been used in many cultures as a beneficial drink for digestion, inflammation, immune function, and countless other uses. Come learn the ins and outs of brewing this bubbly probiotic drink at home from fermentation master and owner of Oregon Tonic Kombucha Dave McGee. Cost: \$25/person. You must register by November 7th. Sorry, no refunds after November 7th. [www.bloomingjunction.com](http://www.bloomingjunction.com)

**Medicinal Roots**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019 • 11:00am**

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

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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

With Gradey Proctor from the Arctos School of Herbal and Botanical Studies. Join Gradey Proctor for an exploration of the underground world of the plant, the root! As we move towards winter, perennial plants send their energy into the earth creating the opportunity for us to dig and divide plants, as well as harvest medicine. We will explore a half dozen medicinal plants by going through their medicinal uses, different ways of making root medicine, the botany of underground structures and most importantly, how to do all this while keeping our plants thriving. [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Captured Sunlight: Dyeing with Marigolds**  
**Sunday, November 10, 2019 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Iris Sullivan Daire. Marigolds, the familiar flower beloved by gardeners, are used to adorn altars in many cultures. They also happen to make a delightful dye plant, with capacity to dye silk nearly the same happy color as the flowers themselves! In this fun, hands-on class, students will learn the basics of dyeing with flowers, and come away with a long silk scarf they dye themselves. As we enter the season of darkness, silk can be used to adorn your home or yourself with the colors of the sun. Students will receive a packet of seeds for "Shades of Gold" Marigold so they can look forward to making flower garlands and using their new knowledge for more dyeing sessions next summer. Materials fee: \$30 payable to instructor. Pre-registration is Required! [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Pollinators Workshop**  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019 • 6:00pm-8:30pm**  
**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Sponsored by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District. Gardens are pollinated by a variety of insects that help flowers set seed and help fruit and vegetable plants produce an edible harvest. Mostly familiar with European honey bees, few of us are aware of the many flies, beetles, moths and butterflies at our doorsteps that also provide critical

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pollination services. In this workshop you will learn about the different kinds of pollinators that might be living in your garden, discover a plant palette to help attract and support pollinators, and go beyond the bloom to consider ways to provide shelter, water, nesting, and overwintering sites.

Meets in the Manor House. Free. Registration in advance is required. [www.emswcd.org/workshops](http://www.emswcd.org/workshops). Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave., Portland, OR 97236, 503-823-1671. [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org)

**Night of Good Cheer**  
**Friday, November 15, 2019 • 5:30-7:30pm**  
**Smith Berry Barn, Hillsboro, OR**

Appetizers, wine tasting, shopping discounts, raffle prizes & more! [www.smithberrybarn.com](http://www.smithberrybarn.com)

**Black Friday Sale**  
**Friday, November 29, 2019 • 9:00am**  
**A&R Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Our Black Friday Sale is the kick off for our "S'more" Holiday," running November 29th through December 24th! Join us for Hot Cocoa, Hot Cider and make a "S'more" and wander around our nursery. 35306 Northwest Toenjes Road, Woodland, WA. [www.ar-nursery.com](http://www.ar-nursery.com)

**Bonsai Introductory Class**  
**Saturday November 16, 2019 • 9:00am-11:00am**  
**Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

Join us for a two hour introduction to bonsai class and learn the simple truth about growing ancient trees. A unique art form that can offer you hours of peaceful work – four dimensional living art. By the end of the class you will be able to decide if you should take a bonsai home with you. Your tree can become a family heirloom that may live for hundreds of years. This class is a prerequisite for Continuing Bonsai Classes. Cost: \$20.00. Instructors: Lee Leikam • 33 years experience making bonsai and Josh Casey • 9 years experience with the art. 410 Scott Avenue, Woodland, WA. [www.tsugawanurs-](http://www.tsugawanurs-)

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

**Bonsai Continuing Class**  
**Saturday November 16, 2019 • 11:00am-1:00pm**  
**Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA**

November and December are the most exciting times for students in bonsai classes, so you are not going to want to miss these seminars. There will be over one hour of demonstrations with heavy pruning and drastic transformations. You can also bring your trees for advice or to be worked on as a demonstration for free. There will also be a 15 minute Q & A for information about any subject not included in the theme of this class so you will go home with confidence. Cost: \$30.00. Instructor: Fabio Antakly, professional grower for 40 years, international author and teacher. 410 Scott Avenue, Woodland, WA. [www.tsugawanursery.com](http://www.tsugawanursery.com)

**Bonsai: Winter Care for Hardy Trees**  
**Saturday, November 16, 2019 • 11:00am**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Lucy Davenport of Bonsai Akira. This class will include an introduction to styling, and cover winter care for trees hardy in our climate including conifers, Japanese Maples and shrubs such as Viburnum, Hydrangea and Loropetalum. Bring your own tree, purchase a plant to create a bonsai with, or just come to observe and learn. All experience levels welcome. This hands-on class will be limited to 15 participants. [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Harvest Seed Swap**  
**Sunday, November 17, 2019 • 1:00pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

You are invited to our inaugural Harvest Seed Swap! Bring seeds or small transplants you want to share and discover new varieties of vegetables and flowers by swapping with others. Envelopes for packaging seeds will be available. Enjoy seasonal refreshments while chatting with other members of your local gardening community. We hope you'll join us to celebrate the twilight of this year's growing season by sharing your bounty with others. This is a drop

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in event but please RSVP to let us know you're coming. [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Thanksgiving Centerpiece Class**  
**Saturday, November 23, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm**  
**Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Craft your own handmade Thanksgiving centerpiece made with fresh, aromatic mixed greens, fresh flowers, candles, and a bow and you're ready for the Holiday Season! We will walk you step by step through the centerpiece making process, sharing tips on how to get the most out of your materials and ending up with a creation you'll be proud to share with your friends and family this Thanksgiving and for weeks after! Class fee is \$30 Participants must register before Wednesday, November 20th. Sorry, no refunds after November 20th. Cost: \$30/person. [www.bloomingjunction.com](http://www.bloomingjunction.com)

**Christmas in the Garden, presented by Power Kia**  
**November 29, 2018-January 5, 2019**  
**The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR**

Enjoy an immersive holiday event based on a traditional European-style Christmas Market, where you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Stroll through the forest and our one million lights, while sipping a warm, spicy gluhwein. Feast on a variety of international dining options from pizza to fondue. Explore our Market vendors and find the perfect Christmas gift. Enjoy music from choirs and cozy up to a wood-burning fire pit. Those more adventurous will enjoy ice skating or snowless tubing, while the rest of the crew watches from the comfort of our fully-covered, heated tents. Our event is designed for friends and family to linger, enjoy time together and experience the traditions that make this time of year so special. [www.oregongarden.org](http://www.oregongarden.org)

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar [www.gardentime.tv/events.htm](http://www.gardentime.tv/events.htm)



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