

garden time

November 2020

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Christmas Lite
The Oregon Garden
Prepares a New Take
on a Holiday Tradition

Mini Winter Squash
Soil Management

Oregon Garden Clubs

A display from the 2019
Christmas in the Oregon Garden



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Thankful

I know that I've written about being thankful in past years, but this year it seemed like a good time to address the topic again. Now, a lot of people will ask, 'how can you be thankful in the middle of a crazy election, a deadly pandemic and all the other stuff that is going on?' I admit, it can be tough to see the silver lining when you have your head down and you're pushing against a driving rain. Still, I can be thankful because I have hope. Hope is a great lesson that I learned from my garden. I plant seeds every year and hope for the best. They always pop up! Then in summer I hope for a good crop from our veggie gardens, and we all hope for great weather for that big weekend wedding or BBQ. I'm very seldom disappointed. Hope can be a strong driving force for looking for brighter days ahead. Right now I have hope that we will come out of this year of crisis and emerge on the other side a little happier and a probably a little heavier. Some of that hope is based on planning on what the future holds for my garden. We have been told this past year that gardening helped some people remain sane, I know it did for us. Plus, we had a whole new group of gardeners join the ranks of the Royal Order of the Green Thumb (I made that up). These newbies, and their comments and questions, renewed my hope as I saw people getting back to basics. I also watched as experienced gardeners jumped in to help these new gardeners become successful. That was the best part of all!

The hope for our spring gardens starts this month in the magazine. This month Therese talks about soil management. I know, you may think it's just dirt, but a healthy soil is a guarantee that your garden plants will stay happy and your veggies will produce more. Another great sign of a healthy garden is the sound of frogs. Ryan fills us in on frogs in your garden and how they are great helpers in controlling pests. They can eat over 100 pests in one evening!

We are also getting our homes ready for the upcoming season too. David gives us some great tips for winterizing your home from the upcoming cold days ahead. Judy takes advantage of the season as she shares some information on some of the best tasting fall squashes! She has a list of some of the most popular and even has tips on how to harvest yours! Finally, I jump ahead to the Christmas holidays with a quick visit to the Oregon Garden to talk about their modified 'Lights at the Oregon Garden Resort' event.

We HOPE you are doing well and that you all stay happy and healthy through the coming weeks. Take time and look up every once in a while. Who knows, you might see that silver lining....

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I'm bringing in my plants from the patio after having them out all summer. I was thinking of spraying them with a soap and water mixture, and also a vinegar and water mixture. Are these helpful?

Thanks,
Hanging at home

Dear Hanging,

It sounds like your friends may have read some of those home plant remedies off the internet. There are lots of good tips for taking care of your plants when they make the move back indoor after their warm summer vacation on the patio. Some universities have offered good tips through their websites or social media pages, but there are also people who have come up with their own recipes for success. However, using some of these other recipes can do long term damage to your plants. Commercial products may be expensive, but



**Be sure to check for pests
before you spray your plants.**

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

most of those have had to go through extensive testing and government approval. If you follow directions, they can be safe and effective.

Getting back to your question. A good soap and water mixture could be good for your plants, but a vinegar and water solution should be used on your windows and not on your plants. Vinegar can be used to kill the weeds in your yard, but it isn't very good for direct application to your plants. There are some recipes online that say vinegar mixtures can be effective for killing fungus and pests, but the mixture has more of a chance of doing damage since it doesn't take much to harm your plants. It can also build up salts in your soil.

Using a soap and water mixture can duplicate some of the same formulas as commercial 'Insecticidal Soaps'. Water and soap mixtures can coat the plant smothering bad bugs and their eggs. The key is to have the right blend of soap to water. Most recipes tell you 2-4 tablespoons of soap per gallon of water. You should use it only if you see pests on your plant and not too frequently. Also, use it right after you mix it up and don't try and store the leftover solution. For more tips on controlling pests and diseases on your indoor plants check out the OSU Extension website (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/>) or your local independent garden center.

**Good luck,
Mortimer**

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

I'm confused! One person told me to rake my leaves into the garden beds to use as a natural mulch to



Those fall leaves make a good organic mulch.

protect my garden beds and another person told me to clean up my leaves and debris from my garden to prevent insects and diseases from overwintering in my yard. What is the correct answer!?!

Signed,
Confused in Corvallis

Dear Confused,

Yes, there are two correct answers to this question. Your first friend is right. Raking your fall leaves into your garden beds can help protect your tender perennial plants from the cold winds and freezing temperatures of winter. They can also prevent compaction of the soil from the driving rains of the winter. You can also leave those fallen leaves in the bed in the spring to help feed your plants as the leaves break down and return nutrients to your plants (or they can be composted). Your other friend is correct too! These leaves can provide protection for pests, rodents and can still harbor diseases that can be carried over to your spring plants next year.

Here is a rule that I recommend to my plant lover friends. Use the raked leaves in your flower garden beds. They do a great job for those plants. However, pull the leaves (and other garden debris) from your vegetable garden beds. Here is where cleaning up makes more sense. In both cases, remember to bait for slugs as they can survive in both locations over the winter. If you would like to add nutrients or mulch to your veggie garden or garden beds without using your leaves, consider a sterile garden compost or manure.

**Hope that helps clear the confusion,
Mortimer**



if you don't have leaves a commercial mulch can be blown in by great companies like Grimms Fuel.



Christmas Lite

'Christmas in the Garden' has been postponed, but the spirit of the event returns as 'Lights at the Oregon Garden Resort.'

by Jeff Gustin



Displays from the 2019 show

The holidays are here! This year's celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas have changed quite a bit from years past around the State of Oregon. We already know that certain holiday celebrations like Peacock Lane and the Miracle of a Million Lights in North Portland have been canceled and many others are going through modifications. Very few places are still trying to continue their holiday traditions.

The Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton is one of those places.

However, because of Covid-19 there are still changes here too. There will not be the popular 'Christmas in the Garden' event this year. That has been postponed until 2021. This year they are offering 'Lights at the Oregon Garden Resort', and instead of the lighting displays in the Rediscovery Forest, the Oregon Garden and the Oregon Garden Resort are spreading things out on the grounds of the resort around the main lodge. This year the event will only be open to guests staying at the resort who have booked the special Christmas rate. You have to book directly through the hotel to get this special rate, because it is not offered anywhere else. The overnight Christmas rate includes overnight accommodations, access to the lights for each person on the reservation and breakfast in the morning. Registered guests of the 102 rooms who have booked this rate will be able to wander the resort grounds in the evening. This will allow people to enjoy the evening and lights without huge crowds and still remain safely distanced. While the lighting display will be featuring some of

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Local Events November 2020

Al's Week of Lights

Wednesday-Tuesday, November 4-10, 2020

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

When the sun goes down, the lights really begin to shine! You can register for a special after-hours shopping experience from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at any of our four Al's locations featuring a festive holiday atmosphere among the lights and poinsettias, prizes and giveaways, and Christmas music most evenings. It's FREE to register, but spaces are limited to ensure proper distancing. *You can purchase optional holiday treats to enhance your experience.

Locations:

Al's Garden & Home, 7505 SE Hogan Rd,
Gresham, OR 97080, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 27755 SW Parkway Ave,
Wilsonville, OR 97070, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 1220 N Pacific Hwy,
Woodburn, OR 97071, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 16920 SW Roy Rogers Rd,
Sherwood, OR 97140, USA

• Als-gardencenterevents.com



your favorite displays, including the candy cane tunnel, other things will be missing from the event. Missing this year are Snowless tubing and the ice skating rink, but the staff are still including a lot of other features from the past event. You will be able to visit selected Christmas market vendors for some last minute Christmas shopping, warm up at cozy fire pits and listen to Christmas music as you walk the grounds. There will also be traditional German drinks and other treats available.

For those who are registered at the Resort, you can see the lights around the main lodge with increased sanitation in shared areas. The path through the lights will be in one direction and they have become a cashless event to offer you even more safety. Masks will be required.

"We are excited to offer a fun way for

families to experience the holidays," said Shana Schacher, Public Event Administrator for Lights at the Oregon Garden Resort. "Everyone needs something fun to look forward to right now. We are working hard to make sure this is an exciting, safe getaway for our guests, and we can't wait to have everyone join us to see how we've reimagined the lights. We encourage guests to book their overnight stays now, before we sell out, so they can experience the magic."

The Lights at the Oregon Garden Resort event is not open to the general public and runs from November 27th through January 2nd. To find out more information or to book your room, you can check out their website at <https://www.oregongardenresort.com/> or by calling 800-966-6490.



A display from the 2019 show

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Toads Tools



Pseudacris regilla (Pacific Tree Frog)

Besides providing ambience, frogs and toads are incredibly beneficial to our garden habitat. Here's how to attract them.

by Ryan Seely

There is nothing better in a warm summer evening than hearing the croaking of frogs as you soak in the sounds, scents and sights of your Pacific Northwest garden. Besides providing ambience, frogs and toads are also incredibly beneficial to our garden habitat, as they feed on a variety of pests like bugs, beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, slugs and many, many more. In fact, a single frog can eat over 100 insects in one night. You can think of frogs as your own private exterminator, reducing pest populations and thus reducing the need for chemical or natural pesticides. The result – a garden that is both beautiful and beneficial to the environment!

Here in the Pacific Northwest, we have both frogs and toads. You can tell the difference between the two amphibians by the appearance of their skin and legs. Frogs generally have long legs and smooth skins, but are slimy to the touch, as they are covered in mucus. Conversely, toads typically have shorter legs and rougher,

thicker skins. Frogs typically live in water, mainly in streams and ponds while toads tend to live on land, near fields, woods and gardens. However, frogs will venture into gardens when looking for food. Both frogs and toads hibernate in the winter, which explains why we hear them more often in the summer months.

Most of us are familiar with a very common frog species in Oregon and Washington: the Pacific treefrog. This bright green frog features a mask on its face and is quite small at about two inches when fully grown. Besides the Pacific treefrog, another common amphibian is the Western toad. This animal is earth toned with dry, bumpy skin. Female Western toads can grow up to five inches in length! These toads live in a variety of habitats, including forests, meadows and even the high desert. These two frogs are just two of a dozen frogs and toads that call the Pacific Northwest home.

You can attract frogs and toads to your



Western Toad

PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW JOHNSON



A frog on an echinacea plant.



Pacific Tree Frog

garden by following the suggestions below:

- Provide a water source: Frogs and toads drink water by absorbing it through their skin. The best way for them to absorb that water is to sit in small, shallow containers of water in or near shade. Make sure to keep the water source clean, and change the water weekly.
- Offer shelter: Frogs and toads are nocturnal and avoid sun, in order to prevent dehydration. They need shelter to both escape the mid-day sun and to hide from predators. You can create various shelters by using an upside down ceramic pot, gently propped up with a stone or creating a cave lined with stones. Make sure to locate the shelter in a quiet area in the shade and near a water source.
- Minimize chemicals: Because frogs and toads breathe and drink through their skin, pesticides, non-organic fertilizers

and herbicides can poison amphibians. If at all possible, eliminate chemicals and garden organically to ensure a happy home for our frog friends.

I hope this article provides you with some ideas as to how to make your garden frog and toad friendly. Encouraging a healthy frog population is important- as they are negatively affected by our thinning ozone layer in the atmosphere, and very sensitive indicators of environmental health. One word of caution: If you have dogs, and they love to hunt toads, you may want to consider how amphibian friendly you want to make your garden. Toads, when under threat, can release a foul-smelling odor in their skin that can be toxic to dogs and other animals. Regardless of how many frogs and toads are in your garden, I think you would agree that these important animals are crucial to our garden habitats, and we should be thankful they are our partners in pest patrol, resulting in healthy and happy gardens!



Western Toad



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Mini Happy Returns

This fall and winter, look for mini winter squash at your favorite produce store.

by Therese Gustin



Fall is the time to cook all your favorite seasonal recipes. This article is about 'mini size' winter squash. You may be thinking, is that an oxymoron like jumbo shrimp? In the past, I've bought a 20-pound Hubbard squash and have leftovers and bags of cooked squash in the freezer for weeks. But, in the past few years, vegetable seed breeders have reduced the size of winter squash to the point of offering mini winter squash. This fall and winter look for mini winter squash at your favorite produce store. They have the same delicious flavor as the big size squash and there won't be any leftovers. Another reason to eat more winter squash is their nutritional value. In general, winter squash are lower in calories than sweet potatoes with less sugar and carbs. They are also rich in Vitamin A, Folate and Calcium.

And remember in spring 2021, look for seeds or starter plants of mini winter squash at your local independent garden center to plant in your vegetable garden.

These varieties are but a few I found checking out local produce stores. See what you can find when you are out shopping.

'Honey Nut' Butternut Squash

- Yummy, sweet orange flesh for fall recipes
- Developed at the Vegetable Breeding Institute at Cornell University
- Estimated more beta-carotene than a regular



Honey Nut Squash



Sweet Dumpling Squash

size butternut squash

- In the garden, 110 days to harvest, squash about 4-5 inches long about 1lb each
- Resistant to Powdery Mildew

'Sweet Dumpling' Delicata Squash

- Pretty cream and green striped shell
- Sweet orange flesh, plus you can even eat the skin, which many say is sweeter than the

Sources for Mini Winter Squash

Call first for availability

Bauman's Farm and Garden

<https://baumanfarms.com>

Smith Berry Barn

<https://smithberrybarn.com/>

Blooming Junction

<https://www.bloomingjunction.com>

Garden Time Segment with Brian Bauman

October 15, 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/PK-ruio0N4MI>

Information on Squash Harvest

<https://harvesttable.com/store-winter-squash/>

flesh.

- Can be stored up to 4 weeks
- In the garden, 110 days to harvest, squash about 10 to 16 oz

'Gold Nugget' Winter Squash

- Orange-red shell with sweet orange flesh
- Great flavor for sweet or savory recipes
- Developed at North Dakota State, Fargo ND for a shorter growing season.
- Can be stored up to 2 months
- In the garden, 95 days to harvest, squash about 1 to 3 pounds

'Sweet Meat' Winter Squash

- Bluish-gray shell with sweet orange flesh
- Heirloom variety used by Native Americans
- Sweet, nutty flavor, makes nice pumpkin pies as flesh is drier than most pumpkins
- Freezes well with no blanching
- Great keeper for up to 6 months
- In the garden, 115 days, squash about 10-15 pounds

Easy Peasy Recipe for Delicata Squash

from Barb & Brian Bauman

Place Squash in the microwave for 3 minutes

Take out and poke holes in the squash

Put back in the microwave for 3 minutes

Take out, slice in half and scoop out seeds

Add butter and brown sugar if needed

Put back in the microwave for 3 minutes

Ready to eat!

All the mini winter squash can be cooked this way, but times will vary on their sizes.

Tips on saving winter squash in your pantry.

- Don't wash the squash before saving it indoors.
- Make a note on when you saved it, so it doesn't spoil.

Tips for harvesting winter squash from your garden.

- Look for color change on bottom of squash where it was touching the ground
- Vines should be dried up
- Keep 2-4 inches of stem on winter squash except for Hubbard type which should be removed
- Wipe off any soil with a dry towel. Don't wash the squash before saving it indoors.

The cooler, rainy November weather reminds me to get my recipe books off the shelf and use these mini size squash in my favorite recipes. I may even try the microwave technique! I hope

I have enticed you too.



Golden Nugget Squash



Sweet Meat Squash

Holiday To Do List

- Holiday Gifts ✓
- Wreath & Swags ✓
- Houseplants & Succulents ✓
- Bonsai ✓
- Poinsettias ✓
- Statuary & Garden Art ✓
- Cut & Living Christmas Trees ✓
- Specialty Food Items & Wine ✓
- Unique Conifers &
Winter Interest Plants ✓
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- 2021 Seed Packets ✓

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The Dirt on Soil

It's not "just dirt." The condition of your soil can determine whether your plants survive and flourish.

by Therese Gustin

Back in college, my Agronomy 101 professor told me..."Dirt is what you find under your fingernails...Soil is the medium in which plants grow!" From then on, I was careful to never confuse the two words! So why does soil matter? Well the short answer is...Soil quality matters because healthy soil has the ability to store and release more water and nutrients to plants. Poor quality soil that is depleted of nutrients won't hold water and it will be very difficult for your plants to survive and flourish. Good soils store and provide water and nutrients for plants. They supply support for plant roots. They provide a habitat for many insects, worms and microorganisms which help break down organic matter making nutrients more available for plant roots to absorb. They filter pollutants and can reduce flooding by transferring water slowly to groundwater and streams.

Having a healthy loamy garden soil is one of the most important aspects of having a successful garden.

What is soil?

There are hundreds of books written about soil and I couldn't hope to cover every aspect of soil

in this one small article. What I do hope to accomplish is a little understanding of the importance of a good soil, what makes up a good soil and how you can improve your soil to help your plants thrive.

What makes up a good soil? Well this is the "science-y" part of the article. To simplify, soil texture is classified as clay, silt or sand.

Clay particles are very fine grained soil particles which are made up of several minerals and retain water well. These characteristics are beneficial to growing plants, however too much clay can cause compacted soil and allow standing water.

Sand is a granular material consisting of minerals and rock particles. Sand particles are larger than clay particles and allow water to penetrate freely. A soil containing too much sand will drain too quickly not allowing plant roots time to take up enough water to survive. Sandy soils can tend to be

acidic and may be low in nutrients for good plant growth.



Grimm's Fuel's Garden Compost

Silt is made up of mineral and rock particles that are larger than clay particles and smaller than sand particles.

Most garden soils contain some combination of these soil materials. The combination of these three materials is called loam. A loamy soil made up of equal parts sand and silt and a little less clay is ideal for most gardeners because it retains water but drains easily.

The percentages and combinations of these three types of particles make up a soil's texture but along with sand, silt and clay, soil is also composed of microorganisms, organic matter, gases and water.

For all of you new gardeners this year...and all of you veteran gardeners, creating a healthy soil will make gardening more enjoyable and so much easier!

How can you improve your soil?

The number one thing you can do to improve your soil is to add compost! Compost consists of organic matter which has decomposed. Homemade compost is generally made from decaying leaves, grass clippings and vegetative kitchen scraps. Once broken down, compost can be worked into the existing soil either by turning it in with a spade or rototilling it into the top layer of the soil. Well rotted compost improves the texture of the soil which in turn improves the ability of roots to absorb nutrients and water. It also increases the level of organic matter and provides fertilizer. If you don't have the room or the inkling to make your own compost, you can purchase bagged compost at most independent garden centers or bulk compost from several places, including Grimms'

Soil Composition

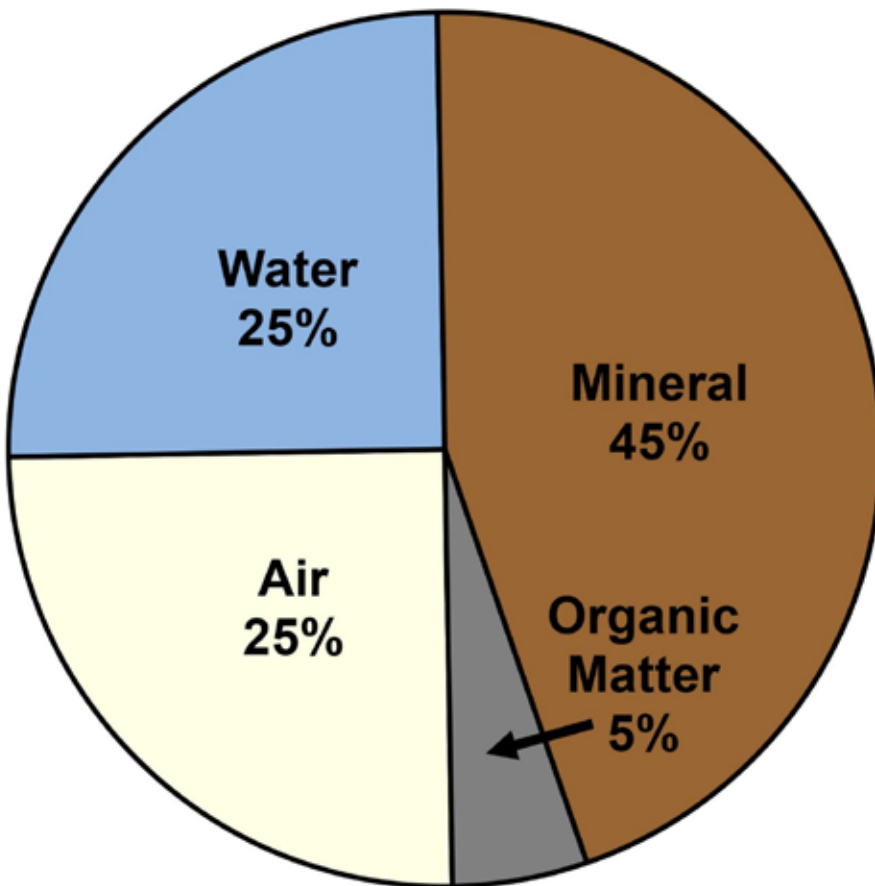


PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV

Soil Texture Triangle

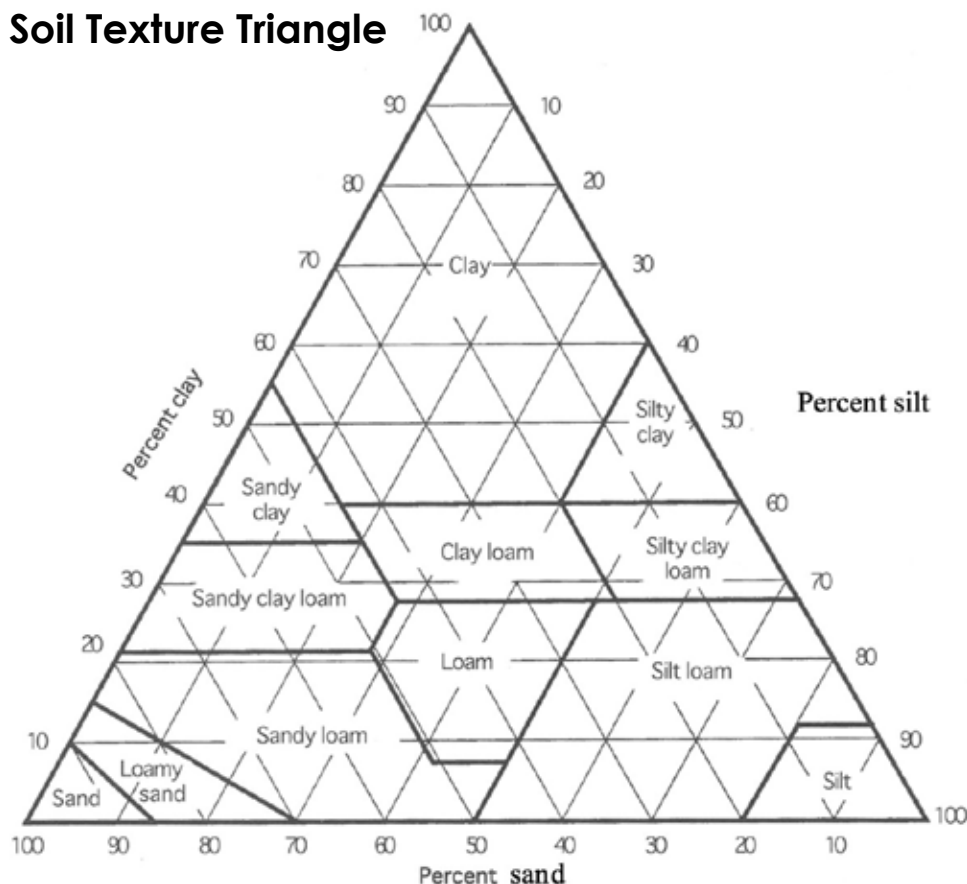


PHOTO CREDIT: OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.OREGONSTATE.EDU



Black Gold All Purpose Soil

Fuel Company (www.grimmsfuel.com)

If you aren't having success in your garden you can find out the fertility of your soil and its pH by having your soil tested. The pH of the soil measures the acidity or alkalinity of your soil. This is important because most vegetables, flowers and ornamental grasses do best in slightly acidic soils with a pH range of 6.0-6.5. Azaleas, rhododendrons, blueberries and camellias prefer a slightly more acidic soil. A soil test will determine the pH of your soil as well as any nutrient deficiencies in your soil. You can then add amendments to your soil to help fix these deficiencies. Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Crop and Soil Science lab will test your soil for a fee and tell you if it is deficient in any nutrients. You can find out all the details how to take a sample of your soil and ship your sample to their lab at (<https://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/>)

Sometimes your garden soil may be so poor in quality that it is just better to garden in containers or build raised beds. You can control the quality of the soil that you use in your containers and raised beds by either purchasing a high quality potting soil like Black Gold Natural and Organic or Black Gold All Purpose potting soil or

by buying a high quality garden mix in bulk.

You should use a high quality potting soil or garden mix in containers instead of just digging up the soil in your yard. Garden soil is very heavy and doesn't offer enough drainage if used in a container. It also may contain insects or diseases that could damage your container plants. Potting soil is a sterile (meaning disease, weed and pest free), looser mixture of materials that allow good drainage in a container or raised bed. Some also contain a slow-release fertilizer to feed the plants over the growing season. Roots can only grow so much in containers so making sure they have a quality loose textured soil will help your plants thrive!

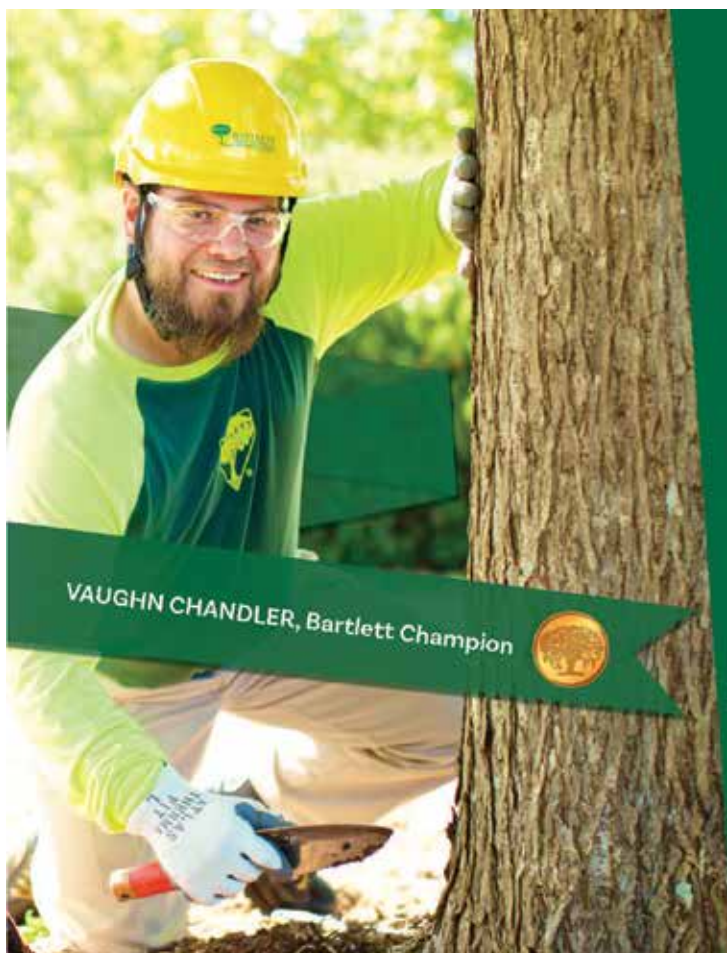
Putting the effort into creating a quality, healthy soil will reward you with beautiful, healthy plants that will thrive!

Soil samples should be shipped to:

**Oregon State University
Central Analytical Laboratory
3017 Ag Life Sciences Bldg
Corvallis, OR 97331**



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A man with short brown hair, seen from the back and side, is looking at a large bush of white roses. He is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The garden is lush with green leaves and many white flowers.

Is your extended time in the garden beginning to make
you feel a little isolated from the rest of the world?

Join the Club

by Ron Dunevant

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID GOEHRING VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Gardening during a pandemic is a therapeutic experience, but it can often be a lonely one. Time spent in the yard, while satisfying for the soul, can be confining to the heart, especially if you're limiting your trips away from home. If you miss the socialization that you used to get at your job, your local plant nursery or from like-minded neighbors, you may find refuge in your local garden club.

There are thousands of garden clubs across the United States, with their focus spanning the entire range of this hobby, and members who are people just like you: women and men who enjoy being in their gardens, but also want to share that experience with other enthusiastic gardeners.

In Oregon alone, you'll find over one hundred clubs. Some are specific in their mission, dedicated to one particular plant such as rhododendrons, fuchsias, orchids or daylilies. Others are broader in their focus, encompassing areas like perennials, hardy plants or native plants. Yet another set is divided up by location, with many Oregon cities boasting their own clubs.

The associations, themselves, run the gamut, from small, informal organizations that have formed recently to larger, well-funded groups that were founded a century ago. Many are associated with a network of similar clubs that exist across the country. Most have a similar goal: education, comradery, a sense of purpose and a focus on conserving our natural resources. Generally, membership in these clubs is open to all and most charge yearly dues. In normal times, these clubs offer monthly meetings, speaker programs, seminars and workshops. Some plan field trips and private garden tours, summer picnics, plant sales and even holiday get-togethers.

The benefits of belonging to a garden club are numerous, and reach beyond the pleasures of growing plants. As almost any club does, it allows gardeners to share their mutual love of this hobby. Like the act of gardening, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and the shared experiences of each member increase the knowledge and interest of the entire group.

With so many clubs functioning in the state, you may find it difficult to find a specific organization. Garden clubs, especially smaller, newer ones, may not show up in a simple Google search. The question then becomes, how do you find a garden club and how can you learn if it matches your particular interests?

There are a couple of places online that can help to answer that question.

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (<https://oregongardenclubs.org/>) "has over 2,350 members in 82 Clubs which are united by a common purpose of creating a better world through gardening and related activities." They particularly focus on the conservation of natural resources, charging each member with the responsibility of "caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife." The associated clubs "provide education, resources, and statewide networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility."

On their website, you will find a District Map that divides member clubs by county. Click on your county (or one that you're interested in) and you'll find a list of all the clubs for that area, along with the president of the club, contact information and a website, if the club has one.

As an example, the link for Lane County (Eugene area) lists garden clubs for Eugene, Junction City, Cottage Grove, Oakridge, Springfield and Westside.

Another website that can provide you with garden club information is a site called Cause IQ, which is actually a list of non-profit organizations across the United States. Their information is basic, but extensive and you can narrow your search to "Oregon Garden Clubs" (<https://www.causeiq.com/directory/garden-clubs-list/oregon-state/>) which lists the organizations by major city in Oregon.

Covered in these lists, generally, are mostly larger organizations, with several Master Gardener Associations listed, local chapters of national plant societies and local garden projects. This is not specifically a resource for gardeners, but it does provide a list of some garden clubs that do not show up in the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs lists. Some of the listings do provide a link to the club's website. For others, you will have to do a Google search for the specific club.

As an example, the listings for the Salem area include The Deepwood Gardeners, Cherry City Orchid Society, Marion County Master Gardeners Association and the Monmouth Garden Club. So, it does require a bit of extra searching, but in doing so, you may be able to find an organization that is more in line with your own interests.

Of course, every club is different, but to give you a taste of what these organizations are all about, here are a few Oregon garden clubs and a little bit about their focus, gathered from their websites and Facebook pages. Note that many clubs (like everything else) have had to suspend their meetings and postpone events due the pandemic, so information about current activities may be outdated or incomplete. It is recommended that you use the provided contact information to learn more about their current status.

PORTLAND AREA

Beaverton Garden Club

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/611315655559455/>) • Active since 1990, the Beaverton Garden Club has over 70 members with room for more. In normal times, they have monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. A Garden Club Plant Sale, held in May and featuring plants grown and divided from members' gardens, is the group's big fundraiser. Proceeds go "to various community projects and scholarships." In spite of the pandemic, their Facebook page is updated often with timely pictures and gardening information.

Oak Grove Garden Club (we-

bgsite: <https://oakgrovegardenclub.com/>)(Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/318912164845056/>) • Established in 1934, this organization is looking for members with an "enthusiasm for gardening and horticulture and a willingness to share in the work of the club." Their mission, "to enhance appreciation of horticulture and gardening, encourage civic beauty, and protect and improve our environment through educational programs and activities, outreach to the community and charitable contributions," is demonstrated by several community projects in which they have participated. The club helped landscape Risley Park in Milwaukie, Oregon and for many years donated funds to The Oregon Garden, Leach Botanical Gardens and the Oral Hull Foundation. The club is also holding a Holiday Greens Sale of freshly-made wreaths, swags and centerpieces. They are currently taking orders on the events page of their website.

West Linn Garden Club

(<https://www.facebook.com/West-Linn-Garden-Club-210995265629683/>) • Founded in 1916, this club "supports local gardening through meetings and involvement in community projects, such as donating gardening books to the West Linn Public Library, and sponsoring speakers at club meetings." They welcome new members and meet on the first Monday of the month from September through June. According to their Facebook page, they are currently holding meetings, requesting that attendees practice social distancing and wear masks. A planned September plant sale had to be cancelled due to wildfire concerns, but their Facebook page is frequently updated and events were going



Scenic autumn picture taken and posted by Stacia Boston, a member of the Beaverton Garden Club.

PHOTO CREDIT: STACIA BOSTON/BEAVERTON GARDEN CLUB



The Oak Grove Garden Club is having a Holiday Greens Sale in November.

on through the summer.

EUGENE AREA

Eugene Garden Club (<https://eugenegardenclub.org/>) • Organized in 1927, the club was

formed to "stimulate the love of gardening, horticulture and floral artistry; to aid in the protection and conservation of plants, trees and birds; and to promote civic beauty and community welfare." In non-COVID times,

members meet on the third Tuesday of every month for a brown bag lunch followed by a program on gardening related topics presented by knowledgeable people in the community. Membership dues are \$25.00 per year or a family membership (two people) is \$30.00.

Cottage Grove Garden Club

(<http://cottagegrovegardenclub.blogspot.com/>) • Founded in 2008, members of the Cottage Grove Garden Club "enjoy informational speakers, touring local gardens, nurseries, and farms; social events; and contributing to the community." Some of the programs that were scheduled (pre-pandemic) were "A Guide to Multifunctional Hedgerows," "Flower Arrangements from Your Garden," "Homegrown Apothecary," and "Garden Planning Circle." Their blog tells of several projects the club has participated in, particularly their involve-

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And of course, please stop by to say hi. We'd love to see you!

Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash



From a recent garden tour taken by the West Linn Garden Club.

ment in the All American City Square in downtown Cottage Grove, where members of the club were involved in planting and maintaining the plants in Opal Whitely Park, an effort for which they received an award from the City of Cottage Grove. Membership costs only \$15 an individual and \$20 per household.

CLUBS OUTSIDE THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Rainier Garden Club

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1693825200852022/>)

- Organized in 1945, the group was disbanded in 1964 but reorganized in 1983 and is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc., Pacific Region. With more than 50 members, the group meets the first Wednes-

day of every month. Members enjoy monthly programs and speakers, field trips, and an annual plant sale. Funds from the group contribute to many community service projects and a scholarship to a graduating senior from Rainier Junior/Senior High School. The club also "designed, planted and maintains the Welcome to Oregon sign on the south end of the Lewis and Clark Bridge and has adopted the surrounding area through ODOT." Annual membership is \$10.00.

As we mentioned at the top, the pandemic has affected everyone and garden clubs are no exception. While some organizations are limiting their interactions at the moment, the enthusiasm for gardening continues to thrive in our hearts. In

your spare time, do a little research on the internet and find out more about your local and regional garden clubs. These groups of kindred spirits are waiting nearby to help you keep your love of gardening alive in this challenging time.

Oregon Garden Clubs

**Oregon State Federation
of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

oregongardenclubs.org

**Cause IQ List of
Oregon Garden Clubs**

<https://www.causeiq.com/directory/garden-clubs-list/oregon-state>

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How to Dodge the Draft

Winterizing your home for the upcoming winter may take a little work, but the savings -- and the warmth you'll feel -- make it worth the effort.

by David Musial



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.INTERIOR CRAZE.COM

Foam door weatherstripping deteriorates over time and is easy to replace.

As the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, we know that fall has arrived and winter is close behind. With this change in season comes a shift in household chores. Mowing and weeding give way to raking leaves and preparing the home for winter.

Preparing the home for winter or winterization consists of many chores. Some provide cost savings and some protect the integrity of the home, while some provide for safety. What they all have in common is that they need to be done before inclement weather arrives.

One of the highest costs during winter is the heating bill and there are many areas of the home that contribute to that cost. To help reduce that cost, there are a few steps that can be taken.

Doors and windows if not properly insulated cause drafts by allowing cold air in as hot air escapes out. In most cases all you need to do is place your hand around a window or door frame to feel the cold air. If you do, the most likely culprits are the caulking around the window frame and the weatherstrip-



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.WISERCOSTS.COM

Attic insulation can be blown or rolled in.



A draft kitty to prevent door drafts.

ping around the doors.

The window caulking will most likely be done around the window frame on the outside. You will need a clean surface and an outdoor caulk. For doors, the problem is most likely deteriorated weatherstripping which is easily replaced once the old weatherstripping has been removed. Be sure to check the door sweep as well. Repairing or replacing a door sweep can be a little more complicated and a good temporary fix is a draft kitty (see photo).

Although it has been debunked that bald men lose most of their body heat through their heads that does not take away the fact that wearing a hat will keep your head warm. Similarly, insulation in a home's attic will contribute to keeping a home warm in the winter. Insulation is rated in R-Value and the higher the R-Value, the better the insulation. Although this can be a DIY job, talk to a professional about what R-Value is recommended for your area.

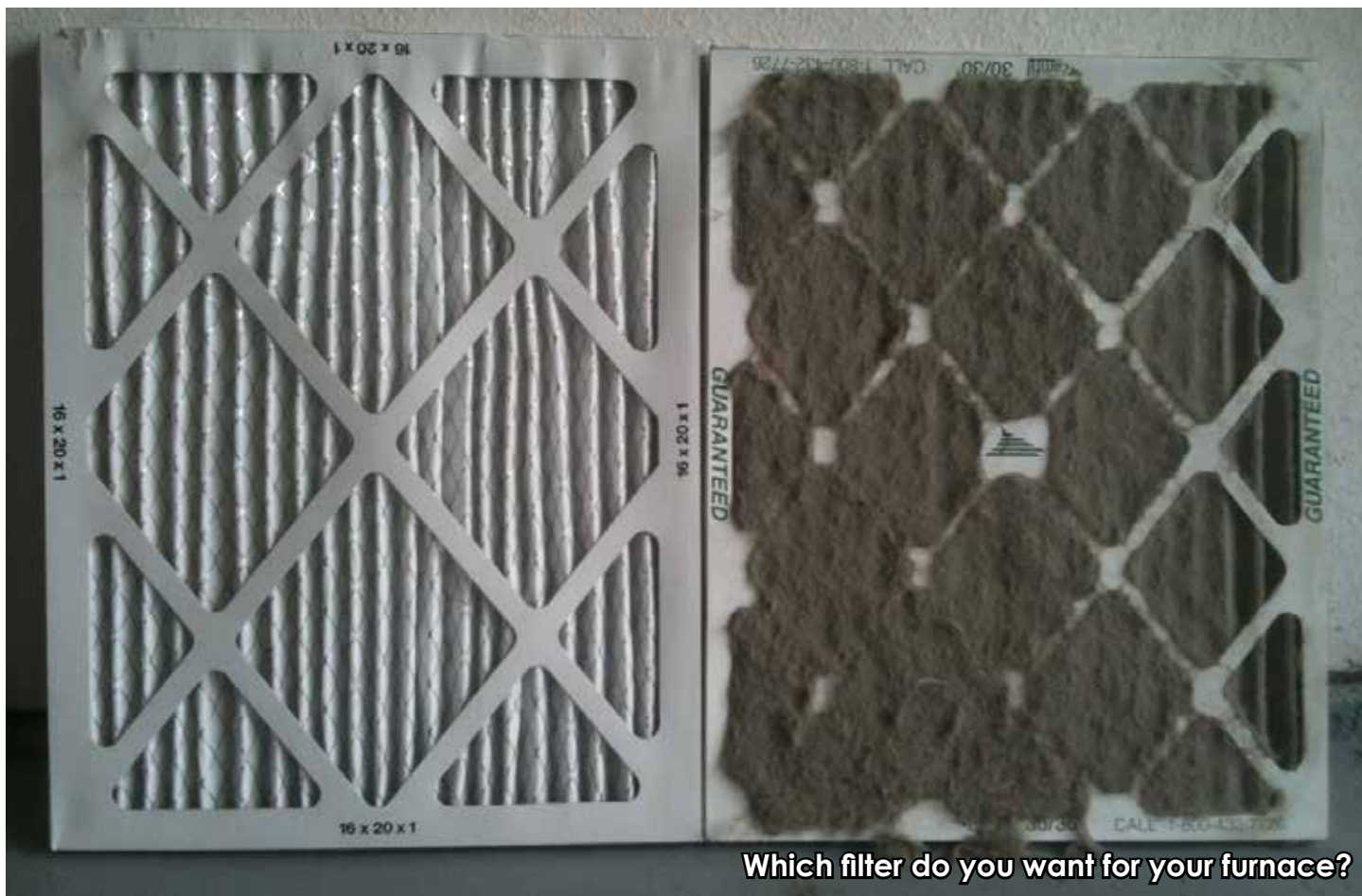
When considering attic insulation, be sure to review your walls and basement or crawl space as adding insulation will also contribute to significant energy savings.

Changing the filters in your furnace is simple and provides multiple benefits. First, a dirty filter makes the furnace work harder which uses more energy. Second, if a furnace has to work harder, it can cause overheating which can decrease the life of the furnace. Lastly, replacing the filter will improve the air quality in the house. This simple step is the trifecta winner.

So here's a new cost saver for me, chimney balloons. No I'm not referring to the ones used in the movie Up to float a house away, I'm referring to the ones use to reduce the draft from a chimney. Many chimneys have flues that don't seal well and warm air naturally escapes through the chimney. The chimney balloon basical-



This chimney balloon will not protect from flue drafts.



Which filter do you want for your furnace?

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.BCAIRDUCT.COM

ly inflates to fill the area, thus not allowing the warm air to escape. They may be messy to install and some are more easily punctured than others, so be sure to read reviews before purchasing.

Another thing to remember is that heat rises and it provides less of a benefit to the ceiling than to you sitting on the couch. If you have ceiling fans in your house, the normal thought would be to not run them. However, if you reverse the direction of the blades to counterclockwise, the air will be redirected downward. Bringing the warm air to you.

Many weatherization chores are designed to protect your home from damage. Two of the most important chores are pipe and faucet preparation and gutter cleaning.

If you live in an area that is prone to freezing weather, it is important to protect your home from water damage.

Garden Time's Plant Picks are from Little Prince. Yours should be, too.



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Foam pipe insulation comes in many sizes and is easy to install.

The first step is to insulate pipes that are in unheated areas of the home. Quite often, this may be in a crawl space. Although it is generally not fun crawling under the house, insulating the pipes can be a fairly simple task with insulation tubes. The tubes come in different sizes so be sure to measure your pipe prior to making a run to the hardware store.

Outdoor faucets are also susceptible to freezing and if there is an outdoor water shutoff, all you need to do is shut off the water from the inside and open the faucet until water stops coming out. At that point, close the outdoor faucet. Remember to remove the hose from the faucet and store for winter protection. If there is not a shutoff, there are several types of insulated faucet covers that will do the trick.

Gutter cleaning is one of those chores that will generally need to be done a couple times as the leaves fall. When gutters are not cleaned, they can become clogged and the water will run over the fascia board and back into the soffit if installed, as well as potentially the walls. Over time, this will damage the wood. Living in a rainy area, I have seen the resulting dry rot and unfortunately the associated cost to repair.

As cleaning gutters can be somewhat dangerous, you should only attempt gutter cleaning if you are comfortable on ladders and in general it is not considered safe to clean gutters from the roof. There are tools available to help clean gutters from the ground. They either attach to a blower or a garden hose.

Another option is gutter guards that will direct the leaves over the side of your roof and rain water into the gutter. The final and safest option is to hire a professional. Although the cost may seem high, it is significantly cheaper than repairing the roof. With all contractors check references, and be sure they are licensed if required and



A standard insulated faucet cover.

fully insured.

Safety in the home gives peace of mind when you go to sleep and there are a few steps you can take to improve safety in your home so you can sleep better.

Home heating fires are a serious threat and the leading cause is creosote buildup in the flue. Every year prior to firing up the woodstove or fireplace, it's important to have it checked and cleaned if necessary. Even a fireplace that is not used frequently should be checked for safety. A simple reminder is to remember, when it gets cold, its Flue Season and time to have your wood burning heating system checked for cleaning.

CO (carbon monoxide) detectors should be placed in your house if your heating system is other than electric, such as wood burning, natural gas or furnace oil. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas that can lead to death when breathed over a short period of time. It is also known as the silent killer. Detectors will be UL approved and it is recommended that at least one be placed on each floor of a home.

In addition to installing due to the type of heating system, if your water heater or clothes dryer is other than electric; most likely natural gas, you should install CO detectors.

One final note, organizations like Energy Trust of Oregon can provide assistance with providing a home energy audit and potential rebates or incentives for home projects.

Now that you are prepared for winter you deserve to relax. Grab a steamy cup of coffee or tea, a favorite book and relax by the fireplace, safe in the knowledge that you are prepared for foul weather. Good job. You are weatherized for the storm.



PHOTO CREDIT: AMOMEDIA.COM

There are many models of carbon monoxide detectors to protect from the silent killer.

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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 **Garden Time**

WTDITG

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.



What To Do In The Garden NOVEMBER

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



- 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

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

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

As state and local restrictions are lifted, some gardens and garden centers are reopening their venues and scheduling events.

The information printed herein was accurate at the time of publication, but we cannot promise it will remain so. Therefore, we encourage you to visit the websites of the nurseries or organizations sponsoring specific events to make sure you are reading the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Thank you for your understanding.

--The Staff at Garden Time Magazine

Al's Week of Lights

Wednesday-Tuesday, November 4-10, 2020

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

When the sun goes down, the lights really begin to shine! You can register for a special after-hours shopping experience from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at any of our four Al's locations featuring a festive holiday atmosphere among the lights and poinsettias, prizes and giveaways, and Christmas music most evenings. It's FREE to register, but spaces are limited to ensure proper distancing. *You can purchase optional holiday treats to enhance your experience.

Locations:

Al's Garden & Home, 7505 SE Hogan Rd,
Gresham, OR 97080, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 27755 SW Parkway Ave,
Wilsonville, OR 97070, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 1220 N Pacific Hwy,
Woodburn, OR 97071, USA

Al's Garden & Home, 16920 SW Roy Rogers Rd,
Sherwood, OR 97140, USA

Als-gardencenterevents.com

continued next column



Little Sprouts Sugar Cone Bird Feeder

Saturday, November 14, 2020

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Little Sprouts will learn about providing winter food for birds as they decorate a giant sugar cone in yummy bird goodness! Kit comes with cone, twine to hang, peanut butter, and bird seed. *Each kit is \$9. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! Pick up your kit Friday-Sunday the week of the class. A class video (taught by the fabulous Laura) will be released on Wednesday the week of the class for all Sprouts to see. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Check out your favorite independent garden center for holiday shopping for the gardener in your life!

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE MORGAN VIA WIKIMEDIA CREATIVE COMMONS

THIS TOUR HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR 2021. LIMITED OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE!

Garden Time Tours



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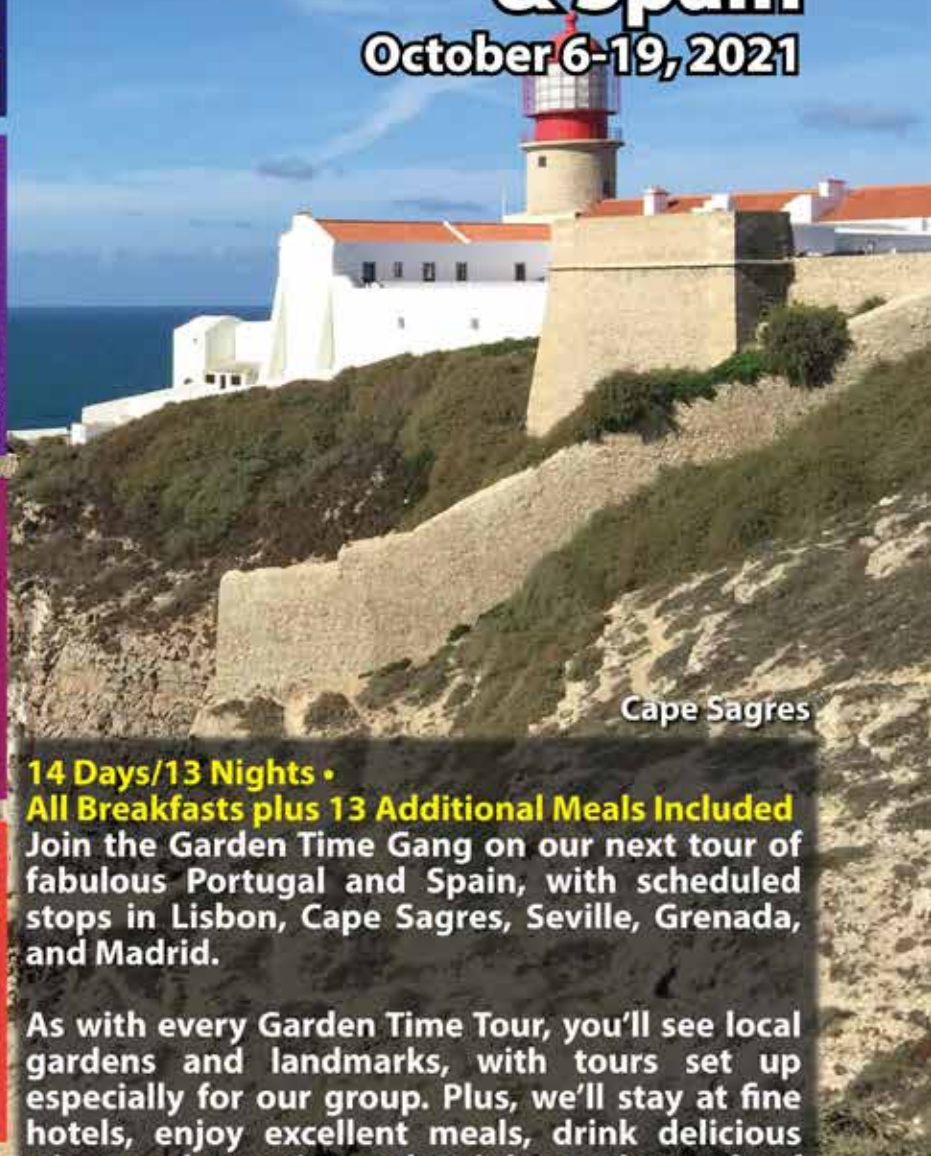


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www.GardenTime.tv/tours

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