

February 2021

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Contain Your Excitement Container Fruit Trees

Tangelo and Meyer Lemon trees in
the greenhouse for the winter

Birding

Raised Bed Gardening

LITTLE PRINCE OF OREGON'S
Mike Hicks



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Optimism

If you look at this title, I'm sure that a lot of you will have different feelings about the word 'optimism'. For some it will have a political meaning, but I want to focus on gardening. January was the start of a new year and I've never seen or heard so many people willing to forget a past year so quickly. 2020 was one for the record books. So many things were thrown at us in the course of just 12 short months, though it seemed longer than 12 months! We all had to deal with a roller coaster of emotions and obstacles and now we can look forward to an improvement of conditions ahead. How can I say this, especially with a smile? Because I'm a gardener!

The last couple of weeks I've made my way out into the garden on the nicer days to tackle a few chores and do a little garden clean up. I'm seeing the start of a new season as some of my spring bulbs and winter blooming plants start to show off. This is a sign of the promise of new beginnings. It is a beautiful sight for my eyes and a boost to my spirit! Even the sore back that came with these chores was welcomed, for it is a badge of honor for the effort I put in. The new feelings in my heart (and my back) made me smile as I know that things are on their way to being somewhat normal in the months to come.

What is also normal is finding a lot of great stories in an edition of the Garden Time magazine! This month we will help you get excited for the upcoming season with some of these great stories. There are a lot of new gardeners who have joined the ranks during the past 12 months. Some of them didn't have the best outcomes last season so we try to help them get better results as Therese tells us about building a raised bed and how that can help any gardener have more success with their plantings. Now, what to put into those new raised beds? Ron tells us how easy it is to do your plant shopping on-line this year. January is the time for spring garden catalogues and now with the changes to garden businesses you can not only get seeds on-line, you can also order just about any plant for home delivery! The pandemic has also focused people's attention on their backyards and that has boosted an interest in birding. Judy gives us some tips on local areas where we can find some really cool birds. Finally, with the hot trend of growing your own fruit and produce, I'll fill you in on some of the newer varieties of container fruit trees. You can now find a lot of fruits like cherries, apples, pears and peaches that can stay small so you can enjoy fresh fruit in your garden without the need for acreage or an orchard.

We hope that you are also feeling a sense of optimism as the days get longer and the temperatures get warmer. Another thing to give you some hope... the Garden Time show will return on March 6th for our 16th season. Ryan and Judy were already asking in early January when we were going to start shooting stories for the new season! We can't wait to see you all again soon!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

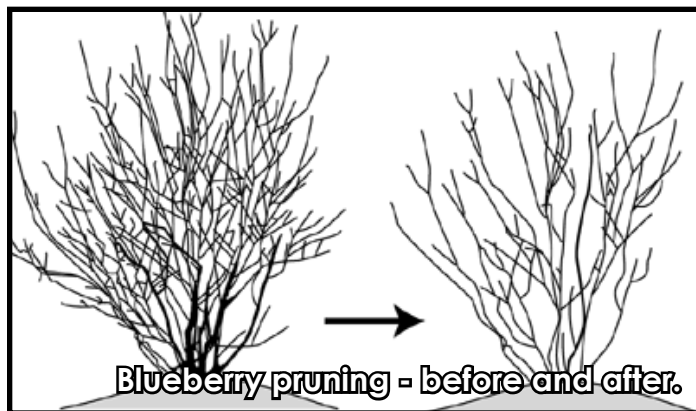
I heard that spring is the time to start pruning blueberries. When is the best time to do that?

Signed,
Paul in Portland

Dear Paul,

You are right now, at the perfect time to prune your blueberries for the Pacific Northwest. Mid-January, up to the beginning of March is a good time to do some cutting. If you have some newer plants, you can leave them alone for the first year or so to let them establish a good root system. Starting a year or two after planting you can start pruning. Pruning does a few things for your plants. It can help shape the plant to allow for better airflow and exposure to the sun. It can also help improve plant health by removing dead or diseased branches, plus improve your fruit yield and fruit quality.

I'm going to assume that you have an older plant. Once you have an established plant you can start removing the oldest branches every year. The rule of thumb is to remove about 1/3 of the oldest branches. The old branches usually have a different color or texture to them. They may appear to be grey or have a peeling bark. Newer stems, that you will want to keep, are smoother and have a brighter color to them. They may even look reddish or green in color. Some of the branches you can cut to the ground to promote the growth of newer branches, while others can be pruned further up the branch to open up the plant for better airflow and sun exposure. Be careful to not remove too much from the newer wood, this is your productive, 'fruiting' wood for the next few years. Blueberries produce on old wood. New growth needs a year or two to hit its stride. Once this late winter pruning is done, you can sit back and enjoy a nice harvest of fruit this summer.



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

PHOTO CREDIT:
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



When doing your spring pruning remember to remove dead or crossing branches.



Newer blueberry growth can be a different color - older branches are grey and newer branches are red for this variety.

**Thanks for your 'berry' wonderful question,
Mortimer**

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

I'm itching to get my vegetable garden ready for the spring planting. I have been saving and composting my table scraps, leaves and lawn clippings for the last year. I'm wondering if I can start working that into my garden in late winter, just to be ready for planting later this spring?

Yours,
The Compost King

Dear King,

First of all, thank you for composting! As a plant that makes me warm all over. Compost is best spread in the late winter or early spring if you are doing a vegetable garden. The beginning of March is a good time to distribute your compost over your garden. You can leave it setting on top of your garden soil and then later this spring, before you plant your vegetables or seeds, you can work

it into your soil. Some people use a rototiller and others just use a spade and turn it in by hand. Either way, it is good to incorporate it into the soil. You can also add compost once your plants become established by top dressing your garden. In cases like this you can just use the compost around the base of your garden plants so the nutrients are close and accessible to the plants.

The key to applying compost is the quality and condition of the compost itself. If you are using compost from your own garden (kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, etc.) make sure it is broken down first. If you have been turning your compost regularly it probably has broken down quite well into small pieces or a nice brown soil type quality with an earthy smell. A month or so before you spread your 'home grown gold' on your plants or garden you should quit adding new material to your compost bin. These will not have time to break down before you use the compost. If you have large pieces of kitchen scraps that are not broken down it may attract rats, mice or other critters to your garden. If you do spread your own compost, check for large pieces in your garden after spreading it. Then add those back to your bin to give them a little extra time to break down. If you are using a bagged compost from your garden center it should already be broken down and ready to go. Be careful about adding a product like straight 'steer or cow' manure to your garden. This may not be broken down enough and it may 'burn' your plants with nutrients that are still too strong for your plants to use. For material like that, it should be mixed with other soil or compost and spread thinly in your garden.

When you do spread your compost, make sure that you give your garden a good dose of love. 2-3 inches will help your soil and plants remain healthy. Of course, we always recommend a soil test if you're adding anything other than compost. It is best to know what you have in the garden, and what you may need to add.

**Best of luck giving your vegetables a healthy home,
Mortimer**



This compost is not ready because items haven't broken down.



Love Fruit? Contain Your Excitement

Grow your favorite fruits almost anywhere. Here's how!

by Jeff Gustin

The Meyer Lemon is doing well and soon we will be harvesting.

Gardening has really taken off in the last couple of years and one of the hottest trends is growing your own fruit! Blueberries, strawberries and raspberries are easy to grow and don't take up a lot of space, in fact there are newer varieties of blueberries and raspberries that you can now grow in containers on your deck or patio. You might think that the list of small fruiting plants might end there, but did you know that there are a wide range of fruit trees that will work just as well in a small space? In the past few years we have seen an explosion of newer dwarf varieties of fruiting trees that you can use in your landscape or even in a pot on your deck. For this article I'm going to focus on fruit trees for containers.

First a few rules for growing a fruit tree in a container. When shopping, make sure you have a dwarf variety. This is a tree that will remain small and not outgrow your container in a year or so. You will find many different types of short trees including standard, dwarf and semi-dwarf. Read your plant tags to see the suggested height at plant maturity or ask for help at your local garden center. Dwarf varieties can either come from a grafted tree or one that has been hybridized to remain small throughout its life. Grafted trees are varieties that have been grafted onto a dwarf rootstock from a different variety to help control their growth. Most trees you will find are grafted. When planting these, remember to keep the area of the graft higher

than your soil level to help keep your plant short and prevent 'volunteer' branching at the base. A hybridized plant is one where the entire plant is of the same variety. Second, check to make sure it is self-fertile. Unless you have room for another tree to be a pollinator, you might not get fruit. Some varieties of fruit require cross pollination, requiring two trees. A self-pollinator will ensure a harvest from your tree because it has both male and female blooms on one tree. Third, make sure your container is large enough for the plant and its future growth. You will find a lot of trees in 1 gallon pots at your nursery. This is a minimum size for selling a tree at the garden center, but you will need a large pot to give your plant room to grow. Recommendations



Our tangelo and Meyer Lemon trees in the greenhouse for the winter.

include at least a 20 inch diameter container, and at least 20 inches deep. Weight becomes a factor too. If you have to move your container, make sure it is made of a lightweight material. Also, include some good potting soil to ensure a good home for your plant. We have always used Black Gold All Purpose soil to fill around the tree when we plant it. Watering is an issue too. Since the plants are in containers and don't have a huge amount of soil, they will dry out sooner if you don't keep them well watered. If your tree is looking bad and stressed, it has already dried out. Make sure you stay on top of watering! A container that is too small or is exposed to too much sun can dry out very fast as well. Don't neglect the water! A dwarf tree will also require the same kind of care as their larger cousins including sprays, pruning and annual maintenance.

What varieties are available? At our house we have tried numerous varieties of trees. We have tried

dwarf varieties of apple, pear, peach and three different types of citrus. I'll fill you in on what we have tried and which we have had the most success with. First we can start with a peach. We tried a dwarf Bonanza peach tree in a container and had some success for a couple years. As time went on the number of peaches that ripened each year dropped and we had some disease issues which required extra spraying. We decided to move it into our landscape and it bounced back, but we still didn't get enough fruit to keep it. We have also included an espaliered apple (with five different types of apples grafted on it) and a pear (with two types on it) in our landscape. Though these could have gone into large containers and done fine, we moved them into our garden to give them more room and they have thrived ever since. One apple that we have in a container on our deck is a columnar apple. This is an apple that stays small and tall. It doesn't spread out like a normal apple tree. The variety is 'Golden Sentinel' and we picked it up at One Green World many years ago. We spray it with dormant oil in the early spring to help prevent bug problems, then we leave it alone. We get a nice crop, but because we don't remove extra small apples in the summer, the sizes tend to stay small, or bite sized as I like to say. It is still under four feet tall after ten years.



Columnar Apple Trees

PHOTO CREDIT: ONE GREEN WORLD



Black Jack Fig

The plants that have given us the most success are the citrus. We have a tangelo, a Meyer lemon and a lime tree. They need to be protected in the winter, but they really shine in the summer. We get fragrant blooms on our patio and an instant tropical feel too. When the temps start to drop in the fall we move them inside and they reward us with lots of fruit in the middle of winter. Once we are past the last frost, they make their way back to our deck for another season. There is nothing like fresh limes for your gin and tonics, lemons for pie and lemon bars, or a fresh tangelo during a rainy afternoon.

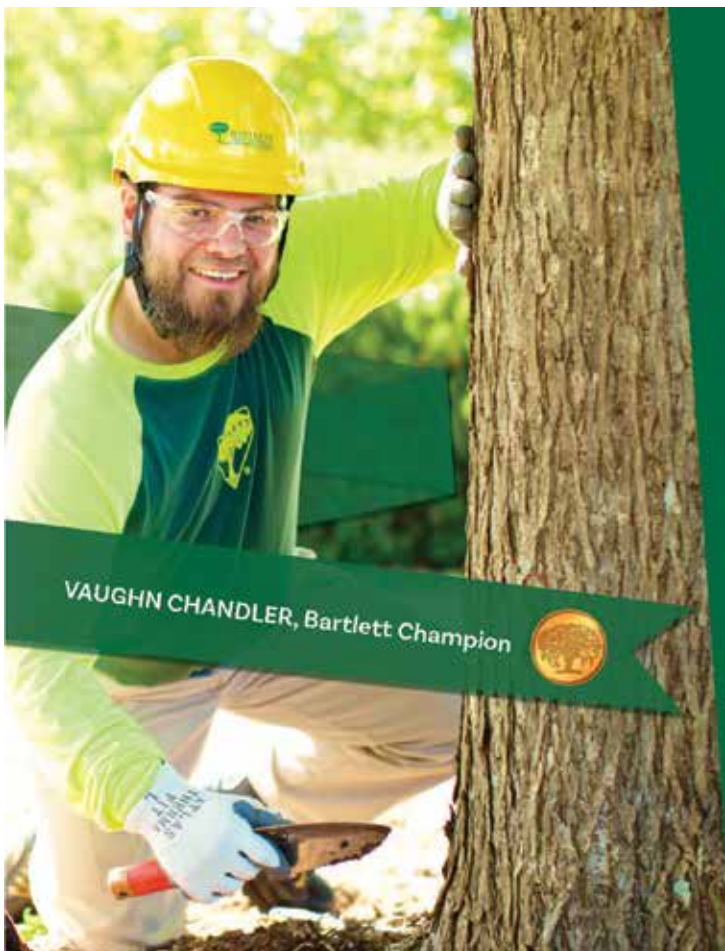
In talking about having fresh fruit... remember, if you don't have a large tree or multiple trees, you won't

get a huge amount of fruit. If you are thinking of dozens of apple pies made from fresh apples from your garden, it probably won't happen, but it is great to be able to munch as you stroll out onto your deck, and there is nothing like offering a piece of fresh fruit to a guest or visitor.

Right now is the best time to get your trees and get them into a container. Most of your local garden centers have bareroot fruit trees available with new types and varieties coming in for the next few weeks. Call your local garden center for availability. Varieties you will find include apples, pears, cherries, plums, peaches, figs and citrus. Get one planted and enjoy the 'fruits' of your labor.



PHOTO CREDIT: PORTLAND NURSERY



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Birds of a Feather

Birder groups are a great way to learn about birding.

by Judy Alleruzzo



Osprey in a Nest

PHOTO CREDIT: HOMEISWHEREHETHEBOATIS.NET

Watching birds at our backyard feeders has been entertaining during the Covid quarantines. For the cost of a bag of sunflower chips, birds like American Goldfinches, House Finches, and Dark Eyed Juncos will become frequent diners just outside your window. February is a great month to watch the birds outside your back door, in your neighborhood or to go farther afield and have an adventure of watching birds at a wildlife refuge.

For beginner tips on bird watching, I talked with my friend, Merrill Jensen, a lifelong birder. He is newly back in Oregon from curating the Jensen-Olsen Arboretum in Juneau Alaska. Many years ago, I went on a bird walk with him at the newly opened Oregon Garden in Silverton. On that short walk, we saw many birds and he identified them with his trained eyes. I asked him some of the tips he probably gave to me all these years ago. "As a beginner, don't obsess with needing to know exactly what bird you're seeing. Spend a lot of time just observing the birds around you. Most neighborhoods have a lot of bird activity and one just needs to see what they're doing. By getting comfortable with just watching, identifying will become easier once you get familiar with different species' behaviors." I think that is a valid idea. Start this new adventure close to home. You can probably see that the birds that stop at your feeders are also flitting around in your neighbor's garden or at their feeders. You can begin to recognize the few you see every day in another setting. Merrill suggested his favorite bird identifying book, The Sibley Guide to Birds. He went on to say that there is a Sibley Bird App too, but he likes the book better. "You get to have a whole page of birds to compare side-by-side vs. just a single species in the app. As a kid, I spent a lot of time just looking through my bird books and found that after seeing the pictures of them, it was much easier to identify them in the field. One thing that comes along with the Sibley app is you can listen to what they sound like (audible birding is a whole other topic...) which can help with identification. Having both the book and the app will give a newbie a good foundation for further exploring." I like the idea of having a book and an app. This way you may be able to coax that techy person to join in the adventure!

If you're feeling like a walk in a different part of the city, there are many good sites to check migrating and local birds. I talked with my friend Bob Rodgers who has been a birder for over 60 years. I first asked him about his favorite phone app for bird information and he likes "E-Bird". Birders

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Local Events February 2021

Visit the Portland Japanese Garden

Open Thursdays thru Mondays • 10:00am-3:30pm
611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland, OR

Limited number of timed entry tickets available every 30-minutes during public hours to help reduce capacity. Please check our website and facebook page for up-to-date information.

• <https://japanesegarden.org/visitvirtually>

Visit the Oregon Garden

Open Wednesday thru Sunday • 10:00am-3:00pm
879 W. Main St. Silverton, OR

An 80-acre botanical garden, featuring more than 20 specialty gardens showcasing the diverse botanical beauty that can be found in the Willamette Valley and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Check out their website for Covid-19 protocols.

• www.oregongarden.org

Visit the Lan Su Chinese Garden

Open Thursday through Tuesday • 10:00am-4:00pm
239 NW Everett St., Portland, OR

Timed ticket reservations are required and a limited number of tickets are offered per day. Parties are limited to 6 people per group due to the current state mandate on group sizes.

• lansugarden.org



around the state log in information about birds they have seen, including time, date, and even the longitude and latitude of the sighting. Bob told me many dedicated birders keep a record of bird species they have seen over the years. This app may give a location of an elusive bird for their life list. Bob's list is at 653 species of birds, seen from Florida to Alaska and many states in between. There are about 700 species of birds in the United States, some are not common but still can be seen throughout the year. Putting that number in perspective, Bob said that backyard feeders of seed, suet and syrup for hummingbirds, can attract up to 25 bird species. He related that once a person gets used to looking for birds, you can see many different species of birds at wildlife areas in the Northwest.

Bob has many favorite sites that he frequents in February to see birds that are travelling through Oregon and not to miss. He likes to visit a section of Sauvie Island off Reeder Rd, (Stay Left at the Fork), which is The Oregon Wildlife Area. This area was established in 1947 and has blossomed to 11,643 acres of protected area for migratory and local birds and wildlife.

Bob told me February is the best month to see

Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans that are on their way north to Canada and Alaska. You may also see Egrets, Bald Eagles and Hawks.

If you feel like driving just a bit, a good destination is Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge in Ridgefield, Washington. The refuge was opened in 1965 as a safe winter haven for Dusky Canada Geese. Now, it encompasses 5,300 acres and is a place where migratory and local birds and wildlife can rest and live in a safe environment.

Just a few weeks ago, another friend, Patty Howe was at the refuge and saw hundreds of Tundra Swans in the refuge's waterway. She said it was an incredible sight. Bob Rodgers said the Tundra Swans usually stay in the area until mid-March, so you still have a chance to see these beautiful birds before they continue their journey northward.

Bob reminded me that another favorite place to see birds and plants is the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Garden Time is usually filming there in May for the Mother's Day weekend plant sale. We always enjoy seeing Mallard and Wood ducks and a few Mallard duck Mom's and their brood of chicks walking along the pathways.



PHOTO CREDIT: PATTY HOWE

Tundra and other Swan at the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge.

Besides a good bird book, both Merrill and Bob suggested bringing a good pair of binoculars to see birds up in trees or sitting on fences. Bob suggested shopping at the Portland Audubon Nature Store as they

More Information

Backyard Birdshop

<https://backyardbirdshop.com>

Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Donation is Suggested

<https://www.crystalspringsgardenpdx.org/our-mission-and-goals>

Portland Audubon Society

<https://audubonportland.org/go-outside/destinations/>

National Audubon Society

<https://www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding>

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Small Fee for Day Use

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ridgefield/>

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area

Small Fee for Day Use

<https://myodfw.com/sauvie-island-wildlife-area-visitors-guide>

Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/tualatin_river/



Male Wood Duck

PHOTO CREDIT: CRYSTAL SPRINGS
RHODODENDRON GARDEN



Dusky Canada Geese in flight.



stock a wide range of binoculars and other bird watching supplies. Bob recommended his favorite book, "Birds of Oregon Field Guide" and thought it's probably on their shelves too. The Nature Store is located at the home base of the Portland Audubon Society found in NW Portland. They have over four miles of hiking trails on the 172 acre site, plus you can see many birds at the feeders on the property.

From talking to my birder friends, I took away this important tip. Once you get in the habit of looking for birds in the wild, you pay more attention and notice them more often than you think. In commuting to work, I notice birds just on my routes. Have you seen the Red Tail Hawks sitting on the fence at the Aurora airport? I think I see one or two every time I'm on that road. Last summer I noticed an Eagle or Osprey in the platform nest near the intersection of Roy Rogers Rd. and Scholls-Sherwood Rd. Traffic was light, so I pulled over to watch for a few minutes. It was amazing to see the bird watching for his next meal.

This nesting site is close to the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Land began to be set aside for this refuge in 1992. Over 200 species

of birds have been logged in at the refuge. It has become an integral stopping point on the Pacific Flyway for migratory waterbirds, songbirds and waterfowl. Walking Trails are limited during winter months to keep close human contact to a minimum.

All my bird friends tell me birder groups are a great way to learn about birding. There are limited organized bird walks hosted by the Portland Audubon Society. Check out their website. Hopefully, The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge will start up their bird walks soon, too. Patty and I signed up for their "Owl Prowl" a few summers ago. It was so cool to walk through the refuge at night. The group became so focused on listening to the night noises, we all forgot the road noise humming in the background.

It was a fun experience to be out with like-minded adventurers waiting to hear an owl.

We didn't hear any owls that night but since then, late at night, I hear them near my home.

I just needed to listen.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK GRAVES/THE OREGONIAN

Sauvie Island



Birders!

PHOTO CREDIT: PORTLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY



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Classified as "essential businesses," most local nurseries have been open during the pandemic. But if you'd rather do your shopping from the comfort of your couch, some now offer online shopping.

by Ron Dunevant

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed the way we shop. Used to be, if I needed a grocery item, a piece of hardware, or something for my garden, I would just hop in the car and go pick it up. Sure, I would try to be efficient about my time, but if I needed just one item, and I needed it now, off I'd go. No planning, no hurry, no problem.

How things have changed. Now, like many people, I meticulously plan my trips, combine errands and limit my time in stores. If I need just an item or two, I put it off until I have several things to buy. Weekly trips have turned into every-other-week and outings that used to take an hour now take several, especially if you include time to wash all the items purchased. Yes, it's a pain,

and we're all feeling it.

Prior to the pandemic, I was an irregular online shopper, but lately I am enticed by the lure of e-commerce. For that, I feel a bit of guilt. I know that local businesses need my support, especially now, but I also want to limit my exposure as much as possible. This conundrum is especially frustrating when it comes to my local garden centers. I'd like to help them out, but if I can combine my grocery shopping and plant shopping into one trip, or my hardware and gardening needs into one outing, it seems the most prudent way to go.

Fortunately, I have discovered a few options that will ease my conscience, at least a little. Many local nurseries are offering curb-

side pickup or deliveries when enough products are purchased. The availability is hit-and-miss – you should check the status of any store you wish to shop. Some local nurseries have curtailed or eliminated their curbside pickup services because, quite frankly, the amount of business they were drawing was overwhelming. They just didn't have enough labor at the store to fulfill all the curbside pickup orders and keep the nursery running.

Some of these small businesses offer online orders for products to be shipped. This is an excellent option if you plan to purchase enough to cover the cost of shipping, or if the shipping is included. Several of the sites offer a limited number of items that could be purchased in this fashion. Often

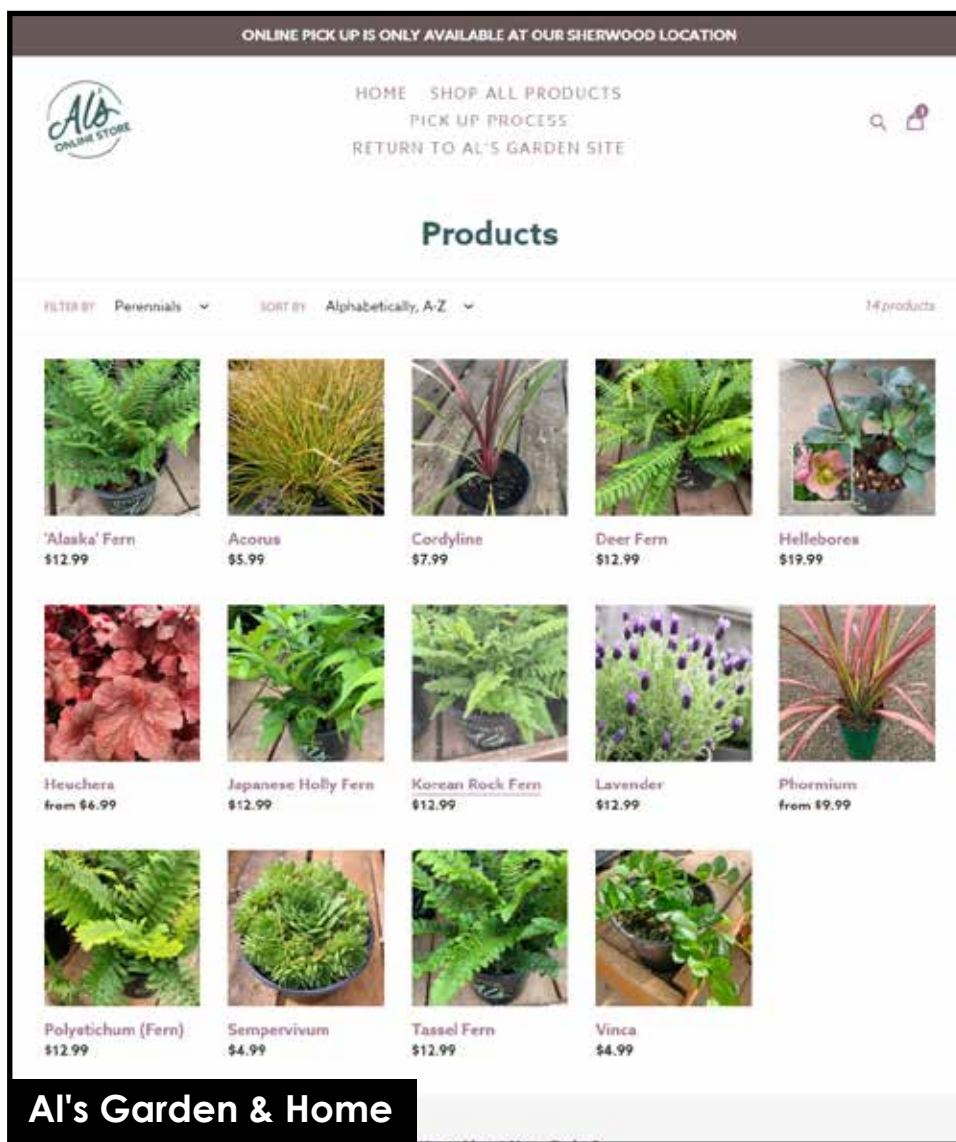


the items are food-related or of a specific type, such as hanging baskets or roses. But some have a good selection of specialty items and, if you have a need for multiples, this is a great way to go.

If you're looking for online shopping with local pickup, however, your options are fewer. There aren't a lot of them – yet – and the amount of items offered is less than you will find in the actual store. But if you'd rather not go into the building, and if you have specific items in mind, you might be able to take advantage of this new service.

One conclusion I've come to after spending an hour surfing the net: Online shopping isn't always easy to find. It is listed differently on each website, from "buy" to "shop" to "market place." I went through the sites of about 50 local nurseries in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington and came up with only about a dozen where I could locate the "shop online" button within a minute. Even fewer offered a diverse selection of items, had a sophisticated ordering system, and presented a good amount of information on each item they were selling. (There may be more such sites and I just didn't find them with a cursory look. The best way to know for sure if your favorite retailer has online shopping is to call and ask.)

Here are some that filled most of the above criteria, in no particular order. (Note that I've added a big "CLICK HERE" arrow to highlight the link to the online shopping area when you go to each web-site.)



Al's Garden & Home
als-gardencenter.com
Stores located in Woodburn,
Sherwood, Gresham &
Wilsonville
At-store pickup of orders
available at Sherwood only
Pickup Hours: Monday-
Sunday, 9:00am-5:00pm

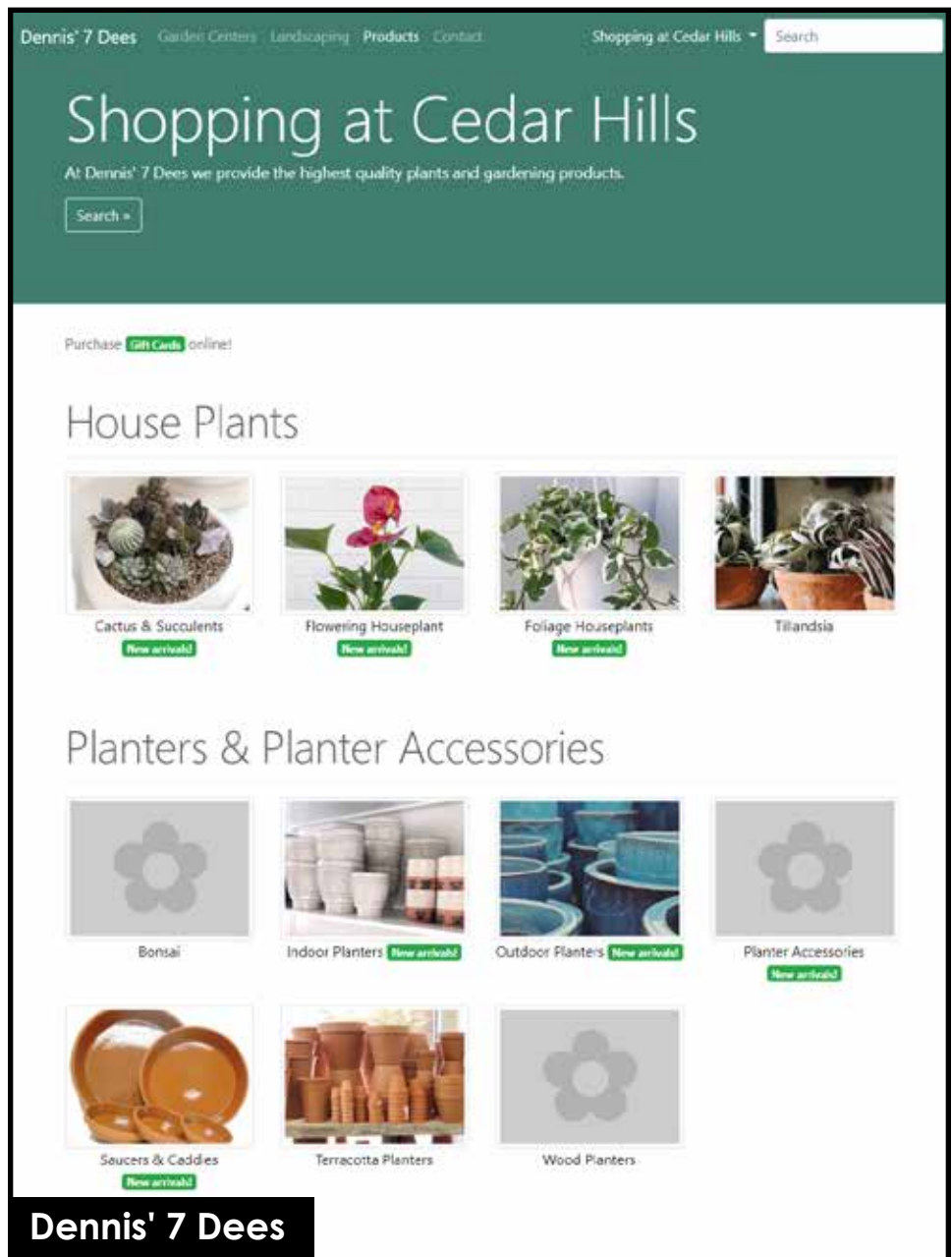
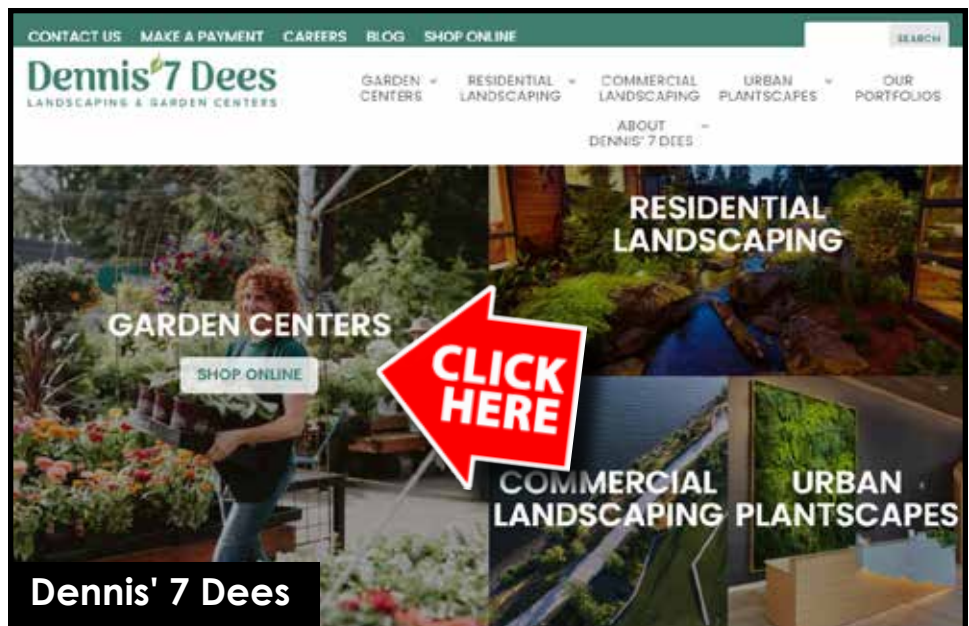
Finding Al's online section was the easiest of all the sites I checked. There's a mauve-colored button at the top right of the website's homepage that proudly proclaims "SHOP ONLINE." A quick click on that button and you're taken to a page where you have the choice of shopping all products or shopping by collection. They offer several different categories, including Roses, Houseplants, Perennials, Trees, Garden Supplies and Shrubs and Vines. You can also filter and sort the results alphabetically, by price, by date and featured products. Prices, descriptions and simple care instructions are listed with each plant. Just click the "Add to Cart" button, check out and you're done. An overall satisfying experience.

Their pickup process is also explained well and easy to find. Al's asks that you allow up to 48 hours for your order to be fulfilled. When it's ready, they will email you. Once you receive your confirmation, you drive out to their Sherwood location (16920 SW Roy Rogers Road) and follow the signs for online pickup. Look for the designated online parking spots, call the phone number on the sign and soon an associate will load your order into your car.'

This setup was definitely the most sophisticated of any that I found, and their directions are concise, comprehensive and easy to understand. If you're testing the online shopping waters for the first time, this would be a good place to start.

Dennis' 7 Dees
dennis7dees.com
Stores locations in Cedar Hills, Lake Oswego, Bridgeport (Tigard) and Seaside
In-store pickup of orders available at all locations
Pickup Available: Mornings and afternoons by date

Another website that makes finding the online section easy. From the home page, right below the





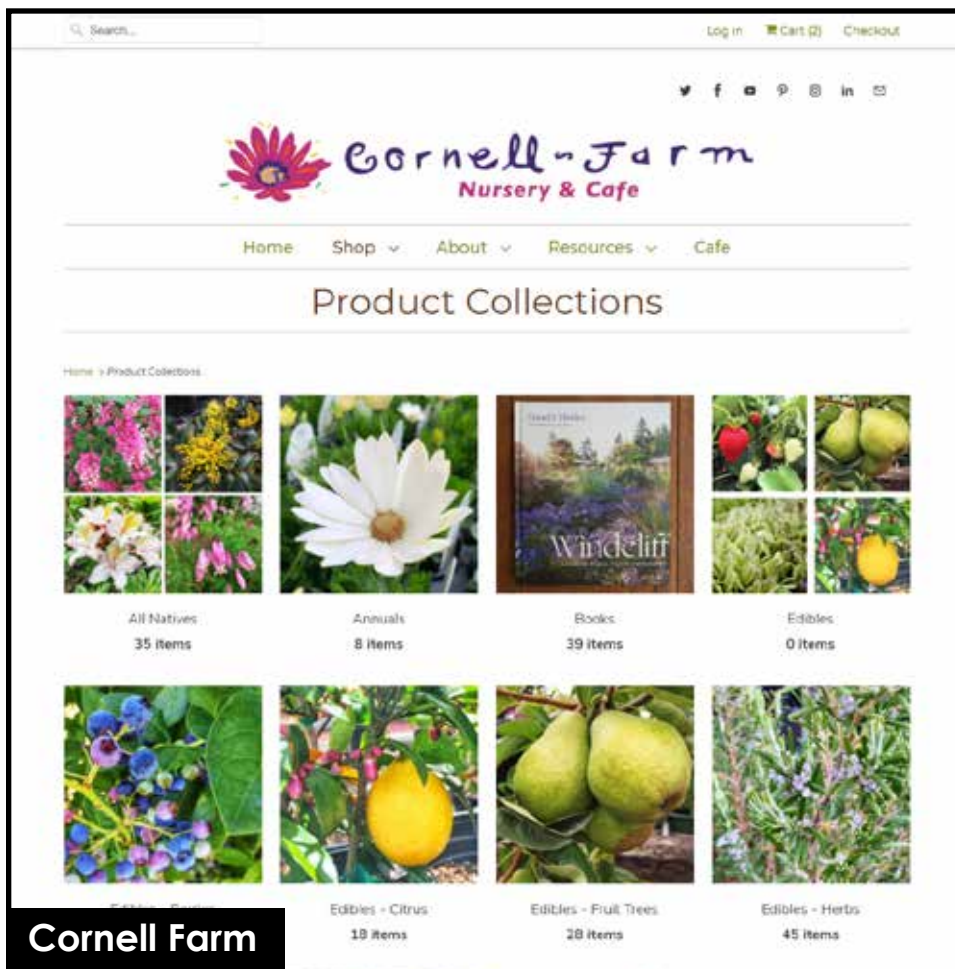
Dennis' logo is a section called "Garden Centers" and in the middle of that is their "Shop Online" button. Click on that and you are then asked to select one of their four locations from which to shop and pick up your order.

Each store's offerings are divided by category, and not all categories are offered at each store: House Plants, Plants & Planter Accessories, Annuals, Bulbs & Seeds, Edibles, Garden Supplies, Perennials, Roses, Shrubs & Trees and several more. Under each category you will find several subcategories. For example, featured under Perennials is Ferns, Grasses, Groundcovers, Perennials-Shade, Perennials-Sun, Sedums & Sempervivums and Vines. Select one of those and you'll find a nice selection of plants available, along with price, number in stock, and often a description.

Once in the cart you can select Store Pickup or Local Delivery. For local pickup orders, there is a \$5 fee for orders under \$25. This is another site that's easy to order from and their four pickup locations makes it convenient for shoppers.

Cornell Farm
cornellfarms.com
Store located on SW Barnes Road in Portland
In store pickup during regular hours
Nursery open daily, 9:00am-6:00pm

On their homepage, in their navigation bar at the top is the "Shop" selection. Before you click, you have your choice of subheadings, Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs & Trees, Edibles, Houseplants, Garden Supplies and Gift Shop. Or, just click the "Shop" button for dozens of selections with subheadings of the categories listed above. Choosing Shrubs, for example, gives you several choices including Azaleas, Camellias, Conifers, Daphne, Hydrangeas, Rhodias, Roses and Vines.



From there, you'll find a list of what's available, pot size and price. Several selections don't have pictures, so if you're not sure what you're looking for, you may need to do a little research. Click on a specific item to see the number in stock plus more information about the item. From there, clicking "Add to Cart" or "Buy it Now" puts it in your cart. Even though the button says "shipping," once you get to the "shipping method" section, you can select in-store pickup. Note that there may be a small fee for local pickup orders under a certain amount.

Farmington Gardens farmingtongardens.com

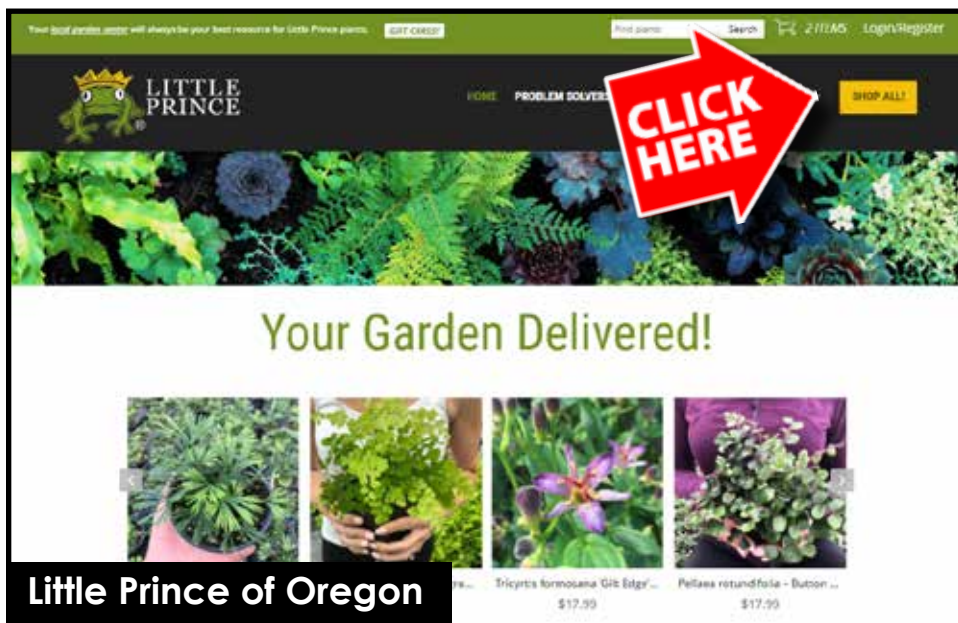
**Store located on
SW Farmington Road in
Beaverton
Most online items available
for in-store pickup**

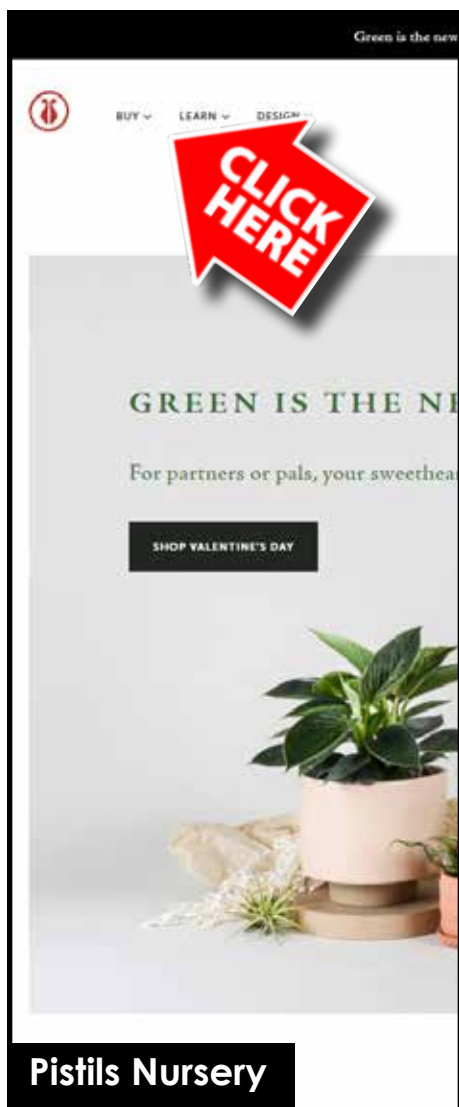
On the navigation bar at the top of their homepage is a "SHOP" link. That will take you to their Market Place page where you can choose from Floral, Plant Material, Gift Cards, and Flower Arrangements. Their floral arrangements and plant material choices are limited but they do have 13 pages of roses (150 varieties!) that you can pre-order. Each rose has a description and pictures to help you along. Plant material items that include installation must be delivered.

Little Prince of Oregon littleprinceplants.com Items available for shipping only

Little Prince generally offers their plants to retailers (you've probably seen them at your local garden center) but ordinary folks can also shop their inventory online. Just click on the "SHOP ALL" button at the top right of their page to browse through their Succulents, Shade Plants, Air Plants, Drought Tolerant Plants, Perennials and Specialty Plants.

You'll find over 300 plants can be purchased online, each with sev-





Pistils Nursery

eral pictures and a complete description. The items are for shipping only, as Little Prince does not have a retail location. Depending on your address, you will have different shipping options including UPS 3 Day Select and UPS Ground. This is a great way to pick up a bundle of their beautiful plants and have them delivered right to your door.

Hydrangeas Plus

www.hydrangeasplus.com

Online items by shipping only

If you're a fan of hydrangeas (and isn't everyone?) then this is the place for you. Hydrangeas Plus has an entire website dedicated to these beauties and you don't even have to look for the "Order Online" button. Across the top is a list of different types of hydrangeas: Arborescens, Aspera,

Climbers, Macrophylla, Paniculata, Quercifolia and Serrata. Just click on the type you want and you'll see pictures of each variety available. Click on the picture for a description and to "Add to Bag," which will send your purchase to the cart.

Pistils Nursery

pistilsnursery.com

Two locations in North and Northwest Portland

Online items can be shipped or picked up at Warehouse

The site doesn't say "Pistils Nursery" at the top of the page, which makes it a little confusing as to where you are, but a small "Buy" link at the top left will take you to their online shopping section. From there you'll find a small selection of items, mostly indoor plants. Click on the picture for a description and plant care tips.

Once items are in the cart, you have the choice of Standard Shipping, USPS Priority Mail Express or free pickup at their warehouse.

In-store plant pickup is a concept in the local nursery business that is still in its initial stages but has no doubt been accelerated by the pandemic. If you like shopping online, these stores are a great place to start.

Of course, you can also order items online at the larger retailers and "big box" stores like Fred Meyer, Lowes and Home Depot. Some offer free shipping or curbside or local pickup. However, in this time of economic hardship, we encourage you to patronize your local businesses. While most nurseries and plant shops have been open, they are facing many challenges related to the pandemic. If you can do so safely, please give them your business and, for those of you who would rather not shop in person, we hope you will use the online options provide by these nurseries and others. When things finally get better – and we know they will – we want them to be around for us to enjoy.

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

ORDER TODAY!

More information at The Garden Time Store

www.gardentime.tv/store



Garden Time



Vegetables grown in my raised beds.

Growing Up

**For ease of gardening, especially in small spaces,
nothing beats a raised bed!**

by Therese Gustin

2020 saw a surge in new gardeners as the Covid-19 pandemic kept people at home. With traveling curtailed and our homes being turned into work areas and classrooms, we found ourselves with more time to spend in our outdoor spaces. Some people chose to start vegetable gardens for the first time to help supplement their grocery budgets, stretch the time between visits to the grocery store, eat healthier, relieve stress and even take their minds off Covid for a while.

If you were one of those new gardeners, you may have found that it wasn't necessarily easy to start a new garden. Your soil may have con-

tained heavy clay, little organic matter and few nutrients to support a thriving garden. If your soil conditions were not great, you may have experienced a lackluster harvest which can be discouraging when you are trying to establish a garden. Even experienced gardeners can have problems if they are trying to grow vegetables in depleted soil. I personally have experienced poor results when trying to grow vegetables in the ground in my early years of gardening. My carrots were stunted and full of insect holes whenever I tried to grow them in the ground. Adding compost annually to the bed will help immensely but there is one way to expedite the process and guarantee a bountiful harvest...

raised beds!

The advantages of raised bed gardening are many! By creating a contained space you have control over the quality of soil in which to grow your vegetables. You can choose a place in your garden which will provide the most amount of sunlight. By raising the level of the growing space, you can make gardening more accessible and easier on your body. You can start your gardening earlier in the spring because the soil warms up faster in a raised bed. For ease of gardening, especially in small spaces, nothing beats a raised bed!

Raised beds can either be unframed or framed. Unframed or mounded raised beds require tilling up the soil and adding additional soil and compost to raise the level of good soil. The drawback to this type of raised bed is that it can easily erode because the sides are not contained.

I'm going to concentrate on framed raised beds for this article. To simplify, I'll describe the five "S's" of building a raised bed.

1. Site • Selecting a proper site for a vegetable garden is important. The more sun exposure

the better. Try to locate your raised bed in an area of your garden that receives a minimum of 6 to 8 hours of sunlight a day. If shade is an issue there are still a few veggies that will do all right in partial shade like lettuces, kale, beets potatoes and carrots to name a few. That being said, you can place your raised bed in your back yard, side or front yard, on a patio, balcony or deck. If you are placing your bed on a prepared surface like a deck or patio be sure to protect the surface to prevent potential water damage or put it on an elevated stand.

2. Size • One advantage of building raised beds is that they can be any length. It's helpful though to limit the width of the bed to 4 feet. This allows easy access from both sides of the bed for planting, weeding and harvesting. It's also important to leave adequate space around raised beds for pathways. Consider what equipment you will need in your garden. Your pathways should be wide enough to accommodate a wheelbarrow or garden cart. Be sure to leave enough space to allow you to comfortably work in the beds. In my opinion the height of the walls of your raised bed should be a minimum of 12 inch-



PHOTO CREDIT: LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE VIA FLICKR.COM



Raised bed with center support posts.



Soil added to raised bed.

es. A foot of soil should be deep enough to grow pretty much any vegetables including root vegetables like carrots, beets, onions or potatoes. Creating taller raised beds helps make gardening more accessible for people with disabilities.

3. Siding • There are many choices available for the walls of your raised bed. Stacked stone, cement pavers, cedar boards or composite planks are all good choices for the structure of your beds. Each material has its pros and cons but ultimately the decision comes down to what look you would like in your garden. We have raised beds made from cedar boards and raised beds made from composite planks in our garden. We used 4 x 4 inch posts in the corners of the beds to attach the wall boards. When building a bed longer than four feet long, I highly recommend adding additional posts halfway along the length of the bed to stabilize the sides. Without these additional posts the sides of the beds could bow outward over time from the pressure of the soil. There's differing opinions about using chemically treated wood such as railroad ties or pressure treated wood to build your beds. Some research shows that newer

pressure treated wood has minimal leakage of chemicals into the soil with little to no chemicals found in the vegetables from the treated wood. Railroad ties are heavily treated with chemicals and we would recommend that you avoid those. If you have any concerns, just use non treated wood.

4. Soil • The soil you add to your raised bed is critical to the success of your vegetable garden. We've filled our raised beds with Black Gold's Natural and Organic soil. You can also use a quality bulk compost mix. Check with your independent garden center for their recommendations for a quality product to fill your garden beds. It is not recommended to use existing garden soil as it may not provide adequate drainage and its texture may be too heavy to encourage a bountiful harvest. Believe me, Do Not Skimp On The Soil! It will be worth it!
5. Supplies • There are several things that can add to your raised gardening experience. Starting from the bottom...wire screening. If gophers are a problem in your area, lining the bottom of your raised bed with hardware cloth or chicken wire can keep gophers from



Paths between raised beds.

PHOTO CREDIT: CIARAN MOONEY VIA FLICKR.COM

burrowing into your soil. Consider adding a drip irrigation system or soaker hose to your raised beds. Hooking up a timer to a watering system can save time in the garden and ensure consistent watering. Setting up a PVC cold frame can extend your growing season both early in the spring and late into the fall. Check out this Garden Time video for instructions on how to build a simple hoop house. (<https://www.youtube.com/embed/r19x8SfyRCY>). To maximize your growing space, consider adding a trellis to grow pole beans, peas or even cucumbers.

Since raised beds are basically large containers, remember to add fertilizer annually. Add-

ing compost each year will also add nutrients to your raised garden bed. Keeping the bed free of weeds during the growing season will eliminate competition for nutrients for your tender vegetable plants.

Raised bed kits can also be found online or at most independent garden centers for those of you who would prefer not to swing a hammer.

Vegetable gardening can be very satisfying, especially when you pick that first sweet juicy ripe tomato of the season! If you would like to build on your gardening success this year, consider adding or constructing a raised bed in your garden this spring.



PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK VIA FLICKR.COM

Raised beds with trellis.

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

Garden Time Tours



Lisbon, Portugal



Madrid, Spain

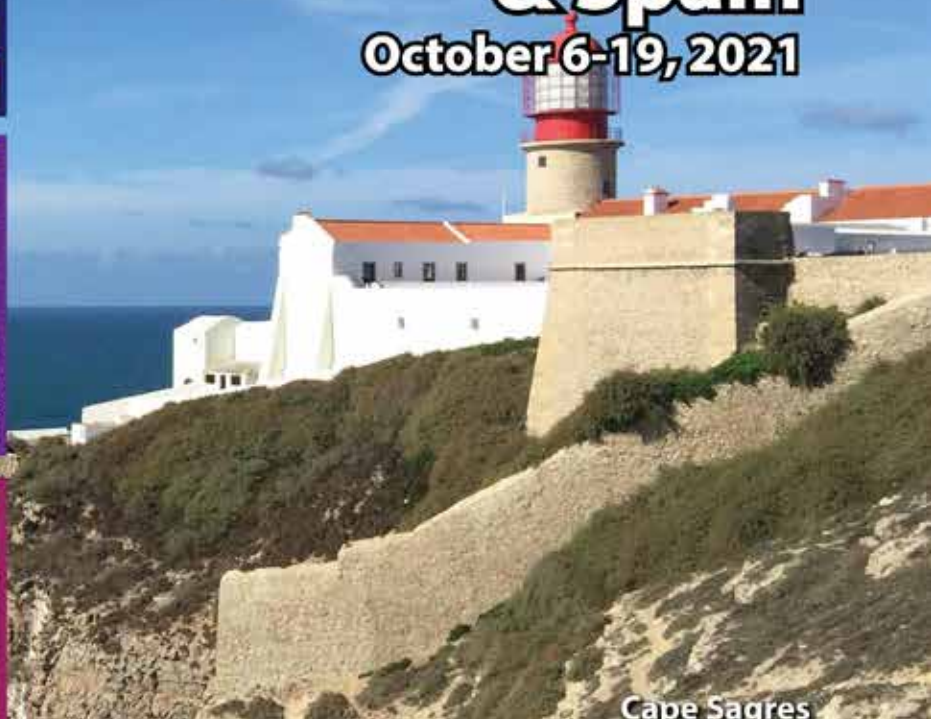


Granada, Spain



Seville, Spain

**Travel with *Garden Time* to
Portugal
& Spain
October 6-19, 2021**



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, Granada, 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 2021 as Garden Time Tours hits the road on another unforgettable trip!

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.

These tours fill up fast so don't wait!

www.GardenTime.tv/tours

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



Mike Hicks, Horti of the Month

Growing Plants Fit for Royalty

Mike Hicks

Above and Beyond

Little Prince of Oregon's Mike Hicks loves the challenge of growing something new and adapting to change.

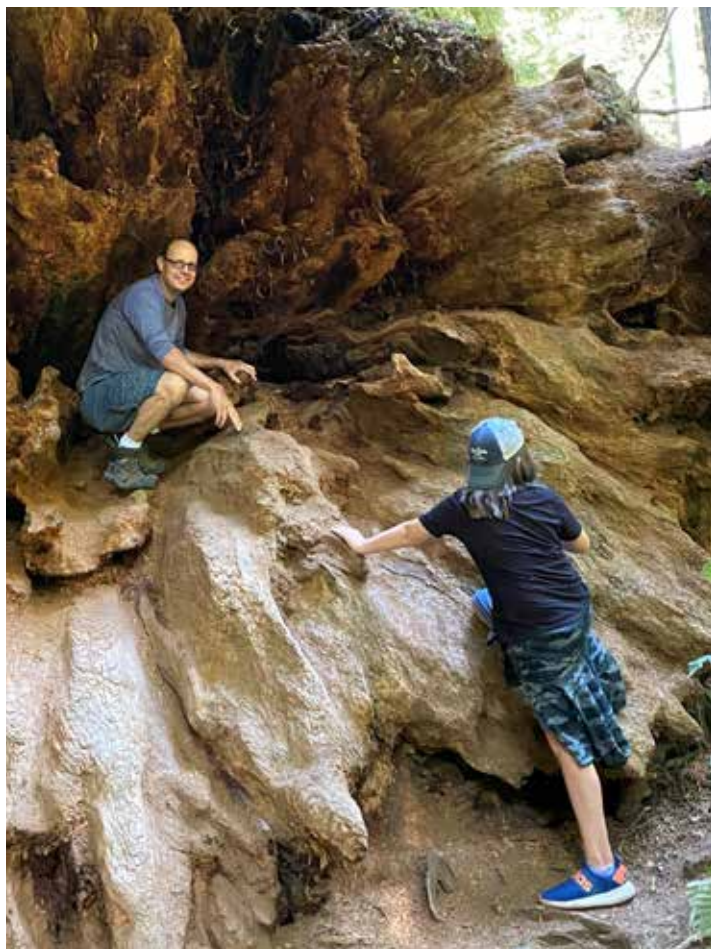
by Ryan Seely

It's easy to write an article about this month's Hortie of the Month, Mike Hicks, as I know him quite well! I have had the good fortune to work with him for over ten years at Little Prince of Oregon. Mike is Head Grower and Nursery Manager, and has a passion for plants that started with a BS degree in Landscape Horticulture from Colorado State University. He has worked in the nursery industry just shy of 25 years, and is often mistaken for my MUCH younger little brother. But alas, we are not related, and I think Mike is genuinely relieved!

All kidding aside, Mike grew up in Colorado. Oddly enough, he did not enjoy gardening as a child, but chose to major in Landscape Horticulture in college. He has worked in a variety of roles in his career, including landscaping, retail garden centers and as a grower in other greenhouse operations, and says that 75% of what he knows came from experience and hands-on growing. However, his education

proved invaluable and helps him understand the science behind plant propagation. He has lived and worked in California and Hawaii, but the Pacific Northwest was the perfect fit for him, both personally and professionally.

He began working at Little Prince in 2006, and met his wife, Megan Big John, who also worked at Little Prince at the time, and is now a Parks Manager for the City of Lake Oswego. Together, they reside in West Linn with their 16 year-old daughter, Makena, and 8 year-old son, Mason. And while Mike grew up in Colorado, a state that is land-locked, he and his family are quite smitten with the rugged beaches of the Oregon Coast. He and Megan also enjoy gardening, and their quarter-acre landscaped yard features a beautiful garden with decks, patios, and footpaths, showcasing their unique plant collection. Most of the plant material that goes into their yard is sourced from local garden





Scenes from Mike and Megan's garden.

centers, plant sales and of course the plants that he grows at Little Prince. And while Mike loves to collect the plants, he enthusiastically refers to his wife Megan as the brains behind their gorgeous garden. Recently, their yard was referred to as 'cram-scaping' done right by a local garden blogger!

When he is not relaxing with his family or gardening, Mike's duties as Head Grower and Nursery Manager at Little Prince include everything production related and some maintenance as well. In his almost fifteen years at Little Prince, Mike has seen substantial changes. Specifically, he has seen a transition from a 100% chemical reliance to a balanced mixture of beneficials and prevention as the first line of defense, with pesticides now as a last choice. Harm reduction for people and the environment has become much more emphasized and important. Additionally, labor has become a challenging aspect of the industry. At Little Prince, Mike and his teammates are always looking for automation that can help. Because of the nature of what they do, it has been hard to find a lot of automation that fits well with the wide spectrum of plants that Little Prince grows. However, they have been able to add planting and propagating production lines which has helped



Megan and Mike



Mike models a living beard.

enormously.

When Mike started with Little Prince, it was primarily a ground cover nursery, with a few small shrubs and grasses. Since, then the number of varieties that Little Prince grows has increased exponentially, totaling over a thousand different varieties. They are always looking for new plants to grow, and Mike feels that if you are not constantly adding new varieties, then the company will be left behind. Recently, Little Prince has begun focusing on houseplants, as this is a popular trend. And while Mike is willing to grow just about anything, he is especially embracing tropical plants, and he and his wife are proud growers of many different varieties that they grow in their yard and in containers on their patio. While he has always favored growing shade plants, particularly ferns, he is enjoying the challenge of learning to grow new and different types of plants like tropicals and indoor foliage. He is also fond of carnivo-

rous plants as well! Often times, Mike uses his personal garden as a test garden for new plants that Little Prince customers might enjoy in the future and to see how the Little Prince plants that he does grow perform in a true landscape scenario.

Continually challenging his skills as a grower by staying current on his education through classes and seminars, always evaluating the plants he grows through hands on learning, embracing the challenges of growing something new, and adapting to change, Mike is a true asset in the industry. He has pride in growing the best plant that he can produce and appreciates working at a company like Little Prince that prides themselves on quality and customer service. It brings Mike joy knowing that the millions of plants that he has grown have brought joy to gardeners in the Northwest and throughout the United States.



OFFICIAL GARDEN TIME MERCHANDISE

More From the Store!



**Masks • Caps
Beanies • Aprons
Bags • T-Shirts
Denim Shirts
1/4 Zip Sweatshirts
Pullover Hoodies**



ORDER ON-LINE AT THE GARDEN TIME STORE

www.gardentime.tv/store

A duvet cover can make a huge difference.



Pillow Talk

Rejuvenate your bedroom without pulling all the money out of your mattress.

by Sarah Gustin

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/SAIYN1

I'm an odd duck. While everyone is doing their big projects in spring, I've always done my cleaning and redecorating in winter. After the holidays I always feel the need to refresh my home for the new year. If you are looking to update your space in 2021 the best place to begin is your bedroom. Your bedroom is your haven, your place to rejuvenate and revitalize. Here are a few ideas to help you renovate your sanctuary without breaking the bank.

Paint

This is the easiest and most drastic way to redecorate your space. Your average gallon of paint won't run you more than \$20-\$50, and is plenty for giving one room a fresh new look! Either repaint

the whole room or get adventurous and try one bold accent wall.

Pinterest projects

For a fun project I always hit up pinter-est. There are always fun DIY crafts that will spice up your space. Dress up your walls with projects like shelves made of updated antique drawers, personal photos printed on wood, or colorful fabric panels. Consider throwing a "pinterest party" where each person brings all the supplies for a different craft. Give your sanctuary a new look and create a memory with a friend at the same time.

Thrift stores and yard sales

The most fun way for me to redecorate is to treasure hunt in thrift stores and

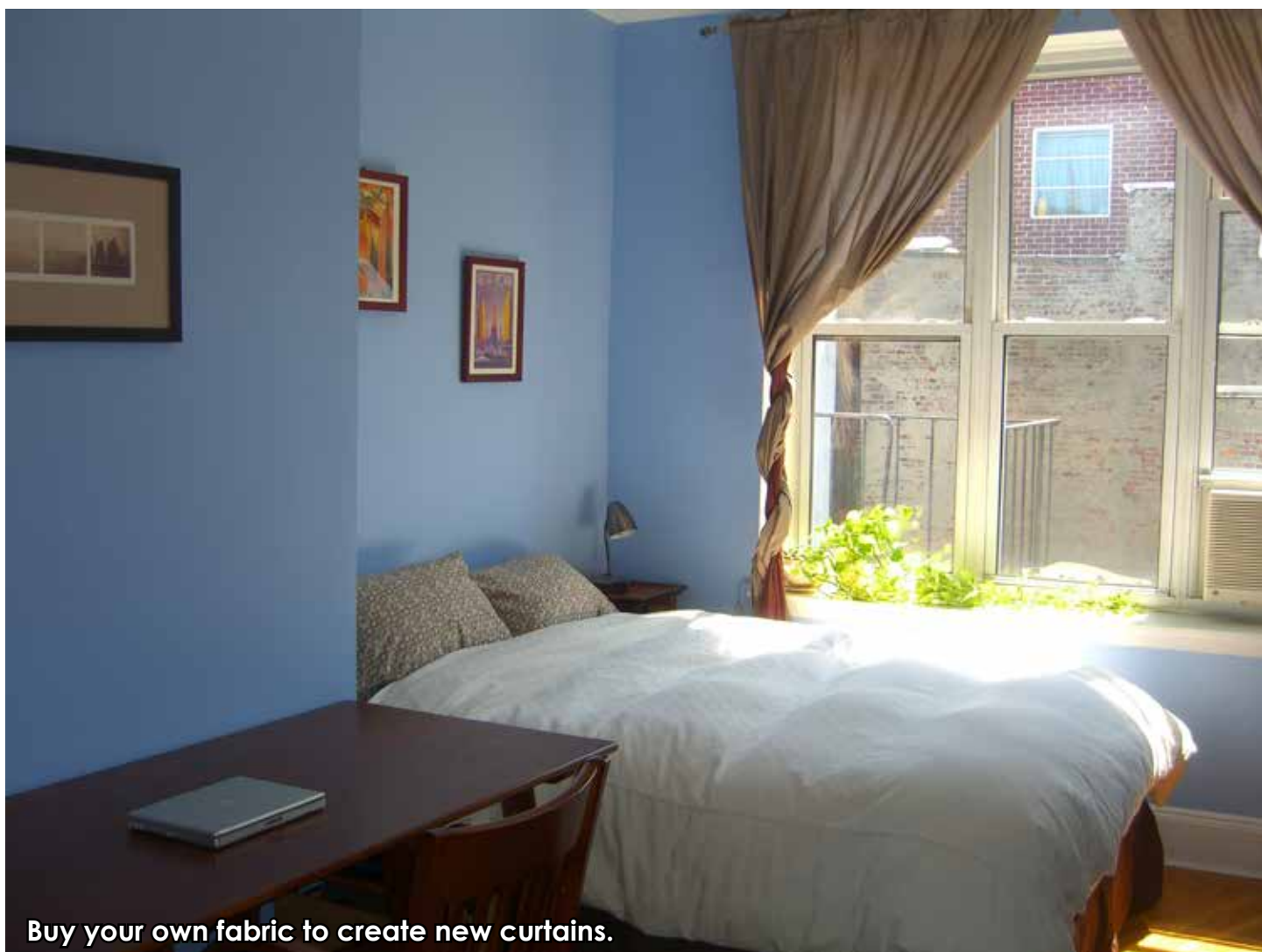


PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/PARKSLOPE1BEDROOMFORSALE

at yard sales. If you really want to save some money, drive through a college town at the end of a term or the school year. Often times out-of-state students will leave very lightly used furniture on the side of the road. Tacky? Maybe. But no one ever suspects that my solid wood chest of drawers was sitting free next to a dormitory. Even a worn chair or desk can usually be refinished with sandpaper, paint, and a little TLC.

Candles or lamps

Changing the lighting in a room can completely change the ambiance. The harsh overhead lighting, while functional, can create a sterile, unwelcoming feeling. That's the last thing you want in your oasis. Soften the feeling of your space with

candles (available cheaply at Ikea or the Dollar Tree) or table lamps. Every thrift store has tons of lamps ranging from quirky, to classy, to authentically vintage.

The most important thing to remember when doing an inexpensive redesign is...

Small accessories make a big impact

Changing just a few little things can make a big difference in your space. Throw pillows, though a little spendy, can be inexpensive when picked up at sales and dress up a boring bed. An area rug will quickly transform a space. Duvet covers are less expensive than buying a whole new comforter and usually come with matching pillow covers. Changing the hardware on cabinets or dressers can

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/TREC_LIT



Paint your walls for a whole new feel.

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/JAN MURIN



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR/MIKE KRZESZAK



Thrift stores are a great place to find unique and decorative lamps.

give old furniture a new look. Try looking for hardware at salvage shops like Habitat for Humanity stores or Hippo Hardware in Portland. Buy new curtains from inexpensive places like Ikea, or buy and hem your own fabric. Not a talented seamstress? Me neither. Target, Ikea, and Bed, Bath, and Beyond all carry curtain rings that have clips on them, no need for extra sewing.

The most important thing is to be comfortable in your space. Be sure to decorate with your personality. Like gardening? Look for vintage lamps decorated with hand-painted roses. Enjoy sports? How about some crossed hockey sticks on your wall. Like to travel? Incorporate prints from your travels into your bedroom decor. Whatever makes you feel relaxed and revitalized, find a way to integrate it into your new haven.



WTDITG

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

PLANNING



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

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

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



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

PLANTING



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

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

- Bare root fruit trees are available this month.

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



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

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

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

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



this time.

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

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

What To Do In The Garden

FEBRUARY

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



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

peaches, like Fungonil or Microcop.

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

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

izer like 'All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer'.

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



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

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

- Boost your lawn now with a

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

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



VEGETABLE GARDEN

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



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

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

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

- Plant onion sets, yellow, white or red.

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





PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: The information listed herein was accurate at the time of publication, but may be subject to change. 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.

Visit the Oregon Garden

Open Wednesday thru Sunday • 10:00am-3:00pm
879 W. Main St. Silverton, OR

an 80-acre botanical garden, featuring more than 20 specialty gardens showcasing the diverse botanical beauty that can be found in the Willamette Valley and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Check out their website for Covid-19 protocols. www.oregongarden.org

Visit the Lan Su Chinese Garden

Open Thursdays through Tuesdays
• 10:00am-4:00pm

239 NW Everett St., Portland, OR

Garden capacity and duration of visit are limited to allow for appropriate social distancing. During your visit, you can traverse our reconfigured one-way route as many times as you like. Please check our website and facebook page for up-to-date information. <https://www.facebook.com/lansuchinese-garden>. <https://lansugarden.org>

Visit the Portland Japanese Garden

Open Thursdays through Mondays
• 10:00am-3:30pm

611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland, OR

Limited number of timed entry tickets available every 30-minutes during public hours to help reduce capacity. Please check our website and facebook page for up-to-date information. Visit virtually at <https://japanesegarden.org/visitvirtually>.

Winter Pruning Workshop - Espalier

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 • 11:00am-1:00pm
Gilbert Park Elementary, Portland, OR

Do you have limited space for fruit production? Are you interested in using fruit trees as a natural border or boundary on your property? Do you want to grow citrus or other fruits for which the heat requirements

continued next column

are just outside of our climate zone? Espalier training methods have been used for centuries to increase heat retention for fruit-bearing trees, as well as create beautiful patterns and shapes in the garden.

In this workshop we will be pruning several established espalier trees and exploring the myriad options this training method opens up. Beginning with a brief introduction to general pruning theory, the class then transitions to working directly with fruit trees, allowing participants the opportunity to practice specific techniques for winter pruning. Our goal is to help you learn how to make the best cuts on your fruit trees with confidence and skill. Class held at Gilbert Park Elementary, 13132 SE Ramona St., Portland, OR 97236. portlandfruit.org

Indoor Vertical Gardening: Hanging with Plants

Thursday, February 4, 2021 • 12:00pm

ONLINE CLASS • Dennis' 7 Dees

Stylish and creative containers are helping us incorporate plants into many of our indoor spaces. This class will focus on ways to hang or grow houseplants vertically. From wall-mounted planters to various hanging methods, totems and other support systems, and even moss wall art—we will cover a range of growing options, plant selection, and care. Get all the information you need to take on this project at home and learn how our professional services can assist you. <https://dennis7dees.com/>

What to Do in the February Vegetable Garden with

Robyn Streeter of Your Backyard Farmer

Saturday, February 6, 2021 • 11:30am

ONLINE CLASS • Portland Nursery, Portland, OR

Join Robyn of Your Backyard Farmer for a great refresher on what to do in the veggie garden for the month of February. Topics covered in this virtual class will include seeding and planting cool season crops,

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preparing and improving your soils, and how to be best prepared for the spring! You'll be able to ask Robyn your seasonal veggie gardening questions using the chat function during the Q and A session at the end of class. www.portlandnursery.com

Kokedama for Dynamic Duos

Thursday, February 11, 2021 • 10:00am

ONLINE CLASS • Dennis' 7 Dees

Get [your hands] dirty and get crafty with someone you love! Join our virtual Kokedama workshop to create a masterpiece of your very own from home. A fun family project or date night activity for plant-lovers, this ancient form of Bonsai is done by encasing a plant's roots in special soil and wrapping it in moss (no pot)! Kokedama may be displayed by sitting in a decorative saucer or bowl or suspended from the ceiling for a unique look. Our demonstration will focus on indoor plant selection, instructions, and care tips for this project. Grab a pre-made kit at one of our locations and follow along at home! <https://dennis7dees.com/>

Outdoor Container Gardening 101:

Vegetables and Herbs

Thursday, February 11, 2021 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

ONLINE CLASS • Hoyt Arboretum and Portland Nursery, Portland, OR

Hoyt Arboretum and Portland Nursery are teaming up for a few online classes this February!

Hosted by Katie Frey of Portland Nursery. Gardening on a budget? Renting or only have a patio/balcony? New to growing your own food, and just want to experiment a little? Want to learn DIY suggestions for gardening in small spaces? Then this is the class for you! Learn ways to plan and implement a low-cost container garden, be it one pot or many. We'll discuss an array of situationally appropriate, inexpensive options for setup, growing, and care. You'll also leave with suggestions of edibles who lend themselves more easily to containers. Material learned

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in this class will focus primarily on food plants, but much of the information will be directly transferable to containers with flowers and shrubs. Register with Hoyt Arboretum, www.hoytarboretum.org.

Chinese New Year

Friday, February 12, 2021 through

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Portland's favorite Chinese New Year celebration is back at Lan Su Chinese Garden. Welcome the Year of the Ox! Visit Lan Su to experience the most colorful and joyous Chinese festival during the garden's two-week Chinese New Year celebration. The celebration will feature special festival decorations, contact-free scavenger hunt, festival audio tour, cultural displays, and much more!

In accordance with the Lunar Calendar, the Chinese New Year celebration of the Year of the Ox, begins on February 12, 2021 and ends February 26, 2021. Lan Su will extend the festival for two extra days of celebration to Sunday, February 28 to capture this final full weekend of festivities!

Plan for the most auspicious visit and come visit on the first day! Every guest visiting on Friday, February 12 will receive a hong bao, or traditional lucky red envelope.

Enrich your festival experience with Discover Lan Su. This visitor mobile app provides a free access to garden audio tours and the interactive "Year of the Ox" scavenger hunts from the safety and convenience of your own mobile device!

Don't miss Lan Su's new phoenix from China! Generously donated by ACHIEF, this 18ft Phoenix Lantern Sculpture will join the 20ft Dragon Lantern Sculpture and nest in the garden's Lake Zither during the festival. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: The information listed herein was accurate at the time of publication, but may be subject to change. 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.

for more behind-the-scene updates.

Please note: For the health and safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff, Chinese New Year at Lan Su Chinese Garden will be operated with one-hour timed entry with one-directional visiting routes. Facial coverings are required. Lan Su will not be including any hands-on activities or performances as part of the festival. Plan for your visit by purchasing admission tickets ahead of time and learn more about Lan Su's Worry-Free Visit Safety Measures.

Chinese New Year Daytime Hours:

- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. February 12-16
- 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. February 18-21
- 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. February 22-23
- 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. February 25-28

Daytime Festival Features:

- Festive Chinese New Year decorations
- Contact-free audio tours
- Contact-free Year of the Ox mobile scavenger hunt
- Video showcase of traditional Chinese New Year customs and cuisine
- Chinese wishing tree

Lantern Viewing Evenings

6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m., February 18-21, February 25-28
The celebration ends with several nights of Lantern Viewing Evenings when the garden is illuminated with a 20ft dragon lantern sculpture and the new 18ft phoenix lantern sculpture, hanging red lanterns and more! Please note: a separate admission ticket is required for this event.

Year of the Ox: Significance of Ox the Zodiac Sign - You are an Ox if you were born in 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, or 2021. The ox is the second animal in the twelve-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac calendar.

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nese zodiac calendar. The Ox is beloved by many in Chinese culture for its valuable role in agriculture and everyday life.

The Ox's Strengths: Oxen are honest, diligent, strong, dependable and determined. They are low key and never look for praise or to be the center of attention. They often hide their talent, but gain recognition through hard work. They usually are logical thinkers and rarely lose their temper, which also makes them great leaders.

The Coming New Year: The 2021 Year of the Ox falls under the element of metal. For those born under the sign of the Ox, this year promise to be a highly fruitful year with a lot of cheer and power. Professionals will be rewarded financially for their diligence and skills. This is also a prefect year to focus on family and relationships.

Little Sprouts Strawberry Planter

Friday, February 12, 2021

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Sprouts will learn how to plant, grow, and harvest their very own strawberry planter. Each kit will include a growing guide, 3 strawberry plants, soil, and a flowerpot made from recycled materials. *Each kit is \$10. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! Cost: \$10. www.garlandnursery.com

Chinese New Year Lantern Viewing

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Lan Su Chinese, Garden, Portland, OR

Experience Lan Su Chinese Garden at its most enchanting. Tickets available with sell out every year; buy yours soon for an unforgettable evening of beauty. All garden admissions, including complimentary admissions for garden members, are timed entries and available online in advance. Make your

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visit fun and contact-free! Download Lan Su's visitor mobile app and enjoy audio tours and interactive garden. <https://lansugarden.org>

Hellebore Open Garden Days 2021
Friday-Sunday, February 19-21, 2021

• 10:00am-3:00pm

Friday-Sunday, February 26-28, 2021

• 10:00am-3:00pm

Northwest Garden Nursery, Eugene, OR

The dates for the Open Days for 2021 will be Friday, Saturday, Sunday Feb. 19-21 and Friday, Saturday, Sunday Feb. 26-28. Sales begin at 10 AM and end at 3 PM. Parking is limited; please carpool, if possible. Do NOT park on the road. If we are out of parking, please go to Gossler Farms, who has more parking than we do, or go there first and then visit us if you like. Gossler Farms will also be open regular hours Wed. through Sat. 9-5, as well as the sale hours. Northwest Garden Nursery, 86813 Central Road, Eugene, Oregon 97402. www.northwestgardennursery.com

Portland Fruit Tree Project - Winter Pruning Workshop

Saturday, February 20, 2021 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Saturday, February 27, 2021 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Private Residence, Portland, OR

Increase the beauty and productivity of your fruit trees with this hands-on pruning class led by the experienced orchardists of Portland Fruit Tree Project. Timely pruning can improve the shape, strength, and fruit set of your trees, while simultaneously helping to reduce pest and disease pressure. Beginning with a brief introduction to general pruning theory, the class then transitions to working directly with fruit trees, allowing participants the opportunity to practice specific techniques for winter pruning.

Our goal is to help you learn how to make the best cuts on your fruit trees with confidence and skill. With a focus on rejuvenating old and neglected orchards, this workshop is perfect for those who are interested

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in heritage fruit and restoration of overall tree health. Class held at a private residence, 8425 SE Harney Dr Portland OR 97206. portlandfruit.org

Seed Starting Basics

Thursday, February 25, 2021 • 1:00pm-2:30pm

ONLINE CLASS • Hoyt Arboretum and

Portland Nursery, Portland, OR

Hosted by Corina Reynolds Stearns of Portland Nursery. Let's get sowing! Learn the basics of starting seeds both indoors and out. We'll discuss starting seeds inside vs. direct sowing outside, indoor lighting options, outdoor seedling protection, soil mediums, types of seeds, and many essential tips and tricks. Register with Hoyt Arboretum, www.hoytarboretum.org.

My First Veggie Garden: Intro to Vegetable Gardening

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 • 10:00am-11:30am

ONLINE CLASS • Hoyt Arboretum and

Portland Nursery, Portland, OR

Hosted by Jess Fancon of Portland Nursery. Are you new to vegetable gardening but eager to get your hands dirty? In this class you'll learn how to choose a good spot for your garden and how to make a simple raised row vegetable bed by amending your soil. Jess will also discuss how to grow some favorite vegetables that are easy choices for the novice home farmer. You'll gain access to useful resources, including a planting calendar and basic pest and disease management techniques that'll help you problem solve and achieve an abundant harvest. Register with Hoyt Arboretum, www.hoytarboretum.org.

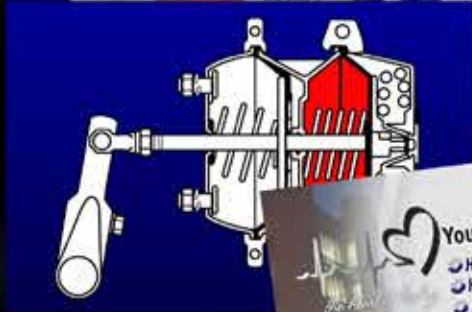
LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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