

March 2021

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

**A Walk in  
the Woods**  
Hoyt Arboretum

**Asclepias**  
**Balcony Gardening**  
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF  
**Tsugawa Nursery**





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## A Clean Slate

As I write the editorial for this month, I'm watching the snow and ice melt around our neighborhood. After chatting on the phone with friends and family, and seeing their pictures on Facebook and through emails, I've seen and heard of the damage to trees, shrubs and structures. It is tough to have all this damage come so close to the beginning of a new season. We are just weeks away from spring and we are now cleaning up our gardens instead of prepping them for all the new growth. Yet, among this damage and destruction there is a bright spot. I don't know about you, but I tend to remain tied to the status quo in my garden. If plants do well (or even have a mediocre performance) I tend to leave them alone. Though, with all this mess comes the opportunity to make some changes. For some, that large amount of damage could mean MAJOR changes. Take a look at those plants that didn't do so well and make a plan to do something different. These changes can be a chance to try something new in your garden with some really different plants, and this year you may not have a choice in something different. I just read that there may be a shortage of the most well-used and popular trees and shrubs. Replacing that cherry, maple or rhododendron with the same variety may not be possible. Last year everyone returned to gardening and that means those popular plants went out the door pretty quickly. Now you may have to choose a new and different tree or shrub, and that could be great! You have a clean slate, write something new into that story that is your garden. Let this change be a metaphor for the new year ahead!

As we tackle changes in our gardens, let's look past the garden too. As the new year starts to gain stride, let's look at getting out and experiencing the wonderful sights around our area too. This month Therese takes us up to Hoyt Arboretum and shows us how diverse and wonderful this local gem can be if you take the time to wander its paths. Taking a path to something new in the garden might be easier for some, especially if you have a small area to garden. I'll show you how to use limited space to create a beautiful balcony garden. Surprisingly, you can create a sanctuary even with the smallest of spaces, full of flowers and flavors! Are you looking to add flavors to your garden? Why not try grapes! Ryan talked to some local experts on what types of grapes you can try and how to grow them successfully. I can close my eyes right now and taste the flavors of those grapes. If you like flavors, have you tried to make your own sourdough bread? Chef David shares some of his tips for success, so you can share a loaf in the garden with friends while you look at all those new plants you're growing.

A clean slate can start in your garden, but it can also be transformational for your mind and body too. Look out to your garden now and make plans for something new, and then look inside yourself to create a new, clean slate to get this year off to a great start!

**Happy Gardening!**

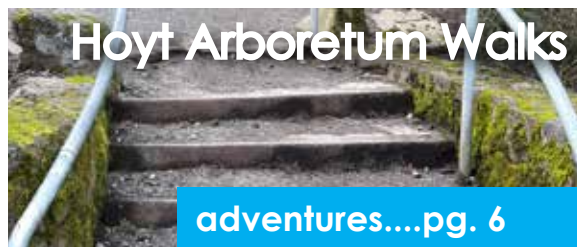
**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



## Ask Mortimer

Mortimer,

We had a couple trees that lost some limbs during the recent snow and ice storms. I was wondering if I can cut those limbs off and how much should I take off.

Thanks,  
Terry the tree guy

Dear Terry,

There was a lot of damage around the area due to the weight of the ice and snow. There are some things that you should keep in mind when removing dead and broken limbs. Here are a few rules from the experts. Before you do anything (!!!) are power lines are involved? Walk away and call the power company and a certified, insured and bonded arborist. Now we can get to work. First assess the damage. If it is severe, has lots of large limbs or damage to the trunk, back away and call a certified and bonded arborist. Second, look at lower limbs. If the damage is within reach of you while standing on the ground, great. Anything above your head or is higher on the tree, once again call an arborist. Third rule, is the branch the size of your forearm or slightly bigger? Then you can tackle it. Anything that is thicker, once again, call an arborist. Fourth, use sharp tools. Ragged cuts are not good for the tree tissue and can tear the bark and cambium layers, creating wounds.

We recommend the three cut approach to removing a damaged branch. The first cut is a small one to the underside of the damaged branch. This cut is made about one third of the way through the branch from the bottom up and is from 6-8 inches away from the trunk of

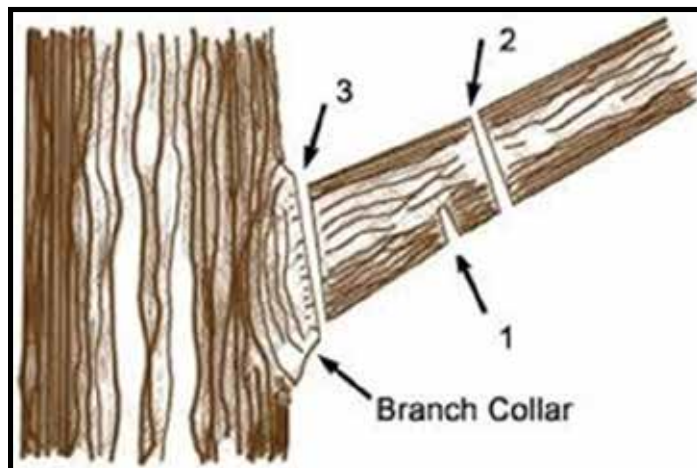


PHOTO CREDIT: CLEMSON EXTENSION

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

the tree. The second cut is further out from the first cut and on the top of the branch. You start this cut about a foot away from the trunk of the tree. You make this cut all the way through the limb. What happens with this second cut is that the weight of the tree will cause the limb to fall. If you have the first cut, it will prevent the peeling of the bark and cambium layer back to the trunk, which will affect the healing process. The large part of the limb should now be removed and you can make your third cut. This cut is right near the tree trunk itself. Near the tree trunk you will see some wrinkled bark around the limb. This is the branch collar, be careful not to cut this wrinkled bark. This will eventually grow to cover the cut and help the tree heal.

You might have heard that you should apply a tree wound sealer over the fresh cut to prevent pests and disease from invading into the tree, but don't do that. It can actually seal in disease and pests that will destroy your tree from the inside out and create more problems down the line. Trees are great at healing themselves and don't need a sealer. They close off the open cut pretty fast on their own.

I mentioned earlier a certified, insured and bonded arborist. This is a tree expert that knows how to take down trees and is insured against damage if that occurs. They have the right equipment and training to do the job correctly and safely. I have seen the Garden Time crew do many stories with Bartlett Tree Experts and they have even shared their tip sheet on looking for dangerous trees with us before, <https://www.collierarbor.com/prob-TreeHazards.php>. If you have any questions, be sure to give Bartlett a call!

Thanks for going out on a limb  
with your question,  
Mortimer

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

I left out some of my containers and planters during the frost. How can I tell if there was any damage and how can I protect them in the future?

Signed,  
Crazy about containers

Dear Crazy,

It can be hard to figure out when a pot or container has been compromised by the cold, ice and snow. Sometimes, if they have been left unprotected, you have to wait until later in the spring to figure out if they have cracks or not. If you are concerned, wait until the



Of course you can always use  
your broken containers as garden art.

weather warms up a little bit. Take a look at your container around the edges at the top or the bottom. This may be where you will see cracks first. Look around the entire outside. Use a magnifying glass if you have one. These cracks are where the water seeped into your pottery and possibly expanded when it froze. They are the weak points. Some people wrapped their containers in bubble wrap or cardboard at the beginning of the winter season, and that is a good idea for next year. For this year, keep looking for those cracks and then mark them so you can check them later to see if the cracks get bigger. If the cracks are slow in spreading, you might be able to get another season or two out of the container.

Now if you are looking to protect and extend the life of your container you need to try and prevent the water from penetrating into the material. We have found a couple of different way of 'waterproofing' your container. One is to use a Pruning Sealer. Yup, you don't need to use it on your tree, but you can use it on your container to prevent water and freezing damage. We used the one from Bonide ([www.bonide.com](http://www.bonide.com)) and that worked well. Another product that you can use and works on all types of materials without discoloring them is the Timber Pro Masonry Sealer. We found it at Little Baja (<http://www.little-baja.com>) in Portland and it seals everything! It will work on terra cotta, concrete, and ceramics. You only need to reapply it every 3-5 years and it is safe for plants and animals.

If you are going to invest in some quality pots or containers, make sure you protect them.

Your friend,  
Mortimer



# A Walk in the Forest



A hiker with with her dog enjoying the trail in Hoyt Arboretum.

**A hike along the trails of Hoyt Arboretum offers an opportunity to explore this beautiful area of Washington Park, take in some amazing vistas and marvel at the thousands of species that thrive in the Pacific Northwest!**

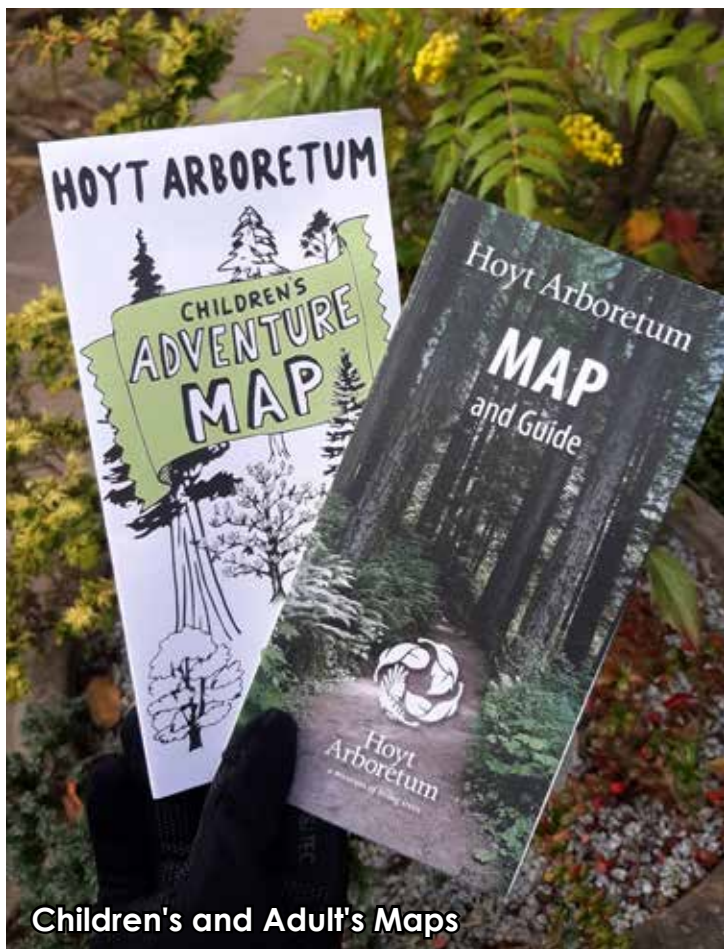
**by Therese Gustin**

One of the most magnificent, beautiful and peaceful places to hike in the city of Portland could easily have become a housing development and golf course, were it not for the foresight of E.T. Mische, Portland's Parks Superintendent in the early 1900s. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the land we currently know as Hoyt Arboretum was once a "Poor Farm" where the sick and mentally ill inmates took care of stock animals and looked after a large orchard. In 1911 the Poor Farm was moved to Troutdale after inadequate conditions and corrupt oversight shut it down. Mische was trained at the Olmsted landscape firm in Brookline, Massachusetts. Frederick Law Olmstead who was one of the designers of New York City's Central Park and Harvard's Arnold Arboretum believed that every

city should have an arboretum. In 1922 Portland bought the Poor Farm property from Multnomah County for \$10. The City wanted to use the property for housing and a golf course, but C.P. Keyser, Mische's assistant and the current Superintendent of Parks at the time managed to convince County Commissioner Ralph Warren Hoyt and some men in the forestry and lumber industries to use the land for an arboretum. In 1930, the first curator began the design of the Arboretum by planting groups of trees by family as well as putting in trails and roads. And yes, a golf course WAS constructed on the land. That golf course is currently the Portland Zoo!

Mische's vision for the Arboretum went through





Children's and Adult's Maps



Overlook Trail Marker

# Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



## Local Events March 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](http://www.oregongarden.org)

### Cutting Gardens Part 1: Planning, Planting

**Saturday, March 27, 2021 • 10:00am-12:00pm**  
Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

Learn when, where and what to plant. Planting lists and ideas provided. A second class later in the season covers how to harvest your blooms and arrange them like an expert.

• [www.rogersonclematiscollection.org](http://www.rogersonclematiscollection.org)







**Camelia 'Showa-No-Sakae' in the Winter Garden.**

many changes over the years and today Hoyt Arboretum's collections include over 2,300 species including 67 species that are rare or endangered. These families of trees and various gardens can be enjoyed by hiking the 12 miles of trails throughout the Arboretum.

My husband Jeff and I visited the Arboretum on a cool day in February just before the big snow and ice event. Starting at the Visitor's Center, we picked up a Trail Map and started our hike. Trail maps are also available to download from the [hoystarboretum.org](http://hoystarboretum.org) website. Just click on the "Visit" link, and then the "Trails" link for your downloadable map. Map in hand, we took the Overlook Trail stopping at the viewpoint where, on a clear day, you can see a stunning vista of Mt. St. Helens. Continuing on to the Magnolia Trail, we stopped to take a picture of the buds of Magnolia 'Sundance'. We plan to come back in early to mid-spring to see the blooms in all their pale yellow splendor! As we continued walking, we came across the Winter Garden showing off a rainbow of twigs and foliage colors and a lovely Camellia 'Showa-No-Sakae' in full bloom. We took the Oak Trail to head back up to the Visitor's Center and were greeted with the sight of a spectacular Tanoak tree. One of the benefits of hiking through the Hoyt Arboretum any time of year is that there is always something different to enjoy.

Even without a Trail Map, it is easy to find your way around the Arboretum. The many Trail Markers guide you along the different color-coded trails as well as post distances to other trails, destinations

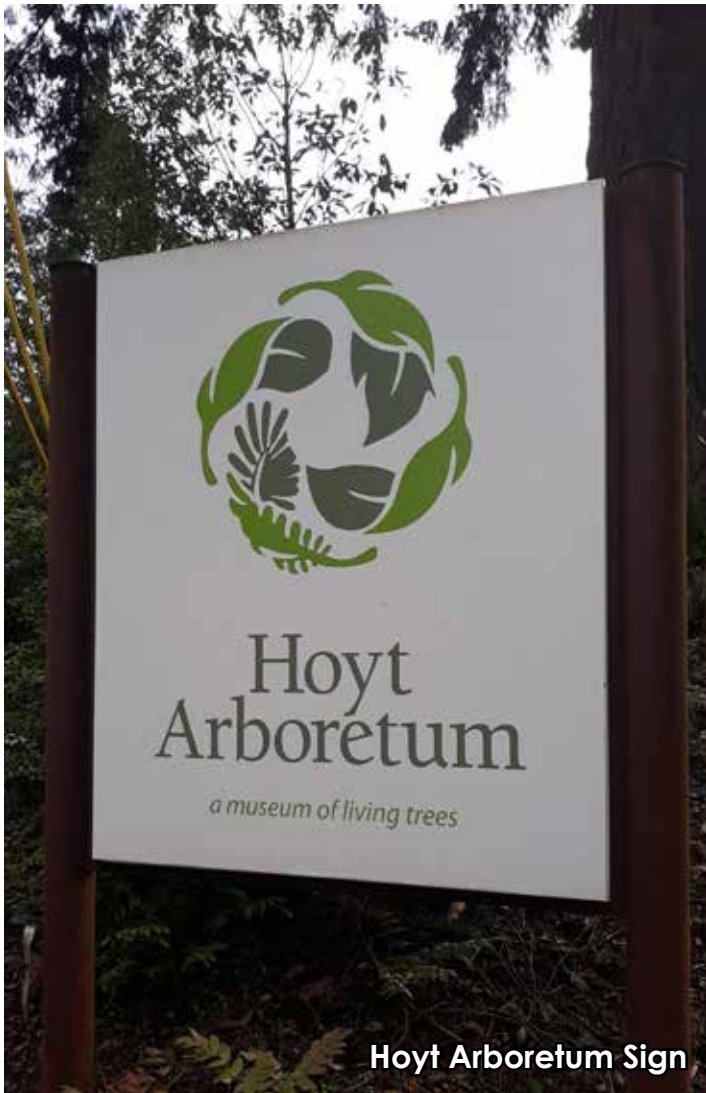


**Winter Garden Sign**



**A plant label in the park.**





Hoyt Arboretum Sign



Wildwood Trail Marker



A-Frame Picnic Shelter





Visitor Center



Winter Garden Plants



A long set of stairs on the trail.





Children preparing for a hike.



A tan oak tree



Hikers on the trail





View of Portland and Mt. St. Helens from Hoyt Arboretum



Beech Trail Marker



Another trail in the park.



and what plant collections you will encounter along the way. Many of the trees and plants are labeled so if you are interested in a particular tree, chances are it will be labeled for you.

There are trails for every level of fitness as well as paved trails that are accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. We came across families with little ones, couples enjoying a stroll and even a woman jogging with her dog.

The Arboretum grounds are free to the public and open from 5:00am to 10:00pm daily. Currently the Visitor Center is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Restrooms are open in the Visitor Center's courtyard and the water fountains are turned on. The Arboretum suggests the following guidelines for your safety and enjoyment and the safety and enjoyment of others:

- Stay home if you're sick.
- Bring all supplies (snacks, water, hand sanitizer) needed for a short trip.
- Wash your hands before and after your visit.
- If the Arboretum appears crowded, leave and come back another time.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from people who aren't

from your household, including Arboretum staff who are working on the grounds. If you can't maintain that distance, come back another time.

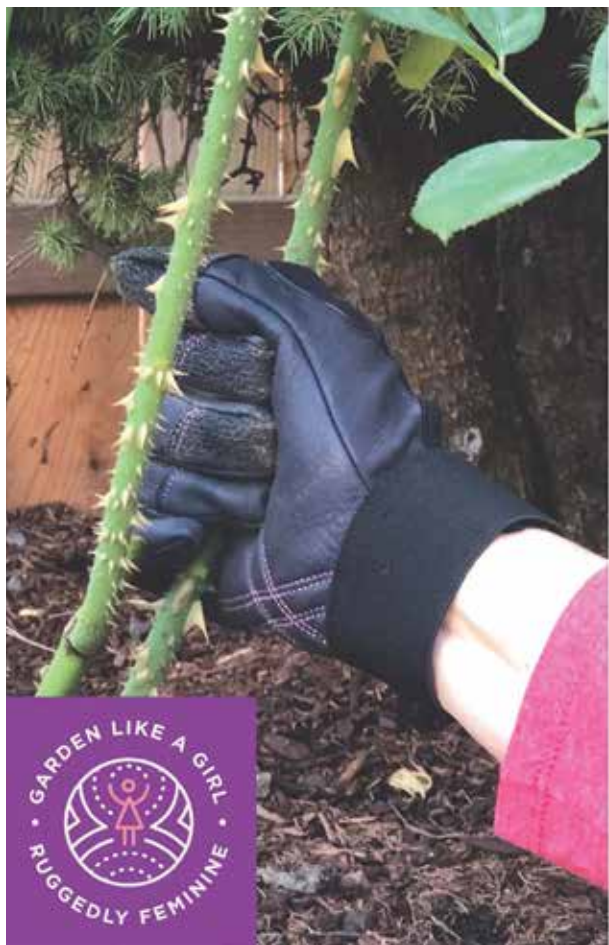
- While on trails, announce your presence to others and step aside to let others pass.
- Wear a face covering if you can't maintain 6 feet of physical distance from other people. Home-made is fine.
- Leave no trace: pack out everything you bring with you.

Whether you want to have a family outing or just some time alone, a hike along the trails of the Hoyt Arboretum offers an opportunity to explore this beautiful area of Washington Park, take in some amazing vistas and marvel at the thousands of species that thrive in the Pacific Northwest!

**Hoyt Arboretum**  
**Located in Washington Park**

**Visitor Center**  
**4800 SW Fairview Blvd.**  
**Portland, OR 97221**

**[www.hoytarboretum.org](http://www.hoytarboretum.org)**



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\*The American Cancer Society does not endorse, or support, any products or services.



# Earning Our Wings

Adding this one plant to your garden could mean  
a brighter future for the Monarch Butterfly.

by Judy Alleruzzo

PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE HAZEN

In the past few years, there has been much talk about helping bring back Monarch Butterflies to the Pacific Northwest by planting Milkweed (*Asclepias*) perennial plants. Milkweeds provide nectar for adult Monarchs plus foliage to feed their larva/caterpillar form. To understand why there is new interest in planting Milkweeds, here is the history of Monarchs in the Pacific Northwest.

Western Monarch Butterflies spend the winter in Mexico then migrate north to spend summers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and several other states. September is the usual peak month to see Monarchs in the Pacific Northwest. Butterfly counts in the 1980s tallied about 10 million Western Monarch Butterflies. On recent counts, the tally was 300,000, about a 97% decline. Many factors contribute to the loss of these butterflies, including pesticide use, loss of habitat for nectar and loss of Milkweeds (*Asclepias*) habitat to feed Monarch caterpillars. Just in case you want to know about Eastern vs Western Monarch Butterflies, according to an article from Emory University, "It was long believed that the eastern and western monarchs

were genetically distinct populations. A new study, however, confirms that while the eastern and western butterflies fly differently, they are genetically the same. The journal *Molecular Ecology* published the findings, led by evolutionary biologists at Emory University."

It sounds like a huge task, to reestablish a species back to a favorite and necessary range, but butterflies are an integral part of our eco-system. When parts of an eco-system are missing, the future is bleak for all inhabitants, including humans! I think if the U.S. can bring back the Bald Eagle from near extinction, gardeners can help entice Monarchs to thrive in their summer home in the Pacific Northwest.

The first step in creating a safe haven for Monarch Butterflies is to not use harsh pesticides in your garden. I know bugs are annoying and frustrating but if you can wash them off and not worry over holes in leaves, butterfly caterpillars can find sanctuary to feed.

2nd Step - Planting flowers for nectar that lure in



adult butterflies. They need flat top flower structures like Yarrow (*Achillea*), Tall Garden Phlox, Joe Pye Weeds (*Eupatorium*) and Milkweeds (*Asclepias*). These plants have flowers like landing pads that enable butterflies to draw out nectar through their proboscis, which is a long, straw-like tube.

3rd Step - Butterflies also like a muddy spot as they can draw salts and minerals from the muddy water.

4th Step - Provide a shrubby area or snag of plants for butterflies to hide from predators.

Fun Tip - Each summer, I leave out a rind of watermelon, slices of orange or other juicy fruit. Butterflies usually stop and drink from the juices.

All these steps combine to make a safe habitat for Monarchs to lay eggs, for caterpillars to feed and to support adult butterflies. This life cycle ensures a healthy breeding ground and healthy adults to make the journey to Mexico to complete their migration.

The steps above will all help create a haven for butterflies and pollinators in general, but to really attract Western Monarch Butterflies, you will need to plant Milkweeds (*Asclepias*). The genus Milkweed is the only foliage that Monarch Butterfly larva/caterpillars eat. They lay their eggs on *Asclepias*, so the newly hatched caterpillars have a ready food source. In the United States, there are 73 native species of *Asclepias*. Monarch Butterflies use about 30 of these species as a regular food source for their larva. Queen Butterfly (*Danaus gilippus*), larva also eat Milkweed plants.

In planting *Asclepias* plants in your garden you are also helping to provide nectar for many species of other pollinators including,

Butterflies

Pipeline Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*)

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Great Spangled Fritillary (*Speyeria Cybele*)

Bees

Bumblebees

Carpenter Bees

Leaf Cutter Bees

Moths

Sphinx Moths (*Hyles lineata*)

Insects

Syrphid or hover flies.

Assassin bugs

Zelus sp - You may see them preying on the insects feeding on the Milkweed flowers.

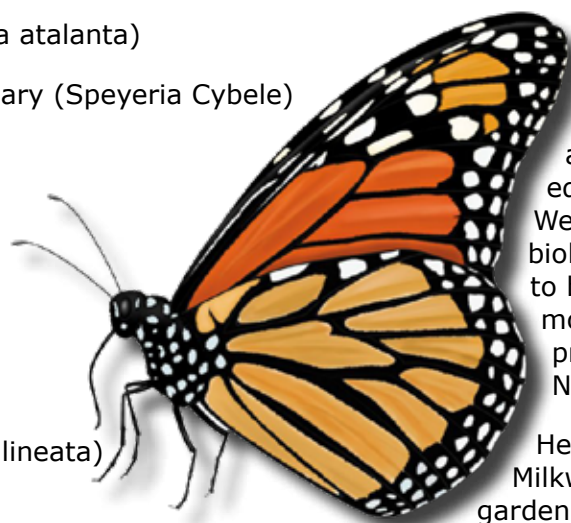
Nature has a way of making unique symbiotic relationships between flowering plant and pollinator. Case in point, this information about Milkweeds is from The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center website. "The plant contains cardiac glycosides, allied to digitalins used in treating some heart disease. These glycosides, when absorbed by monarch butterfly larvae whose sole source of food is milkweed foliage, make the larvae and adult butterflies toxic to birds and other predators." What a cool protection Monarchs have right in their body. The downside of these unique partnerships is that loss of one partner is the loss of the other partner, with no pollinator to help create the viable seedpods, there is no proliferation of the plant, so no food source for the pollinator. A big loss-loss-loss.

There is hope to help these beautiful insects and it's as easy as creating and maintaining a healthy garden and planting Milkweed plants. If you are really interested in helping, there is a great organization called Monarch Watch, a nonprofit organization that gives out information and registers your garden as an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation. I noticed the Monarch Waystation sign on a Facebook friend's garden photos. She is dedicated to doing her part by creating a habitat garden for visiting Monarchs.

From their website "Monarch Watch is a nonprofit education, conservation, and research program based at the University of Kansas that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. Monarch Watch was founded in 1992 by Dr. Orley "Chip" Taylor and the monarch tagging program was launched in the fall of that year.

Mission Statement: Monarch Watch strives to provide the public with information about the biology of monarch butterflies, their spectacular migration, and how to use monarchs to further science education in primary and secondary schools. We engage in research on monarch migration biology and monarch population dynamics to better understand how to conserve the monarch migration. We also promote protection of monarch habitats throughout North America."

Here is information about four species of Milkweeds that will do well in Pacific Northwest gardens and attract Western Monarch Butterflies.







**Asclepias syriaca - Common Milkweed**

**\*Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca***

Pink to light purple flat top flowers in summer

Grayish seedpods ripen in early fall.

Native Americans used this plant for fiber. During WWII, the soft down of the ripened seedpod was used for life vest flotation. Children of that era collected the coma, the fluff that carries the seeds on the wind, for the life vests. These days it is used for comforter and pillow filler.

Plant in full sun. Plant Ht 3-5 ft

Likes moist areas.

Native to many U.S. States, including Oregon.

Found in roadsides, and abandoned fields.

For Nectar: Attracts Butterflies and Native, Honey and Bumblebees

Larval Host: Western Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*



**Asclepias speciosa - Showy Milkweed**

**\*Showy Milkweed - *Asclepias speciosa***

Fragrant, rose-pink flat top flowers in summer

Grayish Seed Pods

Plant in sunny and dry to moist areas. Plant Ht 18 to 36in and taller

Native to many U.S. States, including Oregon and Washington.

Found in roadsides, fields, meadows.

For Nectar: Attracts Butterflies, Hummingbirds & Native, Honey and Bumblebees

Larval Host: Western Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus*





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**Asclepias incarnata - Swamp Milkweed**

**\*Swamp Milkweed - Asclepias incarnata**

Hybrid varieties Asclepias 'Cinderella' & Asclepias 'Ice Ballet'

Rose-purple flat top flower clusters

Tannish-brown seedpods

Sun or afternoon shade. Plant Ht 2-4ft

Plants can tolerate wet sites.

Native to many U.S. States, not Oregon or Washington

Found in wet meadows, pond/lake edges and marshes.

For Nectar: Attracts Butterflies, Hummingbirds & Bees

Larval Host: Monarch Danaus plexippus and Queen Danaus gilippus Butterflies



**Asclepias tuberosa  
Orange Butterfly Milkweed**

**\*Butterfly Milkweed - Asclepias tuberosa**

Orange, flat top, summer Flowers

Plant in sunny garden. Drought tolerant. Plant Ht 1-2ft

Grayish-green seed pods

Native Wildflower in many U.S. States, not Oregon or Washington

Can be found in canyons, prairies and open woodlands.

Native Americans chewed this root for bronchitis and other respiratory problems. It is poisonous if ingested in large quantities.

Other Common Name is Pleurisy Root

For Nectar: Attracts Butterflies, Hummingbirds & Bees

Larval Host: Monarch Danaus plexippus, Queen Danaus gilippus Butterflies





Bubblebees on Common Milkweed

### More Information

#### Monarch Watch

[www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)

Great article comparing Monarch & Queen Butterflies from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX

<https://www.wildflower.org/magazine/fauna/monarch-vs-queen>

#### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<https://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2016/7/1/Milkweed--For-More-Than-Monarch-Butterflies>

## 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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[www.gardentime.tv/store](http://www.gardentime.tv/store)



**Garden Time**



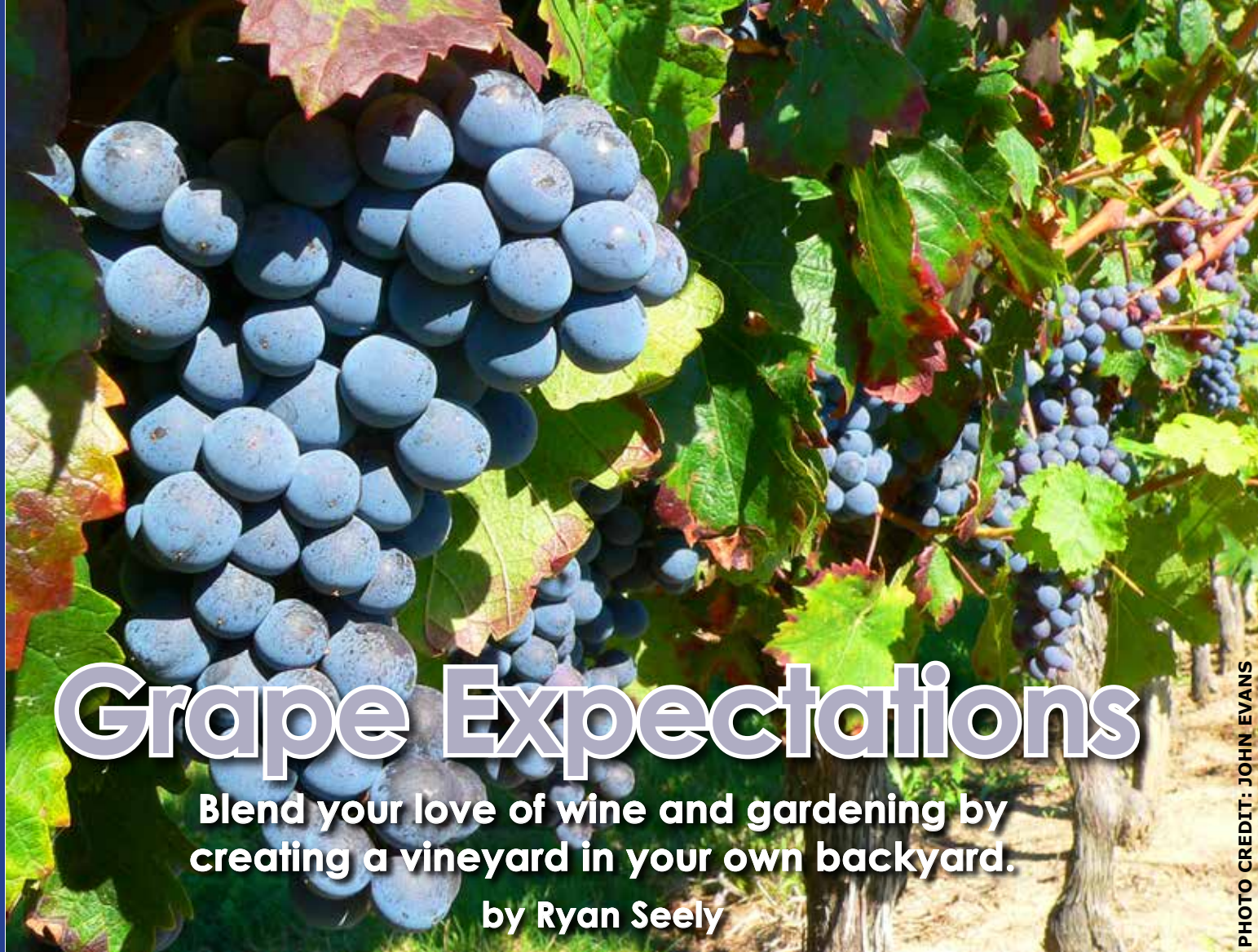


PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN EVANS

# Grape Expectations

**Blend your love of wine and gardening by creating a vineyard in your own backyard.**

**by Ryan Seely**

I love a good glass of red wine, especially in front of a roaring fire during the long, wet Pacific Northwest winters. And as I sit in front of my warm fire, I dream of the impending spring, and all that comes with it: preparing my garden, planning my crops, and the first sunny days of planting. It occurred to me that my love of wine and gardening could converge in the form of a backyard vineyard, a budding trend for those interested in growing grapes and bottling their own wine from their very own garden. I had an opportunity to talk with Jason Tosch of Stoller Vineyards, Vice President of Vineyard Operations for Stoller Wine Group, and he shared with me some tips of the trade that might benefit backyard grape growers in the Pacific Northwest:

**Question:** What are the biggest pitfalls that Oregon backyard wine growers should be aware of?

- Plant vines in a sunny, warm, even hot location in your yard. Morning sun is best - mature grapevine leaves and grape clusters can have the amount of disease pressure greatly reduced by warming up and drying out quick with the morning sun. Train your trunks to develop the "head" of the vine well above the cool wet ground. For

vines supported with a vertical trellis I like the head position to be 28 inches above the ground with lots of airflow underneath. If you are going to allow your shoots to hang unsupported with a trellis system it pays to have an extra tall trunk at least 5 ft off of the ground. This gives the vine the ability to grow shoots long enough to nourish and support the fruit which will grow at the 4-5ft level above the ground.

- Stay away from the automatic irrigation systems and stay away from your lawns. Wine grapes can be easily over-irrigated. In fact, to grow a quality wine one should allow for a small amount of water stress to form in the vine. In the Willamette Valley this can happen naturally. Here we usually have plenty of rainfall through June to grow the necessary 14-16 leaf annual shoots which bear your fruit. Then, from July through harvest (September-October), we often have little or no rainfall. It is important to watch vines through this time for the drooping vine tendrils and flagging leaves - this is TOO MUCH water stress. It won't take much but this would be a good time to water - usually by August we have started measuring for vines stress at Stoller.



- Avoid crowded and dense shoot numbers and canopies. When the buds break in the spring, make sure you perform some level of shoot thinning to avoid crowded canopies which host disease and under-ripened fruit. Control the grape canopy early by thinning to strong healthy buds or shoots in the early spring. For ease, use the width of your palm as a measurement and move across the cane or the horizontal vine and thin to only one or two buds per position/ per palm width. This will go a long way to make sure your foliar canopy stays open for air flow and dappled sunlight in the fruit zone where your wine will be growing.

Question: We are in Oregon – known for Pinot Noir. What other types of grapes can and should be grown here? Is there a type of grape that grows better for beginning grape-growers?

- White wine varieties that are adapted to our cool Willamette Valley maritime climate do so well here. I like Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Gris, and Pinot Blanc.
- Red varieties planted in our cool climate other than Pinot Noir are starting to look more promising. Gamay Noir is a variety that performs very well in our climate. We also push the limits for what can be done here in the Willamette Valley with some delicious plantings of Syrah and Tempranillo as well. These last two varieties are usually harvested well into October right before the annual rains arrive. I am reluctant to plant any other reds on a commercial scale at this time mainly because they do not get quite ripe enough to make a wine from.

Question: What is the life-cycle of the start-up of a vineyard? How long must a backyard vintner work on it before



Basket of Grapes

PHOTO CREDIT: CAROL KRAMBERGER



Grapes from Chile

PHOTO CREDIT: ODAN JAEGER



Napa Valley Grapes

PHOTO CREDIT: JR GOLENO





Chardonnay Grapes at Hanzell Winery

production takes off?

- A commercial scale vineyard usually will start to have enough strength with a supported trunk formed in a three season vine or third leaf vine to hang a small amount of fruit say 4-6 clusters in Pinot noir. This will likely be true for a backyard vineyard as well. By the end of the 5th complete season in the ground a full crop should be expected. We typically plant our vines 5 feet apart within a row and our rows are 7 feet apart. On a single vine planted 5 feet apart we usually allow 14-20 clusters of Pinot noir to hang as evenly spaced as possible along the horizontal plane. With these assumptions, we can expect about a bottle of wine to come from every vine that we have planted.

Question: What is the best way for a back-yard vintner to process their grapes?

- Call around to a local homebrew shop that also caters to the home winemaker as well. Fermenting grapes in repurposed coolers and aging in glass carboys is a small scale way to get the job done. The homebrew shops have the supplies you will likely need and the community resources to discover which yeast you might need.

Question: Are there resources or associations that you might recommend to home grape growers to provide guidance?

- The Oregon Wine Research Institute housed at Oregon State University in Corvallis has a website with a great amount of links to resources that will apply to your backyard vineyard. Links to extension for growing and making not only wine but Cider, Beer and even Spirits can be found at [owri.oregonstate.edu](http://owri.oregonstate.edu)



Grapes in a Vineyard



- Don't forget to tap into your local community library! There are so many great books available to sink your teeth into as you start experimenting in the art of this ancient craft. Look for a publication called Oregon Viticulture edited by Ed Hellman from OSU Press. It is a compendium of practical knowledge and research from the many wine growers and past researchers in the state. It can give a person some real insight on what it takes to grow a great wine.

Question: You have a beautiful new Stoller Experience Center. Can you share with us the goal of the Experience Center and the general feedback of the public thus far?

- The public response to our new Experience Center has been outstanding! Even with our COVID-19 precautions in place, we are able to safely host a sizable amount of people who come here not only to taste the wines we grow right out the back door but to learn more about what the land represents to us and to Bill Stoller who is the greatest steward to his family farm. To be able to interact with various technological learning stations where a person can find out the details about what is in their glass has been jaw dropping and eye widening for many including myself! To visit the Stoller Experience Center, please visit the website at [stollerfamilyestate.com](http://stollerfamilyestate.com).

Whether you want to take the next step towards growing your own grapes, or you want to visit the Stoller Experience Center and learn the history and background of Pacific Northwest grape growing, you have many options available to you. Good luck in your grape-growing and happy wine tasting!



Grapes in Sonoma, California

PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH STIERCH





A balcony garden could be something as simple as a few herb pots.

PHOTO CREDIT: GRECKOR VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

# Gardening on the Edge

**No yard? No problem! Creating a great garden could be as close as your balcony.**

**by Jeff Gustin**

Our story for our 'backyard' segment is one that could apply to our friends who don't have your regular backyard. Yup, this is a story for those who really take their gardening to a much smaller scale. We're going to talk about Balcony Gardening. For a lot of people, the biggest area they have for gardening may be three planters and a couple hanging baskets on a 4 x 6 foot balcony, but there is still a lot that you can grow in a small space. Here are a few simple rules and things to consider when planning and planting a balcony garden.

First, if you live in a condo or apartment building, be aware that there may be rules concerning your gardening and the size of garden you can grow in your limited space. Make sure to check your rental agreement or contract before you exercise your green thumb! If you have a shared balcony, be sure to check with your neighbors to make sure they know what you are doing. Having them involved from the beginning will help you avoid problems later in the season when those plants start exploring their growing space.

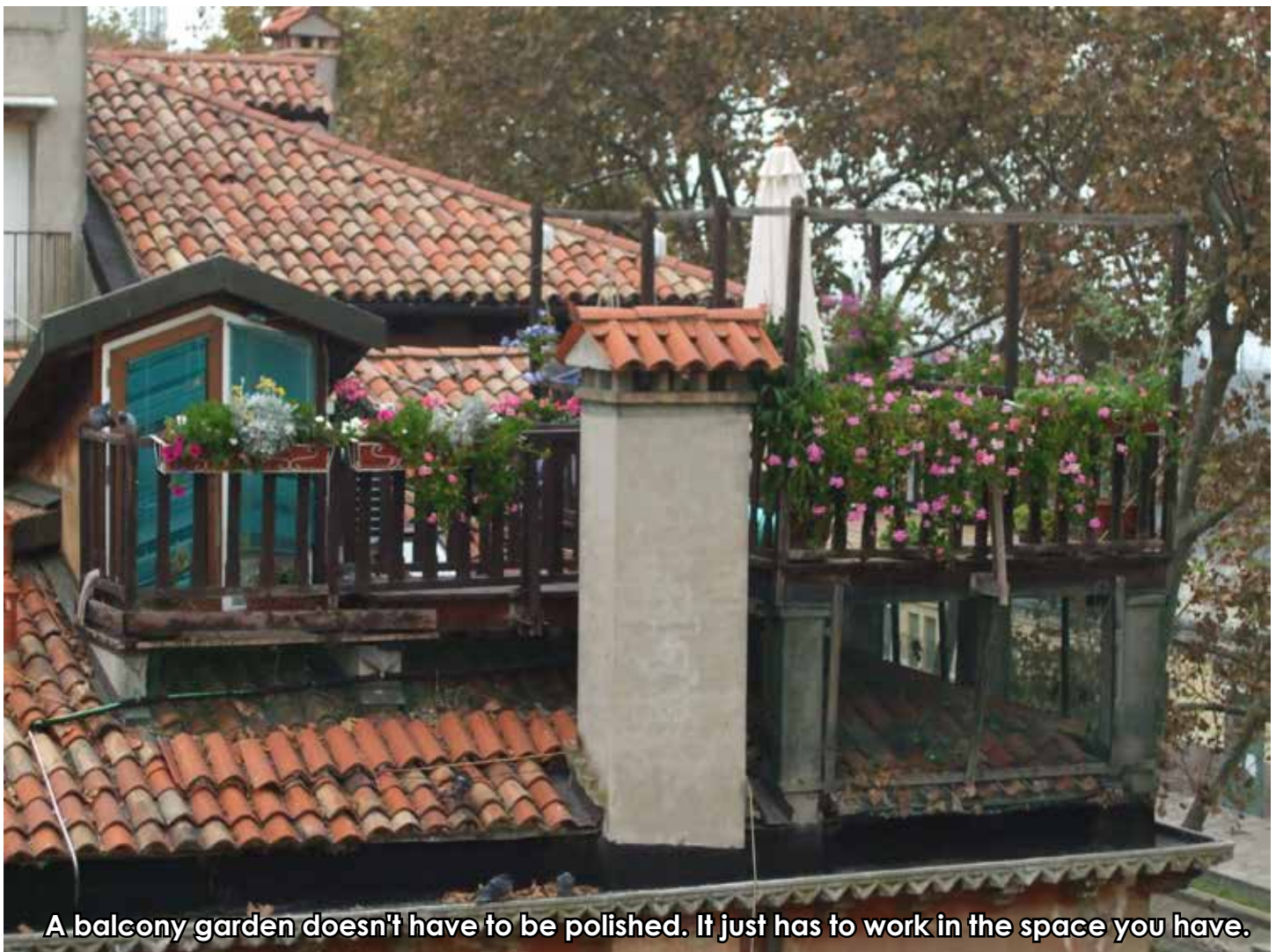


Second, think about your growing conditions. A small space garden behind a home is not much different than a small space on a balcony. You should always look at the conditions that your plants will need. What is your exposure to sunlight? Are you facing south and get more sun than a north facing balcony? Are there tall trees that will block your limited sunlight? Even if you have shade for most of the day you can still plant a lot of wonderful shade or partial shade plants that will grow and thrive. Hostas, heucheras, primroses, pulmonaria and euphorbia all do well in the shade. Are you getting a lot of wind or rain? Wind can dry out your plants quickly. Be prepared to water a little more with those conditions. Also, rain can beat up tender plants and can flood out the plants that love a drier environment.

Speaking of watering issues. Your balcony will probably be full of containers of various sizes.

Plants in containers can dry out quicker than those planted in a regular garden. There is less soil and sometimes a smaller root mass in these containers, which will mean they use and lose moisture more quickly. You will have to keep an eye on your water use and establish a schedule for watering. If you get a lot of sunshine you may have to water more frequently during those hotter days of summer. Also, where does the excess water go? Are you flooding out your neighbors when you water? See where your drainage goes and be a good and considerate neighbor.

Third, are you concerned about your plant selection? Not to worry, you can still enjoy larger plants on your balcony. People think that all you can have are a couple of smaller houseplants on a table, but I have found some people that actually grow trees in their small spaces. There are dwarf varieties of trees and shrubs available, but they may require more



**A balcony garden doesn't have to be polished. It just has to work in the space you have.**



pruning and a possible root pruning every few years to stay tamed and in their space. Reading your plant tags when you purchase a plant will give you an idea on growing conditions and the size your plant will reach at maturity. Be aware that the mature size listed on a tag is generally the size of the plant at seven to ten years. Some plants will continue to grow past that 'mature' size after a few years. It will just give you an excuse to trim them back or replace them with something new!

Part of that plant selection will have to do with what you want to achieve with your living space. Are you going for a tropical look, or are you looking to supplement your veggies and herbs for your kitchen, or maybe a small cutting garden so you can have fresh flowers inside and out? Either way, do your shopping and find the best varieties of plants for your space and needs. An example would be tomatoes. There are two basic types of tomatoes, determinate and indeterminate. Determinate tomatoes grow to a uniform height and stop. Indeterminate tomatoes grow and keep grow-



A wonderful yet small balcony garden.

PHOTO CREDIT: WENDY CUTLER VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS



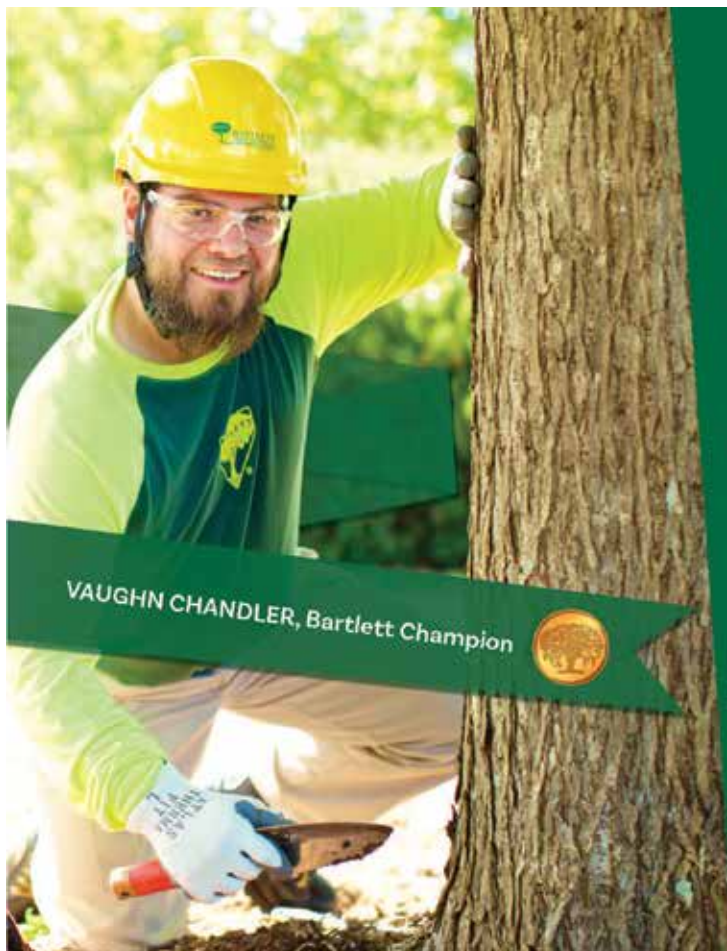
A balcony garden that makes use of all the space including railings.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOAO TRINDADE VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS





A furry visitor to my sister-in-law's balcony garden. Be sure to watch for pests!



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ing, something you may not want on your patio. A single plant can take over your garden if you let it so stick with the determinate varieties. The same is true with certain types of gourds and squashes. Read those tags.

Don't think you are limited to a flat palette either. Vertical gardening, the use of trellises and structures, can take your gardening to new heights. Taller plants and vines may also help you to create a nice private space or living wall for even more color and texture. We even found a wisteria growing in Venice that not only went up, but also wrapped around a few different houses so everyone got to enjoy the blooms.

One last thing. Just because you have a balcony garden, don't think you are immune to bugs, pests and diseases. My sister-in-law has a vegetable garden on her balcony in Colorado and she has to deal with pesky squir-

rels digging up her garden. She had to modify her garden with some chicken wire to keep them out. Birds will also find your garden and enjoy the fruits of your labors. Set up a hummingbird feeder. Hummingbirds are VERY territorial and will help keep other birds from invading your garden. Other bugs and diseases can also be unwelcome visitors to your garden, so keep an eye on your plants and treat them when you see a problem. If you are in close proximity to other apartments, consider a natural or organic product. Use it at a time when your neighbors are not outside, and always follow label instructions when applying.

The key to balcony gardening is like any other gardening. Time. Spend time prepping and planting, then spend time enjoying. Being in your balcony garden will be time well spent.



A wisteria in Venice that all the neighbors could enjoy.



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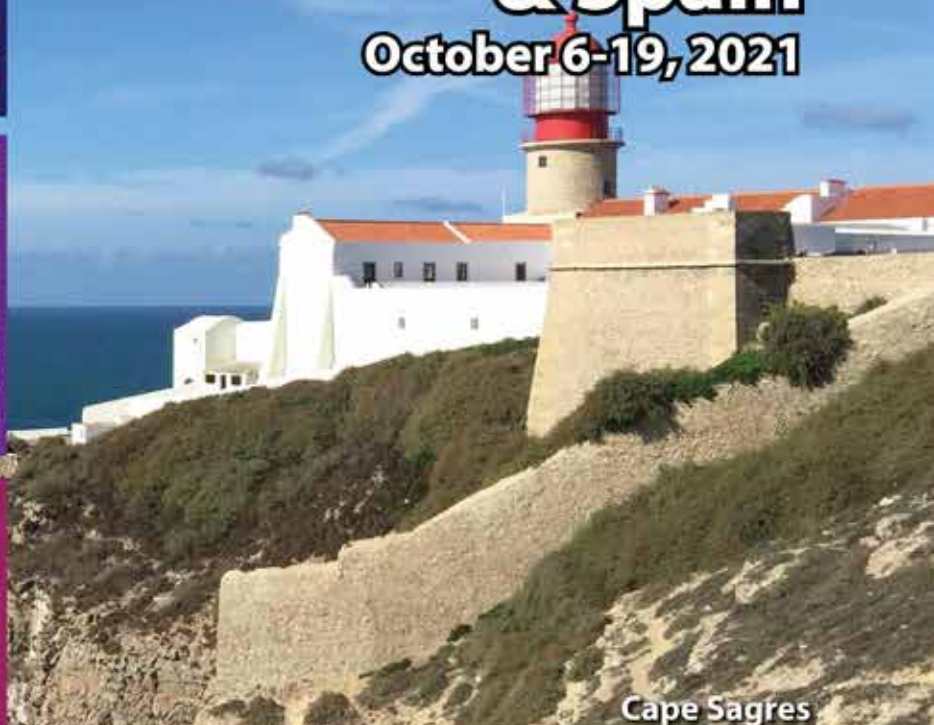


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Tsugawa Nursery as it looks today.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

# A Legacy Beyond the Ordinary

A proud heritage, the American dream, and a woman who wouldn't give up intertwine to create the story of Tsugawa Nursery on its 40th anniversary.

by Ron Dunevant



PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT



Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, but it is not an easy path to follow. Only two-thirds of small businesses survive at least two years, and only half make it to five. So, the achievements of Tsugawa Nursery, a family-owned plant nursery in Woodland, Washington, are particularly notable: This month marks its 40th anniversary!

The story of the Tsugawa family is one of challenge, hard work, overcoming the odds, and ultimately, success. It is also an inspiration to anyone hoping to achieve the American dream.

George and Mable Tsugawa were both the children of Japanese immigrants. They married in 1950 and from 1951 to 1961, Mable gave birth to six children: Martin, Mary, Lori, Karen, Dan and Brian. In 1955, in partnership with George's brother Akira, they purchased land in Woodland, Washington and began farming. Over the years, they grew strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and assorted vegetables. At its peak, the farm spanned 200 acres.

As in any family business, the kids were soon drafted into service on the farm. As the children grew, some continued with the farm, others married and left the area, and some went off to college. Times were good, the land was fertile, and Tsugawa Farms prospered.

Then, in 1980, Mt. St. Helens exploded. The big event on May 18th spared the Tsugawa farm, but in a subsequent eruption, the wind shifted, scattering a gritty ash plume to the southwest, destroying the farm's strawberry crop. At the same time, automation was taking over the raspberry-picking business and Mable, who had overseen the hand-picking of the strawberries, was seeking new opportunities.

On the eastern shoulder of Interstate 5 in Woodland, an available piece of land caught Mable's eye.



Mable and George Tsugawa, 1955

PHOTO COURTESY MARY ARCHER



The site before it became Tsugawa Nursery, early 1981

PHOTO COURTESY LORI TSUGAWA WHALEY





**The Tsugawa Family - Front: George and Mable. Rear: Brian, Dan, Marty, Mary, Lori and Karen**

Three acres in size, the plot had been the home to several unsuccessful nurseries over the years. Now an empty-nester, Mable convinced George to buy the land as an investment, but she wanted to continue the nursery business – even though she had no background in that field. As George related to Judy Alleruzzo in her 2018 Garden Time Magazine article, “we didn’t know anything about the nursery business, but Mable was a determined woman and I supported her. She was a city girl wanting to prove herself to her farm-boy husband.” The land was purchased and a couple thousand dollars-worth of plants were ordered. By late winter 1981, Mable decided they were ready to open Tsugawa Nursery.

Success was not immediate. On the first day, Mable sold only one four-inch geranium. Lori Tsugawa Whaley, George and Mable’s daughter, remembers that first

disappointment. “She wanted to quit but she knew she couldn’t.”

Son Brian Tsugawa, current General Manager of Tsugawa Nursery, remembers it, too. “She thought it would be instant. I know she cried but she wanted to do more than just cry.”

And she did. Soon, resolve overcame doubt and Mable forged ahead. According to Lori, “Her attitude was always ‘never give up.’ Never give up and go for broke.”

George provided financial support and a vehicle to transport nursery stock. Recalls Lori, laughing, “He helped her by... he gave her a truck. I like to say the dilapidated truck matched the dilapidated nursery.” The truck was a mixed blessing, breaking down four times on the freeway in Portland. Luckily for Mable, a family friend was driving by and came to her rescue...three of those four times! Lori says her father finally relent-

ed. “After the third time, he said ‘it’s time for a new vehicle.’”

As it was at the farm, several of the children were soon drafted into service to help their mother. Brian remembers helping out in those early days. He had been studying landscaping at Clark College and, later, Portland Community College and working in the produce department for Thriftway grocery stores when he got the offer. “Mom said, ‘hey you wanna help run a nursery?’”

Saying “no” was not an option, so he signed up. Says Brian, “I was going (to college) Monday thru Friday and then (working) weekends at the nursery.” But for that first year, it was all Mable. Son Marty grew plants in a greenhouse at the farm to help supply the nursery. Husband George and son Dan were running the farm. As the seed Mable planted began to grow, more help was needed



and son Marty came over from the farm, taking over as General Manager. Daughter Karen eventually joined the team, as well.

The early 1980s may have been the worst time ever to open a plant nursery. The U.S. economy had stalled, interest rates skyrocketed, and nursery products were a glut on the market. Tsugawa Nursery found it hard to compete with chain stores that could sell their plants at a loss. Even worse, East Coast nurseries were buying up all the stock from Northwest growers. Mable found it difficult to order the plants she wanted. It seemed all the signs were against her. The sentiment of the locals was that Tsugawa Nursery was doomed to failure. Brian remembers going into a local coffee shop and overhearing the customers, "People were taking bets as to how long the nursery would last."

But Mable would not give up. In a 1982 interview with the Longview Daily News, she told reporter Richard Spiro "what I did was visit nurserymen and follow their suggestions as to what to do. I must have visited, oh - close to 100 nurseries." She praised the growers as "exceptional people," saying that when she admitted to them that she was "helpless," they were willing to advise her. Taking their suggestions to heart, she learned the basics of running a nursery and she never looked back.

"My mom had to learn the hard way," says Brian, "the school of hard knocks you could call it. She was actually door to door at the nursery, rain, shine, sleet, or snow and just touring, learning negotiating... getting doors slammed at her, laughed at, but she didn't give up."

Mable based what she should sell on what she herself liked. Even in those early days, she loved Japanese Maples, which at the time were a novelty. Her initial investment flourished and soon Tsugawa Nursery was stocking over 30 varieties. In 2011, in another in-



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**Tsugawa Nursery, in the beginning**

interview with the Longview Daily News, Mable took some credit. "I love them maples. I feel like I started the trend, then others found out how many other colors there were."

The tough economy wasn't the family's only challenge. In the beginning, "dilapidated" was an apt description of Tsugawa Nursery, or at least what remained of the previous business. The old structures were in desperate need of repair and upgrading, a process that would take many years. In 1982, a mere year after opening, construction began on their first greenhouse, which served double-duty in displaying plants and offering customers a shelter from rain showers.

The nursery expanded. From the original three acres, they added an additional acre across the street, where the parking lot now sits. Later, when the house next door to the nursery became available, it was purchased and used for an office. The pool behind the house soon became a koi and carp pond, the beginning of Tsugawa's foray into water gardening. Recalls Brian, "The koi pond was mom's idea. Who had time to swim?" At the

time, ponds were not a popular addition to American backyards. "I don't think there was very much in water gardening at the time, Brian says. "Back then, Europeans were the only ones who did ponds."

But Mable was big on the idea, another example of her intuition being right on the mark. Soon, Tsugawa Nursery was making a name for itself in water gardening. Says Lori, "She really had a good sense of timing and things that people would want. A sense of what people would want to buy. She was really good at the nursery. A lot of people doubted her but she kept going." Today, that koi pond remains, next to the Water Garden building.

Despite inauspicious beginnings, Tsugawa Nursery soon began to attract customers from the local area – Woodland, Kalama, Longview, Kelso, Battle Ground and Ridgefield. The nursery's location adjacent to Interstate 5 also caught the attention of drivers heading north to Seattle or South to Portland. The large selection of Japanese Maples drew in devotees from outside the area. Marty instituted free gardening seminars, tree clinics, and Bonsai classes.

Curious gardeners dropped by to see what Water Gardening was all about. Tsugawa Nursery was beginning to make a name for itself.

When the strawberries became ripe, George would send crates over to the nursery to sell and customers who were attracted to the wonderful fruit were soon enticed by Mable's other offerings: bedding plants, rhododendrons and houseplants were best sellers in the early years. Peat moss, and fertilizers were available, too. Tsugawa Nursery was also growing a lot of their own stock, including propagating over 1,000 rhododendrons which they then sold.

For the first several years, it was the profits from the farm that kept the nursery afloat. George thought it would be a part-time business, prospering in the spring and going dormant in the winter. Then, almost suddenly, things began to shift. The population of Vancouver and Clark County started to grow and the economy and the housing market boomed. More residents meant more customers and Tsugawa's freeway-adjacent location was free advertising. In a span of two years, business tripled and, by the 1990s, the nursery no longer



needed the support of the farm. Brian, Dan and Karen were seeing to the day to day operations.

The nursery has continued to thrive and grow. Today, the Tsugawa name stands for quality plants, helpful people, a proud Japanese heritage and a commitment to serving the community. George Tsugawa constantly reminded his children that he had worked hard to establish the family's good name, and they were to conduct themselves in a way that would always honor that. And they have.

Of course, the Tsugawas have had their share of sadness over the years. In February of 2000, Martin died of cancer at the age of 48, a loss that was felt deeply by the family. Brian stepped up to succeed him as manager of the nursery. Mable, the spiritual center of the enterprise continued to guide the business through the 2000s when her health began to fail. She passed away in 2011. George, as family patriarch, was involved



George and Mable Tsugawa

PHOTO COURTESY THE TSUGAWA FAMILY



Bonsai Corner in the 1980s

PHOTO COURTESY LORI TSUGAWA WHALEY



with the business into his late 90s, periodically coming into the nursery to check things out. He passed away last November, just months before his 100th birthday. But the legacy he and Mable leave behind serves as an amazing tribute to the efforts of three generations of Tsugawas.

As it has been for many small businesses, the pandemic of 2020 has been challenging for Tsugawa Nursery. On the positive side, the state of Washington declared plant nurseries to be an essential business, so they were able to continue operating at a time when many were forced to close temporarily. Into the spring and summer of 2020, demand for plants increased at the same time that the virus spread. The influx of customers needing plants put a strain on the staff, which worked extra hours to keep plants stocked and help customers order and pick up their goods. Like Mable, their attitude is "never give up."



PHOTO COURTESY TSUGAWA NURSERY

With Tsugawa's 40th Anniversary on the horizon, plans were made early in 2020 to celebrate this landmark occasion with big events beginning in March of 2021. The continuing threat of the COVID spread, however, has put many of these plans on hold. After all,

what is a celebration if no one can come to celebrate? Therefore, the entire year will be dedicated to celebration, and as things (hopefully) improve, announcements will be made to celebrate in style.

Today, Tsugawa Nursery is five

acres of amazing plants and amazing people. It's a landmark in the Woodland area and a destination for gardeners from Salem to Seattle. Their slogan is "Growing Beyond the Ordinary," a reflection not only of the wonderful plants they sell, but of an extraordinary fam-



Tsugawa Nursery as it looks today, in a panoramic view.





From the 2000s, Karen, Mable, Brian and George Tsugawa

ily that came to America, toiled and triumphed, and has lived the American dream. They invite you to visit them in Woodland and share in what Mable Tsugawa created four decades ago.

**Tsugawa Nursery**  
410 E Scott Avenue,  
Woodland, WA 98674  
(360) 225-8750

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

### More About the Tsugawa Family

#### GEORGE TSUGAWA

Read a loving profile of George Tsugawa in Garden Time Magazine's August 2018 issue (<http://www.gardentime.tv/gto/1808/GTDM-1808.pdf>).

#### BRIAN TSUGAWA

Read an interview with Brian Tsugawa in Garden Time Magazine's May 2012 issue (<http://www.gardentime.tv/gto/1205/GTDM-1205.pdf>).

#### MABLE TSUGAWA

Lori Tsugawa Whaley is a speaker, life coach and international best-selling author.

In her latest book, *Let the Samurai Be Your Guide: The Seven Bushido Pathways to Personal Success*, she tells of the lessons she learned from her mother as Mable turned Tsugawa Nursery from a dream into reality.

It can be found at finer bookstores everywhere or purchased on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).







# Sourdough Revisited

**Like the delicious bread it creates,  
we keep coming back for more.**

by David Musial

My pursuit of sourdough has been ongoing for years. In fact, I wrote an article on sourdough starter ten years ago. It all started with acquiring some of my mother's sourdough starter and I'm sad to say, due to age and poor health, is no longer with us. I'm referring to the starter, not my mom. She's 87 and healthy.

In late 2019, a friend offered up some of their sourdough starter and shortly thereafter I purchased my own starter with a San Francisco pedigree. More on that later. Shortly thereafter, the pandemic started and like others, my interest in sourdough increased and making the perfect sourdough boule or circular loaf was my pursuit.

It was also motivated by the fact that bread yeast was not to be found on the grocery store shelves.

Although I won't say I've perfected the sourdough boule, I do make a pretty good loaf and what I'd like to share is the lessons I've learned during the pandemic.

## **Lesson 1-The Starter**

The big debate with starter is with the frequency of feeding. Purists and those that bake frequently keep their starter at room temperature and feed it once and sometimes twice a day. Those that bake less often are happy to keep their starter



in the refrigerator and feed the starter once a week or a month. What they all agree on is that when you feed, you use equal parts of starter, flour and water by weight. And by weight, I mean that if you don't own a kitchen scale, you need to buy one. It makes the feeding process easier and you will find other uses for the kitchen scale.

The downside of feeding daily is that the consumption, and therefore cost, of flour increases. Additionally, you wind up with a fair amount of extra starter. For that problem or possibly opportunity, see Lesson 5.

The upside to storing your starter in the refrigerator and feeding periodically is that there is less flour involved in feeding. The primary downside is that it takes longer for the starter to wake up and become active. Additionally, out of sight out of mind, mean-





ing you forget it is in the fridge and forget to feed. That was the demise of my mom's starter.

One mistake I have made is keeping too much starter on hand. The key is to have just enough on hand for the next loaf of bread. My basic loaf calls for 150g of starter so if I always have 75g of starter on hand, when I add equal parts of flour and water I have 225g of fresh starter. That gives me 150g for the bread and 75g to keep on hand. What it also means is that I feed the starter with 75g of flour per day which equates to a bag of flour per month.

## **Lesson 2-Handling the Dough**

Unlike most bread recipes made with yeast, sourdough dough is very wet dough and takes time to learn how to handle. Most recipes call for folding the dough as opposed to kneading. This is





generally performed in the bowl by stretching the dough and folding it over itself. Although counterintuitive, the trick is to have a wet hand so the dough does not stick.

A useful tool in manipulating the dough while in the bowl is a bowl scraper. It mimics the curve of a bowl making dough release easy.

### Lesson 3-The Rise

Buy a banneton with a cloth cover and some rice flour. End of story. OK, let me explain further.

Sourdough bread does not have a strong structure like breads made with yeast. As such, the less handling after the bread has raised the better. Enter the banneton.

The banneton is basically a wicker basket that supports the dough while it rises. Some place the dough directly into the banneton and others, myself included, use the cloth basket cover. With either method, rice flour is superior to prevent the wet dough from sticking to the basket or cloth.

### Lesson 4-The Bake

A lot of time and effort is put into the starter and making the dough, and although all those steps are important, the baking method can significantly improve the results. Commercial bakers use steam ovens to get the perfect rise and golden-brown crisp crust. Although steam ovens are available for the home, there are less expensive options. To mimic the effect of a steam oven, a Dutch oven or bread cloche can be used. They trap the steam creating a loaf that rivals commercial bakers.



Dutch ovens are available in cast iron or enameled cast iron. Both work well with a few drawbacks. As they have high sides, it can be challenging to place the bread inside. To make it easier, I cut a circle out of parchment with two tabs that are used as handles to pick up and lower the dough. The parchment is also lightly dusted with corn meal. Other drawbacks are weight for both and price for enameled cast iron. Le Creuset® is the expensive gold standard, but Lodge Cast Iron sell reasonably priced alternatives.

After years of using my enameled Dutch oven, I finally bought a bread cloche. The cloche is ceramic, extremely light, and achieves excellent baking results. The sides are also short, making transfer of the dough much easier than the Dutch oven. They can be found in round and elongated shapes so

you can vary the shape of your loaf.

I preheat the oven to 475° and reduce to 425° after the dough is placed in the oven. Baking for forty minutes covered and five to eight uncovered brings the bread to 210° and a perfectly golden brown crust, top and bottom. You will need to experiment with your recipe, cooking equipment and oven.

### Lesson 5-Leftover Starters

Google 'how to use leftover sourdough starter' and you will get 371,000 results. It's not surprising as so many people are making sourdough starter and no one wants to throw the excess away. One of the top results is to make crackers and it couldn't be simpler. When reading recipes, you will see the term unfed or discard sourdough starter. Basically, that is the starter that has not been fed for a day or two.





To make crackers, you combine one cup of all-purpose flour, one cup of discard starter, one quarter cup of butter or oil, ½-1 tablespoon of herbs and a teaspoon of salt. Mix well, roll thin and bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes until lightly browned. Feel free to use whole wheat or other flour for up to half the all-purpose flour.

You can always give starter to a friend. They will love you for sharing, but may hate you for the addiction that comes from the desire to make the perfect loaf of sourdough bread.

Besides sharing the fresh starter, you can also make and share dehydrated starter. It's quite easy and ensures that you will also have a backup of your starter if you happen to neglect it for a period of time. Sorry Mom.

To dehydrate, I line a sheet pan with parchment paper and spread two ounces or 56 grams of fresh starter over the parchment. Place the pan on a counter, out of reach from my son's dog that ate a tray of dehydrating starter, and allow to dry. Drying time will depend on the air temperature, but generally one to two days. Once dried, break into pieces and store in a small Mason jar or better yet, place in a vacuum sealed bag. Some say

it will last forever.

Lastly, remember that your starter is 50% water and 50% flour by weight. As such it can be substituted proportionately in most recipes that call for flour and water. The starter will add a nice sourdough tang to your recipe. It can go in anything from biscuits to tempura batter.

### Recap of Useful Tools

- **Kitchen scale**
- **Bowl scraper**
- **Banneton with cloth cover**
- **Rice flour**
- **Dutch oven or bread cloche**

Happy baking and remember to let your bread cool before cutting. If you don't, all that hard work will end up with a damp and gummy loaf.



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# WTDITG

**They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But, for gardeners, March is more like a turtle: Slow and steady wins the race. Keep up with your gardening regimen, prune and fertilize--and stay ahead of the weeds. March is the month of Spring, and the bare branches of winter will soon be sprouting forth with color!**

## PLANNING

- Have you been making notes in your garden journal? It'll be fun to see what all you were able to accomplish this year when you look back on your notes!



- Do more vegetable garden planning to take advantage of all the space available. For instance, planting pole beans at the base of corn plants is a great combo! As the beans grow they have the corn to grow on for support and the beans add back to the soil ni-

trogen needed by the corn.

- We recommend you research some additional companion planting for your vegetable crops. By planting 'companion plants' together and keeping disagreeable plants apart, you can have the best production ever! If you can tweak your planting

plan to allow for these little natural friendships to develop, then your harvests will be more bountiful than ever!

Ed Hume's seed website has some good info on companion planting or you can find lots of companion planting information in a book by Louise Riotte, "Carrots Love Tomatoes".

Here are just three examples;

Beans like celery and cucumbers but do not like onions and fennel.

Corn lives happily with pumpkins, peas, beans and cucumber but does not like tomatoes!



Tomatoes like carrots, onions and parsley but don't plant them near cabbage or cauliflower.

## PLANTING

- This is a good 'general' planting and landscaping month, an excellent time to start looking at what's available to add color and drama to your landscaping. More stock will be available this time of year and the plants can get off to a great start as the soil begins to warm up.

- Your last chance to buy bare root fruit trees is this month. You want to get the bare root trees planted before they leaf out, so hurry in to your local garden center to see what's available.

- Plant berry crops: Strawber-



ries, blueberries and all the cane berries like raspberries and blackberries, currants and gooseberries.

## TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up perennials and divide daylilies, hosta, asters, garden mums and other summer and fall blooming perennials. Cut back dormant perennial grasses to 2" above soil.

- Fertilize trees and shrubs, if you haven't yet, with an all purpose slow release fertilizer. This is the 'last chance' month to apply this six-month slow release formula. You want it to be used up by



# What To Do In The Garden

## MARCH

your plants by the end of July. This way your plants will have the months of August and September to get toughened up for winter.



- Prune roses if you haven't yet. Thin them out, spacing the branches you leave for best sun exposure. Fertilize roses with a granular slow release fertilizer to keep them strong and healthy, making the rose bush better able to resist disease and insects. Watch for aphids as they love the new growth on roses.

- Prune flowering trees and shrubs when they finish flower-

ing. After forsythia's blooms fade is when you should prune it. Cut out up to 1/3rd of the stems or branches all the way down to the ground. This allows for the new stems to grow that will bloom next season. Look up pruning tips for each plant you are thinking of working on. Your research now will payoff later in better looking trees and shrubs.

- Spread compost over the veggie garden and landscape beds to help enrich the soil.

- Early spring is a good time to apply a lawn fertilizer with extra iron for moss control. The seed germination inhibiting iron will be gone in time for your grass seedling in late April.

- Weeds? Remember that if weeds are allowed to go to seed, more and more work will be added to your garden. Keep up with this task by pulling them or covering the weeds with newspaper and compost, letting them rot beneath and then turning them into the soil once rotted.

- Watch for slugs. Use Bonide's slug bait called 'Slug Magic' to kill slugs safely with its active ingredient, iron phosphate.



## VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures often this month to see what can be planted out by seed. Refer back to the soil temperature chart (in our January issue) for planting vegetables by seed out into the garden. The chart also lists the best soil temperatures for planting young starts.



- Vegetable garden: Apply organic compost to the soil. Spade in this amendment or roto-till. (If soil is still too wet, just spade in amendments as spading is better for the soil structure anyway).

- Start plants indoors, using good organic seed starting soil; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chives, green onions, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

- Plant seeds outdoors, unless otherwise specified; beets, garden peas, fava beans, cabbage starts, cilantro, garlic cloves, green onion starts, onion sets, shallots, mustard greens, spinach, swiss chard and radishes.

Plant most of the perennial varieties of veggies now like asparagus crowns, artichokes horseradish and rhubarb. Plant carrot seeds at the end of the month.

- Plant Walla Walla onion set starts and the dry white, yellow or red onion sets.

- Pick up your seed potatoes this month as soon as they are available, since they should be chitted first before planting. (It's not a mistake, we do mean chit!) 'Chitting' potatoes is a term that means pre-sprouting seed potatoes. Place the seed spuds in a single layer, eyes facing up, in a cool frost free (no lower than 50F) but well-lit space. Good strong



light, even sun, is best for creating the plump, strong stubby sprouts, not any long weak sprouts you see from stored potatoes. When the sprouts are about ¾"-1" long the tubers can be planted out in the garden. Chitting first helps with an earlier and larger harvest.





# 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](http://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/lansuchinesegarden>. <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>.

### **My First Veggie Garden:**

**Intro to Vegetable Gardening**  
**Tuesday, March 16, 2021 • 10:00am-11:30am**

*continued next column*

### **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](http://www.hoytarboretum.org).

### **Cutting Gardens Part 1: Planning, Planting** **Saturday, March 27, 2021 • 10:00am-12:00pm** **Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR**

Learn how to create gardens and bring it indoors. In the first part of this series, you will learn when, where and what to plant. Planting lists and ideas provided. A second class later in the season covers how to harvest your blooms and arrange them like an expert. Classes are \$25 for non-members of FRCC, \$10 for FRCC members, and free to FRCC members at the patron and Duchess of Waverly levels. 125 Rosemont Road, West Linn, OR. <https://www.rogersonclematiscollection.org>

### **Seventh Annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference** **Saturday, March 6, 2021 • 9:00am-4:00pm** **ONLINE EVENT • Linn County Master Gardener Association**

This year, we're taking our Seventh Annual BEEvent Pollinator Conference online. Due to the necessary restrictions for COVID-19 safety, hosting an

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person event isn't possible in 2021, so we're hosting a virtual conference. We have a great lineup of speakers, and this year you can watch and listen in the comfort of your own home!

A link to the archived videos of the conference will also be provided a couple weeks after the event, in case you miss any of it or suffer from "Zoom fatigue."

We're proud to present a great lineup of speakers:

Jim Cane: (James H. Cane) – BEE All You Can: Creating a Bee Haven with Room and Board.

Jim Cane has spent many of the past four decades studying the nesting and pollination ecologies of native non-social bees of North America and elsewhere. He has studied pollination and pollinators of alfalfa, cranberries, blueberries, squashes, almonds, onions, and raspberries, as well as 13+ native wildflower seed crops used for restoration seed. He has published on native bee nesting biologies, chemical ecologies, foraging behaviors, floral specializations, community dynamics and conservation, especially with regard to wildfire. He has multiplied 5 species of native *Osmia* bees for these applications. (Read More)

Kate (Kathryn) LeCroy – Citizen Scientist-Fueled Research: Documenting Wild Native Bee Declines in North America

Kate LeCroy is a PhD Candidate at the University of Virginia studying mason bees with T'ai Roulston. Over the last three years, Kate has partnered closely with 200+ citizen science program participants to monitor mason bee diversity and disease ecology across Virginia. Pre-pandemic, Kate would spend her time each spring driving 2,500+ miles around the nooks and crannies of Virginia to

**continued next column**

visit her program participants, delivering monitoring equipment and answering any of their questions in person. Along with running training webinars and coordinating this 12-week monitoring project each year, Kate identifies the springtime mason bees and fungal associates from each location and shares these data back with participants.

August Jackson – Bees of the Willamette Valley

August Jackson works as the Interpretation Coordinator at Mount Pisgah Arboretum in Eugene, Oregon. In addition to his work at the Arboretum, August has expertise in the native bees of the Pacific Northwest and is an instructor with the Oregon Bee Atlas out of Oregon State University. He has authored a comprehensive guide to the Bees of the Willamette Valley, and has discovered bee species new to the state of Oregon. August is a passionate science communicator and frequently delivers talks and leads classes on native bees and pollination ecology around the state.

Lincoln Best – Update on Oregon Bee Atlas Project

And much more!

All registered participants will receive a private link to the recorded presentations soon after the conference. No refunds will be offered.

<https://linnmastergardeners.com/beeevent>

#### LOOKING FOR MORE?

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



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