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The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

This month I was pondering a lot of things that were changing and some that have not really changed. A couple weeks ago we had to cancel our Garden Time trip to Portugal and Spain for the second year in a row. We were down to the last few openings to fill but the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus has infections climbing and there was no guarantee that we could travel this fall. That was a change, but it was like 'more of the same' for us in this year-plus of crazy cancelations and postponements. Then we had the big change of the heat wave a few weeks ago which fried people's nerves and plants. Change in the climate could do a number on our gardens and lifestyles if this continues. Yes, things can be changing, but if you do make it out to your garden, you will see that things can also remain the same. We are finding that our garden is a place where we can go to see some stability and normalcy. Plants are starting to bounce back from the heat. We are harvesting vegetables from the garden and the harvest will continue for months to come. This stability is welcomed and embraced by our family. Picking fruit, vegetables and flowers gives us all a reason to celebrate and handle the changes a little bit better. We hope you are finding ways to celebrate the season in your garden.

One thing that doesn't change and will remain the same is the great information for our monthly issue of Garden Time Magazine. Take plants for example. This month we have a great story on hardy hibiscus. The types that Judy talks about are extremely hardy and can easily bring a touch of the tropics to your garden. Ryan has a story this month that focuses on a couple of different types of gardens. One type is the windowsill garden and the other type of garden is the white garden. The windowsill garden is great for edibles, like herbs and lettuces, or for flowers. Ryan breaks down how to take care of the windowsill garden so you can have success no matter what you plant. The second type of garden he talks about is a White Garden. This is a garden that features white plants, either through their blooms or even their foliage. These types of gardens can be very elegant and classy! If you want to preserve the tastes of the summer garden, canning may be the way to go! This month Therese has a great story on how you can make pickles to enjoy all year long! The process is not as hard as you might think and there are tons of resources that you can tap so you have the tastiest pickles in the neighborhood!

Change can be a good thing, like learning to make pickles or trying a windowsill garden, so embrace it.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

Garden Time Magazine

◆ August 2021

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Dear Mortimer,

My lawn and plants are looking kinda bad and I wanted to add fertilizer to give them a boost. Someone told me that is not a good idea in the summer and it could damage my plants. Is that true?

Yours, Concerned!

Dear Concerned,

Fertilizer can be a good thing for any plant, and can be applied at any time of year, but the question is how efficiently can the plant use that fertilizer given the conditions where it lives? In the extreme summer heat a plant might be too stressed to process the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium that most fertilizers provide. In hot conditions a plant may be trying its hardest to process sunlight, water, oxygen and CO2 through photosynthesis and transpiration, and the extra boost of fertilizer may push it over the edge. In most cases, when you fertilize, you will want to make sure that your plant is well watered and that you don't apply fertilizer during a heat wave. Plus, you will want to fertilize in the coolest part of the day. Water well, apply your fertilizer and then lightly water again. Know your plant and what it needs before you apply fertilizer. Sometimes a low N-P-K number is good in the heat so you don't give your plant too much of a good thing. We have seen many cases of someone applying strong fertilizer to a lawn during a heat wave and end up frying the grass to a crispy brown because it is getting too much fertilizer.

Of course, some of your plants may be heavy feeders. Those hanging baskets may need a



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

AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv



dose of fertilizer every 10 days to 2 weeks to keep up their blooming. Follow those rules on watering well, applying in the cool of the day and using the correct amount of fertilizer to ensure your success. Of course, with any fertilizer or garden product, remember to read the instructions for complete application details.

Good luck, Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

This heat is really beating up my plants! Even the sun lovers are suffering. They are wilting and dying in the afternoon sun! Help!

Signed, Trying to beat the heat

In cases of extreme heat, it could be more than a lack of water that has your plants gasping!

First of all check your plant to see if it is getting water to the roots. After watering, dig a little bit into the soil to see how far down the water is getting. Some people use the screwdriver test. Stick a regular screwdriver deeply into the soil and see if it is moist when you pull it out. You may need to water deeply to get moisture to those roots. This means applying a lower amount of water over a longer period of time so it can soak down to those fine hair roots.

Second is the soil heat. Some plants, even sun lovers like to have 'cool feet'. That means they prefer a cooler soil. Planting groundcovers or applying mulch can create a barrier to the excessive heat and help to retain some moisture to your plants. Clematis love to have cooler roots and so a shorter plant to shield their roots is a good thing to have.

A third consideration is disease, pest problems nutritional deficiencies. Diseases damage a plant and interfere with efficient photosynthesis. Check your plants for signs of disease. If you need help, take a leaf sample (in a sealed bag) and a few pictures to your local garden center. Most have 'Help Desks' to answer your garden questions. You can also check with the 'Ask an Expert' link on the OSU Extension website. If you have pest problems, you might be able to see them with a magnifying glass or you could find damage. Once again, use OSU Extension or your garden center resources to identify a problem. The same is true for nutritional problems. Yellowing or discolored leaves may not be sun stress, but a feeding problem. Once again, seek help to determine a solution.

Hope this casts a little light on your sun loving problems,

Dear Heat, Mortimer







Lush, Lucious, Luscher!

Lake Oswego's historic Luscher Farm is an organic paradise for wannabe gardeners who are short on space and urban refugees yearning to commune with nature.

by Ron Dunevant

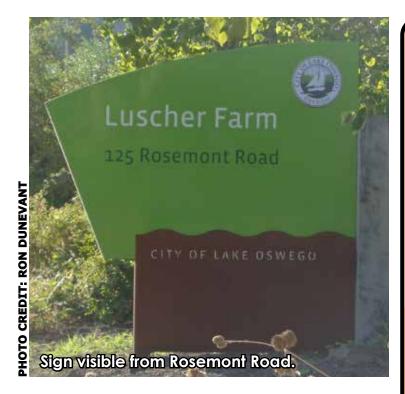
Occupying a pastoral plot just beyond the Urban Growth Boundary, Lake Oswego's historic Luscher Farm is an enticing combination of rustic charm and progressive thinking. It is a place where past and present collide and become one. A spot where people go to find themselves and to lose themselves.

That may seem a tall order for a city park, especially one that isn't even in the city. Bordered by two prominent market roads from the mid-1800s, Stafford and Rosemont, Luscher Farm has a long and interesting history that dates back to 1866, a mere seven years after Oregon became a state. Originally part of the Jesse & Nancy Bullock Donation Land Claim, the farm evolved and became a noted stop at the junc-

tion of two routes used to transport produce to Portland and Oregon City.

For eight decades, the land passed to different owners who established the farm, house and barn, eventually transforming it into a dairy operation. In 1944, it was purchased by Ester and Rudolph Luscher who christened it "Rudester Farm" and, for the next quarter century, made a name for themselves by breeding Holstein cows with superior milk production.

In 1969, the stock was sold, the dairy closed, and the pasture leased out for grazing. The City of Lake Oswego purchased the property in 1991 from Rudolph Luscher under a life estate agreement, which meant that upon the death of Mr.



Luscher, the property would be transferred to the city. That occurred in 1997.

Today, the City of Lake Oswego maintains the property and buildings as an example of agriculture, with the goal of educating visitors in the production of local and organic foods. On those 22 acres are several buildings and structures that were erected around the turn of the twentieth century, including a Queen Anne-style farmhouse, workshop, pump house, chicken coop, barn and bunkhouse/garage. The farm is the core of eight nearby parcels that were purchased by the City of Lake Oswego between 1991 and 2005 and total over 150 acres.

This combination of opportunity, luck and planning has resulted in something almost unique: a rural spot in an urban setting. It is a recognition of a rich history and decades of hard work that is also an experiment in sustainable living. Just like it has done for the past century-and-a-half, the land is nurturing, teaching and providing. You see, Luscher Farm is still a place where food grows, where gardeners toil, where nature performs her miracles, and where everything is organic.

At the center of this concern is the Friends of Luscher Farm, a non-profit organization that was formed in 2004. Their mission, "to support vibrant programs that provide environmental education, natural resource enhancement, and sustainable urban agriculture while celebrating the legacy of Luscher Farm," is the tie that binds past to future. The Friends work with the City of Lake Oswego

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Local Events August 2021

Swan Island Dahlia Festival August 1-30, 2021 • Daily except Wednesdays Swan Island Dahlias, Canby, OR

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• www.dahlias.com

Jewel Box Plant Sale Saturday, August 21, 2021 • 9:00am-3:00pm Sebright Gardens, Salem, OR

Stop in and pick out some gems from the hand picked selections of CNT Members, all in one place for your shopping delight! Tour Sebright's spectacular gardens and shop their huge variety of hostas and companion plants. A great time to stock up for fall planting.

•www.cascadenurserytrail.com

Annual Fuchsia Show & Display Friday-Sunday, August 20–22, 2021 Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

Free event. Hardy uprights, trailing baskets, blossom display, sales plants & more on hand. Come see us.

www.portlandnursery.com



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PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

and Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation "to ensure Luscher Farm is enjoyed by local residents and visitors to our area." The result of this collaboration is an unpretentious little park that revels in the natural beauty of farming.

To visit Luscher Farm on a sunny summer evening is to take a trip back in time. The farm buildings, basically unchanged from a century ago, give a sense of calm that is missing from the urban world. The fields are abuzz with the sound of birds and insects and, except for a half-dozen gardeners quietly tending their plots, the place was solitary, an excellent spot for introspection and communing. There are even a few picnic tables in the shade for those wishing to rest or eat.

But this park offers more than just a place to relax. Luscher Farm has several offerings and activities that will appeal to people of all ages.

Community Gardens

Got a green thumb but no place to get it dirty? One of the most popular programs at Luscher Farm is the Community Garden. More than 180 plots are available for participants to grow fresh organic produce and flowers. It is a perfect locale for gardeners who have five to seven hours to spend each week.

Walking through these gardens, vou'll see a wide variety of colorful flowers and impressive fruits and vegetables. The plots are clearly an extension of the personalities of their respective owners, with some sections featuring arbors, chairs, yard art, signposts and even fountains.

Each gardener is also required to volunteer four hours of service to the farm during the





HOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVAN





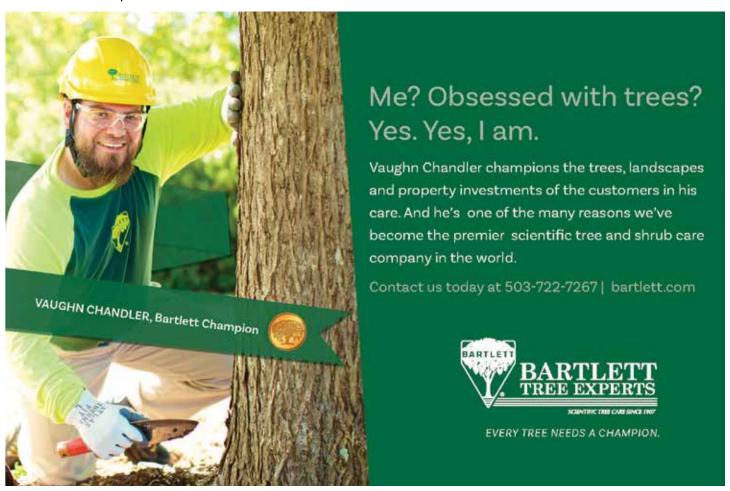
growing season. Lake Oswego residents are given priority, but the program is open to anyone who is interested. Plots are available in 10'x20' and 20'x20' sizes and there is a participation fee of \$87 to \$110 for residents or \$109 to \$126 for non-residents. Dogs are not allowed in the garden area.

Adopt a Plot

Luscher Farm is also home to an Adopt-a-Plot Program. Participants are assigned a 4'x20' plot and are taught how to grow produce organically for camps, cooking classes, and to donate to members of the community who are in need, including Hunger Fighters Oregon and the Meals on Wheels Program.

Materials and instruction are provided and gardeners can take home samples for their own use. Work parties of three







to eight people are formed on the third Saturday of each month between March and October and participation is mandatory. The program is an excellent primer for the skills needed to transition to a community garden plot.

There is a \$35 fee for residents of Lake Oswego, \$53 for non-residents. The program is full for this year, but interested parties may add themselves to a waitlist.

Youth Programs

The focus on organic education is not limited to adults, however. Luscher Farm offers a number of youth programs including camps, Farm Saturdays and cooking programs.

Children's Garden

Designed to appeal to the child in all of us, this "outdoor classroom" invites families and children to make a connection with the natural world through sights, sounds, touch and taste. The Children's Garden offers activities throughout the year, including cooking, crafts, gardening and more. Teens can learn about food production from seed to market through internship classes offered in partnership with the Lake Oswego

School District. Camps, local schools and service groups are taught the importance of organic gardening and the vital role that food-growing plays in society. Learn more about the classes, camps, and activities at the Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation website, www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec or call 503-675-2549.

47th Avenue Farm

Luscher Farm also hosts 47th Avenue Farms (www.47thavefarm.com), which is dedicated to growing produce for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model. Seasonal agricultural shares are available and only a set number of harvest shareholders can join each year. Participants pick up their produce at the barn on Thursdays. For more information about a CSA membership, contact Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation at 503-675-2549.

Historic Chicken Coop

Visitors to Luscher Farm are treated to an abundance of small wildlife, especially around the garden area, where birds and squirrels vie to share in the bounty. On the farm, you're likely to see multiple varieties of fowl such as chukars, grouse

and pigeons. A small building near the barn draws attention with the sounds of a rooster crowing at nearly any hour of the day. This is the historic Chicken Coop. The coop plays a part in serval recreational programs that introduce children to farm animals. The program provides an opportunity to feed produce from the Children's Garden to the chickens and learn more about them. The coop is a big draw, especially for kids, and the chickens will come out to meet visitors (through a wire screen).

Rosemont Trail

If trudging through the garden plots isn't enough to get your heart pumping, you can travel on nearby Rosemont Trail. Skirting Luscher Farm on the west and south is a 4.7 mile paved trail that begins at Hazelia Field and meanders all the way to Hidden Springs Road. It is lightly trafficked and is great for hiking, walking, running and taking nature trips. Dogs are allowed as long as they are kept on a leash.

Rogerson Clematis Garden

Perhaps the best-known occupant of Luscher Farm is the Rogerson Clematis Garden (www.rogersonclematiscollection.org), which contains the most comprehensive collection of clematis within a public garden in North America. We visited two years ago, and you can read about this amazing spot in Garden Time Magazine's June 2019 edition. http://www.gardentime.tv/gto/1906/ GTDM-1906.pdf.

Like the lifestyle it emulates, Luscher Farm is easy to find, easy to visit and an easy drive from Interstates 5 and 205. Whether you are looking to do a little gardening or just absorb the history and aura of this special place, be sure to add this spot to your list of gardens to visit.

> **Luscher Farm City Park** 125 Rosemont Rd. West Linn, OR 97068

www.ci.oswego.or.us/luscher

Open from dawn until dusk.

Friends of Luscher Farm www.luscherfriends.org



www.portlandnursery.com

Upcoming Events at Stark

Fuchsia Society Show & Sale Aug 21-22

Iris Society Bearded Iris Sale Aug 28-29

Iris Society Siberian Iris Sale Sept 18-19



Trend Setters

Growing herbs and vegetables on a window sill and gardens that feature primarily white flowers are two of the top gardening trends in 2021.

by Ryan Seely

Thyme plant in a pot.

My 14-year old son is a foodie at heart. Even when he was a toddler, he would often look around the dinner table, especially at a restaurant, and carefully examine everyone's entrée. He would point and ask simply for a bite from each plate, enjoying salads, sauces, seafood, and other complex dishes that most toddlers wouldn't touch. It was no surprise to us when he loved the Disney movie 'Ratatouille', a tale of a particularly talented rat with a sophisticated palate who became a chef in France. His favorite scene was one where the rat chose herbs from a window sill garden to complete his dish. He called the herbs simply 'cooking things', and as he grew (and continues to grow - 5'4 and counting!), he still compliments an omelet with herbs from our window sill herb garden. The ending scene of the movie featured an intimate café with a beautiful rooftop garden full of white flowers.

Fast forward to 2021, both window sill and white gardens are quite the trend. We continue to see a resurgence post-pandemic that harken back to victory garden days, where growing and using vegetables and herbs that you can harvest and use in your own home is an affordable and convenient trend for window sill gardeners. Similarly, white gardens, or gardens that feature primarily white flowers, are a hot trend as well, as many gardeners have made their pandemic stay-cations quite productive! White gardens provide a magical purity that is difficult to achieve when using a kaleidoscope of other colors, and by varying textures, a variety of foliage colors, and different bloom shapes, you can achieve a simple yet majestic garden. In this article, we will be discussing how to plan for your very-own window sill or white garden.

Window Sill Garden:

By definition, a window sill garden is a collection of plants grown either indoor or outdoor, in a window sill box. It's a won-









derful way to conserve space, especially for those gardeners who don't have a large outdoor area to garden. We Americans often think of Europe when we think of window sill gardens, like Paris or Bavaria, Germany, as those residing in European cities who simply don't have the space that we do in the Pacific Northwest. Supplies for your window sill garden are few: sunlight (at least five hours per day), containers (either individual pots or a box, with drainage holes), and soil. Of course, the window sill gardener needs to remember that even these tiny gardens require a bit of maintenance: daily waterings (perhaps twice per day in very hot weather), pruning, harvesting, and fertilizing. Lastly, there are some plants that do better in a window sill garden then others:

- Edibles: Some of the most common types of window sill gardens are herb gardens, as herbs grow well in small spaces and can last year round, especially if your garden is indoors. Plus, many window sill gardens are located in close proximity to the kitchen. Group your herb garden by water need. For example, parsley, basil, and cilantro require a moister soil whereas thyme, sage, rosemary and oregano can handle drier soils. In addition, many window sill gardeners plant leafy greens, like lettuce, spinach, and micro-greens as they are shallow rooted and can be harvested often.
- Non-Edibles: Common plants in non-edible window sill gardens include succulents and annual flowers. Succulents are very popular, as they generally tend to be low-maintenance and drought tolerant. Specific to annual flowers, pretty much any annual can thrive in a windowsill garden, as long as their sun and water requirements are met. Annual flowers provide a big pop of color to an otherwise ordinary window.

White Gardens:

A white garden, while featuring only white flowered blooms or foliage, can provide a chic and elegant setting that is classic, but not boring. White gardens can bring light to darker areas of the garden, similar to a soft-white light in a home setting. By limiting the blooms to only one color (white), the simplicity lends itself to highlighting more complex design and structure in the garden. It's important to bring a variety of shapes, textures and heights to your garden. A few hints to achieving a beautiful white garden include:

- Color of Foliage: When we think of white gardens, we mistakenly think of only the bloom color. It is important to consider foliage as another source of white, including silver or gray foliaged plants such as Artemisia (Artemisia sp.) Dusty Miller (Senecio cineraria), Lamb's Ear (Stachys byzantine), and Japanese Painted Fern (Athyrium niponicum 'Pictum'). In addition to providing a complimentary color, they also provide a textural contrast, as many silver and gray foliaged plants have fuzzy leaves that provide a backdrop to the white flowers.
- Silver/Blue Evergreens: These plants help provide a structure to the garden during the winter months. There are various types of cedars, junipers and spruces such as Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar, 'Blue Star' Juniper, 'Moonglow' Juniper, and Weeping Serbian Spruce.
- White Flowers and Foliage:
 - Climbers: A few fabulous climbers include Wisteria (Wisteria sinensis 'Alba), Clematis (Clematis armandii), Climbing Hydrangea (Hydrangea petiolaris), and Jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminiodes).









- Variegated Perennials: These perennials are hardy in the Pacific Northwest and include Hosta (Hosta 'Patriot', Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium caeruleum 'Brise d'Anjou'), Brunnera (Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost), Solomon's Seal (Polgonatum odoratum 'Variegatum'), Lamium (Lamium maculatum 'Beacon White) and Liriope (Liriope muscari 'Variegata').
- Variegated Shrubs: Not to be forgotten, these shrubs grow beautifully and include Daphne (Daphne transatlantica 'Summer Ice), Hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla 'Variegata'), Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'), and Willow (Salix integra 'Hakuro-nishiki').
- Flowers: Lastly, the showstoppers! These flowers provide tremendous white blooms to showcase your white garden: Azaleas, Camellias, Daisies, Gardenias, Lilies, Roses, and Viburnum.
- Annuals for Borders: These annuals provide form in the shape of a lowgrowing border to define your garden beds, and include Alyssum, Petunias, Impatiens, Lobelia, and Bacopa.

Regardless of whether or not you are interested in planting a window sill or a white garden, both will provide tremendous satisfaction and beauty in and around your home. We hope you experiment, and enjoy this hot new trend, and look forward to seeing it around your home! Happy Gardening!

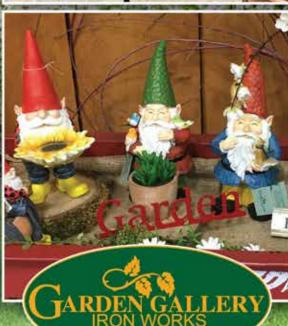
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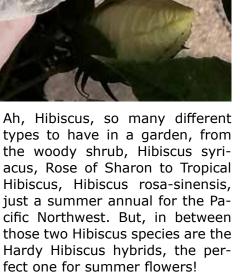


Hale and Hardy

Also known as Rose Mallow, the Hardy Hibiscus is a showstopper that features some of the largest and most attractive blooms in the perennial world.

by Judy Alleruzzo





Hardy Hibiscus also called Rose Mallow or Dinner Plate Hibiscus have tropical looking flowers but are very hardy. They grow in a wide range of U.S Hardiness Zones, from Zone 4 (-30°F) like Minnesota to Zone 9 (25°F) central Florida. The National Garden Bureau has named it their 2021 Perennial of the Year. There are 22 hardy species native to North America and I think many of those bloodlines are found in the beautiful plants in production today.









Hardy Hibiscus show off the largest flowers of all the Hibiscus species, maybe the largest flowers in the perennial world, up to 10 inches in diameter. There is a wide array of flower colors; pure white, light pink, two-tone light and dark pink, pink with a red center, mauve-lavender, light yellow, red and shades of deep burgundy. One day, plant breeders will grant gardener's wishes and create flowers of orange and deep yellow like the tropical species and lavender-blue flowers found on Rose of Sharon varieties. Hardy Hibiscus begin to bloom in mid-summer through late summer with some varieties blooming into early fall. Besides bringing awesome color to the garden, these amazing flowers attract bees and hummingbirds to collect pollen and nectar.

Hardy Hibiscus can be found in compact and large habits. The 'Luna' series, 2-3 ft. tall and wide, are great for smaller gardens or in containers. These Hibiscus bloom in pink swirl, red or white flowers and have green foliage. A newer series in the gardening market is called 'Summerific'. This series boasts more flowers per stem versus the older varieties that just bloomed on the upper ends of the plants.

Hibiscus Summerfic™ 'Berry Awesome'

4ft tall by 4-5ft wide

8-inch-deep pink flowers with a red eye zone

Deep burgundy maple leafshaped foliage

Hibiscus Summerific™ 'Candy Crush'

48-54in X 48-54in wide

8-inch Bazooka™ bubble gumpink colored flowers with deep

Sources for Hibiscus

Checkout your favorite
Garden Center & Nursery!

red eye zone

Green foliage

Hibiscus Summerific™ 'Cherry Choco Latte'

4ft X 4ft

8-9-inch flowers are white with a pink blush edge, dark pink veins and dark red eye zone

Dark olive to purple foliage

One of the North American native species, Hibiscus moscheutos, love moist areas and are commonly called Swamp Hibiscus. This plant is found in the bloodlines of many garden worthy Hardy Hibiscus varieties. Its culture gives a clue that Hibiscus like moist, welldrained soil and a sunny site in the garden. Make sure to give a nice space to Hibiscus, especially if you get one of the larger varieties and to show off the summer blooms. Hardy Hibiscus love full sun but can still grow well in a little late afternoon shade. Another garden tip is not to worry if the new foliage has not emerged from winter dormancy before June first.

These plants push new foliage when the soil temperatures are very warm. It's best to leave 4-5 inches of the stems when you clean up the dormant plants in late fall. This way you know where the plants are located, and you won't be tempted to plant over the dormant Hibiscus.

Each year I love to look at the varieties selected by the National Garden Bureau for Plants of the Year. The choices don't disappoint, and all the information makes me consider, well in reality, go out shopping to get one more plant for my garden! Now, where am I going to put that new Hibiscus?

More Information

National Garden Bureau https://ngb.org/ year-of-plants-2021









Let's Make a Dill!

In a pickle about how to make your own pickles? Here's an easy recipe you'll relish!

by Therese Gustin

Growing up in a large family in the suburbs of Chicago required some creativity and ingenuity to keep seven hungry kids satisfied. We had a large garden to tend to and although I did not care to weed it as often as my mom wanted me too...it was there that I first learned about growing vegetables and preserving them to enjoy well into the cold Chicago winters. Besides canning beans, beets and tomatoes, my mom would always spend a day making dill pickles. I recalled the times when I would go down to the basement in the middle of winter and bring up a

jar of dill pickles, crack open the jar and enjoy the fruits of our summer labors. Fast forward to the days when my kids were little, I wanted to duplicate the experience with my own children. It helped that one of my daughters thought dill pickles were their own food group and she could devour a whole jar at one sitting. I made a couple of dozen jars each year to feed her pickle habit! This simple recipe has been passed down from my grandmother to my mother and me. I hope you enjoy them as much as my daughter does!

Ingredients:

20 lbs. small pickling cucumbers makes about 19 quarts.

Fresh dill

Alum or fresh unsprayed grape leaves

Garlic cloves (optional)

Brine Recipe:

(makes about enough for 12 quarts)

4 cups white vinegar

4 quarts water

1 cup pickling/canning salt

Bring this to a boil and pour over cucumbers.

Clean canning jars. Sterilize quart jars in boiling water. Four jars fit in a 9 x 13 pan. Sterilize lids and rings in a pan. Put 1/4 teas. alum or one grape leaf in the bottom of each jar. Alum or grape leaves help the pickles stay crisp. Add one to two sprigs of fresh dill. Add a clove of garlic if desired. Pack jars full of cucumbers. If the cucumbers are too large, they can be sliced into discs or spears to fit better in the jars. Keep the cucumbers just below the head of the jar so the brine can cover the cucumbers and allow a bit of room for the brine to boil during processing. Wipe off the rim of the jar with a damp cloth to ensure a tight seal. Cover with a sterilized lid and screw the lid on hand tight. Process in a hot water bath canner for 15 minutes. The water should be boiling before adding the jars. Remove from canner and let cool.

The jars will either have sealed in the canner or will seal as they cool. If the jar does not seal, the pickles can be stored in the refrigerator for a month before eating. You can remove the rings after the jars have sealed. Pickles are ready to eat after a month. (It's a good idea to write the date on the top of the jar with a permanent marker.) They can be stored up to a year and a half.











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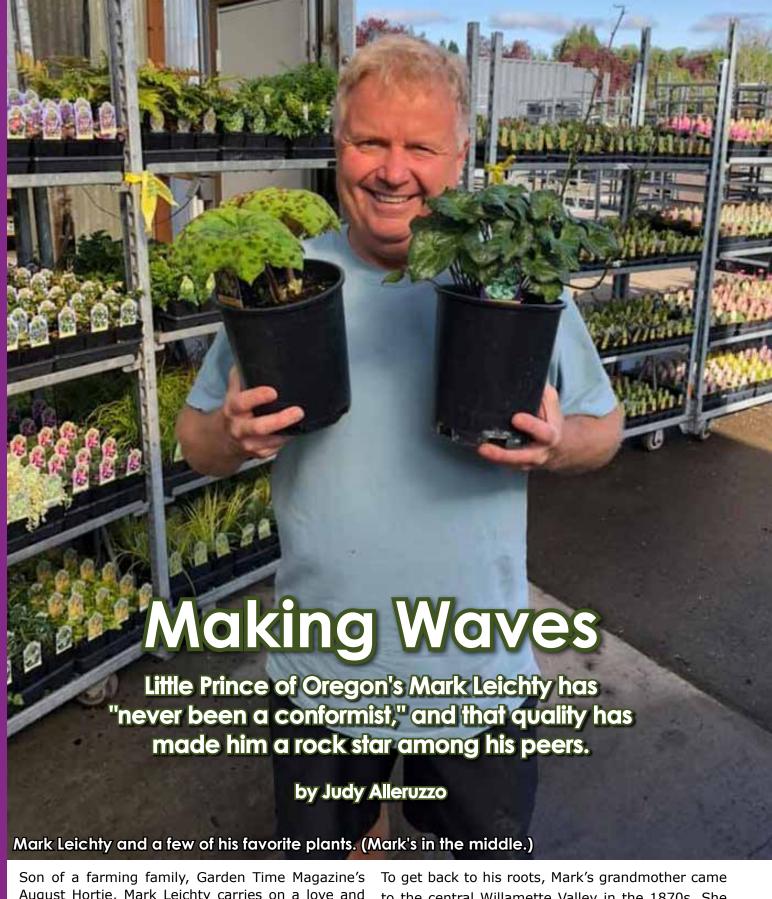


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Son of a farming family, Garden Time Magazine's August Hortie, Mark Leichty carries on a love and working of the land but, in a different way. Instead of tilling a field each day, Mark finds cool plants for gardeners and houseplant collectors. His workplace these days is wholesale growing company, Little Prince of Oregon and he has a wide selection of plants to play with at his fingertips.

To get back to his roots, Mark's grandmother came to the central Willamette Valley in the 1870s. She told of a story that is now family legend. There was a rumor that Jesse James was hiding somewhere in the valley. She and her siblings were too frightened to go outdoors to bring in the cows from the fields. Fact or kids being kids?



By 1911, his grandparents had a farm growing grass seed. The family also grew vegetables when Mark was young. They opened Fry Road produce stand on their farm and also went to Farmers' Markets. Mark reminisced that he "loved vegetable production", "sweet corn was my thing." He remembered that "the 'Golden Jubilee' Corn variety was not the only one. We were one of the first farms to grow 'Super Sweet' Corn. Another new corn variety called 'Tuxedo' gave us a reputation and we shipped two-day express to Alaska and even Australia. I still love corn and melons too." Mark learned about melons from Mike Hessel, owner of Red Hat Melons in Corvallis, Oregon, where he grows about 20-30 acres of cantaloupes. Mark learned much from working on the family farm and also OSU Master classes. In time, a decision needed to be made to keep farming vegetables or move to ornamental plant production. Fry Road Nursery was begun, focusing on interesting plants and unusual vegetables. One of Mark's employees was John Stewart, who brought a wealth of knowledge about Peru-



vian and South American vegetables like Yacóne, 13 kinds of Oca, and Ulluco. Mark told me, "I've never been a conformist" and that truly showed in the plant selection at Fry Road Nursery. Times changed and Fry Road Nursery closed, but the farm is still there where Mark's mom and dad live in semi-retirement. His dad is still vegetable gardening and planted 100 tomato plants this year! That is not a hobby garden.

In the next phase of Mark's plant career, he became a kind of "Research and Development" plant guy, connecting production greenhouse companies with new plants to grow for the retail market. One of these relationships was with Little Prince of Oregon (LPO) in Aurora, Oregon. He would find plants that fit their programs, helping them to expand the amazing selection they grew each year. When it first debuted, Mark helped to select plants for their 'Fit for a King' category. This consultant relationship went on for several years until he had a chance encounter with LPO owner, Ketch DeKanter in January of 2014. Mark was offered a position with the company and since he had worked with them for several years, it was an easy fit.

Mark brought many skills to his new position at Little Prince of Oregon. He is experienced in greenhouse infrastructure, construction, marketing and of course, seeking out new plants to grow.

Mark helped in the expansion of the growing facility, overseeing the building of new greenhouses for Mike Hicks, greenhouse manager, to expand the assortment of plants for the retail market. The next addition was a new building for LPO offices. Mark built a scale model as a prototype for a new three story building. An architect turned the model into exact drawings and Mark and many at LPO built the new structure.

A few years ago, Mark met the new woman in his life, Michelle Bundy. She is a leader at Casa Flora plant



company and heads up the tropical plant end of the business. She is a knowledgeable plants woman, so the two are an amazing pair of Plant Geeks. Michelle worked with Brian Collins, horticulturist of the Amazon Spheres in Seattle and introduced him to Mark. Mark facilitated LPO growing plants including Selaginella (Club Moss) and Woodwardia ferns for the new Spheres indoor garden.

Another of Mark's cool projects is planning and building the Farwest

trade show booth for Little Prince. Each year, LPO is one of the top booths to check out at the annual Oregon nursery trade show. For this article, I had to pick only one to showcase and I chose their 2016 "Rock and Roll" booth. It was amazing, the backdrop looked like a logo from a heavy metal rock band and the booth was filled with LPO plants and Tillandsias. Mark and our own Ryan Seely went as far as creating 'Rock Star' wigs of live Spanish Moss and other Tillandsias. It was show stopping



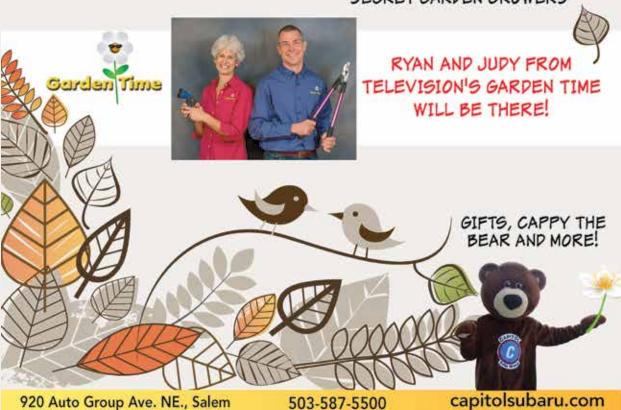
Saturday, September 18th 11am-3pm

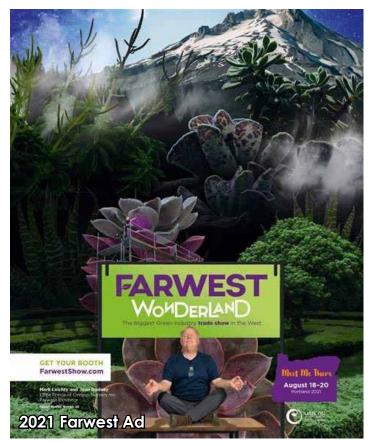
Join us at the Capitol Subaru Pavilion for a **Fun Day!**

- Buy Plants and Flowers!
- Local Nurseries and Garden Artists!
- Food & Coffee Vendors On Site!

LOTS OF VENDORS AND BOOTHS! GIVEAWAYS & REFRESHMENTS

MARILYN RUSSELL METAL ART PITH TO BARK EMBROIDERY EXPRESSIONS RED PIG TOOLS RITA LEES NURSERY OUT IN THE GARDEN NURSERY GARDEN THYME NURSERY PETAL HEADS SOUL SEEDS SECRET GARDEN GROWERS









and they won Best of Show for the display! Mark told me, "I'm proud of the creativity and intriguing themes we've used to build our booth at the Farwest Show each year. I think the Rock and Roll themed booth was particularly inspiring. Over the past seven years, the Little Prince booth has won the Best of Show award three times and the Far from Ordinary award twice. I won Best of Show award three additional times at Fry Road Nursery." The Farwest Show is back later this month. I can't wait to see what Mark and crew build for this year.

These days, Mark is busy at LPO, building five new greenhouses measuring 30 feet x 200 feet to house increased plant production of hardy and tropical plants. At the time of this interview, gravel was being laid for the greenhouse foundations. Check out the LPO Facebook page to see the progress of the greenhouses. It's a huge project that will send a lot more plants to the retail and online markets. WooHoo!

The traditional question of favorite plants came up and Mark had two to name! He loves unusual Begonia species, especially

Begonia ferox which he got a cutting from the Amazon Spheres. Another favorite is Jewel Orchids, Ludisia species. I see a pattern of unique colors and textures of plant foliage being his favorites.

Mark Leichty has had a long career working with a wide assortment of plants. From growing up with vegetable farming to bringing cool new plants to the retail marketplace. With that longevity of his love of plants, we are all in for many new and very unique plants to be grown at Little Prince of Oregon and to be on the tables at your favorite independent garden store.

> **Little Prince of Oregon** littleprinceplants.com







Feat of Clay

Ceramic is making a name for itself in the kitchen, in everything from skillets to knives to gadgets.

by David Musial





Ceramics in the Kitchen could be a reference to an arts and crafts project, but in this case it is about kitchen tools that are ceramic based. These ceramics do not however always resemble the clay that you are used to when thinking about ceramics.

Earthenware, porcelain and bone china are traditional objects made with ceramics. Ceramics are also used for a surprising number of less traditional objects. Due to the electrical properties of ceramics they are used for semiconductors and superconductors. Another surprising use is in optics. Believe it or not, there are transparent ceramics. Of course these objects are made with materials and methods quite different than basic clay.

This brings us to the kitchen and kitchen tools that incorporate ceramics. Specifically, knives made with ceramic blades and pans coated to provide a nonstick surface, and maybe one item made from more traditional clay.

Generally made from zirconium dioxide, ceramic knife blades are made from pressing and firing. The resulting blade is actually slightly harder than hardened steel and retains its edge for a long time. Ceramic blades can be found in knives, mandolines and vegetable peelers.

Knives with ceramic blades are light and sharp. The weight of the knife is a bonus for those looking for a lighter knife. However, it does take some getting used to. Like traditional steel knives, they come in all styles, from a chef to a paring knife. One drawback is that they are brittle and can break if dropped.

The edge on a ceramic blade will last a long time, but will need sharpening over time. There are three options to sharpen. A sharpening rod, an electric sharpener or send back to the manufacturer. Although electric knife sharpener costs more than a sharpening rod, the results will be more consistent than a sharpening rod. In either case, be sure you are buying a sharpener or rod that is designed for ceramic blades. If you only own one or two ceramic knives, you may want to forgo the expense of a sharpener and send to the manufacturer for sharpening.

A mandoline is another great application for a ceramic blade. Although I love prepping food with my chef knife, when I have a high volume of vegetables to cut or if a uniform cut is desired, a mandoline is the tool of choice. With a ceramic blade, there are a few benefits. Sharpening a mandolin blade can be challenging and since the edge lasts longer with a ceramic blade, it is a better choice. Additionally, ceramic blades resist stains and rust.

Remember, it is always recommended to use the mandolin handguard, if it came with your purchase, and even more so with a ceramic blade. They are so sharp and if you are not careful, you initially may not even realize you took off a layer of skin.

The final ceramic blade related tool is the vegetable peeler. Ceramic blade vegetable peelers can be found in both the swivel and Y model, depending on your preference. They share the same benefits as mentioned for the mandoline, but are not as effective on hard vegetables such as celeriac or butternut squash. For those vegetables, a traditional stainless steel vegetable peeler is best.







There is a lot of debate over the use of Teflon nonstick pans. Although my belief is that they are safe to use, there are still also concerns with the manufacturing process. Enter the ceramic pan. Rather than being coated with Teflon, these pans are made with a ceramic nonstick coating. It should be noted that some pans are coated with ceramic like materials and some entirely of ceramic.

These pans have the benefit of being oven safe up to about 600°. Whereas Teflon is only considered safe to 450°-500°. One downside is that the nonstick surface or 'nonstickability' does not last as long as traditional Teflon pans. To extend the life, consider hand washing. When shopping, look for a hard anodized aluminum ceramic coated pan for even heating.

Since this is an article on ceramics and most of us have not cooked with traditional clay or earthenware cooking vessels, let me introduce you to the cazuela. These wide flat pots or casserole dishes that come from Spain, are made from terracotta and finished with a glaze. They can be used on the stovetop or in the oven. They should be lead free, but be sure to confirm before purchasing.

Due to the nature of the material, it is important to follow manufacturer directions for preparation and use of the dish. Failure to follow directions may result in a cracked cazuela.

Here are a few tips on use that may or may not be included with your purchase:

- Soak in water for 12-24 hours before use.
- Heat slowly and use only low to medium heat on the stove top.

 Allow the cazuela to cool before adding water to clean.

The cazuela makes a festive serving dish with the added benefit that it retains heat and will keep your food warm. With that in mind, for food prone to overcooking; such as shrimp, be sure to take the residual heat into consideration or serve in another dish.

With the title being Ceramics in the Kitchen, I would be remiss if I didn't include one kitchen tool that resembles an arts and crafts project...the brown sugar saver. We have all encountered getting ready to make cookies only to find that the brown sugar has hardened. Rock solid chunks of sugar, keeping you from the pleasures of fresh baked cookies. To solve this dilemma, there are several methods to keep brown sugar soft and this is my favorite. Other methods do work for keeping brown sugar soft, but I have always found putting apple slices or pieces of bread in the brown sugar bag a questionable practice.

The brown sugar saver is a small disc that when soaked in water, dried off and placed in your brown sugar bag will soften and keep the brown sugar soft. The disc is porous and releases moisture to keep the brown sugar from forming hard clumps. Some say it will only last a month, but others say it will last for three to six months. My experience has been the three to six month range.

Bonus, they also come in assorted fun shapes and make a great inexpensive gift.

Enjoy your Ceramics in the Kitchen!







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WIDIIG

Our Northwest summers aren't nearly as hot as other places in the country, but it's not uncommon to have a few 100 degree days. Plants, just like people, need special care when the temperature rises. Be sure you give your plants the same attention during these hot spells that you would your pets or kids.

PLANNING

• Have you been good about keeping up with the journal writing? We won't tell if you want to just sit down and cheat some notes from spring and summer now. If this helps you grow better crops

next year we think you'll enjoy the act of noting the good and the bad things that happened in the garden this season.

PLANTING



• Time to plan on a new lawn? August through mid-October is prime time to get a new lawn put in. In the late

summer and fall the grass seed germinates in the warm soil so much faster than in April or May. Good grass seed blends will give you the best looking lawn on the block, plus add some lime and good fertilizers to start lawns with!

 Time to over seed a tired lawn? For the same reasons given in the above note on planting a new lawn, over seeding an old tired lawn is great to do now too. Mow the lawn short, (this one time we give you permission to mow it short) thatch (rent a thatching machine to make the job a lot easier) and then seed with premium lawn seed blends for this area. Cover the seed barely with some Organic Compost to keep the birds away from the seed. Fertilize with natural lawn fertilizers for outstanding results. Keep the compost dark with moisture

while seed is starting.

• Plant perennials and biennials from seed this month directly in



the garden. The seed germinates pretty quickly in the warm soil and big beds of future flower

color can be created starting with seed now.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up the strawberry beds. After final harvest, cut off all foliage (fun and fast to run over the bed with a lawn mower set on high, so as not to damage the plant crowns). Water and fertilize with Azalea & Camellia fertilizer to encourage strong new growth. You can also reduce a thick planting at this time by removing the "mother" plants, leaving the newer "daughter" plants.
- Mulch the garden and ornamental beds if needed to conserve soil moisture. If you have not mulched the garden beds yet you'll notice they dry out very fast. Get topdressing on the beds of Organic Com-

post or bark to hold in soil moisture, retard weeds and make it easier for soil to absorb water. Keep



the flowering annuals deadheaded and fertilized to keep them going strong until fall.

• Prune Raspberries and other cane berries after harvest.

Summer crop raspberries produce fruit on two-year-old

canes. After harvest, the two-year-old canes that produced the fruit begin to die. Remove the old

Garden

canes anytime after harvest.



During the growing season, keep only 1 to 2 of the strongest new one-year-old canes per plant, Continually cut out all

the small canes and sprouts. The big, strong canes will produce the following summer's crop.

Ever bearing raspberries produce their main crop of berries in the fall, on the top 12" of one-yearold canes. After harvest, you have two choices: 1) remove the top portion of the cane that has fruited, leaving the rest of the cane to produce a crop the following spring, or 2) cut the canes off at ground level in mid-October, thus allowing the plant to fruit only in fall (the fall crop on ever bearing varieties is superior to the spring crop). If you choose to let the plant produce two crops, remove the two-year-old canes after harvest.

 Make sure the irrigation system is working properly if using one or create one if you haven't yet-it's never too late. Watering plants thoroughly and deeply is

very important this time of year.

 Work on your compost piles. Make compost out of grass clippings and any clippings or pulled plants that are ready to be recycled, unless foliage is diseased. If you have a pile going already,



turn the compost over and water it if necessary. Do not use grass clippings in compost if vou have used weed kill-

ers on the lawn! To get the pile decomposing faster use compost starter. The addition of microbes and good bacteria will help plant material break down faster.

• Mow the lawn higher in hotter weather. Grass 'roots' length is directly related to the grass 'shoots' length. In other words if you scalp the lawn short, then the roots will be ultra short too. The longer grass blades help shade the lawn roots, help the grass compete with weeds for space and allow the grass plants to lengthen its roots deeper to where the soil does not dry out as quickly. Plus the leaf blades are where photosynthesis takes place

so when you cut the lawn short it can no longer feed itself!

- Water the lawn with 1 inch of water once a week. To determine how long to water, place empty cat food or tuna fish cans out on the lawn under a sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill the can to 1" deep. That is all the water needed, once a week to maintain a beautiful lawn.
- If you have been maintaining your lawn with irrigation then apply a good fertilizer to carry it into the fall. Use natural lawn fertilizer for a dose of natural pro-bi-



otic microbes that will help break down naturally, thatch and encourage deep root development.

 Keep an eye out for fresh notched leaves on ornamentals. Root Weevil adults are still feeding this month.

 Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Continue to fertilize the vegetable and herb crops. This will aid in maintaining good production through your harvest months.
- Seed out, directly in the garden, for fall and winter crops;

Arugula, basil, broccoli raab (aka Italian broccoli) cabbage, cauliflower, cilantro, collards, kale, lettuce, mache, mustard greens, radishes, salad greens, spinach, swiss chard and turnips.



 Plant a cover crop called 'green manure' in the spaces vacated by harvested crops. This 'green manure' will be turned over, into the soil before it flowers to decompose, adding rich nutrients back into the garden soil.



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 Lan Su Chinese Garden Open Thursday-Tuesday • 10:00am-6:00pm 239 NW Everett St., Portland, OR

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://lansugarden.org

Visit the Portland Japanese Garden Open Wednesdays through Mondays

• 10:00am-5:30pm

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/

Visit the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden Open Daily • 5:00am-10:00pm 400 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland, OR

FREE public tours are offered daily at 1:00pm, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Meet at the Rose Garden store 10 minutes prior. www.portland.gov/parks/washington-park-international-rose-test-garden

Visit Hoyt Arboretum Open Daily • 5:0am-10:00pm 4400 SW Fairview Blvd., Portland, OR

The Visitor Center is currently closed due to COVID-19. Restrooms in the Visitor Center courtyard are open daily, and water fountains are turned on. Visitor information, including trail maps, is available in the brochure rack in the Visitor Center courtyard. hoytarboretum.org

Art in the Garden Through September 6, 2021 The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Once again this summer, local artists will showcase their continued next column

handcrafted pieces alongside the natural splendor of The Oregon Garden, giving guests an opportunity to not only enjoy but also to purchase new pieces for their home and garden! There is no additional fee for enjoying our Art in the Garden event: the art can be viewed at any time during open hours for the duration of the exhibit. oregongarden.org

Pacific NW Lily Market July 22, 2021 thru August 2021

Thursday thru Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm Parry's Tree & Lily Farm, Forest Grove, OR

Many varieties in bloom. See our latest new lilies including the always popular double rose orientals in bloom. As well as the favorites. Such as Stargazer, Casablanca, and more! Every year we try very hard to plant our lilies to be in bloom all at once during the market's openning weekend thru its' last day. 45627 NW David Hill Rd., Forest Grove, Or 97116. www.lilyflowerfest.com August 2021 Garden Time Magazine Events

Swan Island Dahlia Festival August 1-30, 2021 • Open daily except Wednesdays Swan Island Dahlias, Canby, OR

A Rainbow of Color! Stroll through almost 40 acres of stunning dahlias featuring over 370 dahlia varieties. Fields open August-September each year. Indoor Display Cancelled for 2021. Lots of picnic tables available. Outside food allowed, www.dahlias.com

Clematis Onsite Sales & Plant Pick-up Mondays, Wednesday & Fridays, August 2-30, 2021 • 10:00am-2:00pm

Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

Please visit our SHOP page for the latest selection. Click on the map link above for address and directions. 125 Rosemont RoadWest Linn, OR. www.rogersonclematis collection.com

Preserving Peaches

continued next page



Saturday, August 7, 2021 • 10:00am-11am **Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Enjoy the taste of summer anytime with preserved fresh peaches! Sample tree-ripened Red Haven peaches while learning how to can them! Take home a great recipe for peach pie filling that can be baked right away or stored for a delicious dessert anytime throughout the year! \$12/person www.bloomingjunction.com

Little Sprouts Human Air Plant Friday, August 13, 2021 Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$10. Sprouts will get to use their creativity and imagination to paint a figurine air plant holder! Each kit includes a growing guide, wooden peg figurine, paint, paint brush, and air plant. *Each kit is \$10. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garlandnursery.com

Growing Your Own Herbal Tea Saturday, August 14, 2021 • 10:00am-11:00am **Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR**

Nothing says cozy like curling up with a steaming cup of herbal tea! High quality herbal teas can be expensive, but many of the most popular herbs used for tea are easily grown here in the pacific northwest. In this class we'll cover how to grow, harvest, preserve and store common herbs used for herbal tea.

\$12/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Music in the Garden Saturday, August 14, 2021 • 11:00am-1:00pm Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Enjoy live Chinese music performance as you stroll the garden pathways. Featuring Lan Su musician Louis Lim and traditional Chinese instruments such as erhu, ruan qin, and pipa. www.lansugarden.org

Annual Fuchsia Show & Display Friday-Sunday, August 20-22, 2021 Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

Free event. Hardy uprights, trailing baskets, blossom display, sales plants & more on hand. Come see us. Vote for your favorite plant. We look forward to meeting you to talk Fuchsia! Hours: Friday 1:00pm-6:30pm; Saturday continued next column

9:00am-6:30pm; Sunday 9:00am-2:00pm.

Jewel Box Plant Sale Saturday, August 21, 2021 • 9:00am-3:00pm Sebright Gardens, Salem, OR

ONE DAY ONLY! We will all be at Sebright's to celebrate our 9th annual Jewel Box Sale! Stop in and pick out some gems from the hand picked selections of CNT Members, all in one place for your shopping delight! This time of year is always great for obtaining nice full pots ready to be tucked into the garden. Tour Sebright's spectacular gardens and shop their huge variety of hostas and companion plants. A great time to stock up for fall planting. This has become a popular and well attended event, so for the best selection, plan on arriving early!

Cascade Nursery Trail will be hosting the Oregon Trail Iris Society again ths year at this event and there will be beautiful Irises for sale! Bring your Iris questions and get answers. www.cascadenurserytrail.com

Iris Society Sale/Bearded Iris Sale Saturday-Sunday • August 28-29, 2021 • 9:00am-4:00pm Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

www.portlandnursery.com

Music in the Garden Saturday, August 28, 2021 • 11:00am-1:00pm Lan Su Garden, Portland, OR

Enjoy live Chinese music performance as you stroll the garden pathways. Featuring Lan Su musician Louis Lim and traditional Chinese instruments such as erhu, ruan gin, and pipa. www.lansugarden.org

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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



These are just some of the companies we've produced videos for:

Benson High School • Central City Concern • Malarkey Roofing Lewis and Clark Law School • Muscular Distrophy Association Oregon Cancer SkiOut • Regional Water Providers Consortium SOLV • Salem Hospital • Team Oregon • Willow Station

"Together, We Create the Message"



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