

September 2021

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Staying in the Loop

A Scenic Trip Through
the Orchards & Farms
of the Hood River Valley

Apple and Pear Trees at
The Gorge White House

Hyacinth
Hazelnuts
SEELY MINT'S
Mike Seely



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Playing it Safe

This month I write this as numbers for the virus are climbing. We all hope that you and your family are safe and well, and that we are past this crisis soon. However, the topic I want to talk about is about being safe in the garden. For some of you that could mean putting on sunscreen, wearing protective gear while using garden products or even using a nice pair of garden gloves. For others it means something else all together. Playing it safe is doing the same thing over and over again. Like your plant selection or landscape design... too many of us (me included) are stuck in the same rut in our garden. Mow the lawn and prune back the same plants year after year, and that's fine. We recently walked about the garden and I noticed that our garden hasn't had any major changes in a couple of years. We did have a new path put in a couple of years ago by Rick from French Prairie Perennials and we have added quite a few plants from our weekly trips to nurseries for the TV show. One thing that this summer season has shown us is that we need to make some changes. In September and October, when the weather cools down, I plan on going out and getting dirty! Some of the fried plants from this summer may not be there come spring. Others will be moved to new homes in the garden. Others, like our hardy banana, will be cut back a lot! I also plan on reducing, once again, our lawn and expanding the garden beds. I've learned that full sun plants can have too much sun, and partial shade plants could use a little more shade (especially in the late afternoon). Those needs will be addressed, plants and plans will be challenged, and then a new brick border will help set a limit to our lawn and help avoid future grass creeping into our beds. Yes, this coming year we won't be playing it safe in the garden!

You can play it safe with all the great garden information in our monthly magazine! This month we get dirty when Therese shows us how easy 'mudding in' is and how it can benefit your new plants. Judy tells us all about hazelnuts and how nutritious they are. Did you know that the hazelnut is the official Oregon State nut! (and you thought it was Ryan or myself). Speaking of Ryan, he loves a good adventure. He and his family are always doing outdoorsy things. Recently they climbed the South Sister near Bend, and they also did a little tour of the Fruit Loop through the Hood River Valley on the east side of Mt. Hood. He was so excited about the fruit loop he wrote about it for this month's issue. There's still plenty of time to do this little drive yourself and enjoy the bounty of our state.

We hope that everyone has a great end to their summer and a safe entry into fall!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

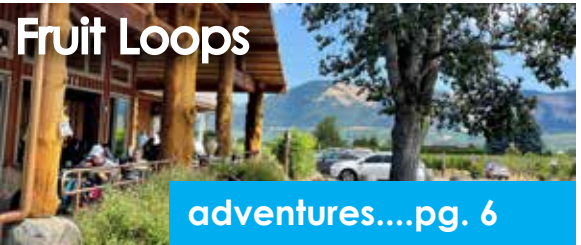
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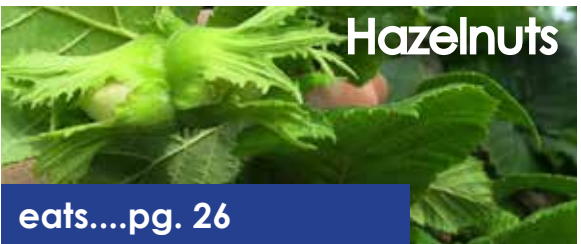
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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

My question. Should you cover your raised vegetable gardens over the winter/rainy season? I've heard to preserve nutrients, worms, etc. it may be good to cover them. Your thoughts?

Bruce

Dear Bruce,

It may seem like a good idea to cover your beds to protect them from leaching out nutrients and to prevent soil compaction from the rains, but actually we recommend that you add a layer of compost or organic mulch or plant a cover crop in your beds. These will add nutrients to your beds which can be used by the worms and other beneficial critters to create a better soil over the fall and winter. Some people add



Adding a layer of mulch helps feed the soil.



Raking leaves into your beds also helps your soil.

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

their fall leaves to their beds over the winter to protect their soil with an organic barrier. Then when spring arrives they can remove them and add that leaf mulch to their regular compost bin or it can be rototilled back into the soil to add additional organic matter. Covering your beds with plastic will actually do more harm than good. The lack of rain, sunlight and oxygen will hamper the organisms that work to make your soil better. Some people cover their beds with cardboard or newspaper which can break down over time, but the best solution is to add an organic mulch, compost or cover crop.

Thanks for letting me 'cover' your questions,
Mortimer

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

We are just coming out of the summer heat and I was wondering if I could prune my roses back now for more blooms this year, or will it do damage to my rose bushes?

Signed,
Love and Peace (my favorite rose)

Dear Love,

As we get to the end of the summer you will want to keep an eye on the calendar when pruning your roses. After blooming, or to get rid of sun-burned foliage, your roses can be pruned back to the first or second group of 5 leaves. This will help keep your plant at a nice height through the rest of the summer. For reblooming roses you can expect to see blooms again in 4-6 weeks. As we get closer to fall you should consider if you want to prune or not. After you prune, the plant will put energy into new growth and new blooms. If a frost happens in that 4-6 week range, it will freeze the new growth and damage it. Since roses in our area never truly go into dormancy, it is possible to see new growth anytime the weather starts to warm. This new growth can freeze at any time, and while it doesn't permanently damage the plant, it can just look ugly. Prune now before the end of summer, and then wait to do your next cuts until after that first frost when you can do a little cleanup pruning for the upcoming winter months if you want. You will also want to stop fertilizing for blooms at this time. If you don't do your winter pruning, those rose hips (seed pods) can be left on the rose to help feed your neighborhood wildlife.

Good Luck,
Mortimer



Staying in the Loop

If you think a "fruit loop" is just something for breakfast, you're missing out on a gorgeous drive through the orchards, vineyards, forests and farms of the Hood River Valley.

by Ryan Seely

View from the Fruit Loop

As an Oregon native, I believe there is nothing better than summer and early fall in Oregon. Beautiful weather, little rain, green forests and so many activities to choose from! In fact, you can tell a true Pacific Northwest-er – they don't leave the state for vacation in the summer and early fall months, preferring a stay-cation. This rings true for my family as well – often choosing hiking, gardening, sight-seeing and a variety of other outdoor activities in our very own 'upper left' corner of the nation during summer and fall. This year, one of our excursions was the Fruit Loop located in Hood River.

The Fruit Loop features an amazing 35-mile scenic drive through the Hood River Valley. This gorgeous drive includes some of the state's best producing orchards, vineyards, forests, farmland and small communities. The close proximity to Portland, just an hour's drive away, makes it an ideal day-trip for those travelling from the Portland Metro area. Or, you can choose to make a weekend out of it by staying in Hood River, a bed and breakfast along the Fruit Loop, Cooper Spur Resort, or at a local campground. Hiking



Ryan tastes some of the wines at The Gorge White House.

Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events September 2021

Salem Hardy Plant Society Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 11, 2021 • 9:00am-3:00pm
Sebright Gardens, Salem, OR

Browse over a dozen nursery and garden art vendors, talk directly with the nursery owners and have a picnic in the beautiful display gardens.
• <https://salemhardyplantsociety.org/>

Capitol Subaru Fall Garden Fest

Saturday, September 18, 2021 • 11:00am-3:00pm
Capitol Subaru, Salem, OR

Join us at the Capitol Subaru Pavilion for a Fun Day! Meet Judy Alleruzzo and Ryan Seely from Garden Time. Lots of vendors and booths! Give-aways & refreshments. Buy plants and flowers!
• capitolsubaru.com

Colors of Fall Festival

Saturday & Sunday, September 25 & 26, 2021
• **10:00am-5:00pm**

The Cascade Nursery Trail, Aurora to Sliverton, OR

Last chance for plants and the perfect time for planting! A late season gala with unique offerings chosen for fall planting and winter interest.
• cascadenurserytrail.com



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trails also abound in this area, with many choosing trails lining the historic Columbia River Gorge or Hood River (<https://www.alltrails.com/us/oregon/hood-river>). I would be remiss not to mention the world-class wind-surfing, kiteboarding and other water sports that are so popular on the Columbia River.

The Fruit Loop begins just east of the city of Hood River on Highway 35. As you head south, you begin to climb above the city into farmland, and you see the real beauty of the Hood River Valley, including orchards, fruit stands, wineries, cideries, distilleries, country stores, bakeries, restaurants, and much, much more! At the community of Parkdale, you wind west and then north back towards the city of Hood River. The Fruit Loop takes you through the heart of the nation's largest pear-growing region, offering visitors the complete experience of growing, producing, and enjoying fruit and wine. For a map and more details about the Fruit Loop, please visit <https://hoodriverfruitloop.com/>.



The Gorge White House



The Gorge White House



On the day we visited, our itinerary included stops at the following destinations:

- **The Gorge White House Fruit Stand & Winery:**

This beautiful farmhouse includes U-cut flower beds, U-pick fruit orchards including blueberries, raspberries, marionberries, cherries, pears and apples, and a winery/cidery, where you can taste various flights of their local wines and ciders. They also have a farm-fresh produce stand and a food cart. Picnic tables line the flower beds and orchards for a wonderful mid-day picnic!

- **Packer Orchards and Bakery:**

Don't miss this incredible farm-store with fresh produce and amazing baked goods, including fresh peach or berry empanadas, homemade pies, jams/jellies, and the most incredible jalapeno cheddar bread, fresh out of the oven.

- **Stave & Stone Winery at the Vineyard/Hood**





Packer Orchards



Stave & Stone Winery

River Lavender Farm: Stave & Stone and Hood River Lavender Farm sit right next to one another. You can experience the lavender fields, while sipping a glass of wine from Stave & Stone. In the gift shop, you can purchase a variety of lavender products including but not limited to soaps, lotions, lavender cookies, and ice cream. While strolling through the fields, you can visit their herd of goats, and also U-cut lavender bunches to take home.



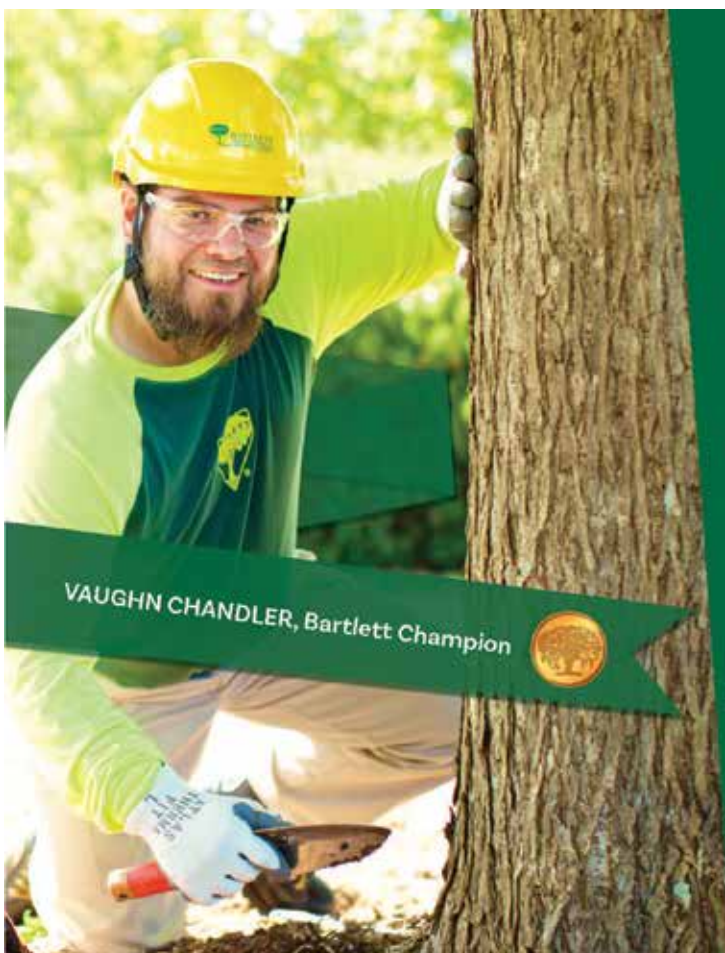
Hood River Lavender

- **Hood Crest Winery & Distillers:** This winery features wood-fired pizzas and salads, as well as a variety of wines and spirits, available for selected tasting flights. Hood Crest is also known for their live music scene, with a particular emphasis on jazz and blues. Enjoy both the pizza and beverages, while relaxing on their large and comfortable wrap-around porch and courtyard.



Hood River Lavender

Seasonally, the Fruit Loop offers vari-



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EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.

ous celebrations and events by month. It's important to review the website, as many of the orchards are open during harvest time for the specific fruits grown on their farms. The wineries and vineyards tend to be open year-round. The following fruits and vegetables featured by month include:

- July: Lavender and Cherry
- August: Lavender, Sunflower, Peaches, Pears and Apples
- September: Apples, Pears, Fall Vegetables and Oktoberfest
- October: Apples, Pears, Fall Vegetables and Cider

Don't miss your opportunity to visit the beautiful Fruit Loop! It's a wonderful excursion, and reminds me of exactly why I choose to call the Pacific Northwest home. This tour also reminds me of my strong connection to gardening – with extra effort comes delicious rewards that feed both my body and my soul. I hope you enjoy the Fruit Loop as much as I did – happy adventuring!





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As Clear as Mud

Planting or transplanting? Here's a simple technique that will reduce stress on the roots of the plant while it's trying to establish itself in its new home.

by Therese Gustin

Typically we plant trees, shrubs and perennials in the springtime when the garden centers and nurseries are bursting with new plant material for the season... or, in the fall when the temperatures are cooler and the fall rains hold the promise of no more watering for the season.

It seems the last few summers in the Willamette Valley have been unusually hot and our planting time has been shortened due to lack of rain and excessive heat both in the spring and in the

fall. Well I have a tip for extending the planting season even into the warmer days of summer. It's called 'mudding in'.

I learned this technique from Jan McNeilan, retired OSU extension agent and queen of Garden Time's 'Tips of the Month'! Mudding in is recommended when planting any new plant, especially in dry conditions because it reduces stress on the roots of the plant while it is trying to establish itself in its new home.



Fill the large hole with water.



Place the plant in the hole filled with water.

Mudding in is a simple 4 step process.

Step 1. Dig the hole.

Dig a hole the same depth that the plant is planted in its container but twice as wide as the container. Digging a hole twice as wide as the container will allow the roots to spread out and establish themselves more easily. Also, it's important to keep the plant at the same level as it was in the container. If the crown of the plant is buried deeper than it was in the container it could cause crown rot and eventually kill your plant.

Step 2. Fill the hole with water.

Take a hose and fill the freshly dug hole with water.

Step 3. Place plant in the water filled hole.

Loosen and spread out the roots before

placing the plant in the hole.

Step 4. Back fill with soil.

Replace the soil in the hole making sure the crown of the plant is at the same depth as it was in the pot. Take a shovel handle or broom handle and poke it around the backfilled hole to make sure there are no air pockets.

This technique works great with anything you want to transplant when the weather is a bit warmer and the ground a bit drier. By using the process of mudding in, you can extend your planting season and ensure your new plants will have the best chance for success!

**Watch the Garden Time story about
'Mudding In'**

www.youtube.com/embed/HEH6Ze1V0aQ



Put soil around the plant to finish planting.

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Hyacinth 'Empire State Mix' from DutchGrown™

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Buried Treasure

For its range of vibrant colors, stately spikes and tantalizing aroma, you can't beat the beautiful hyacinth. And now is the time to prepare for planting these spring-blooming bulbs.

by Ron Dunevant

The best thing about gardening is that there is always something to look forward to! As we head into our last month of summer, it is already time to start planning our spring gardens, and part of that planning should include spring bulbs. When we think of bulbs, the first thing that may pop into mind is the ubiquitous daffodil or perhaps the delicate tulip. But for pure impressive beauty, you can't beat the hyacinth. These spring-flowering bulbs are beloved by gardeners for their gorgeous colors, elaborate blooms and glorious fragrance. And now is the time to make plans to plant them!

According to Wikipedia, "Hyacinthus is a small genus of bulbous, spring-blooming perennials. They are fragrant flowering plants in the family Asparagaceae, subfamily Scilloideae." That means they are in the same family as asparagus! Commonly called hyacinths, "the genus is native to the area of the eastern Mediterranean from the north of Bulgaria through to the northern part of the region of Palestine."

The name of the hyacinth flower comes from a Greek legend concerning Zephyr, god of the west wind. One day, a young man named Hyacinthos was learning how to throw a discus under the tutelage of Apollo, who was the god of sun, light, truth, poetry, art (and practically everything else), as well as Hyacinthos' lover. Seeing this, Zephyr became angry and created a strong wind which carried the discus away and back again, striking the young man and killing him.



Hyacinth 'Blue Eyes' from DutchCrown™

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU



Hyacinth 'Carnegie White' from DutchCrown™

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU



Hyacinth 'Gipsy Queen' from DutchGrown™

In the spot where the young man died, a heartbroken Apollo created a flower from Hyacinthos' blood and named it Hyacinth in his honor, a symbolic meaning that has remained the same throughout history. Boy, those Greek gods were sure hard on their followers. The Druids were smart to honor the trees, instead!

Also called garden hyacinths or Dutch hyacinths, they all come from a single species, *Hyacinthus orientalis*, which grows wild in Syria, Turkey and other countries in the eastern Mediterranean. Gardeners have been cultivating them for more than 400 years. In fact, during the 18th century, they were the most popular spring bulb in the world. The Dutch growers created more than 2000 cultivars, but today there are under 50 in commercial production.



Hyacinth 'Royal Navy Blue' from DutchGrown™

Hyacinth are distinguished by their tall flower spikes which grow from 8 to 12 inches high. This height is due to centuries of breeding. Today's hyacinths look very different from the wild species, with mostly double florets tightly packed along the stem and four to six leaves.

Hyacinths come in many colors, all of them rich and vibrant. It's why they look so impressive in mass plantings. There are many cultivars in shades of blue and purple, but you can also find them in burgundy, hot pink, yellow, peach, coral and white. You'll see several examples on the pages of this article, but there are dozens more. Some of the most popular varieties are 'Carnegie' (white), 'Gipsy Queen' (coral), 'Jan Bos' (reddish-pink), 'Pink Pearl' (pink), 'Anna Ma-

rie' (salmon-pink), 'Blue Festival' (soft purple-blue), 'City of Haarlem' (soft yellow), 'Hollyhock' (reddish-pink), 'Miss Saigon' (deep purple), 'Woodstock' (burgundy) and 'Splendid Cornelia' (pastel lilac). The range of available colors should satisfy just about anyone and you can mix and match colors to complement the surrounding landscape.

Almost all flowers symbolize something, but with the hyacinth, it is the color that determines the meaning. Yellow hyacinths represent jealousy. Red hyacinths represent play time or recreation. White hyacinths represent prayers for a loved one. Purple hyacinths ask for forgiveness or symbolize a deep regret.

The meaning behind the Hyacinth flower is to enjoy life and to find time for play. The flower gives us hope and vision for tomorrow. The lesson it teaches is that we spend too much time preoccupied with things that are not important. As we get only one chance to live, we should live life to the fullest.

If you are as enchanted by this lovely plant as we are, then now is the time to buy the bulbs. Hyacinth is planted in mid-to-late fall and is a perfect companion to two other bulbs, tulips and daffodils. They like full sun and well-drained soil that does not get soggy. Plant your bulbs in groups of five or more and space them about five inches apart.

They also grow well in containers. Perhaps you have noticed the "color bowls" that nurseries feature in the spring. They always contain a few daffodils, tulips and usually a gorgeous



Hyacinth 'Jan Bos Red' from DutchGrown™

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU



Hyacinth 'Yellow Queen' from DutchGrown™

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU



A hyacinth adorns the center of a spring color bowl.



Hyacinth 'Pink Pearl' from DutchGrown™

hyacinth. That's the one we all wait for!

In order to bloom properly in a container, the potted bulbs must be exposed to cold temperatures for a minimum of ten weeks. This means a temperature of 40 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit. This requires a little bit of planning, as you need to start the process far enough ahead of the spring blooming season to get your two-and-a-half months in. You can store the bulbs in an unheated garage or shed, as long as they do not freeze. You can also put them in a refrigerator, but they cannot be exposed to ripening fruit, which will damage the bulbs. Once this chilling period is over, the pots can be moved to a sunny spot indoors.

After the blossoms fade, in order to help the bulb save energy for future flowers, you should cut off the flower stalks and let the foliage grow until the early summer when it dies back.

As beautiful as hyacinth flowers are, they always look their best the first spring after planting. The bulbs will rebloom for several years, but they gradually revert to the original species, which is not as attractive. Therefore, you should plant fresh bulbs every year or two to keep them looking their best.

The gorgeous, fragrant hyacinth is a real springtime treat that will reward your end-of-summer efforts with its beautiful colors. Look for them at your local independent garden center!

Hyacinth Tips from the National Garden Bureau

- Plant hyacinth bulbs where it will be easy to enjoy their fragrance: near a doorway, along a garden path, or at the front edge of a flower border.
- Hyacinth bulbs can cause mild skin irritation. Wear gloves when planting them or wash your hands after handling them.
- Hyacinth bulbs contain oxalic acid, which makes them unappealing to chipmunks and voles as well as deer.
- Hyacinths are long-lasting cut flowers that will perfume an entire room. Plant some bulbs in your vegetable garden so you can cut and share the blooms.
- Hyacinths flower in early to mid-spring at the same time as emperor and double early tulips, mid-season daffodils, chionodoxa, scilla and muscari.
- Encourage hyacinths to bloom for more than one year by cutting off the flower spikes as soon as the flowers fade.

Learn more about hyacinths
on the National Garden
Bureau website:

www.ngb.org



Hyacinth 'Dark Dimension' from DutchGrown™

PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU

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!



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Garden Time Rose



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Garden Time

Sometimes You Feel Like a Nut

And if it's a Hazelnut,
Oregon is the place to get them.

by Judy Alleruzzo



Hazelnuts



Clusters of Hazelnuts on a tree.

It's Hazelnut harvest time and that means fresh Hazelnuts will soon be available for use in many recipes. When I mean plentiful, I mean that Oregon is the top Hazelnut grower in the United States. Oregon farmers grow 99% of the U.S. Hazelnuts and about 3-4% of the world's Hazelnut production. They follow #1 Turkey at 78% and #2 Italy at 18% of the world's production. According to Oregon Hazelnuts, one of the Hazelnut industry organizations, there are about 1000 Oregon Hazelnut growers with over 87,000 acres in production.

Stay tuned for the October issue of Garden Time Magazine. The Schlechter family, local Hazelnut growers, will be highlighted as our Horties of the month.



The Schlechter Family, Hazelnut Growers

Before I move on to a recipe, I have to make a mention of the other name of this nut, Filbert. These tree nuts are known by each name, but the Oregon Filbert Commission adopted Hazelnut as the official name in 1981.

Hazelnut references have been found in the ancient civilization of China named as a nourishment from God to humankind and in Greek history, they were used as medical remedies and not culinary treats!

In present time about 80% of Oregon Hazelnuts are sold to China.

Hazelnuts are a nutritious tree nut, rich in heart healthy fats, high in protein, and a good source of fiber, Vitamin E, manganese and copper. If you're counting, 21 Hazelnuts, about 1 ounce, are considered a serving and according to the FDA, a 1.5 ounce serving of Hazelnuts may reduce the risk of heart disease. One more trivia fact, Hazelnuts were named the State Nut of Oregon in 1989!

For a yummy treat, try the Hazelnut Brownies recipe on the next page. It is adapted from Mocha Hazelnut Dessert Bites, a recipe from the Hazelnut Growers of Oregon website. Savor this decadent rich brownie dessert and remember all the hard-working Hazelnut farmers when you're enjoying their harvest this fall season!!



Hazelnut Brownies

Bake brownies using your favorite recipe or box mix, add in chopped hazelnuts. Let brownies cool before cutting into small squares.

While waiting, make this over the top creamy, chocolate frosting.

14 oz Sweetened Condensed Milk

2/3 Cup Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

2/3 Cup Nutella or
Hazelnut Chocolate Spread

1/8 tsp Almond Extract

1/4 tsp Salt

Microwave the chocolate chips in microwave safe bowl on high for 45 seconds or until melted and smooth when stirred. Stir in until smooth - Sweetened Condensed Milk, Chocolate Hazelnut Spread, Salt and Almond Extract.

Cut the brownies into small squares. Place chocolate-hazelnut spread into a cake decorating bag with a star or parchment paper cone. Pipe a swirl of spread on each brownie square. Sprinkle chopped Hazelnuts on top as a garnish.

SOURCES FOR HAZELNUTS

Springbrook Hazelnut Farm

30295 N Hwy 99W Newberg, OR

<https://www.facebook.com/Springbrook-Hazelnut-Farm-116330401727947/>

Oregon Hazelnuts

<https://oregonhazelnuts.org/about/>

Hazelnut Growers of Oregon

<https://www.hazelnut.com/recipes/mocha-hazelnut-dessert-bites/>

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Fall Garden Fest



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Keeping Things in Mint Condition

Building on a century of family farming, Mike Seely is finding new opportunities for the Seely 4th Generation Mint Farm and preserving mint farming in the state of Oregon.

by Ryan Seely

Mike Seely walks through a mint field.



PHOTO CREDIT: BURGERSVILLE

In the 1850s, two brothers with the name of Seely travelled from their home state of Illinois westward on the original Oregon Trail. Their journey was arduous, and it is rumored that at least one brother was the victim of horse thievery on his journey. In the end, both brothers settled in the Pacific Northwest and began farming, taking advantage of the rich soil, abundant rain, and gentle climates. The Seely family is one of Oregon's original pioneer families, and I am proud to be a Seely.

Our hortie of the month, Mike Seely, is also part of this trailblazing family! Mike and I are actually distant cousins. His fourth great-grandfather and my fifth great-grandfather were the two brothers, mentioned above.

While my great grandfather settled in the Wilsonville/Woodburn area, Mike's family migrated south to Lake Labish, just outside of Salem. In the 1920s, they moved to Fargher Lake in Clark County, Washington, and eventually began farming mint in Clatskanie, Oregon. And, just like his parents and grandparents, Mike began farming along-side his parents at the age of twelve. He started first with pumpkins, then quickly moved to beans, raspberries, strawberries and a variety of other crops.

Mike currently grows heirloom black mitcham peppermint and native spearmint. Originally discovered in the 1600s near Mitcham, England, black mitcham thrives in peat and muck

soils, which are plentiful, especially near the Columbia River in northwestern Oregon. Additionally, both Oregon and England have similar latitudes and crops that thrive in England generally do well in the Willamette Valley.

Mint farming, however, has had its challenges in the past fifteen years. In the past, mint oil was used in a variety of products, including chewing gum, candies and toothpaste. However, synthetic oil is now used in most of these products, and companies no longer need to pay for a premium mint oil like Seely produces. Mike could see the shift in the mint oil industry and found a tremendous market in shifting to producing mint oil that is used to make high quality, hand-made gourmet candies, such as mint patties, mint bark, candy canes, and chocolate melt-aways. Their shift in business philosophy is preserving mint farming in the state of Oregon, as many mint farmers have opted to plant other crops, due to the reduced demand for mint oil. Additionally, the drought has been a bit challenging, with reduced water levels affecting irrigation and high temperatures. While these challenges won't affect yield, it does mean that harvest will begin earlier.

Just like Mike, two of his children are farming as well. His oldest daughter Caryn recently bought 395 acres near Mike. Meanwhile, Mike's son Warren also purchased 415 acres near the family farm. That means that the Seely farmland is comprised of over



Seely mint in the field.



When mint is ready it is cut in the fields.



The cut mint is picked up with a harvester.



The mint is steamed to release the oil which is collected in these collectors.

1,850 acres. With two of his children joining Mike (he also has two daughters, Robyn and Alayna who are not farmers), he has high hopes for what Seely Mint will become, and feels that in five to ten years, Seely Mint will double in size for both tea and oil. His long-term goal is to build an interpretative center in Clatskanie near his farm, so that visitors can understand how important farming is to the region.

Mike's typical day starts very early in the morning, where Mike looks at weather reports and significant news events. He also reviews commodity markets like corn, wheat and soybean, as they have a direct impact on costs. He then moves on to maintaining irrigation systems and harvesting, starting very early in the morning until late into the night. Mike doesn't farm mint year-round, however, equipment and general farm maintenance takes year-round attention. Mike often quips that he works 364 days a year, with a half day off at Thanksgiving and a half day off at Christmas!

In addition to farming, Mike has become adept at wearing many hats to run a successful farm. Both he and his son Warren were trained as engineers at Washington State University. As such, they handle all of their own electrical, mechanical, civil and chemical engineering. Mike is also a savvy businessman, who runs cash flow and income statements every weekend to ensure profitability. He feels that in today's environment, farmers need to be businessmen,

accountants, negotiators, engineers and much more. Farming isn't just farming anymore – there is a lot more to it!

Mike's advice to home gardeners who are interested in raising mint is that it doesn't take very much peppermint or spearmint to eventually overwhelm you. These crops tend to spread in our Pacific Northwest climate. He suggests keeping the crops planted in large containers. In the fall, after harvest, you will want to cut the crops back all the way to the ground and cover it with three to four inches of soil or mulch. In spring, the mint and spearmint will grow up through the soil and ensure no issues with rust. Mint is great for salads, various foods, drinks, and can even keep fleas and ticks away from your home. Mint is wonderful for colds and teas; there are so many ways to use mint in our everyday lives.

I think you will agree that Mike continues to be a pioneer and a champion for the mint industry! His ability to innovate and create new products for his high quality oil is amazing. In fact, one of my favorite ways to enjoy Seely Mints is to head to my local Burger-ville, where they create Seely Mint milkshakes, a wonderful treat. For more information on Seely Mint, including where you can purchase their delicious candies and teas, you can visit **their website**.

Seely
4th Generation Mint Farm
www.seelymint.com



Seely Mint Patties



Seely Mint Patties

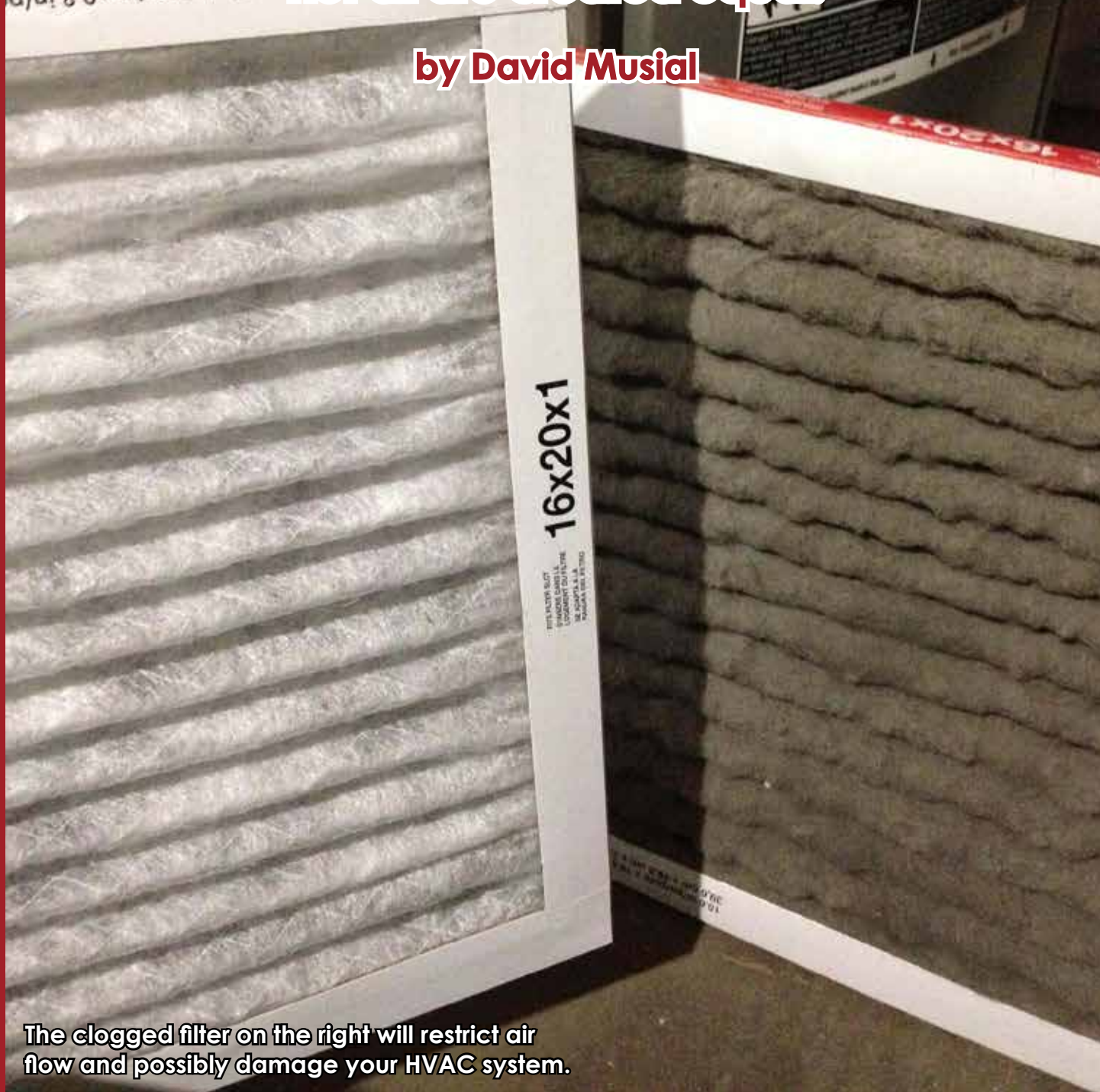


Seely Candy Canes

We Need to Clear the Air

When it comes to selecting an air filter, not all are created equal.

by David Musial



The clogged filter on the right will restrict air flow and possibly damage your HVAC system.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.DESIGNLIKE.COM

Homes can have many filters that need servicing. Vent filters for the kitchen exhaust system. Water filters for your drinking water. Air purifier or humidifier filter. But this article is all about the filters that air passes through to heat or cool your home.

Based on the topic, it may seem that this is going to be a fairly short article, while in fact, there is quite a bit of information related to heating and cooling filters and their benefits. But first, a quick story.

My son and his wife purchased their first home last year and like most first time homeowners don't know a lot about home maintenance. I know what you're thinking, but I tried to teach him. In any case, during the great ice storm of 2021, his furnace quit working. Long story short, the furnace stopped working due to a filter that needed replacing as a result of smoke from the 2020 fires.

The principal of an air filter is straight forward. Air will pass through the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system and eventually through air filters. These air filters are generally made of spun fiberglass or cloth and are designed to trap particles that can adversely impact your health or comfort.

Air passing through the filtration system can contain bacteria or microorganisms, dust and dirt, mold spores and pollen. Even fibers like lint and animal hair are floating in the air and can be trapped with a filter. Also, smoke particles as my son learned.

If you have ever inspected your filter closely, you have definitely noted a lot of interesting things trapped in the filter.

When it comes to selecting an air filter, they are not all created equal. The level of efficiency and cost vary significantly. High

quality air filters come with a price to match, but their performance is superior. These higher quality filters are able to remove more contaminants, which can be important for those with allergies or other health related concerns.

The efficiency of an air filter can be determined by its minimum efficiency reporting value or MERV rating. Basically it's a rating to tell you how efficient a filter is at removing particles in the air. The rating is on a scale from 1 to 20 and the higher the number indicating better filtration. Standard MERV values range from 1-16 and below is how each perform.

MERV 1-4: A low cost common standard filter that can remove pollen, dust mites, dust from sanding, carpet and animal fibers, and cockroach body parts. Yes, even a low cost filter can remove cockroach body parts.

MERV 5-8: Commonly used in residences and capable of trapping smaller particles such as mold spray and animal dander.

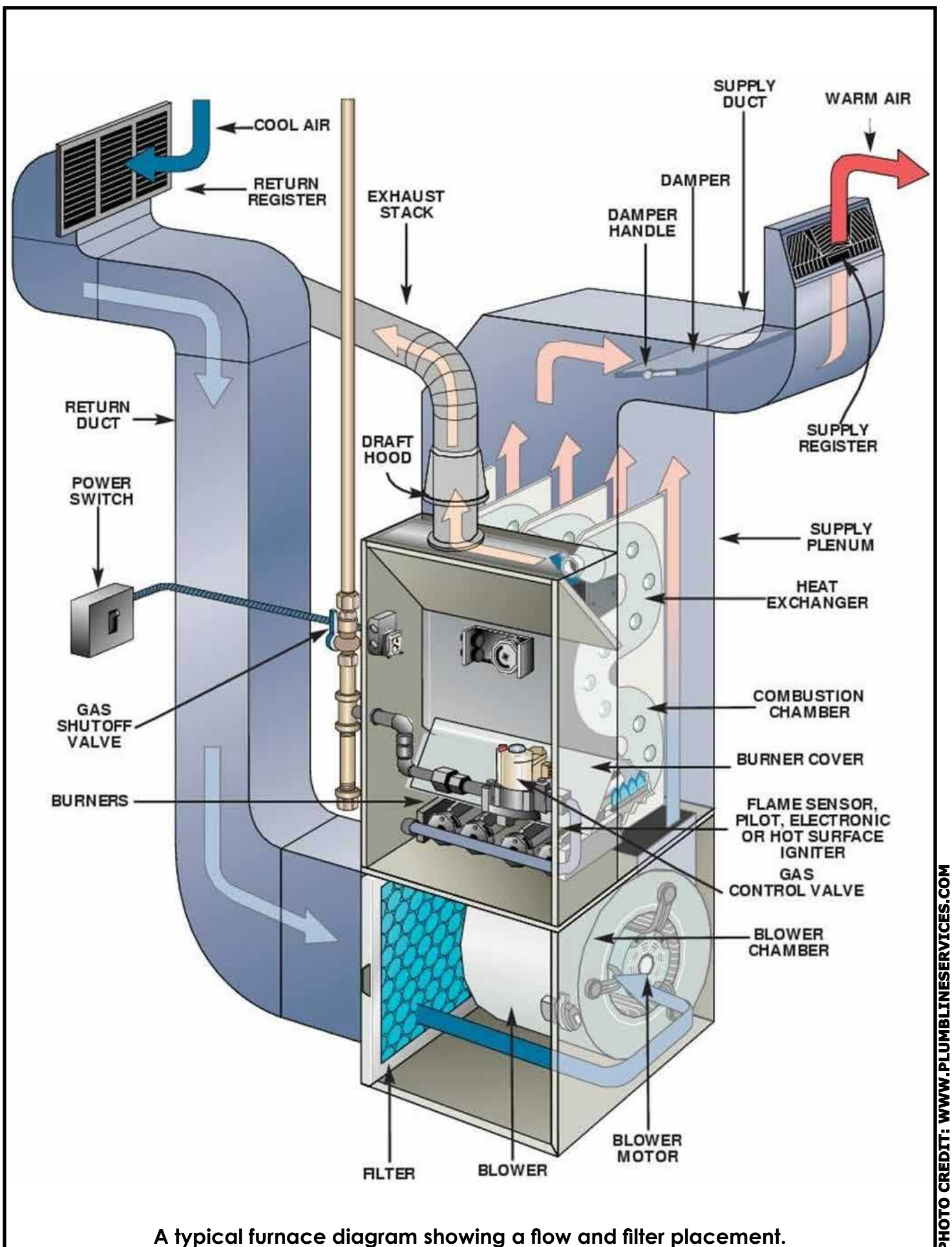
MERV 9-12: These are the most commonly used residential filter and are capable of trapping particles of 1 micron or larger. This would include humidifier dust and auto emissions.

MERV 13-16: These filters can trap particles down to a 0.3 micron, which is pretty small...bacteria, tobacco smoke and sneeze droplets.

As there are several choices in filters, the decision should be



A standard pleated MERV 8 filter.



based on your needs. Also, it's important to be sure that the filter selected matches your HVAC specifications. High rated MERV filters are thick and dense and drawing air through them can overtax your HVAC system; similar to the clogged air filter that caused my son problems.

There are many problems associated with dirty air filters and some can be costly. The basic issue is restriction of air flow and here are some of the resulting problems you can encounter.

- The primary purpose of the air filter is to remove contaminants. A clogged or dirty air filter can allow these contaminants back into your house.
- Dirty air filters can cause mold and other allergens to build up in your duct work.
- Dirty air filters cause your HVAC system to work harder as it is more difficult to draw air through a dirty filter. This can decrease the life of some HVAC components or the unit itself.
- If an HVAC system is working harder, it utilizes more energy to operate and increases your energy bills.

Note that as mentioned, utilizing a filter with too high of a MERV rating can also contribute to these problems.

Filters should generally be changed every three months under normal conditions. However, if there are smokers or animals in the house, you may want to change as frequently as once a month. This would also apply if you use your fireplace frequently or your home is dusty in general. Additionally, if there are personal allergen concerns, monthly filter changes should also be considered.



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The good thing is that installing a new air filter is relatively simple once you have located where it is housed, and how to remove and replace. Here are the steps.

- Turn off the HVAC unit. Use the switch on the unit itself or the circuit breaker if necessary.
- Remove the old filter and make note of the air flow direction as indicated on the filter. You will see an arrow on the filter indicating the direction of air flow.
- Determine the length and width of the filter and purchase a filter with the same dimensions and the desired MERV rating.
- Install the new filter with the proper air flow direction.
- Turn the unit or circuit



Be sure to note the air flow arrow when removing the old filter.

PHOTO CREDIT: ECOBLUELIFE.COM



Buy by the box to save and this labeling will be a good reminder to change your filters.

breaker back on.

If you don't have a calendar for your routine home maintenance, now is great time to start. Whether it's a paper calendar, your phone or computer, use it to track what was done, what needs to be done and when.

Filters in general are relatively inexpensive and cheap insurance. They can be bought in bundles and, depending on size, six MERV 8s can be purchased for under \$6 each in a bundle of six...and they will clear the air.

Side note, my son now appreciates the value of routine maintenance, but does not acknowledge the fact that I tried to teach him the same when he was growing up. Oh well, I guess my father would have said the same about me.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.PINTEREST.COM

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WTDITG

The time goes so fast! With Summer winding down, it's time to enjoy the last warm days of the year, and turn our focus to Fall. September is a good month to plant, and it's a great time to start planning your garden for next year. With Fall rains coming, new plants will get established before the cold weather arrives.

PLANNING

- Plan some new color for spring by figuring out where to plant some spring bulbs. Creating pots with 'layers' of bulbs would be fun. A cluster of bright yellow daffodils planted at the base of a tree or three will really liven the yard up in the early months. Daffodils aren't eaten by squirrels or deer so they should remain intact for years giving you more color every spring.



- Check on the vegetables to be harvested. This is an important time to check on the crops, picking them before the veggies lose their flavor.
- Since September is a good month to plant and there are usually sales now on nursery stock, why not do a little landscape renovation? If you need help, bring some photos and notes into your local independent garden center. They can help you put together some good ideas of what to plant and where.

PLANTING

- It's time for shopping and planting spring bulbs! As the weather cools, that should be your signal to purchase some bulbs for a spring display of sunny color. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus can be found now. You'll have up until late October to plant them, but

selection of the coolest bulbs is gone early so don't delay.

- Fall is an exceptional time to plant landscape trees and shrubs! With the rains coming on soon and the soil being so warm from the summer sun, the plant's root systems take right off this

time of year. Most likely there are sales to take advantage of, so the savings make it even more enticing.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage. Root weevil adults do the damage above ground that is visible so you'll know if they are around. The grubs below ground are the killers, girdling the trunk, besides eating the majority of the roots. Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic creatures that hunt out and destroy these pests and 229 more species of insects, but are not harmful at all to earthworms, humans or pets. They are active for two years in the soil too!



are easy to spot and get rid of, if you know what they look like. Slugs lay eggs under stones, pavers, boards, plant debris or wherever they can find a hiding spot. The eggs are usually clustered in groups and look like little BB's, but are a creamy

color. By finding and destroying these eggs before they hatch, you will take care of hundreds of the slimy leaf-chompers before they can get to your plants.

- Be on the lookout for slugs and their eggs. Fall is egg laying time again for the slimy creatures. Eggs

- Begin to get plants ready for winter by holding

What To Do In The Garden

SEPTEMBER

back on the watering and stop any fertilizing this month. The plants need to get toughened up for the coming winter. If watered frequently and fed too late in the season the leaves are more tender and apt to freeze or be severely damaged.



- September is an excellent month to start a lawn from scratch or over seed a thin lawn. In fact this time of year is about the best and fastest time to start a lawn.

- Fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so for a couple of months. With the cooler weather and rains on the way you will notice the lawns becoming greener and thicker again, naturally.

- Pull up begonia tubers before it gets too cold or at least move the pot into a garage or shed. Let foliage die down naturally, then remove foliage, lift bulb out of the soil and store the begonia tubers separately in paper bags (breathable!) in a protected cool, not cold, environment like a basement or a chilly room.

- Dahlias: to dig or not to dig? If you dig up the dahlias to store them, and then divide and replant in the spring, they will continue to come up bigger and better every year. If left in the ground eventually they will poop out, getting many smaller stems and fewer flowers.

Dig the tubers at least one week after a frost and after the stalks have died down. Dahlias dug too early will not store well. Cut the stalks down to 6-8", shake the loose soil off the clumps (don't



wash the clump) then allow the clump of tubers to cure or dry for a few days before being stored indoors

in a cool dark area. Check stored tubers occasionally for any rot developing. You will divide and replant them next May.

- This is a great month to divide iris and other spring and early summer blooming perennials. Iris and other perennials can become overcrowded and that slows down on its flowering show. By lifting the clumps, cutting out the old centers or mushy parts and then replanting the leading growing edge of the clump immediately back into the garden, the perennials can again take off and give you additional years of flowers.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

- You can still seed these crops right into the garden: Arugula, beets, cabbage (for spring harvest), carrots, endive, fava beans, garlic cloves, lettuce, kale, mache, onion sets, radish, salad greens and shallot bulbs.

- Mulch the mature carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips for winter harvesting. By applying good 3-5" thick mulch you can store these veggies right out in the garden. Pull some up whenever you want to fix some for a meal.

- Harvest the winter squash when the 'ground spot' turns from white to a cream or gold color. (The ground spot is just what it sounds like, the part of the squash fruit that lay on the ground.) Winter squash can be harvested whenever the fruits have turned a deeper color and the rind is hard. Harvest the main part of the crop in September or October, before the heavy frosts. Cut squash from the vines

carefully, leaving two inches of stem attached if possible. Squash that is not fully mature, has been injured, or had their stems knocked off, or has been subjected to heavy frost will not keep.

- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down and before the first frost. Dig up the tubers, being careful not to nick the spuds with the shovel. Any tubers that have a damaged spot from digging should be cooked up and not stored. By hand remove any soil clinging to the potatoes and then leave them on top of the soil for a few hours to dry out - if they are stored damp, they will rot. Leaving them on the soil surface in the sun will harden the skin slightly, doubling the storage time.

- Protect the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant from early frost. Drape the plants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover. Pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if cold weather threatens.



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.

Art in the Garden

Through September 6, 2021

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Once again this summer, local artists will showcase their 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

Homeschool Day

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 • 10:00am–2:00pm

The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

The Oregon Garden invites home school students ages 5 to 12 to join us for a fun-filled day of outdoor learning. Experience the beauty of the garden while learning about the natural world through hands-on, self-paced learning stations throughout the garden. Oregongarden.org

Little Sprouts Dinosaur Succulent

Friday, September 10, 2021

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$10. Sprouts will plant their very own dinosaur succulent planter! Each kit includes a growing guide, dinosaur planter, 2" succulent, and soil. *Each kit is \$10. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR. www.garland-nursery.com

Salem Hardy Plant Society Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 11, 2021 • 9:00am–3:00pm

Sebright Gardens, Salem, OR

Come browse over a dozen nursery and garden art vendors, talk directly with the nursery owners, buy a lunch from The Chill Grill Food Cart and have a picnic in the beautiful display gardens of Sebright Nursery, free parking and free entrance. Come support your local nurseries and artists! Plant holding area or bring a small cart. Feel free to bring a small cart to haul your plants. 7185 Lakeside Dr NE, Salem OR 97305

Vendors: Arbutus Garden Arts, Artfully Salvaged, The Chill Grill, Creative Plant Images, Durant at Red Ridge

continued next column

Farms, Egan Gardens, Friends of the Rogerson Clematis Collection, Garden Whimsies by Jackie, Hydrangeas Plus, Mary's Metalwork, Miller's Manor Gardens, Nowlens Bridge Nursery, N & M Nursery, Oh-Growup, One Earth Botanical, Out in the Garden Nursery, Secret Garden Growers, Te Leaves. <https://salemhardyplantsociety.org/>

DIY Fall Containers

Saturday, September 11, 2021 • 10:00am–11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Learn how to create a fall inspired container garden as we go over basic and unique container gardens and techniques! Then create your own fall planter to take home and enjoy. No experience needed, this class is hands on. \$50/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Sunday in the Garden

Sunday, September 12, 2021

• 4:00pm–6:00pm (doors open at 3:00pm)

Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

A special fundraiser for Leach Botanical Garden with Susannah Mars & Darrell Grant.

On Sunday afternoon, September 12th, two good friends—vocalist Susannah Mars and pianist Darrell Grant—will combine their talents for a special performance in support of Leach Botanical Garden. All proceeds from the event will go toward the Garden's operating costs. Doors open at 3 pm, providing an opportunity to stroll through the Garden's newly opened Pollinator Garden, Aerial Tree Walk, and Fireside Terrace. Guitar music from the Fireside Terrace will float through the Garden as you make your way down to the concert venue on the Manor House East Terrace. There, you will be treated to specialty hors d'oeuvres from Cheryl's on Twelfth accompanied by your choice of beer, wine, or a non-alcoholic beverage.

Besides being dubbed the golden girl of Portland's musical theater scene, Susannah has performed in movies and television spanning 20 years. Darrell Grant is a Portland based jazz pianist, composer, and educator dedicated to themes of hope, community, and place. When the two of them get together, magic happens.

continued next page



Susannah and Darrell, with a bass accompaniment, will perform three 20-minute sets so there will be time in between to enjoy another beverage and dessert treat.

This event is limited to eighty guests, ensuring an intimate and memorable experience for all. One hundred percent of the funds raised will go toward the operating costs for Leach Botanical Garden. Tickets: \$175. For reservations: www.leachgarden.org. 503-823-9503. 6704 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR

Iris Society Sale • Siberian Iris Sale
Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19, 2021
 • 9:00am-4:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR
 5050 SE Stark, Portland, OR. www.portlandnursery.com

Mid-Autumn Festival
Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19, 2021
 • 10:00am-6:00pm

Lan Su Garden, Portland, OR

Join Us for the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration at Lan Su! Zhong Qiu Jie, a.k.a. the Mid-Autumn Festival, is considered as one of the most important Chinese holidays. Traditionally taking place on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, the Mid-Autumn Festival is usually on or close to the time of the "Harvest Moon" when the moon appears at its fullest during the autumnal equinox. Visit Lan Su during the weekend of September 18th and 19th when the garden is adorned with countless hanging lanterns. Join us for lantern making activity, Mid-Autumn story telling, chopstick challenge, and calligraphy demonstration. This daytime festival is free with garden admission or membership. Lansugarden.org

Fall Wreath Making
Saturday, September 18, 2021 • 10:00am-11:00am
Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Kick off the upcoming season with a beautiful hand made fall wreath! With the use of dried pods, berries, mosses, branches and other materials, you will create a one of a kind wreath you'll be proud to hang on your door or inside your home. No experience needed, this class is hands on. \$45/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Capitol Subaru Fall Garden Fest
Saturday, September 18, 2021 • 11:00am-3:00pm
Capitol Subaru, Salem, OR

Join us at the Capitol Subaru Pavilion for a Fun Day! Meet Judy Alleruzzo and Ryan Seely from Garden Time.

continued next column

Lots of vendors and booths! Giveaways & refreshments. Buy plants and flowers! Local nurseries and garden artists! Food & coffee vendors. On Site! 920 Auto Group Ave. NE., Salem. capitolsubaru.com

Portland Rose Society Annual Fall Rose Show
Saturday-Sunday, September 18-19, 2021
Washington Square, Beaverton, OR

Come and enjoy the tables filled with beautiful roses, rose arrangements, rose sprays and more. Entries on September 18, 7:00am-9:30am. Rose show Viewing times: Saturday 12:00pm-9:00pm and Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm.

O-Tsukimi, the Moonviewing Festival
Sunday & Monday, September 19 & 20, 2021
 • 6:30pm-8:30pm

Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR
Japanesegarden.org

Pickling Beets
Saturday, September 25, 2021 • 10:00am-11:00am
Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Join Farmer Justin as he demonstrates how to pickle summer vegetables. He'll share his favorite recipes and techniques, along with a sample for you to taste here, and a sample to take with you! \$15/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Colors of Fall Festival
Saturday & Sunday, September 25 & 26, 2021
 • 10:00am-5:00pm

The Cascade Nursery Trail, Aurora to Sliverton, OR
 10-5 at all CNT Nurseries! LAST CHANCE FOR PLANTS! Late season gala brings glowing surprises in the garden that are seldom seen! Unique offerings chosen for fall planting and winter interest will be featured for this celebration of season. This time of year brings the promise of warm soils, cooling ambient temperatures and coming rains – the perfect time for planting! Wander thru our gardens and let us be your muse...it is also time to ponder winter interest additions and spring surprises. cascadenurserytrail.com

LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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