

October 2021

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Animal Magnetism

A Bevy of Beasts Awaits
Visitors at Wilsonville's
Frog Pond Farm



One of the resident
camels at Frog Pond Farm

Actaea
Making Leaf Castings
OREGON HAZELNUT FARMERS
The Schlechter Family



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Schedules

This past week we had to take the Garden Time Subaru in for servicing. That meant scheduling an appointment with the garage for a time to drop it off. That got me thinking about how regimented our lives can be at times. We have doctor appointments, work schedules, house payments, school assignment deadlines and writing a monthly editorial, just to name a few. For the Garden Time crew, we have to organize our shooting times and even schedule when to air certain stories. There is one place where time seems to stand still, the garden. Sure, we make plans to prune roses, fertilize lawns and other chores, but there is not the urgency that you encounter in the rest of your life. If you decide to take a day trip to the coast, the garden understands. A good morning watering of your containers and you are on your way! Most plants can be very forgiving. There is one thing that we do hope you schedule... and that is your weekly watching of the Garden Time show. Now, we do make it easy. You can watch it when it airs on your local TV station, or you can click on the link on our website, under the 'This Week' tab, or you can subscribe to our YouTube channel. I post the shows and stories a few days before they air on TV so you can watch the show even earlier than the rest of our garden fans. We hope you can join us for just a few minutes sometime during your hectic week.

Scheduling is high on the list as we enter the holiday season. Planning for Halloween, Thanksgiving and then Christmas (and other numerous events) are all yet to come. This month we try to help you with your Halloween plans. We start with a story on how to tackle your decorating for Halloween. Sarah looks at some of the basics for creating a welcoming, or scary, front door display. Ron then looks at some of the pumpkins that can do double duty for decoration and on your dinner table. To add to the decorating, Judy does a step-by-step primer on making leaf castings from your mature garden leaves. Then Ryan gets us all in the mood for the fall with a visit to Frog Pond Farm. Not only can you get your fill of all things pumpkin, you can also meet a couple of camels. Fun, though that might be a stretch for a Halloween themed excursion.

With all the fall fun yet to come, we hope you fill your calendar with lots of family and Garden Time. You can't go wrong with either!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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IN THIS ISSUE

ask mortimer....pg. 4

Frog Pond Farm

adventures....pg. 6

Making Leaf Castings

backyard....pg. 16

Actaea

got to have it....pg. 26

Pumpkins for Eating

eats....pg. 30

The Schlechter Family

hortie....pg. 36

Decorating for Halloween

home....pg. 44

october garden tips....pg.48

gardening events....pg. 50

Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I had a problem with squirrels in my garden during the late summer. They were attacking my vegetable garden and now that I started to set up my fall decorations, they are attacking my pumpkins and corn stalks on my doorstep! How can I deter them and save what little vegetables that I have left.

Signed,
Squirrels are Driving Me Nuts

Dear Nuts,

Squirrels can get very active in the late summer and through fall with all the digging and eating. They are essentially preparing for the upcoming winter and that means acquiring and storing food.

Short of trapping or killing them, there are a couple of things you can do to deter them. If it is about acquiring food, you can supply them with a food source. A lot of people will feed their local squirrel population which will help to keep them from eating your corn or vegetables, but it also gives them food to bury which will lead to more digging in your garden or your containers. You can also install a strobe light or watering system to scare them away. These are motion activated systems that are available on-line or at select garden centers.



One hungry neighbor.

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

PHOTO CREDIT: LOLA WILLIAMS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

They squirt or flash when an animal gets within range.

Squirrels also have a very good sense of smell and taste so you can use products to drive them away by affecting those senses. A strong scented fragrance like peppermint oil, cayenne pepper oil or garlic will help push them to another area. Some people will also just use a strong powder like cayenne pepper or chili powder to do the same thing. With oils and powders you will need to reapply if it rains or you do some heavy watering.

Finally, there are some commercial products that deal with their smell and taste. Bonide Repels All is one of those products, but you can also check with your local garden center for other ideas.

Good luck,
Mortimer

• • • • •

Dear Mortimer,

Now that I've harvested most of my veggies, what should I do with my winter garden?

Yours,
Preparedness Guy

Dear Guy,

There are a lot of things you can do to your garden to prepare it for the coming months and even help get it ready for next season. The first thing I recommend for vegetable gardeners is to plant a cover crop. This is a crop that will grow over the winter months and help protect the soil and even provide a 'green mulch' to help feed the soil for the coming growing season. It may be too late to plant some of the recommended cover crops due to the short season left for germination, but I would check with your local independent garden center to see what they would recommend.

Other things that you can do in your vegetable garden is remove old vegetable plants and fruit. Some of the old fruit can harbor pests and diseases that can winter over into the new growing season. Apply compost to your garden if you can't use a cover crop. This will help rejuvenate your soil as well. Some people use the leaves from their trees to cover the soil, prevent compaction, and help feed the soil too.

One last thing you can do with your garden is



Terraced bed with peas as a cover crop, a popular choice.

to plan for the next growing season. Did some of your vegetables not do so well this year? Did the pumpkins take over and cover all your garden? Tomatoes have a bad year? Now's the time to plan out your planting for next year. Look at possible crop rotation too. Certain plants will do better with a fresh start in a new location. Also consider sunlight and watering issues when planning. Then sit back and wait for those seed catalogs in the middle of winter to find new varieties that will do well in your area.

Have a great winter,
Mortimer



Sometimes straw or leaves are used as a mulch.

PHOTO CREDIT: FOXY TIGRE VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG BECKERS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Animal Magnetism

Wilsonville's Frog Pond Farm is a family-friendly attraction that has something for everyone, including a Pumpkin Patch, Spooky Farm Trail and a bevy of beasts.

by Ryan Seely



**Justin Timm, owner
of Frog Pond Farm.**

Nestled just outside of Wilsonville, Oregon in the shadows of Pete's Mountain is a family-run farm providing year-round entertainment: Frog Pond Farm. What started as a hobby farm has morphed through the years to an incredible and fun place where the whole family can experience 'a day on the farm'. Now, Frog Pond offers a year-round farm walk-about with 13 species and 80 different animals, a Pumpkin Patch and Spooky Farm Trail, as well as a Holiday Tree festival. With many acres to explore, there is ample room for you and your family to explore the farm in a safe and family-friendly environment.

I am fortunate to call the owner, Justin Timm, a long-time family friend. The history of Frog Pond Farm started



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Local Events October 2021

2021 Pumpkin Patch

October 3-31, 2021

French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

The pumpkin patch event runs over 5 weeks from October 2nd to October 31st. Farm Fun Wristbands are available for purchase and cover all of the activities to experience on the weekends.

• www.fpgardens.com

Harvest Fest

October 1-30, 2021

EZ Orchards, Salem, OR

Hayrides, pumpkins patch, petting zoo, face painting, corn maze, live music. \$10 per person. Ages 2 and under free.

• ezorchards.com

Pumpkin Planters

Saturday, October 16, 2021 • 10:00am-11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Enhance your front porch with a one of a kind Pumpkin Planter! A selection of grasses and fall annuals, and your creativity are the only things required for this class. \$40/person.

• www.bloomingjunction.com



originally just down the road at a smaller home-
stead. Their original farm was established in 1985, and was nearby Frog Pond Church and Frog Pond Grange. Their home had an abandoned swimming pool in the backyard, and had many, many frogs, not to mention the five ponds on their property. Thus, Frog Pond Farm was 'hatched' – pun intended! As the city of Wilsonville grew, so did their farm, and the Timm family purchased the present-property just a few miles down the road in 2002. Their first animals were llamas, and they expanded to include miniature donkeys. Now, their animal menagerie includes camels, cows, goats, sheep, rabbits, pigs, guinea pigs, and an emu! In fact, my favorite animal on the farm is Dude, the Dromedary camel, a large, loveable, docile animal who reminds Justin of an overgrown Labrador puppy. It might interest you to know that Dude is somewhat of an escape artist, who loves









to explore the farm as well with his partner-in-crime Jerry, also a Dromedary camel.

Throughout the year, Frog Pond Farm has a walk-about Friday through Sunday. Admission allows you and your family to explore over five acres on the farm with a free animal feed-cup, plus access to various games and activities, including corn-hole, panning for gold, barrel-riding and so many other activities. With a plethora of outdoor spaces and courtyards, many families choose to bring lunch and eat at one of the picnic tables throughout the property. Still others choose to celebrate important events, like birthday parties, school tours, private tours, corporate events and ladies nights.

In the fall, Frog Pond Farm hosts a traditional pumpkin patch. Beginning September 24 through Halloween, they are open seven days a week, and have everything you need to prepare for fall, in-

cluding fall décor and pumpkins grown on the farm. They also feature local apple cider and apple cider donuts. This year, Frog Pond will once again feature the Spooky Farm Trail, which takes place Friday through Sunday. This half mile forest trail features a variety of ghouls and goblins. For younger audiences, it's best to attend the Spooky Farm Trail earlier in the evening, where the scare factor is dialed down a bit. Then, as darkness descends, the Spooky Farm Trail becomes a bit spookier, and includes actors and electronics to get you in the Halloween mood! Be sure to bring a flashlight, appropriate shoes and outer wear.

Frog Pond's Holiday Experience and Tree Farm begins the Friday after Thanksgiving. With over a thousand pre-cut Christmas trees, there is sure to be the perfect tree for you and your family. There is also a lovely selection of local, hand-crafted wreaths and garland.



The author uses his head to experience life on the farm.

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Stroll the gift shop, visit with Santa, and pull up a chair around the bonfire, with s'mores kits available for purchase. You can also visit the animals!

Needless to say, Frog Pond Farm is a farm-tastic adventure for you and your family, regardless of the season. This wonderful destination is a shining example of a passionate hobby that has turned into a place of enjoyment for families and the community they live and work in. Personally, I am proud to call Justin and the whole Timm family friends. For more information, please go to their website or follow them on social media. Happy adventuring!



Frog Pond Farm

2995 SW Advance Road
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Pumpkin Patch:
September 24 -
October 31, 2021

<https://www.thefrogpondfarm.com/>

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Leaf No Stone Unturned

Cement leaves can add character to structures and garden beds, and they're surprising easy to make. Just follow these step-by-step instructions!

by Judy Alleruzzo

Fall is a pleasant month in the garden. Colorful leaves are falling from our shade trees and foliage from our shrubs and perennials is starting to turn colors and begin to go dormant for the winter.

Wouldn't it be great to preserve plant foliage to display in the garden all winter long? There is an easy craft called leaf casting, that will do just that!

Here are the simple steps for a short autumn art project you can do right in your garden.

Step 1 - Supplies

First you need to find a solid leaf with a smooth surface and a

raised vein underside, like Hosta or Calla leaves. The more pronounced the veining the better the leaf casting. Medium sized leaves with simple oval or elongated shapes are better to start with until you get more experienced. The leaf needs to be solid to handle a little pressure, so it doesn't rip when applying the cement.

Also, gather the needed tools and materials.

The 'concrete' that that we found best to use is actually a vinyl concrete patch. It is a mixture of different products that actually hold up well during the creation process and over time. Your leaf will look great for years in your gar-

STEP 1

Supplies Needed for Leaf Castings



den.

- Brushes, files and sandpaper to help clean and smooth the finished leaf cast.
- Acrylic waterproof paint or concrete sealer, if wanted.
- Nut Pick or Scissors to pick out excess leaf foliage from finished leaf cast.
- A roll of duct tape is also good to have at hand to repair any little holes that may occur in your leaf.
- Heavy wire formed in a U-shape with Curly-Q ends. This shape will make a sturdy hook for hanging the leaf casting.

- Rubber Gloves -- cement is a skin irritant.
- A Shallow Box or Shallow Tray is best to use to build the leaf casting. This way you can move the leaf to a shady and protected area to let it dry.
- Small bag of sand, potting soil or compost to build the leaf casting.
- Bucket and heavy paddle to mix cement.
- Bucket of water and scoop for cement.

Step 2

Now form a mound of sand, potting soil or compost in a shallow



STEP 2

**Place Leaf Top
Side Down**

STEP 3

Texture for
Cement



STEP 4

Patting Down
Cement
on Leaf



box or tray. You can also use a flat surface if you want a flat leaf casting. Pat soil/compost down to give a good base on which to build the leaf casting. Make sure that the mound is big enough to support the leaf you are using for the casting. Place the leaf, topside down on the mound. The leaf veins on the underside make a more interesting casting.

Step 3

For mixing the cement, it's best to put a few cups of dry cement mix in the bucket first. Slowly add water and keep stirring until you get a thick substance mixture. Too runny will not work, add a little dry cement to thicken the mixture.

Steps 4 to 7

Apply the cement to the middle of the leaf, patting down with pressure to adhere to the leaf and work your way to the edges. This also gets rid of any air bubbles. Don't go over the edge but make a nice thickness so it doesn't break when you pull the leaf off. Set the hook, if you want to hang the leaf casting on a fence, making sure it is secure. Once the whole leaf is covered to the right thickness, let it set at least overnight if not longer. 12 hours is the minimum amount of time to wait for the cement to dry. Make sure the drying leaf casting is out of the direct sun.



STEP 5

**Cement
on Leaf**

STEP 6

Attaching
Hook



STEP 7

Leaf with
Hook



Steps 8 & 9

After the cement has set, you can just peel the leaf off to reveal the leaf casting.

Step 10

If parts of the leaf get stuck in the cement grooves, use a nut pick or scissor point to pry it gently out.

Step 11

If there are rough patches or rough edges, use sandpaper or a file to take down the rough texture. You may paint or seal the finished leaf casting, but you can also just leave it to age naturally in your garden.

Steps 12 & 13

Display your finished works of art!

This is really an easy and fun project for all ages and crafty skill levels. There are still nice days this fall to gather all the materials and make one last garden project of the season. Have Fun!

These directions are from
Garden Time Episode 571
September 26, 2020

Here is the link to that episode:

[https://www.youtube.com/
embed/kR8F5aYZrG0](https://www.youtube.com/embed/kR8F5aYZrG0)



STEP 8

Leaf After
Cement Dries

STEP 9

Revealing
Leaf Casting



STEP 10

Removing
Excess
Leaf Bits
with Scissor
Point





STEP 11

**Sandpapering
Rough Edges**

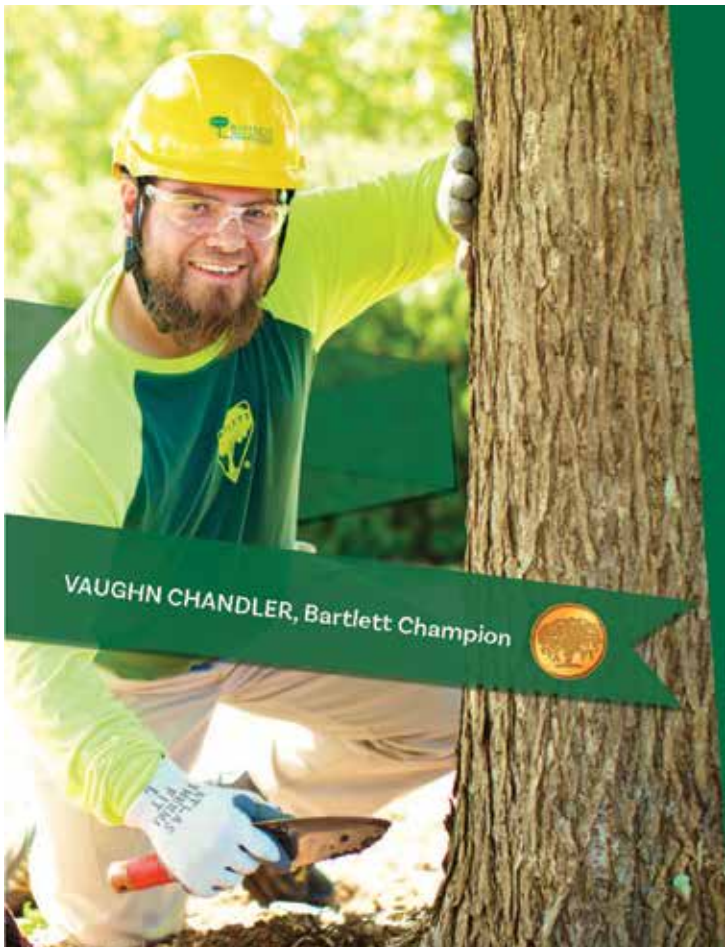


STEP 12

**Leaf Casting
Cluster
Display in
Garden**

STEP 13

Leaf Castings Display on Fence



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Shady Character

Actaea racemosa née *Cimicifuga racemosa* Black Cohosh or Bugbane

PHOTO CREDIT: CULTIVAR413 VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

If you are looking to fill a large area of your shade garden, consider planting an *Actaea* to add color, texture, and a bit of fragrance to your fall garden.

by Therese Gustin

Summer and fall flowering perennials fit for shade can be few and far between, but one such under-used perennial that adds color, structure and fragrance to your late season garden is the group of perennials in the *Actaea* genus. Commonly known as Bugbane, Cohosh, Baneberry, Snakeroot, Fairy Candles and Doll's Eyes, *Actaea* is an easy-care perennial that can stand alone or grace the back of a partly shaded garden border.

Formerly in the *Cimicifuga* genus, *Actaea*'s lacy foliage looks a bit like *Astilbe* foliage. Foliage color ranges from green to dark purple to almost black and not only creates a stunning contrast to its long, narrow, white flower spikes but also pairs well with contrasting chartreuse or lighter green shade loving foliage such as hostas, heucheras or Japanese forest grass. *Actaeas* can range from 3 to 7 feet tall!

Actaeas are hardy in zones 4-9 and prefer rich deep soil with good drainage. They should be watered once a week but may need some supplemental wa-

ter in the dry months. Plant them in partial sun to partial shade. They can be planted in full shade, but they may stretch for the light and the darker leaved varieties will remain greener. They also may have fewer flowers in the deep shade. In early winter after the leaves turn brown, the leaves can be cut back to the ground. *Actaeas* rarely have any pest problems.

Actaeas attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators and their 'hairy' textured leaves make them resistant to deer. They also make a nice cut flower with a pleasant fragrance. *Actaea* berries are poisonous to humans and rabbits. They are harmless to birds which are the plants primary seed spreader. Native Americans used *Actaea racemosa* (Black Cohosh) for snake bites, and it continues to be used in modern herbal medicine for a variety of ailments.

If you are looking to fill a large area of your shade garden, consider planting an *Actaea* to add color, texture, and a bit of fragrance to your fall garden.



Actaea pachypoda 'Doll's Eyes'

Bizarre white berries with one black dot that resemble eyeballs hang on the flowering stems from summer through fall and into winter. Flowers are in compact balls rather than the showier long spikes of other species. Grows 30" tall and wide.

(Bloom with berries shown in inset)



Actaea matsumurae 'White Pearl'

Very free flowering green leafed white flowered selection. Decorative (but very poisonous) black berries follow the flowers. *A. simplex* 'White Pearl' was recently reclassified as *A. matsumurae* 'White Pearl'.

***Actaea racemosa* 'Brunette'**

Darker foliage than 'Atropurpurea' but not as dark as 'Hillside Black Beauty.' It still provides stunning foliage contrast. Occasional pink flowers instead of the usual white. 4-6' tall.



PHOTO CREDIT: PORTLAND NURSERY

***Actaea racemosa* Black Cohosh**

White flower spikes July-August, grows 5-7' tall by 24" wide. Zones 3-8.



PHOTO CREDIT: PORTLAND NURSERY



Actaea simplex 'Black Negligée' - Black Bugbane

Selections of *A. spicata* have more pleasantly fragrant flowers. Aside from fragrance, 'Black Negligée' is very similar to 'Hillside Black Beauty.' Grows 4-5' tall.

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In celebration of Garden Time, we are proud to tell you about three flowers that have been named in our honor. The *Garden Time Dahlia* comes from Swan Island Dahlias, the *Garden Time Rose* was introduced by Heirloom Roses and the *Garden Time Iris* is from Schreiner's Iris Gardens. Check them out and put a little *Garden Time* in your yard!



Garden Time Dahlia



Garden Time Rose



Garden Time Iris

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Garden Time

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater

Aside from his questionable solutions to marital infidelity, Peter had the right idea: Pumpkins are great for cooking and eating.

by Ron Dunevant

Pumpkin after it has been baked in the oven.

PHOTO CREDIT: PUSSREBOOTS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Halloween is one of those holidays that used to be just one day and is now a month-long celebration, like Christmas. We begin seeing "fun-size" candy and Halloween decorations on store shelves near the end of August. Soon after, neighborhoods become intermittently dotted with autumnal symbols, and spooky adornments.

The centerpiece of this observance is the ubiquitous pumpkin, long a symbol of fall, harvest and supernatural activity. And, they really are the perfect choice: They're inexpensive, great for decorating, encourage artistic license and come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. But

sometimes we become so engrossed in using the pumpkin as decoration that we forget that it is also a versatile and delicious vegetable, perfect in a wide variety of sweets, snacks, soups and spreads.

History of the Pumpkin

The pumpkin is native to North America and is one of the oldest domesticated plants, dating back to 7,500 to 5,000 BCE. According to Wikipedia, "The term pumpkin has no agreed upon botanical or scientific meaning, and is used interchangeably with 'squash' and 'winter squash'." In the United States, it generally refers to the round, orange varieties of winter squash. It is botanically a fruit, but is often

used like a vegetable in cooking, and that's part of what makes it so versatile. Did I hear someone say "pumpkin spice latte?"

Pumpkins are healthy, too, packed with vitamins and minerals. They contain high levels of vitamin A and antioxidants such as beta-carotene. Pumpkins also have properties that may boost immunity and protect your eyesight. On top of that, they are low in calories, since they are 94% water.

Types of Pumpkins

All varieties of pumpkin are edible, but different varieties will vary widely in taste. The pumpkins you see in the

store that are touted as “carving pumpkins” are bred to be large and robust, and not necessarily for their flavor. They also tend to be more watery and fibrous than other types of squash. That being said, some of them can be quite tasty. If one of your local independent nurseries offers locally grown pumpkins, you may find their flavor to be better than at the “big box” stores where they could be shipped in from out of state.

All told, there are over 50 different varieties of pumpkins. Everything from miniature to average sized to huge. They also come in a number of different colors in addition to the standard orange, including dark green, yellow, white and varieties that include a mixture of these colors. When



Pumpkins come in a variety of colors and shapes.

PHOTO CREDIT: RAFAEL SALDAÑA VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

PHOTO CREDIT: POPPET WITH A CAMERA VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS



For cooking purposes, choose a pumpkin that is between four and eight pounds.



The seeds from a pumpkin, when roasted, make an excellent snack.

mation: If your pumpkin tastes extremely bitter, it could be a sign of high levels of cucurbitacins, which can be toxic. This can occur in plants in the family Cucurbitaceae, which includes pumpkins, gourds and cucumbers. If you notice this bitterness, which is called "toxic squash syndrome", you should stop eating it, as it can cause intestinal distress. This occurs more in wild squash and cucumbers than those grown for consumption.

To learn more about some of the more interesting varieties of pumpkins, be sure to read Judy Alleruzzo's "Wacko Jack-Os!" article from Garden Time Magazine's October 2017 edition, <http://www.gardentime.tv/gto/1710/GTDM-1710.pdf>.

How to Prepare

shopping for pumpkins for cooking, look for a label that says "sugar pumpkins" or "pie pumpkins." Some of the varieties that are especially good for cooking are Cinderella, Fairy Tale, Baby Pam, Autumn Gold, Sugar Pie, Sweet Pie, Ghost Rider, New England Pie Pumpkin, and Lumina (which are white). Cinderella and Fairy Tale pumpkins have hard, thick skins but the flesh inside is delicious!

While you may be tempted to grab one large pumpkin, instead choose several pumpkins with a weight of four to eight pounds. Check the outside for big bruises or soft spots and avoid those. You can stock up: Pumpkins may be stored for a long time if kept in a moderately cool room.

One interesting piece of infor-



**Fresh out of the oven:
Pumpkin pieces on a baking sheet.**

Most recipes calling for pumpkin will need a pumpkin purée, which is easy to make. There are a couple of different methods to do that and both are fairly straightforward. The first is the baking method.

- Choose a couple of smaller-sized pumpkins and cut them in half. Using a spoon, scoop out the seeds and pulp from the center. You don't need to get every last string, but make it reasonably clean.

- If you like roasted pumpkin seeds, you can save them. Otherwise, repeat the process until all of your pieces are free of seeds and pulp.

- Using a baking sheet, spread the pumpkin pieces out (it doesn't matter which direction you place them) and

bake in a 350-degree oven for approximately 45 minutes. Check periodically using a fork. When the pumpkin is tender, and they are a light golden brown, they are done.

- Allow the pumpkin to cool enough that you don't burn yourself, then peel the skin off each piece.

- Purée the pieces, a few at a time, using a food processor or blender or even a potato masher. A food mill will work, also. If the pumpkin is dry, you can add some water to make blending easier, but don't overdo it.

- Continue to purée or mash the pumpkin until smooth. If the purée is too watery, it can be strained with a fine mesh strainer or some cheesecloth.

- Transfer each portion into a bowl until all the pumpkin is finished.

- Use immediately in a recipe or store it in the freezer to use later.

- If you know what quantities you will need for your recipes, you can pre-measure the stored pumpkin. Otherwise, one cup servings placed in a plastic freezer bag should be useful and easy to flatten and stack.

The other method involves boiling or steaming the pumpkin. Therese Gustin gives step-by-step instructions and shares her mother's "Heavenly Pumpkin Pie" recipe in Garden Time Magazine's October 2009 issue, <http://www.gardentime.tv/gto/0910/gto0910eat.htm>.



Pumpkin puree ready to go into a recipe.

Uses for Pumpkin in Cooking

In addition to the most obvious use for pumpkin, which is in pumpkin pie, there are many other dishes that use pumpkin as a base or as additional flavor.

For breakfast, you might try making some pumpkin muffins. See the next page for a simple muffin recipe using puréed pumpkin. You can also add puréed pumpkin into your pancake mix, along with a little cinnamon and nutmeg. There are also several excellent pumpkin bread recipes available, which are especially delicious toasted and with melted butter!

For lunch, if you like PBJ sandwiches, try one with some pumpkin butter. You can find

a recipe for that here: <https://www.freshpreserving.com/blog?cid=freezer-spiced-pumpkin-butter>.

For dinner, substitute pumpkin for butternut squash in a ravioli recipe. Or, warm up a chilly autumn evening with a delicious pumpkin soup. Speaking of “chilly”, there are also recipes for pumpkin chili. One we found uses ground turkey and black beans. You can try it here: <https://www.tyrant-farms.com/moms-pumpkin-chili-with-turkey-and-black-beans/>.

Humans aren't the only ones who love pumpkin. Many veterinarians recommend pumpkin as a digestive aid for your dogs, and what could be better than making it yourself?

One question you may have is,

“can I eat my jack-o-lantern after Halloween?” The answer is, yes, if you hurry. While whole pumpkins can be stored for several months, carved pumpkins should be used within a few days. Check your jack-o-lantern for any signs of spoilage. If it is soft, rotted, or shows signs of mold, you should send it to the compost pile. If it still looks good, be sure to wash it thoroughly to remove any pesticides. If you have any doubts, go with an uncarved pumpkin instead.

In general, you can substitute pumpkin in almost any recipe that calls for squash. So, this Halloween, save one of the “treats” for yourself and make use of this delicious and healthy autumn fruit.



Fresh pumpkin soup topped with pomegranate seeds.



Pumpkin Muffins

Here is a simple recipe for a tasty breakfast addition. If you have your pumpkin prepared ahead of time, the entire process takes only about 30 minutes. They're a satisfying treat on a cool autumn morning.

Makes 12 muffins.

Ingredients

- 1 egg**
- ½ cup milk**
- ½ cup pumpkin puree**
- ¼ cup melted butter**
- 1 ½ cups flour**
- ½ cup sugar**
- 2 tsp. baking powder**
- ½ tsp. cinnamon**
- ½ tsp. nutmeg**
- ½ tsp. salt (optional)**
- ½ cup raisins (optional)**

Directions

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Use a non-stick muffin pan, or cooking spray or paper baking cups to prevent sticking. Beat egg slightly with fork. Stir in milk, pumpkin and butter. Add dry ingredients and stir until flour is moist. Batter will be lumpy. Add raisins. Fill muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake 18 to 20 minutes.



The Schlechter Family, Elaine, Kathy, Mary, Eddie and Katie

A Year in the Life

It has been quite a year for the Schlechter family and the Hazelnut trees they grow in the Willamette Valley.

by Judy Alleruzzo



Hazelnuts are a very important agricultural crop for Oregon. If you drive anywhere in the rural areas of the Willamette Valley, chances are you will pass by a Hazelnut Farm. My friends, Elaine, Kathy and Mary Schlechter are Hazelnut Farmers and they and their Hazelnut trees are the Garden Time Horties for October. About the time I was finishing up this article in mid-September, they were at the beginning of the 2021 Hazelnut harvest. By early to mid-October, the Hazelnut harvest will be complete in the Willamette Valley. **Oregon is the top Hazelnut grower in the United States with Oregon farmers growing about 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 1,000 Oregon Hazelnut farms with over 87,000 acres in production in the state.

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!

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.

**The information above is an excerpt of the Hazelnut recipe article I wrote for the September Garden Time Magazine issue. This month, I will be telling you the story of growing Hazelnuts at the Schlechter Family Farm, one of those 1000 Hazelnut farmers in the Willamette Valley.

As we all know, what a wild weather year it has been in the Willamette Valley and the whole Northwest for that matter! It's been quite a year in the life of us all and this article is about the life cycle of Hazelnut trees in the Willamette Valley and the Schlechter family. This year has been a little out of the norm, from early winter days of clear blue skies to ice storms to extreme heat. Farmers are extremely patient people as it's a roll of the dice each year to see what Mother Nature will dish out, and the Schlechter family are a part of that group. I've known the Schlechter family for

several years. They are such nice and welcoming people inviting me over for summer BBQs, cherry picking, apple sauce making and walks through their Hazelnut trees. They are farmers for more than a few generations in Oregon. Elaine's family came from Minnesota and the Ukraine. She grew up on a 150-acre farm between Gervais and Mt Angel. They grew strawberries, cane berries and wheat. Her job was to hoe the rows then pick the ripe strawberries. Elaine went on to be a teacher for her career, plus raise her daughters, Mary and Kathy. Now, they are following in the farming tradition to grow Hazelnuts.

In 2012, their cousin Chuck, who is also a farmer, read a Capital Press article about Hazelnut farming. Elaine, Kathy and Mary all decided it sounded like a great direction to take their 36 acres of land, so in 2013, they began tilling to plant the trees in October. They planted the new 'Jefferson' fruiting cultivar and 'Theta', 'Eta' and 'Felix' pollinizers, all developed at Oregon State and resistant to the Eastern Filbert Blight which is killing many established trees in the valley. Chuck is their farm manager that helps to keep them on track, but they all keep up with OSU research and the shared information at the "Nut Growers Society".

Elaine and Kathy live on the farm and Mary and her children, Eddie and Katie live overseas where Mary teaches. Coming back home is in their future and Edward is now here and going to school in Oregon. I asked why such a long-term commitment in a Hazelnut orchard, they all agreed this crop would be a family legacy, an investment for retirement and for Eddie and Katie's futures.

The Schlechters take care of the trees all year long with Kathy doing pruning and spraying, sometimes by herself and sometimes hiring people to help. During summer break, Mary and family come back to the States and help with the summertime chores on the Farm. In the first few seasons of the new Hazelnut trees, they planted red clover and alyssum in the rows between the trees. This intercropping of cover crops helped with erosion and held summer moisture for the new trees. Once the trees began to produce nuts, the floors under the trees were clear of cover crop for easy harvest.

Many months ago, I asked Kathy to send me photos of the Hazelnut trees during their year of growth. Kathy is a busy woman but made time to send me photos and comments since the beginning of the year. Here is a timeline of growing Hazelnuts in the Willamette Valley.



Late January 2021 Hazelnut Catkins

January to Early February 2021

The Hazelnut trees begin to grow their catkins which hold the male and female flowers on each separate tree.

Kathy wrote these comments, "Early February and late winter months are for pruning the trees. We're removing horizontal branches, crossing branches, getting more light into the center of the tree." You'll see the tiny scarlet flower popping out. The catkins will pop in February and the wind helps pollinate the flowers. We fertilize the trees in mid-March. Plus, spray nutrient foliar spray on the leaves. I know I sent excessive photos of all the trees in pollination, but I love seeing the tiny flowers on the trees." (She did send about 20 photos. They were all very lovely!)



Late Jan 2021 Hazelnut Catkins close up



February 2021: Hazelnut Catkins still on trees

February 14, 2021

The horrendous ice storm left a path of destruction from Southwest Washington and through the Willamette Valley. Not only were many people without power for days with downed power poles and neighborhood trees broken in the 2 states, but Hazelnut trees also had that same fate. The Schlechter's trees were not spared damage. They appraised the trees and ended up repairing the ones they could save. Kathy emailed me, "we repaired the cracked trunks using 3/8 X 6in lag bolts. We will cut back 10 of the worst trees to the ground, let a sucker grow from the bottom and then train it up to new tree." It will be interesting to see the sprouting trees next spring. The rest of the late winter and spring seemed to go along with just normal care of the trees.



February 2021: Ice Storm



Mid-February Ice Damage



Repairing Ice Storm Damage



Burnt Hazelnuts 117 degrees F, June 28, 2021

June 2021

Kathy sent an email with news of farm chores for the next few months. She was making her lists of seasonal work on her trees and getting it done. She wrote, "In June, you can see the nuts on the trees."

June 28, 2021

In late June, temperatures in the valley reached 117°F. This year with the extreme heat, more irrigation was needed and even though the trees were watered, some developing nuts burned in their husks. Time will tell if these fall off early or stay on and still be viable for the marketplace.

July 2021

Mary and family arrive back on the farm to help with the Hazelnut trees. Everyone pitches in, plus there's the huge vegetable garden to keep up with and cherry picking is a must! Once the heat quieted down, Kathy wrote, "We spray in July to keep the worms out of the nuts. July, it's still irrigation time."



Healthy Clusters of Hazelnuts on Trees



July 2021: Schlechter Hazelnut Farm

August 2021

The Hazelnuts continue to grow and it's just a waiting time until harvest. In late August, Mary and Katie had to return back to their home, but Eddie is staying in Oregon to start his freshman year at a local university.

Oregon Hazelnuts

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



Nut Drop Ready for Harvest



Hazelnut Harvester Used in Local Harvests



Hazelnuts ready to go to George Packing Company

September 2021

Elaine and Kathy are waiting for this year's nut harvest. The trees and the ripening Hazelnuts look great even with all the extremes of the 2021 growing season. Kathy told me, "In September 2020, we picked up twice. One time in late September and another harvest in late October, over 71,000 pounds of Hazelnuts!"

VIDEO LINK

See the harvester machine in operation as it picks up Hazelnuts!

<https://youtu.be/l35uog6letY>



February 2021: Sunset over the Hazelnut Trees

Every year the Schlechters contract with a local custom harvester to bring his machine to complete the harvest. They always hope to have windy days to help drop the nuts to the orchard floor. The Italian made harvester machine sweeps down the rows of the trees, picking up the nuts. The machine also separates the nuts from husks, leaves and dirt, then fills wooden totes, which then go to the processor. They contract with George Packing to wash, dry and pasteurize the Hazelnuts.

By the end of October, it's the end of the Hazelnut season and I hope all the Schlechter family here and overseas will be sitting with their feet up and toasting a job well done in this crazy weather year. Knowing them, they are working on some kind of end of the season project or plotting their 2022 vegetable garden and Face Timing with each other across the ocean. They all should be happy with a job well done for this 2021 Hazelnut season!

THERE'S NO TRICK TO THIS TREAT



PHOTO CREDIT: HANNAH GUSTIN



Create a fun and festive display for All Hallows' Eve that will have the trick-or-treaters coming back for more!

by Sarah Gustin

If you're anything like me, the year doesn't start for you in January, it all begins in fall. Summer is over, vacations wound down, and kids and adults alike put their noses back to their respective grindstones.

We're all so busy with school, work, and preparing our homes and gardens for the oncoming Northwest cold snap that it takes a trip to the grocery store and seeing the mountain of candy to stop and realize, "Oh goodness, is it time for Halloween already?!"

Yes, yes it is. Jack-o-lanterns, spiders (real and plastic), buying candy ("It's early, I know, but I like to be on top of things"), buying candy again ("The last bag just vanished!"), ghouls and goblins. Now don't heave a sigh about



your obligation to decorate. Halloween décor doesn't have to be all about untangling twinkly orange lights and fake spider webs; use your God-given green thumb to spice up your autumn front porch look.

How do you make your decorations for the Big Night relevant all fall? Class up your front porch this year by visiting Al's Garden Center or your own local independent garden center and picking up a few components that, combined, will give your home a rustic look that will still be charming when you chuck your jack-o-lanterns!

1. Hay Bale: Not just for horses, a hay bale will bring your decorations to another level...literally. It functions as a clever and artsy shelf. Varying the heights of your decorations creates interest that will draw everyone's eye to your front door!

2. Yellow Chrysanthemums: Mums provide a fantastic splash of color to warm up your display. A fall bloom, the cluster of beautiful flowers will last for weeks and ease your transition from the abundance of summer blossoms into winter.

3. Millet: Traditionally grown as a food source, ornamental millet is a beautiful plant with foliage that ranges from bright green to dark purple. Though size varies by variety, most ornamental millet plants

will do well with attention in large containers, and will only reach two to three feet in height. With regular pruning of the bottlebrush grain heads, millet will bloom in summer. When the blooms die back, the dark seeds are beautiful and will compliment all your fall decorations year after year! As another added bonus, small seed-eating birds simply love millet.



3

4. Pumpkins: It just wouldn't be October without pumpkins! This year I'm really hoping to find some extremely warty gourds for a creepy texture contrast.

With one trip to your local nursery, you have completely revamped your traditional Halloween decorations. Easy? Yes. Reusable? Yes. Refined? Totally. Using your grown-up gardener's touch ensures that your decorations go from 'seasonal' to 'all season long'; simple, classy decorations for the sophisticated gardener.



PHOTO CREDIT: HANNAH GUSTIN



PHOTO CREDIT: HANNAH GUSTIN

WTDITG

Ah, the shades of Autumn. Just when you think all the color is leaving your garden, Fall arrives and we're presented with a brand new palette of hues. It's also a reminder that time is running out to prepare your plants for winter. Take advantage of the longer daylight hours and make sure your plants are ready for the cold days ahead.

PLANNING

- Start to plan next year's vegetable garden. Take your notes from this year while everything is fresh in your mind and create the plan for next year's garden. Rotate the spaces where crops were this year to help control disease and insect problems.



- Garden Journal catch-up time.

There is no time like the present for getting caught up. This will help with the plan for next year's vegetable garden.

- Check out any conifer sales and plan the live Christmas tree purchase early. Starting a green tradition of planting a live tree after Christmas is something to get the entire family involved in. Plant the 'seed' early this year to get the family excited about the new yearly tradition!

PLANTING

- The best time to plant anything into the landscape is actually all winter long! You can move plants around in the yard now and plant in any new acquisitions to the landscape. With the rain coming on you won't have to worry about watering them until next spring sometime.

- Move the plants that are stuck beneath the house overhang under the eaves where rain doesn't reach.

- There are about two weeks left to plant a new lawn or over-seed an existing one. Lawns started in the fall start quickly but don't wait until the frosts are here or you won't have good results.

- Plant spring bulbs starting this month through December. There is no better time to get your spring bulbs in the ground for next year's bloom. This includes tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus. Choose a sunny loca-

tion with well-draining soil. Add compost to the soil by spading it in with a fertilizer.

- Bulb tip! Keep the squirrels and deer from eating the tulips by placing a tablespoon of Bonide's 'Molemax' into the planting hole before the bulb goes in.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons.

- Watch for Crane Fly infestations in the lawn. Using Beneficial Nematodes in the soil can safely kill these lawn destroyers before they eat it all, however you can actually have 25 grubs per square foot of lawn without seeing a lot of damage if the lawn is healthy and thick. Fertilize the lawn, apply Calpril lime yearly, aerate and dethatch every so often and mow the grass taller to help create

a lush thick grass lawn the Crane Fly grubs can't destroy.



- Compost excess leaves and garden debris. Composting is a great way to recycle all the yard waste back to the Earth. Mow the leaves to chop them up and add to the compost pile with greens like grass clippings to aid the breakdown of the

What To Do In The Garden OCTOBER

leaves. Think layer cake when doing compost; a layer of wet green grass clippings followed by a layer of dry brown leaves.

Saving bags of dry leaves for next summer's compost pile is not too hard to do and helps provide



the 'brown' needed in the compost layer cake. You probably found out when it's all green grass clippings it quickly be-

comes a smelly pile of gunk. Good compost smells like good earth, not stinky at all. Turning the pile every other week helps to introduce oxygen into the mix, much needed by the microbes breaking down the material. More oxygen means faster breakdown. Do a little research and start composting!

- Don't compost diseased leaves from fruit trees. Burn them or send to municipal composting

facilities.

- Get garden plants ready for winter, but don't prune back hard. Too often folks are eager to cut back their plants hard in the fall. Not a good idea. Plants get ready for winter weather from the top down, so if you cut off the top then the plant will be more susceptible to cold damage. It is more prudent to leave the plants tall and even with spent flowers on them (birds will thank you) and then pile on the leaves from the yard to cover the soil. Leaves are good insulation against the cold coming in winter. If you have to clean everything up then come back with a thick topdressing of organic compost or bark.



- Slugs patrol for eggs or adults. Use safe slug controls like Slug Magic which is just iron phosphate. As this

product breaks down the plants

get the benefit of the extra iron. Eggs look like little off-white BBs. Gather them up and toss them in the garbage. Look under rocks, boards, garden debris; wherever the mama slug found a protected spot to lay her egg stash.

- Watering, especially under the house eaves, getting ready for colder weather. Plants that go into cold weather with dry roots are extremely susceptible to cold damage. Just like our skin, plants can take the cold better when hydrated. Water plants deeply this fall if the rains are not getting to the roots; like under evergreen trees and eaves of the house.

- Winterize the more tender plants you want to save for next year like the hanging fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Bring them into a protected environment before the frost gets them. Treating them as a houseplant can give you a head start on next year's flower gardens.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Be sure to pick the crops as they mature before they lose their best flavor. Some crops can stay in the ground over winter and pulled up when wanting to prepare them for a meal; like beets, carrots, parsnips & turnips. Mulch them in good with a thick layer of leaves or compost.

- Planting cover crops to help fight weeds in winter and add back nutrients to the soil for next year's crops. Give back to the soil the nutrition that your plants took out as they grew. Cover crops are the bee's knees when it comes to adding back some nitrogen plus other nutrients and adds lots of organic

matter back to the soil when you spade it under to rot next spring.



- Plant Garlic cloves You still have time to plant some garlic this fall. Be sure to purchase some heads soon or they'll be gone before you get yours! Garlic gets planted in the fall and sends up a green sprout soon afterward. The cloves need months

to mature so you should get them in soon. After it sprouts you can pop a layer of compost over them to protect them this winter. Then mark your calendar for next July to harvest the best tasting garlic ever-your own crop!



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.

Bauman's Harvest Festival Thru Saturday, October 30, 2021 Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Find more information on their website: <https://baumanshf.com/>

Harvest Fest October 1-30, 2021 EZ Orchards, Salem, OR

Hayrides, pumpkins patch, petting zoo, face painting, corn maze, live music. Weekdays Monday- Friday (except 10/8 and 10/22) 9 am to 12 pm \$4 No hayrides available
12pm to 6pm \$6 Hayrides included
Saturday and Sunday and Friday 10/8 and 10/22 \$10 per person Ages 2 and under free. Ezorchards.com

Fall Harvest Festival Saturdays & Sundays, October 2-31, 2021 • 10:00am-5:00pm

Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR

Free Admission to our 2021 Harvest Festival! Every Saturday & Sunday the month of October. U-Pick Pumpkin Patch, Corn Maze, Hay Wagon Ride, Art Center mini pumpkin painting, Polka Dot Express Cow Trains, Bounce Houses, Paintball shooting Gallery, Noahs Ark, Nature Trail, Nut House, Corn Hole Toss, Animal Petting Zoo, Beer Garden. Best value \$20 wrist band sold on Saturday & Sunday includes unlimited activities all day 10am-5pm. Sold We Hope to see Everyone soon! Check out the website for details. www.firpointfarms.com

2021 Pumpkin Patch October 3-31, 2021 French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

continued next column

The pumpkin patch event runs over 5 weeks from October 2nd to October 31st. Farm Fun Wristbands are available for purchase and cover all of the activities to experience on the weekends. Weekend Wristband Includes: Pumpkin Patch*, Pigstucky Derby Pig Races, Corn Maze, Sunflower Maze, Rope Maze, Obstacle Course, Tube Slide, Farm Ninja Course, Pig Barrel Train Rides, Tire Swings, Hand Pump Duck Races, Jump Pad, Tractor Wagon Ride, Hamster Rollers, Corn Cannon, & Apple Slingshot *Pumpkins & Mega Slide Passes are sold separately. Each person needs a wristband to visit the farm NO ONE (Ages 2 to 102) IS FREE.

Weekday Wristband Includes: Pumpkin Patch**, Corn Maze, Sunflower Maze, Rope Maze, Obstacle Course, Tube Slide, Farm Ninja Course, Tire Swings, Hand Pump Duck Races, Hamster Rollers. *Due to a current staffing shortage we will not be running the activities that aren't mentioned during the week. **Pumpkins are sold separately. Each person needs a wristband to visit the farm. NO ONE (Ages 2 to 102) IS FREE. www.fpggardens.com

Little Sprouts Pumpkin Painting Friday, October 8, 2021 Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$10. Sprouts will use their creativity and imagination to paint a small pumpkin for Halloween. Each kit will include a small orange pumpkin, paint, paint brush, and some pumpkin design inspiration! *Each kit is \$10. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, OR 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

continued next page



Pumpkin Planters

Saturday, October 16, 2021

• 10:00am–11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Enhance your front porch with a one of a kind Pumpkin Planter! A selection of grasses and fall annuals, and your creativity are the only things required for this class. This class will appeal to children and adults alike! Class fee includes supplies needed to make one medium Pumpkin planter. No experience needed, this class is hands on. \$40/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Decorating Succulent Pumpkins

Saturday, October 23, 2021

• 10:00am–11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Succulent pumpkins are beautiful and make lovely gifts and décor. Come to this hands on workshop and create your own works of art! No experience necessary. You have the option to decorate one large pumpkin or three mini pumpkins! \$15-\$20/person. Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

African Violet Society Sale

Saturday, October 23, 2021

• 10:00am–3:00pm

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

Find more information on their website: <https://portlandnursery.com/>

Portland Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show

Saturday, October 30, 2021 • 9:00am–6:00pm

Sunday, October 31, 2021 • 9:00am–5:00pm

Clackamas Community Club, Clackamas, OR

The Mum Society presents "A Century of Mums" featuring horticultural displays spectacular exhibition blooms and colorful artistic floral designs

continued next column

of. Please join us for a celebration of Fall's favorite flower, with a hint of Halloween included. All appropriate social distancing guidelines will be observed and face masks will be required for everyone over 5 years old, regardless of vaccination status.

We are holding the show at the same location as last year, Clackamas Community Club, 15711 SE 90th Ave, Clackamas, OR 97015. There is plenty of free parking at the show site. For more info, e-mail Tamara@mums.org or go to Facebook. [com/PortlandChrysanthemumSociety](https://www.facebook.com/PortlandChrysanthemumSociety).

Sauerkraut

Saturday, October 30, 2021

• 10:00am–11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Learning how to make sauerkraut is fun and easy, and homemade sauerkraut is full of probiotics and beneficial bacteria. Our expert kraut maker, Justin, will teach you all you need to know to make your own healthy sauerkraut at home, and you'll take home your own sample. \$15/person. Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Bauman's Cider Festival

Saturday & Sunday, October 30 & 31, 2021

Bauman Farms, Gervais, OR

Find more information on their website: <https://baumanshf.com/>

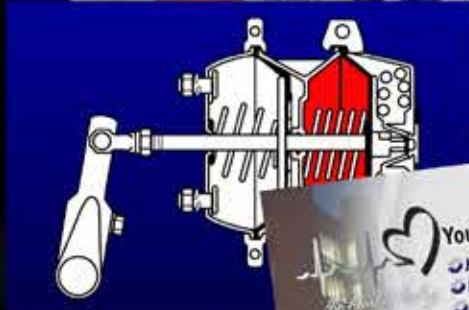
LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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