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Happy Holidays

Here we are back to another holiday season (and the end of our 16th season). I return to the holidays this year with some renewed hope. For my family we are looking forward to celebrating the holidays with each other and friends again. Personally, Therese and I will become grandparents in December. So this coming year gives me LOTS of hope. I'm looking forward to sharing my garden with a new grandson and teaching him about gardening (and a few tips on baking too). Whether it is the arrival of a child or the promise of spring, there is always room for hope. As a gardener every season gives me hope. I get excited in the spring with the popping of my spring bulbs, for summer it is the harvest of food and flowers from the garden, the fall brings incredible colors, flavors and textures and for the winter months it is the surprises of winter blooms (yes there are winter blooming plants) and the cozy comfort of my indoor plants. It can be easy to get down during the cold, rainy, dark days of winter, but remember that new life is just around the corner for all of us. There is always something in the garden to celebrate.

We celebrate this month in the magazine by sharing these great stories. What would the Garden Time magazine be without plant stories. This month Judy takes a look at growing herbs indoors. With all the holiday cooking that happens this time of year, wouldn't it be great to use fresh herbs in your favorite recipes? It is surprisingly easy to grow herbs indoors and Judy tells which ones will work the best for your kitchen. Another plant that is surprisingly easy to grow are tillandsias. A lot of people misunderstand the care tips for these plants. They will over or under water them due to their appearance, but with the right care they can become vibrant and colorful. If you are looking to do a little homework for your spring garden, Therese has a story on how to make your own compost. You can give your plants a boost with your own wonderful, nutritious mulch! Finally, to celebrate the holidays with your friends and family again, David shares some traditional holiday beverages and why we have these special drinks at this time of year (what exactly is 'wassail'?)

As we finish off our 16th television season, we hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

GardenTimeMagazine

◆ December 2021

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Dear Mortimer,

I heard that there is a shortage of Christmas trees in our area due to the heat wave of this past summer frying some of the branches. Is this true?

> Signed, A Concerned Chris Kringle

Dear Mr. Kringle,

Yes, there are fewer trees this year, but I doubt that most people will notice. It is more of a problem in other parts of the country than here in Oregon and Washington. According to OSU, Oregon farmers grow about 4.5 million trees! A lot of your local garden centers are still stocked with fresh cut trees and a lot of the growers will have their U-cut fields open. If you go out and cut a fresh tree, I'd call your favorite farm before you go, to make sure they have trees available. The reason for the shortage is due to a couple of factors. First, there are fewer growers. A recession a couple of years ago pushed a lot of growers out of the market. Then we also had the big heat wave this past summer. That fried a lot of trees in the fields. You may see less of a selection and a little higher prices this year as compared to past years. Remember it takes a few years to get a 'mature' tree that growers can sell, so we might have limited trees for a couple of years.



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

AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv

One way a lot of people are getting around this potential problem is by looking at getting an 'Everlasting' tree. These used to be called Artificial Trees, but they have changed quite a bit in the last few years. Now they are more realistic looking and don't look like green pipe cleaners on a stick anymore. They can have a lot of benefits including fire resistance, no watering, and little or no mess. If you have an Everlasting tree, you never have to worry about future shortages. They can be pretty spendy, but you only have to buy one and it will last for years.

There are pluses and minuses to both types of trees, so I recommend doing your research before buying.

> Good luck, Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I have a spouse who is heavy into gardening and a good friend who is just getting his green thumb. Help me with some gift ideas for both, please!

> Thanks, A Secret Santa

Dear Santa,

The key to getting a great gift is to know a little bit about the gardener who is on the receiving end of the gift. What type of gardener are they? Indoor, Outdoor? What is their skill level? Do





they grow from seed or buy plants from nurseries? Do they prune or do they just mow and blow their yard? Once you have a good idea of what they like to do then you can get them something special. For the indoor gardener, maybe a terrarium or a very nice indoor plant or pot. If they are detail oriented, maybe a bonsai or a special plant that requires a little more care. Maybe an African violet or an orchid which can become a lifelong hobby!

If they are an avid outdoor gardener, then there are lots of possibilities. Know their hand size? Height? Then consider a high quality tool. My friends at Red Pig Tools actually fit their tools to the specific gardener. Garden Like a Girl has gloves that fit specific hand sizes for ladies. There are also larger tools that can also please your gardener friends. Consider what types of chores they had the hardest time dealing with. Moving mulch? Maybe a new wheelbarrow. The Garden Time crew has done a few stories on picking out gifts, check out their video archive to see those stories for more ideas.

You can always ask their other gardening friends. What gifts did they like? Which gifts were the most useful? If all else fails, consider a gift card from their favorite local independent garden center.

I think that most gardeners would be happy knowing that you have spent the extra time picking out the best gift meant specifically for them.

Good luck and have a great holiday season, Mortimer



Even in the darkest of times, like a global pandemic, the efforts of good people and the Spirit of Christmas are proof that the holiday light show must go on.

by Ron Dunevant

"It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

-attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt, Confucius and many others.

In the darkest of times, it is said that the light will show us the way. And let's face it, it has been a rough couple of years. For many of us, being stuck at home, changing our routines, and living with the constant worry of Coronavirus have taken their toll. Each time we were promised "a return to normal," the fates conspired to set us back.

And so it has been for our holiday celebrations like the annual light displays. In an abundance of caution in pre-vaccine times, many events skipped last year. As the virus waned in summer, the organizations that hold the events posted their intentions to bring back their holiday lights for 2021. Alas, things changed.

It was originally slated for our December issue to feature the Shore Acres Lights in Coos Bay. In early June, The Friends of Shore Acres announced the return of their 34th Holiday Lights. By September, with COVID cases again rising, officials announced "with deep disappointment and regret" that the event would once again be cancelled. Hopefully they will return next year.

But, while things aren't completely back to normal this Christmas season, there are still a number of celebrations that are being held. Pandemic or no, the show must go on! Some of your favorites are still on hiatus this year, but others are forging ahead. And so, we present a list of just a few of the holiday light displays around Oregon and Southwest Washington that you can visit to help put some joy and normalcy back into the season. Some of the events listed below are several hours away from the Portland area. May we recommend a day trip or even an overnight stay at a local hotel? The holiday lights are an especially attractive outing. Try going to one you've never before attended.

As with all things, we recommend you check the website for any last minute changes and to read about their COVID policies. Enjoy!

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Zoolights Through January 9, 2022 (excluding December 25th) Nightly 5:00pm-11:00pm Walkthrough admission: \$16-29; Drive-through admission: \$65 per vehicle www.oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights

One of Oregon's most popular holiday tradition returns, better than ever! The walk-through experience has been reinstated for the 2021 season after changes were implemented last year for the COV-ID-19 pandemic. The event will also set aside nights for people who want to wind their way through the scenery while inside a vehicle. The event features 1.5 million lights with the charm of the Oregon Zoo as a backdrop.

For the walkthrough tour, new safety precautions are in place, including timed ticketing, an attendance cap and a mask requirement. One-way paths and physical distancing reminders will help keep visitors safe.

Christmas Festival of Lights at the Grotto Through December 30, 2022 (excluding December 25th) Nightly 5:00pm-11:00pm until December 16th Nightly 4:30pm-11:00pm December 17th-30th General Admission: \$14-16; Children 3-11, \$7-8; Ages 2 and under, free. Discount admission available on select nights. https://thegrotto.org/christmas-festival-oflights

A spectacular presentation of the sights, sounds, and sensations of the season, The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights features over two million bulbs and is the largest Christmas choral festival in the world. Nightly indoor holiday concerts performed by many of the region's finest schools,

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Local Events December 2021

Zoolights Through January 9, 2022 Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR

In addition to the classic walk through a dazzling display of 1.5 million lights, you can bring your family and friends to explore the lights by car with a drive-through experience on select nights.

www.oreaonzoo.ora/visit/zooliahts

Silverton Christmas Market Through January 9, 2022 The Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR

Eniov an immersive holiday event traditional European-style Christmas Market, where you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season.

www.oregongardenresort.com/events/onsite

Wreath Makina

Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 2:00pm-3:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Join us in making your very own wreath with various Christmas greens! The boughs and bows will be a wonderful addition to your holiday décor! \$40 per person. Classes also held December 5th & 7th.

www.garlandnursery.com



capitolsubaru.com







churches, and civic choirs are the featured events, with the serene beauty of this spiritual destination surrounding you. The Grotto's plaza area offers continuous entertainment for all ages including outdoor caroling, puppet shows, and musical guests. Holiday shopping is also available in The Grotto Gift Shop.

The Festival of Lights is a walk-through event that will last between 75 and 90 minutes, with a distance of about one-quarter mile. Visitors wishing to attend a specific concert should arrive at least 30 to 45 minutes in advance of the scheduled concert time.

Also called the National Sanctuary of our Sorrowful Mother, The Grotto is a Catholic outdoor shrine built in the Madison South district of Portland. It was constructed in 1924 by Friar Ambrose Mayer, as the fulfillment of an oath he gave to God.

Silverton Christmas Market at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton, OR Through January 9, 2022 (closed December 24th & 25th) Nightly, 5:00pm-9:00pm Adults: \$15-18; Children age 6-12: \$5; Age 5 and under: Free https://silvertonchristmasmarket.com

Formerly called "Christmas in the Garden".

Visitors are invited to stroll along immersive paths infused with more than one million lights. Shop

at their authentic German Christmas Market for gifts from artisan vendors and imported German nutcrackers, smokers and ornaments. Frosty and Santa will be in attendance to share your wish list. Enjoy music and a local brew in the Biergarten. Cozy up to a wood-burning fire pit or take a ride down the snowless tubing hill. There will be no ice skating this year.

Shuttles will make continuous loops between the parking lots and the event, dropping visitors off in front of the Oregon Garden Resort at the event entrance. The first shuttle picks up at 4:45pm and the last shuttle leaves the Resort at 9:00pm.

The Silverton Christmas Market supports the community of Silverton through donations to the school district with their Tube for School Tuesdays program, assist non-profits like SACA with their onsite food drive and donates to various other non-profit organizations.

Pastega Christmas Light Display at the Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, OR Through December 31, 2021 Open nightly, 5:00pm-10:00pm No admission fee, but visitors are asked to make donations of canned food www.pastegachristmasdisplay.com

A holiday tradition that dates back 40 years, the Pastega Christmas Display returns after skipping a year due to the pandemic. The event was started by



Mario and Alma Pastega in 1981 at the Pepsi plant near Highway 99. When the plant was sold, the event was discontinued, but was revived ten years ago at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

Display pieces are created and maintained by community members. Volunteers and business sponsors assist in setting up the displays. The donated food, which totaled over 7,500 pounds in 2019, helps area residents dealing with food insecurity. Overall, an excellent way to get into the spirit of the season.

OREGON COAST

Nature's Coastal Holiday Festival of Lights at Azalea Park in Brookings, OR Through December 26, 2021 Open nightly, 5:00-9:00pm Adults: \$3; Kids 12 and under: Free. https://naturescoastalholiday.com

For over two decades, picturesque Azalea Park in Brookings, Oregon has been the backdrop for this coastal attraction. What began in 1997 with a mere 22,000 lights now boasts over two million LED bulbs. Take a leisurely 45 minute stroll and enjoy the dazzling light show, sculptures and holiday music. Visitors will experience both traditional Christmasthemed and sea-themed presentations, with most of the sculptures having been handmade by various high school students, public works employees and local individuals. Showcased during the Festival of Lights is various holiday entertainment and music including visits from Santa on select dates. Volunteers provide hot cocoa, hot apple cider and cookies. Donations are always welcome in return for a sweet treat and a warm drink.

Proceeds from the event go towards improving the park as well as other community organizations.

SOUTHERN OREGON

Umpqua Valley Festival of Lights at River Forks Park in Roseburg, OR Through January 1, 2022. Open nightly; 5:30pm-9:00pm, Sunday-Thursday; 5:30pm-10:00pm, Friday-Saturday \$10 per car www.uvfestivaloflights.com

This Douglas County annual tradition offers more than 90 displays covered with nearly 500,000 lights including animated characters from Disney's Frozen, the world's largest nutcracker and animated cheetahs from Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon. A tribute to Kerwin Doughton, who founded the festival in 1993 and passed away last January will welcome visitors as they enter the park. The caricature stands near his treasured Nutcracker display, which towers 12 feet above the ground. Several special nights are on the schedule for 2021, allowing free admission for the customers of several sponsoring businesses.

A project of the Roseburg Rotary Foundation, proceeds from the event help fund Rotary Club scholarships and service projects.







CENTRAL OREGON

Holiday Light Experience at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo, Redmond, OR Through December 31, 2021 Open daily 4:00pm-10:00pm, including holidays General admission: \$18-\$30 with several ticket packages offering discounts www.holidaylightexperience.com/dcf

Making its debut this year, this dazzling walkthrough experience greets Central Oregon visitors with over 100,000 square feet of lights. Attendees will wind their way through a series of six tunnels of holiday lights that will have themes such as snowflakes, presents, stars, ornaments, candy canes, icicles and 'endless' neon squares. Individual vignettes, including an Aspen Forest and Santa's Village will be intermingled with the holiday light tunnels, along with two 30-foot Christmas trees. The route is about a mile long and takes approximately 30 minutes to walk through.

The attraction concludes at Santa's Village which offers hot chocolate, beverages and snacks. Distinctive and handcrafted gifts will also be for sale, with the backdrop of the Holiday Light Theatre, a spectacle of dynamic, festive lights presented on a 20x40 screen. Santa will also be there to greet quests.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Fantasy Lights at Spanaway Park, Spanaway, WA

Through January 2, 2022 Open nightly 5:30pm-9:00pm Admission: \$15-20 per vehicle https://lakewood-chamber.org/events/ united-states/washington/spanaway/ community-events/annual-fantasy-lightsat-spanaway-park/

Boasting the largest holiday drive-through display in the Northwest, Fantasy Lights at Spanaway Park offers nearly 300 elaborate displays and thousands of sparkling lights in a two-mile drive along Spanaway Lake. This attraction has become a tradition in Spanaway, a city just south of Tacoma and a twoand-a-half hour drive from Portland.

In addition to the digital animations and lights will be a new giant Sasquatch display. Also available with ticket purchase are Holiday Spec 3D Glasses that bend light, producing whimsical holographic images on every bright point of light. The glasses are \$6 for a pack of three with snowflake, snowman, and teddy bear lenses. They must be purchased online, in advance and will be distributed at the park gate upon arrival. They are not available for sale at the gate.

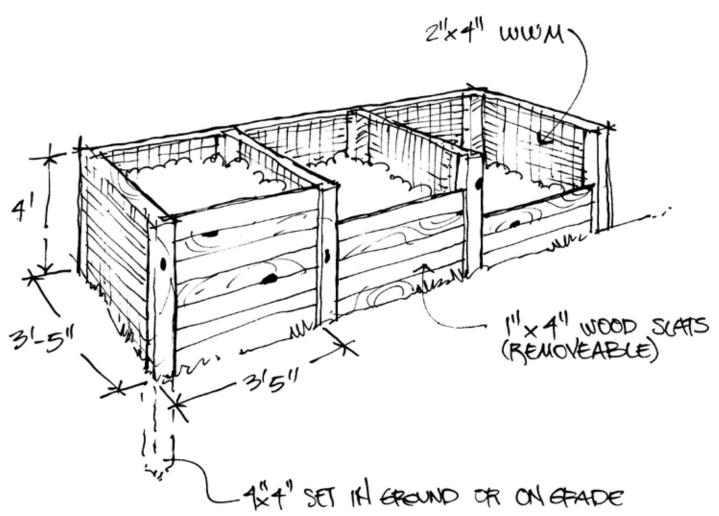
Of course, there are local light shows and displays, parades, and neighborhoods that put up amazing decorations. The important thing is to take the necessary precautions and get out to enjoy the lights during this wonderful season.



Top of the Heap

By making compost in your backyard, you can improve your environment by turning your food and garden waste into much needed organic matter for your soil.

by Therese Gustin



Three Bin Compost Structure







Most of us have heard that adding compost to our garden beds helps improve our soils which in turn helps our plants to thrive. But what exactly is compost and how can you make it in your own backyard?

Basically, compost is decayed organic material used to improve soil structure, make better use of water and fertilize plants. It is commonly a mixture of decomposing plant material and food waste which aerobically breaks







down over time. The resulting mixture is rich in plant nutrients and beneficial organisms like bacteria, fungi and worms.

There are basically seven steps to composting in your backyard.

1. Choose the type of Backyard Compost Bin

You can either create an open pile compost bin or a container to hold your compost. A container has the advantage of keeping the compost contained, keeping animals out and preserving heat. If it is a tumbler, it has the added advantage of being easy to turn on a regular basis. I have both a tumbler and a static container compost bin and I have to tell you... the compost in the tumbler gets turned way more often! Open piles are nice if you have the space. There are open bins that have a divider where you can transfer the finished compost from one side to another with a pitchfork. This system is good if you have acreage and will be using a lot of compost. It is more labor intensive than a tumbler though.

2. Choose Your Compost Location

Your composter ideally should be situated in a sunny, flat, well drained area. The most important factor in locating your compost bin though is convenience. If you have to walk to the 'back forty'

to dump your vegetable scraps or grass clippings, you may give up on composting all together.

3. Alternate Layers

Good compost is a combination of brown ingredients and green ingredients. Examples of brown ingredients include evergreen needles, dried leaves, paper towels, paper napkins, paper egg cartons, shredded newspaper, straw, small pieces of cardboard, bark, coffee filters, small amounts of sawdust and shredded brown paper bags. Green ingredients include green leaves, pesticide free grass clippings, vegetables, fruits, garden waste, flowers, fruit peels, coffee grounds, tea leaves/bags and eggshells. Having an approximate ratio of 2/3 brown material to 1/3 green material is ideal for creating a good compost.

Avoid adding organic materials that could cause problems during or after composting like oil, fat, grease, meat, fish or dairy products, unwashed eggshells and animal manure as these tend to attract pests. Also avoid adding hard to kill weeds (bindweed, quackgrass) and weeds that have gone to seed as these can survive in your compost if your pile hasn't heated up enough to kill the weed seeds.

Start with a layer of coarse materials like twigs or









straw to allow for drainage and aeration. Cover this layer with leaves. Then simply alternate between layers of greens materials that are rich in nitrogen and browns which contain high levels of carbon.

4. Add Kitchen and Yard Waste

Collect your vegetable and fruit peels, eggshells and coffee grounds in a container in your kitchen. I keep a handy stainlesssteel container that is easy to clean underneath my sink. When it's full, I transfer it to my compost tumbler. I add deadheaded flowers and small twigs to my tumbler as well. It is a good idea to add some brown materials after adding green. If you do not add browns, your compost will be wet and break down more slowly. If you collect and store dry leaves in an old garbage can in the fall, you can use them in your compost all year.

5. Continue to Add Layers Until your Bin is Full

Your pile will shrink as the material decomposes.

6. Maintain Your Compost Bin

Certain conditions need to be in place in order to get finished compost more quickly.

- Be sure to mix your fresh materials with the lower layers.
- Materials should be

as wet as a rung-out sponge. Add dry materials if it is too wet or water if it's too dry to reach this moisture level.

Mix or turn the compost once a week to help the breakdown process and eliminate odors.

7. Use Your Compost

Your finished compost will be dark and crumbly and have an earthy smell. It can take as little as a month and up to six months to reach this consistency depending how much effort is put into balancing green to brown material and how often your pile is turned. I am a more passive composter. I turn my tumbler every few months, but I always have a nice amount of finished compost to add to my fall garden beds or if I don't get around to adding compost to my fall beds, I add it in the spring before tilling and planting my vegetable garden.

Composting food scraps, grass clippings and leaves have the added benefit of keeping these materials out of the landfill and reducing your carbon footprint. By making compost in your backyard, you can improve your environment by turning your food and garden waste into much needed organic matter for your soil. Your plants will thank you for it!









Trial and Air

The amazing Tillandsias are the perfect houseplant for the green-thumb-challenged. Their care is so easy, they don't even need soil.

by Judy Alleruzzo

If you think you don't have a Green Thumb to grow houseplants, Tillandsias are the plants for you! Tillandsias are also called Air Plants as they don't need soil to survive. They are epiphytes, meaning they mostly hang out in trees in the rainforests and even dry areas in the warmer climates of the western hemisphere. **Epiphytes** just use trees or a surface for stability, they do not take water or nutrients from their host. Over 500 species of Tillandsia are in the Bromeliaceae family together with pineapples and Bromeliads.

The best fact about Tillandsias is they are easy care houseplants. In general, they need bright light with no direct sunlight to thrive in a home setting. For watering, a quick soaking in a bowl of tepid water is all the moisture needed. Swish them around in a bowl of water and shake off excess, before replacing them in their display space. Don't let water stay in the crown of the plant as they may Leaving Tillandsias upside down on a paper towel until dry ensures no water is left in the plant crown. Misting them especially in summer provides









extra moisture in between that quick soak in a bowl of water. Another tip is to make sure there is good air circulation around the Tillandsias, so water evaporates in a timely manner.

Use a fertilizer especially formulated for Tillandsias as it is absorbed directly into the foliage. Follow all directions on the label. Do not use a general formulated type of fertilizer as it may damage the Tillandsia.

Tillandsias can be creatively displayed in a decorative bowl or attached to a grape vine wreath or driftwood using a cool temperature glue gun or sticky glue called Tilly Tack. Display ideas are endless, just be creative!

In this holiday season, think about the easy-care Tillandsia as a gift to those friends that say, "I kill all my houseplants." They may just find their "Green Thumb."

There is a wide selection of size and forms of Tillandsia species found in the wild, here are a few to showcase this truly unique plant.

Tillandsia bulbosa

Native to Mexico, West In-

dies, South America and even parts of Florida, Tillandsia bulbosa can be found in trees and even nestled in rock crevices. The leaves are twisted like octopus tentacles and have a hollow base. In nature, ants may make a home in these bases in a symbiotic relationship. The Tillandsias provide shelter for the ants, and in return receive nutrients from the ant's waste. Tillandsia bulbosa likes indirect light and regular watering, use the quick soak method about once a week in summer and a little less in winter unless your home is very warm.



Native to Mexico, Costa Rica and areas of South America, these small plants can be found with thin leaves of green, silver-gray or with reddish tints. You'll sometimes find them painted to enhance their form. Tillandsia ionantha likes bright light but be careful of hot afternoon sunlight in summer. Water by a quick swish in a bowl of water once a week in summer, less in winter. Misting is beneficial too.

Tillandsia juncea

This Tillandsia has long, grass-like foliage and is









native to Central America, Mexico and South America. Provide moderate bright light, water about once a week in summer, less in winter and mist to add extra humidity all year long.

Tillandsia brachycaulos

One of the most adaptable to different growing conditions, this Tillandsia is native to Mexico, Central America and Venezuela. It can be found at sea level or at an altitude of over 6,000 feet. They are at home in cloud forests, desert-like areas and on rocky cliffs. Display this Tillandsia in bright indirect light with a quick soaking about once a week in summer. Misting at least every day is beneficial to this species. If ample light is provided for Tillandsia brachycaulos, the foliage may turn shades of purple and red.

Tillandsia usneoides AKA Spanish Moss

Spanish Moss is native to the Southern United States, Mexico, Bermuda, The Bahamas, The West Indies, Central and South America. This is the one Tillandsia species many have seen in the wild or used as a dry material in craft projects. Provide

bright light with good air circulation. Water using the soaking method at least 1-2 times a week in summer. This species loves humidity, so mistings are welcome.

Tillandsia xerographica

This very large Tillandsia species is native to Southern Mexico, El Sal-Guatemala vador, and Honduras. In nature, they are drought tolerant getting their water from the morning dew. This species needs more sunlight than other Tillandsias. Provide morning light especially in summer, and as much light as you can find in winter months, like near a window with a south or western exposure. Xerographica like to be watered by the quick soaking method once a week in summer and a little less in winter unless your home is very warm and dry. Be careful to always shake off excess water to prevent rot. Misting is welcome too.

Visit your favorite independent garden centers to see their selection of Tillandsia species.





In Da House

Indoor gardens can be a bit challenging, but growing herbs indoors is a great way to expand your skills.

by Judy Alleruzzo

The cold, rainy days of winter are knocking at our doors and we long to be in our gardens, puttering around and harvesting vegetables, flowers and herbs. It is possible to grow garden plants indoors to brighten the wintery days. Indoor gardens can be a bit challenging, but hey, us gardeners are always up to stretching our green fingers and taking on the challenge of growing herbs indoors. What are herbs? Basically, they are just fragrant foliage plants. Indoor growing conditions? Well, we all grow houseplants, don't we? So, fragrant foliage plants plus an indoor setting, equals successful "Growing Herbs Indoors," the subject of this article. This is an easy enough concept and with too muddy garden beds outdoors, the idea has been planted to try an experiment this winter season.

Tips for Success

Sunny Windowsill or Use a Grow Light

The best window for winter light is west or south. The light will be strongest from this direction. Grow lights are available to help if a good window location is not found in your home. Keep the plants as close to the window as possible as light levels are less, even a foot or two from the glass.

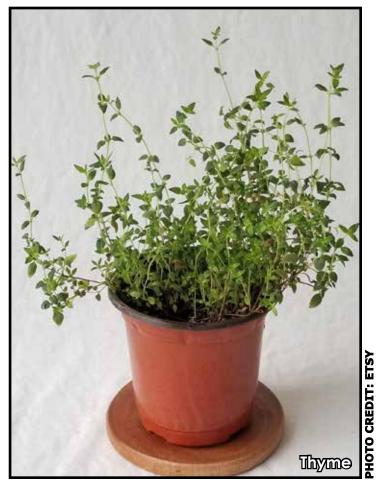
Water and Soil

Water the herbs less frequently unless your home is very warm. The coolness of the windowsill and low winter light levels will not encourage much growth, so less water is needed. Plant the herb collection in small pots as the small volume of soil will not keep the plants too wet between waterings.

Herb Plants

Not all herbs are the best candidates to grow in-





doors.

Over the years, I have found evergreen foliage herbs are the toughest and most successful. The foliage is leathery or with thick texture and have low water needs. In the garden, they are drought tolerant once established in the ground. This group also enjoys sun, and the hotter the area, the better they will thrive. Four out of these five herbs are native to Mediterranean countries and Thyme is native to areas of North Africa, Asia and parts of Europe. These are very hardy plants that know how to survive outdoors, which gives them an edge to do well indoors too. Try these herbs for your indoor herb collection.

Bay Laurel - Use in Italian tomato sauce, soups and stews

Oregano - Great to add to soups, stews, sauces and to sprinkle on Pizza

Rosemary - Use in stuffing and stews

Sage - Use in stuffing and stews

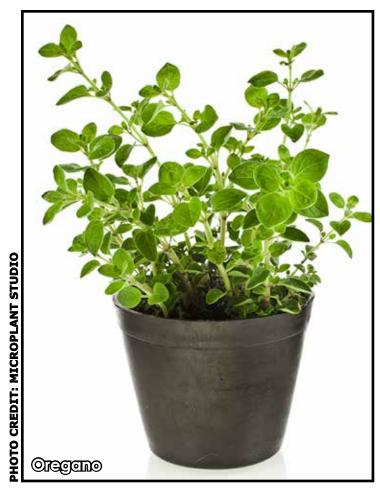
Thyme - Great to add to soups, stews and sauces

Kitchen Uses

The best part of growing herbs, outdoors or inside your home is harvesting them and using in culinary







dishes. All of the herbs listed above can be used in your favorite comfort recipes that warm us over the winter months. Just reach for scissors to snip a few sprigs instead of opening the spice cabinet, when cooking this winter. The flavor and strength of fresh herbs are different, so adjust amounts as needed when using them. Fresh herbs are less potent than their dried counterparts, in general, use 1 Tbs. fresh herbs vs 1 tsp. of dried herbs. Try a Bouquet Garni for soups and stew recipes. It's a mix of Bay leaves, Thyme and Sage all wrapped together in a bundle and left to steep while the recipe is cooking. As with some herbs, these will not dissolve in the cooking process, so you must pull the bundle out before serving the dish.

Best Advice

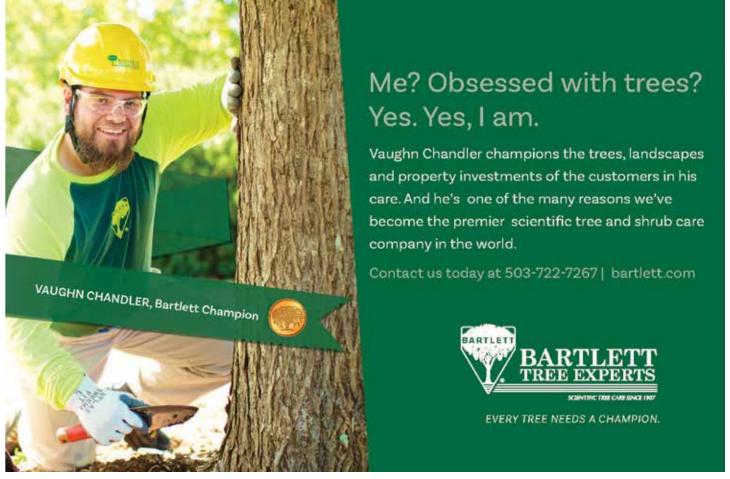
Try growing an indoor herb garden in a sunny window this winter season. It will be a fun gardening project and the results will be delicious.

More Information

https://herbsathome.co/how-to-grow-herbsindoors-during-winter









This month I am pleased to introduce our Horti of the Month Ali Pennell. I am fortunate to be able to call her both a friend and a colleague, who has a long career in the nursery industry in the Pacific Northwest. Having grown up in Oregon and Washington, she began her career when she was just 16 years old with her first retail nursery job. A lover of all things outdoors, Ali enjoyed her youth hiking and playing in the Willamette River. This certainly influenced her career choice and affinity for plants and gardening as an adult, and she furthered her education in the field with an Associate's Degree in Horticulture from Linn Benton Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University with a major in Environmental Studies.

Ali has had a variety of roles in the industry, including customer service at several independent garden centers. And while working retail is difficult for obvious reasons while trying to balance raising a family, Ali enjoyed the seasonality of the industry, including the way the seasons shift the retail focus. That means there was always a new project or area of the business to focus on! Her enthusiasm for plants is contagious, and she really enjoys building momentum with customers as they become more connected to gardening and interested in all types of plants.

From working in retail garden centers, Ali transitioned to working at The Oregon Garden for over three years, which proved to be her biggest challenge in large part due to the impact of the pandemic last year. The garden had just purchased a state of the art tram to give garden tours and then it couldn't be operated due to CO-VID-19. At a time when the public could use outdoor spaces the most, being closed was incredibly frustrating. Ali feels that The Oregon Garden is such a wonderful

place for the Pacific Northwest to celebrate our rich gardening history. And, she feels that the staff and volunteers at the garden are incredibly devoted and talented. Her proudest accomplishment while at The Oregon Garden was the trillium collection she planted.

From The Oregon Garden, Ali transitioned to her current role as a sales representative at McHutchi-Horticultural. She helps growers and retail nursery businesses source their plants, such as cuttings, plugs, liners, finished trees and shrubs, from farms and growers all over the United States and abroad. Her current position is the perfect balance for Ali, as she enjoys connecting her customers with the best plants. It

also allows Ali to build on existing relationships and friendships in the industry. An added bonus to her current position is that she gets a lot of sneak peeks on new plants, as well as samples to trial and test performance in her personal Northwest garden.

In terms of current trends, Ali has recently seen quite a bit of scarcity and supply chain stress to every segment of the industry which is exacerbated in such a seasonal industry. Most people don't realize how much horticulture is impacted by global supply chains and logistics. And because of that, she has seen a focus returning to local production in both the wholesale and retail nurseries, with consumers wanting to



support local cut flower growers as well as their neighborhood garden centers. Additionally, she anticipates indoor foliage may plateau a bit, but will continue to be a hot trend.

She is seeing more online commerce, with an emphasis on social media platforms. Due to the supply chain scarcity, growers have an opportunity to offer novelty plants, and the public is eager to have the rarest and most unique plant collections. Lastly, she anticipates that in the future, consumers will become more aware of the environmental benefits of gardening. Specifically, she believes consumer awareness about pollinators will increase, that consumers will press for a reduction in single use plastics, and home-owners will plan climate-adapted plants and sustainable landscapes which requires less chemicals than a traditional American garden.

When Ali is not working, she is a devoted mother to three children: a teenage son, Cooper, and two daughters, Zoe and Flora. They all were excellent helpers in the garden when they were small, and she hopes that they enjoy gardening into their adult lives. During the pandemic, her daughters were able to join her at work at The Oregon Garden, which led to many special memories. Ali also has a small personal garden, which includes a deck with many different types of containers, including everything from Japanese Maples to mixed annual combos. She prefers to plant in layers and uses all of her space, which greatly reduces this busy working mother's need to weed! In the next few years, she hopes to expand and build-up a proper garden on her future property. She was an early adopter of house plants, and has some large specimens in her living areas. Ali has also influenced her parents to become interested in sustainable landscaping, and she is proud to say they are planning a turf-free landscape and xeriscape in their front yard. When not spending time in her garden, Ali enjoys all outdoor activities, especially paddle boarding in the summer, snowboarding in the winter, camping and hiking.

Ali appreciates that horticulture is such a global industry. Her future plans might include a short-term relocation to another region so that she can experience the seasons (and the plants!) of a different zone. However, she is a proud native Oregonian who calls the Pacific Northwest home, and doesn't feel she could ever leave this area permanently, whether personally or professionally. Regardless of where her career takes her, we know that Ali has been an incredible contributor in the Pacific Northwest gardening industry. Her willingness to adapt, try new things, and view gardening as a welcome outlet to the stressors of every-day life is a healthy outlook I think we could all adopt. And she often reminds herself "It's just flowers".







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www.GardenTime.tv/tours

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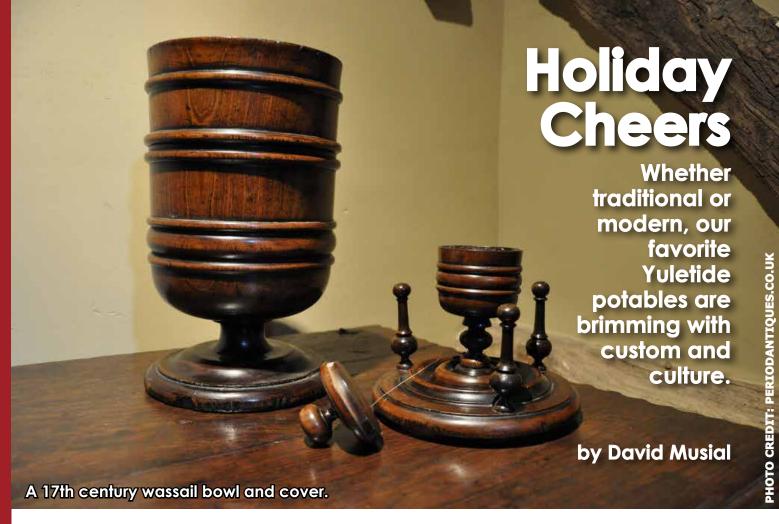
All Breakfasts, 5 Lunches and 3 Dinners Included

Join the Garden Time Gang on our next tour of fabulous Holland and Belgium, with scheduled stops in Amsterdam, Antwerp, the Aalsmeer Flower Auction and the Floriade Garden Expo!

As with every Garden Time Tour, you'll see local gardens and landmarks, with tours set up especially for our group. Plus, we'll stay at fine hotels, enjoy excellent meals, drink delicious wines and experience the sights and sounds of these amazing destinations.

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



With the holidays upon us, it's the time of year for family gatherings, celebrations and parties. It's also time that we talk about the drinking problem that plagues so many of us this time of year. Specifically, what cocktail to serve at your holiday gathering.

Beverages have always been

a part of holiday tradition and they still play an important role today. Nowadays, the choices of beverage are numerous and personal. They range from the traditional like eggnog to the modern signature cocktail created just for the occasion.

To help kick off the holiday season; we're going to explore

some of the traditional holiday beverages. These beverages have evolved over the years and part of the fun in serving them is in learning and sharing their history. This article is going to take a look at wassail, eggnog and glögg.

Wassail

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wand'ring,
So fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail, too,
And God bless you,
and send you
A Happy New Year



Name that tune!



Bet you are all familiar with the song Here We Come A-Wassailing also known as Here We Come A-Caroling. But do you know the origin and meaning of Wassail?

Wassail is centuries old custom with origins in England. The word wassail is both a noun; the drink and a verb, the ritual. Its exact origin is not known, but it is a tradition meant to celebrate and promote good health and fortune. What started out as a simple greeting, over time turned into a toast with its own drink and is now considered one of the first toasts created.

Consisting of mulled ale, cream, roasted apples, eggs, spice and sugar, this warm beverage was traditionally served in a special bowl, called; you guessed it...a wassail bowl. When the wassail was brought out to guests, a carol was sung.

The name comes from an Anglo-Saxon phrase 'waes hael' which means good health or be in good health. The custom was to say waes hael and the response was drink hail or drink health, followed by drinking the wassail. Hence the first toast was born. Speaking of toasts, some believe the tradition called toasting came from the pieces of toast that were floated on the wassail.

The tradition of wassail has lost popularity over time, however, recipes can still be found on the internet. So the next time you hold your glass up to your friend, start by singing a carol and instead of saying 'wuz up', say 'waes hail'.

Eggnog

Before we get started with eggnog, we need to set the stage. There are three and only three eggnog camps. Those that love it, hate it or haven't tried it. For the haters and those who haven't tried it, please do not skip to glögg. You need to know that the eggnog on the shelf at your local grocer is no comparison to what you can make and that drinking eggnog may even be considered patriotic. Read on.

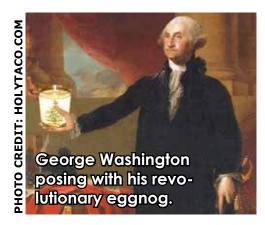
Eggnog has its roots in the European tradition of milk and wine punches, but evolved in Colonial America to suit the available ingredients. Most notably, rum which was readily available, replaced the wine, thus making eggnog a fortified alcohol punch.

At the time, rum was referred to as grog and the drink probably received its name from its ingredients egg and grog. This shortened to egg 'n grog and then egg nog. The other possibility is its serving cup, which at the time was small and called a nog. Hence egg nog.

Eggnog became a social drink in the 1800s when large batches would be made and served at holiday gatherings. Rich, spicy and strong, it was said that Christmas is not properly observed unless you brew eggnog for all comers.

The Tom and Jerry is an eggnog variation with brandy added, in addition to the rum. It was created by author Pierce Egan in 1820 to publicize his book, 'Life of London: or Days and Nights of Jerry Hawthorne and His Elegant Friend Corinthina Tom'. This may be the first signature cocktail created for an event.





If all of this doesn't make you feel that eggnog is as American as apple pie and deserves a place at your celebration, you need to know that our first President, George Washington, was quite fond of a very strong eggnog and his recipe is as follows: lows:

"One quart cream, one quart Ξ milk, one dozen tablespoons 🗹 sugar, one pint brandy, 1/2 pint § rye whiskey, 1/2 pint Jamaica \$\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{2} rum, 1/4 pint sherry—mix li- 8 quor first, then separate yolks Ë and whites of eggs, add sugar to beaten yolks, mix well. Add 5 milk and cream, slowly beat- 2 ing. Beat whites of eggs until 2 stiff and fold slowly into mixture. Let set in cool place for several days. Taste frequently."

Although specific amounts of alcohol are given, there is no mention on the number of eggs. Most agree that a dozen eggs works. If you make this version, be sure to use pasteurized eggs and have a designated carriage operator as Washington liked a stiff eggnog.

Love or hate eggnog, it is a holiday tradition.

Glögg

Our last holiday beverage is Glögg. Pronounced either glura or gloooog (not sure about that last one). Glögg is a traditional spiced wine associated with

Scandinavian countries, primarily Sweden.

King Gustav I of Sweden enjoyed German spiced wine and renamed it glödgad vin in the 1600s. At the time it was At my house, it's all about the made with wine, sugar, honey and spices. The name was shortened to glögg by the late tion. That also includes topping 1800s.

Since it is served warm, it became a holiday beverage from Christmas into the New Year. As most recipes evolve, so has

but When you open the door for your guests, they will be greeted by the aromas of the holiday and know they will enjoy a cup of holiday cheer.

> bubbles. Anything topped off with Champagne is our tradian empty Champagne glass with just Champagne. However, if my son the eggnog authority is in town, it's eggnog with cognac and although normally served warm or at room





glögg. It has gone from a wine temperature, he insists that ice based beverage to one with fortified alcohol. Recipes now include port and brandy. In Sweden, recipes include aquavit which is a caraway seed infused alcohol.

find bottled glögg and it can the holidays. Cheers!

also be found in predominately Swedish communities. If you are ever in Chicago, head Andersonville and stop by Simon's Tavern where you can get a traditional glögg.

The best part of making glögg at home, besides drinking it, is the smell that fills your house. cold is the way to go.

Remember, the holidays are a time to create your traditions. Whether you chose hot spiced ale or wine, or frothy eggs with alcohol for your celebration, it In the United States, you can becomes your tradition. Enjoy



CREDIT: PLUS.GOOGLE.COM



WIDIIG

Wow! Where did the time go? Another year over. The holiday season is always a busy time, and many of us find it hard to fit in a little work in the yard. But our plants need us, especially now. Carve out a few hours during December to make sure your plants are safe and warm for the winter. It will be the best present you can give them.

PLANNING

• Be ready for a cold snap. In case the temperature drops fast you'll want to be prepared to cover the plants. Using the Harvest Guard Protective Yard & Garden Cloth (AKA 'reemay') will protect the plants against severe cold temperatures. Cover only in



the cold spells, remove when temperatures rise again. Multiple layers will protect to lower temperatures.

• Plan a family trip to choose a live Christmas tree for this year's holiday. Live trees are just the best idea when thinking green; a tree you can plant with the family after the holidays; a tradition that will grow with the family!

Some of you think it is better to use artificial trees as they are good for the environment. Nope! Artificial trees are generally made in China, pollute the atmosphere when being manufactured, fill up landfills and contain harmful chemicals. Instead of a fake tree this year, adopt a real one. Share the

gift of life with the family with a live tree you can enjoy for decades.

• Organize your garden journal. Go over the notes from the year and set some goals and plans for next year.



PLANTING

• If you find your spring bulbs in a sack in the shed, get them planted! They are not going to sprout roots and grow in



the sack and yes it's late but there is still time to get them in the ground. If you don't plant them this month, it really will be too late.

 OK to plant trees and shrubs now. In our part of the world, if you can dig a hole in the soil, you can still plant. Roots will still grow a

little all winter long, so getting them in now will allow some root development during winter.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons and get the condo system ready for the new season.
- Turn the compost pile. Adding oxygen to the pile
- when you turn it over helps to break down the organic matter faster. Keep the pile from getting too waterlogged with a tarp or cover.
- Make sure that weeds are pulled away from the

base of trees and that bark or mulch is not too deep around trunks. Rodents like to chew on the bark and the hiding places the weeds or mulch provides should be eliminated.



 Make sure that any plant underneath big thirsty conifers or under the eave of the house is getting a good deep drink

of water once every 4-6 weeks. Plants can take more severe cold weather with hydrated cells than dehydrated cells.

• You can fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so in the last two months. Lawns are still growing roots during the winter and you can improve the green color by applying a lawn food now. Using one with a moss killer will help kill off the moss over the winter. Apply a dose of dolomite lime to the lawn if none has been applied for a year. Don't use a weed-n-feed now, the weeds will just grow, not die. The chemicals in the weed killer need much warmer temperatures to work.

- Don't walk on frozen grass until it thaws. You will see your footprints on the turf in the spring otherwise.
- Watch for aphids on spruce trees. Often in the winter the spruces can get attacked by aphids. We don't usually notice until it's too late in the spring when all the old foliage falls off. Hose the trees off with a strong stream of water to knock any aphids from the needles. You can check and see if they are on the trees by holding white paper under a branch end and tap hard. Check for infestations by holding white paper under various branches and tapping. If they are present you'll see some on the paper.



 Dormant spray the fruit trees as needed for control of over wintering insects and diseases. However, no spray is need-

ed if no disease or insect problem was detected this past season. Dormant Spray Oil is used to smother the overwintering insects

and Copper Sprays are good for disease control. Spray according to directions on the label.



• Pruning: It is not time to prune but time to STUDY UP on the subject! Pruning fruit trees is discussed in great detail in many books

and articles. We highly recommend reading up on the subject before making cuts that you can't glue back on the tree. Read up and take good care of your trees. You'll get much more production from them if you do.

 Get after any weeds that are growing now before they go to seed. Covering the



beds with thick mulch after the weed pulling can help deter them further.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Do a recap of the successes and the failures. Start to plan what you want to grow next year and begin the process of finding out what grows best together in regards to companion planting.
- Check on the veggies you are wintering over. Make sure the

compost mulch is nice and thick over the crops you are storing in the ground.

 Make out your wish list of things you'd like from Santa, like seed starting supplies, pruners, garden-



ing tools and gloves. Maybe some beautiful outdoor pottery to feature pretty flowers near the front entry for guests. Or a big fat gift certificate so you can come pick out what you want this next year!



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.

Christmas Festival of Lights at the Grotto Through January 2, 2022 The Grotto, Portland, OR

Adults: \$11; Kids: \$6. Presenting the sights, sounds, and sensations of the season, The Grotto's Christmas Festival of Lights features over two million lights and is the largest Christmas choral festival in the world. Featuring nightly indoor holiday concerts performed by many of the region's finest schools, churches, and civic choirs, the Festival reflects the special season of hope that Christmas offers. This year's Festival will look a little different due to the ongoing pandemic. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to create a safe but fun Festival. 8840 N.E. Skidmore St., Portland, OR 97220. https://thegrotto.org/festival-of-lights-returns/

Zoolights Through January 9, 2022 Oregon Zoo, Portland, OR

Event not open on December 25th. Oregon's most popular holiday tradition is back and better than ever! Kids and adults alike agree: it wouldn't be the holidays in Portland without a visit to ZooLights. In addition to the classic walk through a dazzling display of 1.5 million lights, you can bring your family and friends to explore the lights by car with a drive-through experience on select nights. https://www.oregonzoo.org/visit/zoolights

Silverton Christmas Market, presented by Power Kia Through January 9, 2022

The Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR

Silverton Christmas Market, presented by Power Kia, celebrates the magic of Christmas with hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights, cozy fire pits, artisan vendor booths, visits from Santa, authentic German cuisine and more! Enjoy an immersive holiday event based on a traditional European-style Christmas Market, where you can experience the sights, sounds and smells of the season. Do you want to stay steps away from the magic? Book our special Christmas rate that includes entry to the light display, overnight accommodations, continued next column

breakfast the next morning, and onsite parking at the Resort (one car max per reservation). We're expecting to sell out fast, so don't wait to reserve your stay! https://www.oregongardenresort.com/events/onsite

Decorating Christmas Wreaths Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 10:00am–11:00am Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Decorate your own gorgeous holiday wreath. We'll supply you with everything you need to decorate your 22"" Noble Fir Wreath but we encourage you to bring family keepsakes to make your wreath truly one of a kind! Last day to register is Wednesday, December 1st. Register now as class sizes are limited. \$45/person Register now! www.bloomingjunction.com

Bonsai Introductory Class Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 10:00am-12:00pm Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

You will learn everything you need to know to get started with this lifelong passion. Class size will be limited due to COVID restrictions. Masks will be required. Class cost - \$25.00 per person or 2 people for \$40.00. Sign up for both classes and save! Only \$40.00 per person. Please call us to sign up for this class: 360-225-8750. www.tsugawanursery.com

Houseplants and Tea Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 11:00am-12:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$30.00. Come learn about houseplants and make your own planter, all while enjoying different teas! \$30 per person. All Classes will have a 15 person limit. Pre-registration is required. Masks are required for all participants. Private classes for 5 or more people are available upon request. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Bonsai Continuing Class Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 1:00pm-3:00pm Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Continue learning all about the care, techniques and continued next page



design of this fabulous art form. Kits, tools and plants will be available for purchase. Class size will be limited due to COVID restrictions. Masks will be required. Class cost - \$25.00 per person or 2 people for \$40.00. Sign up for both classes and save! Only \$40.00 per person. Please call us to sign up for this class: 360-225-8750. www.tsugawanursery.com

Wreath Making Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 2:00pm-3:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$40.00. Join us in making your very own wreath with various Christmas greens! The boughs and bows will be a wonderful addition to your holiday décor! \$40 per person. All Classes will have a 15 person limit. Pre-registration is required. Masks are required for all participants. Private classes for 5 or more people are available upon request. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Christmas Kokedama Sunday, December 5, 2021 • 11:00am-12:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$20.00. If you're looking for a unique gift for the holidays, look no further! This Japanese moss ball will be the perfect present, and handmade by you! \$20 Per Person. All Classes will have a 15 person limit. Preregistration is required. Masks are required for all participants. Private classes for 5 or more people are available upon request. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Wreath Making Sunday, December 5, 2021 • 2:00pm-3:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$40.00. Join us in making your very own wreath with various Christmas greens! The boughs and bows will be a wonderful addition to your holiday décor! \$40 per person. All Classes will have a 15 person limit. Pre-registration is required. Masks are required for all participants. Private classes for 5 or more people are available upon request. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Wreath Making Tuesday, December 7, 2021 • 2:00pm-3:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

continued next column

Cost: \$40.00. Join us in making your very own wreath with various Christmas greens! The boughs and bows will be a wonderful addition to your holiday décor! \$40 per person. All Classes will have a 15 person limit. Pre-registration is required. Masks are required for all participants. Private classes for 5 or more people are available upon request. 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Little Sprouts Greens Centerpiece Friday, December 10, 2021 Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Cost: \$10. Sprouts will make their very own greens arrangement! Each kid includes a planter, soil, freshly cut greens, red berry decoration, and bow! *Each kit is \$10. Pre-payment required, call us today to reserve your kit(s)! 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www. garlandnursery.com

Open Wreathmaking Workshops Sunday, December 12, 2021 • 10:00am Saturday, December 18, 2021 • 3:00pm Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

If your party doesn't meet the minimum size requirement for a Private Group Party, participating in one of our Wreathmaking Workshops at 9000 SE Division Street shop is the way to go! Class Duration: All Workshops are scheduled for 1.5 hours. Party Size: 1 to 4. Price: \$39.99 per wreath. Includes: 5lbs of greens, wire, wreath ring, and a bow (cut floral is not included, but may be purchased on site during the party). Other Info: We'll have space heaters on site, but it will be getting a little chilly, so please dress warmly. We do encourage everyone to bring gardening gloves and pruners from home, but sanitized pruners will be available for use for those who need them. Masks are required. To Register: All you need to do is call Division to reserve a time and date for and we'll handle the rest! Payment will be due on the day of the Workshop, www.portlandnursery.com

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



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

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