

February 2022

garden time

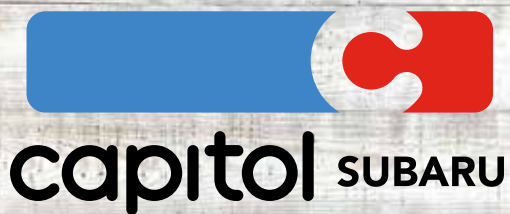
A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Flower Power Back to the Garden Center!

Deck Fragrance
Rhubarb

CORNELL FARM'S
**Deby Barnhart
& Ed Blatter**

Pansies and Violas on display at
Tsugawa Nursery in Woodland.



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Let's Get Movin'!

The weather may be cold, but this is a great time to get moving. Most of us are moving into the garden on those sunny, winter days to get some chores done. A couple of recent warm days really got people excited for what lies ahead. Speaking of what lies ahead, we are also hitting the road by heading out the door to travel. My wife (Associate Producer, Therese) and I just returned from a trip to England where we spent time in a small village near Newcastle in northern England. We were invited by friends to visit their remote little village for a week of R&R. While we were there, we were able to see some gardens, including some community gardens and how people do winter gardening in Northern England and are getting things ready for the spring. Over there the community garden spaces are called 'allotments' and we were amazed at some of the vegetable gardens that were still producing for their owners. Leeks, beets and chard, among other veggies, were thriving. The weather in that area is very similar to ours, cool and rainy. We were even able to catch a garden show by Monty Don, a national garden personality in the UK. Those gardens and the TV show just reinforced to us that gardening is incredibly popular everywhere in the world. So, when you step outside, you are repeating an activity that is practiced by people around the world.

This month we talk more about moving out in the garden by getting you ready for the upcoming spring. I'll cover some of the basics in finding a good backpack sprayer and how you can use one effectively. Judy will talk about bringing fragrance to your deck or patio with containers. It is easy to do and the rewards will fill the air as you enjoy your time outside this coming summer. Jan McNeilan also fills us in on an underused vegetable in the garden, rhubarb. She calls it the 'hero of spring' and once you read her story you will agree. This tasty plant is not only great in traditional recipes, it also carries a lot of health benefits too. We'll also meet Deby Barnhart and Ed Blatter, and the family behind Cornell Farm. This great nursery has grown to become a favorite hangout for nature, plant and food lovers!

If you are tired of being locked up during these winter months, consider movin' with the Garden Time crew this September as we head over to Amsterdam and Belgium as we visit the Foriade. This world's fair of gardening only takes place once every ten years and you can see it with the Garden Time crew on this once in a lifetime tour. Go to the Garden Time website for links to sign up.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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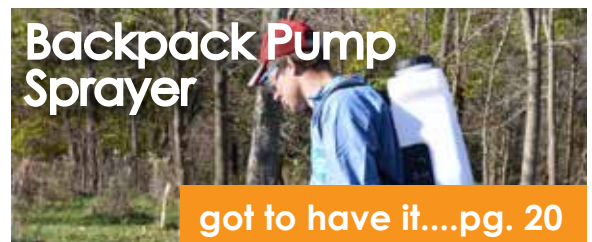
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Deck Fragrance



Backpack Pump Sprayer



Deby Barnhart & Ed Blatter



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Add Iron Arbors & Trellises to... *Create New Life in Your Garden*



Handsome and hearty, these impressive structures create an enticing portal to your garden.



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Spring is a time of rebirth, when new plants and flowers fill our yards and our senses. Complement your garden with these beautiful and functional iron works from Garden Gallery. They're a wonderful way to add heart and soul to your landscape. The stylish designs will turn any yard into an inviting oasis that you'll want to visit in every season.



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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I have a raised bed garden and while I was prepping it for the coming spring and turning the soil, I noticed a lot of roots. I thought I had pulled out the roots when I pulled up all my plants last fall. There were no other plants in the bed. Where did they come from?

Signed,
Confused in the Garden

Dear Confused,

It sounds to me like you have other plants that are taking advantage of your wonderful raised bed. A raised bed, with its soft and nutritious soil, is great for your vegetables, but other plants in your area can also find their way into the bed too. We have found the neighbor's trees growing up into our raised beds. Yes, they do like the fresh soil! We would recommend that you dig out your beds and rotate the soil every couple of years to dig out those roots from the other



Raised Bed Roots

PHOTO CREDIT: ASK EXTENSION

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



Invasive roots in a raised bed.

plants. This would also be a good time to test and amend your soil to make sure it is ready for your plantings.

Good luck,
Mortimer

• • • • •

Mortimer,

I heard that late winter is a good time to get my birdhouses ready for the season. Isn't it a little too early?

Yours,
A Lazy Bird Fan

Dear Lazy,

No, early February is a good time to get your birdhouses and feeders ready for the spring. Don't wait too long though... A lot of our 'early birds' not only get the worm, they need shelter. Even on those cold, rainy and blustery days a bird will often take shelter in an empty birdhouse. A lot of people never clean out their birdhouses, since nests in nature are never cleaned out, but we would still recommend it for your birdhouses. Removal of the



Cleaning a birdhouse will get rid of pests and diseases.

old nesting material and debris will help prevent diseases and pests from spreading. You should also scrub your feeders right now as well. The feeder is one of the central places where diseases can spread between birds. In fact, a regular cleaning is recommended, no matter what time of year. So get out there and give a good 'spring cleaning' to those houses and feeders.

Thanks for looking out for
our feathered friends,
Mortimer



WHO wouldn't want a clean start in a new home?



Hellebores at Portland Nursery

Flower Power

As the pandemic begins a third year and we emerge from our winter cocoons, we hear the call: It's time to head back to our local garden centers!

by Judy Alleruzzo



The "open" sign is displayed at Out in the Garden Nursery.

It's late winter and time to scratch that gardening itch with a visit (or two or three visits!) to your favorite garden center or nursery.

There are so many late-winter-interest plants to drool over and purchase for additions to your garden! Must-have plants sure to be found on your shopping trip: Hellebores, Winter Daphne and Primroses.

So, close the seed catalogues and the laptop and get back to the garden center, the February Garden Time Magazine's adventure!

Shopping tip for 2022: Be sure to shop early. With all the supply chain issues, you don't want to miss out on that special plant for your garden.

Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events February 2022

Chinese New Year
February 1-15, 2022

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Visit Lan Su to experience the most colorful and joyous Chinese festival during the garden's two-week Chinese New Year celebration. The festival features cultural performances, festival decorations, and craft activities, audio tours, Year of the Tiger Scavenger Hunts and much more!

• www.lansugarden.org

Rose Pruning

Sunday, February 13, 2022 • 1:00pm-1:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Mitch will give some pointers on how to prune roses.

• www.garlandnursery.com

Portland Spring Home & Garden Show

Thursday, February 24-Sunday, February 27, 2022

Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR

Spring is the perfect time to put your home project in motion. Visit the show to meet with expert remodelers in person and to touch and feel home products like tile and countertops. It's the place to help make your ideas a reality.

• <http://homeshowpdx.com/>





Al's Garden & Home

Check out the big February event at Al's, Escape to Spring, February 10th to 28th. Al's will be showcasing fresh plants in every outdoor category of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. There will be beautiful displays of early season plants like Primroses, Camellias, Hellebores and Daphne to tempt you to bring home to your garden. Fruit Trees and roses are in stock too. Check their website for special sales happening during Escape to Spring! Annie Cantonwine, a fourth generation Al's family member remarked what we all feel this time of year, "Late winter months are some of my favorite times because despite the rain and sometimes snow, blooms start to peek through and show their beauty. They make me want to persevere too and get back out into my yard to help make it beautiful again!" So well said!

Al's Kid's Club is back, and they'll be making a Tropical Succulent container for a Valentine's Day gift. Check the Al's website for the class nearest your home. Fee \$10.

Al's Garden & Home

<https://www.als-gardencenter.com>



Al's Kid's Club at Al's Garden & Home



Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata', available at many local nurseries.

PHOTO CREDIT: KIGI'S NURSERY



Ice n Roses 'Early Red' Hellebore,
available at many local nurseries.

PHOTO CREDIT: VEE CHILBERG/TUGAWA NURSERY

Cornell Farm Nursery & Café

Cornell Farm Nursery and Café will be ready for customers with late winter interest plants. Debby Barnhart told me two of her favorites are Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata', Variegated Winter Daphne and Sarcococca Sweet Box, both blooming in February with lovely scented flowers. Cornell staff will have created lovely displays for ideas to take home to your garden. Don't forget to stop at the Café for a warm beverage or snack to round out your shopping trip!

**Cornell Farm
Nursery & Café**

<https://cornellfarms.com>

Portland Nursery

To hear the latest news from Portland Nursery, I called my friend Laura Altvater. If that name sounds familiar, she was GT Magazine's January Hortie. Laura is excited that summer blooming bulbs will be in the two Portland Nursery stores in February. She's expecting "Dahlias, Gladiolus, Lilies, Begonias, Callas and many more treasures."

Laura is also happy to have a wide selection of Hellebores, and she says they are "the stars of the show in February." Her new favorites are the 'Ice n Roses' series, "that offers a nice array of colors ranging from blush pink to pure white, complimented by strong attractive foliage." Hearing about the bulbs and Hellebores just makes me smile and thinking about where I will plant more Dahlias.

Portland Nursery

<https://portlandnursery.com>

Garland Nursery

At Garland Nursery, they are

**PORTLAND
NURSERY**

getting back to in-person events and classes starting with The Mary's Peak Orchid Show on February 5th from 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be an assortment of orchids on display and also some for sale. The best part is to meet orchid enthusiasts who can answer questions and give advice on orchid care.

- The Little Sprouts February Class is making a Mason Bee House on February 12th, 11:00am to noon, \$10 fee. The Little Sprouts Club will be learning about Mason Bees, the best bee to help pollinate early fruit trees and springtime flowers. It's a great hands-on experience to help Mason Bees stick around your garden each year. Register online.

- Seed Starting Class is February 13th, 11:00am to noon. Seed starting time is now and what better way to get information if you're new to gardening or refresh your skills.

- Rose Pruning Seminar February 13th, 1:00pm to 1:30pm.

Timely class on rose pruning, as the saying goes, "Prune roses President's Day Weekend!"

This February, enjoy a class and take time to enjoy the amazing selection of seasonal plants too!

Garland Nursery

www.garlandnursery.com



**Blooming Sarcococca,
available at many local nurseries.**

PHOTO CREDIT: SUNIL'S GARDEN



Garland Nursery in Corvallis, Oregon.



Garland Nursery will offer a class on Pruning Roses.



Out in The Garden Nursery

I called up Carol Westergreen, owner of Out in The Garden Nursery and I am happy to hear she'll be open for a few weekends in February. You'll be able to see late winter interest plants in all their glory in the display beds and greenhouses. As Carol says, "our garden is open for exploration and inspiration." The display gardens sit under impressive heritage Oregon White Oaks on the nursery property. It is a beautiful place to be at any season of the year. Carol will have many of these same plants for sale, including Hellebores, winter blooming Cyclamen coum, Osmanthus, Sarcococca and evergreen ferns and grasses.

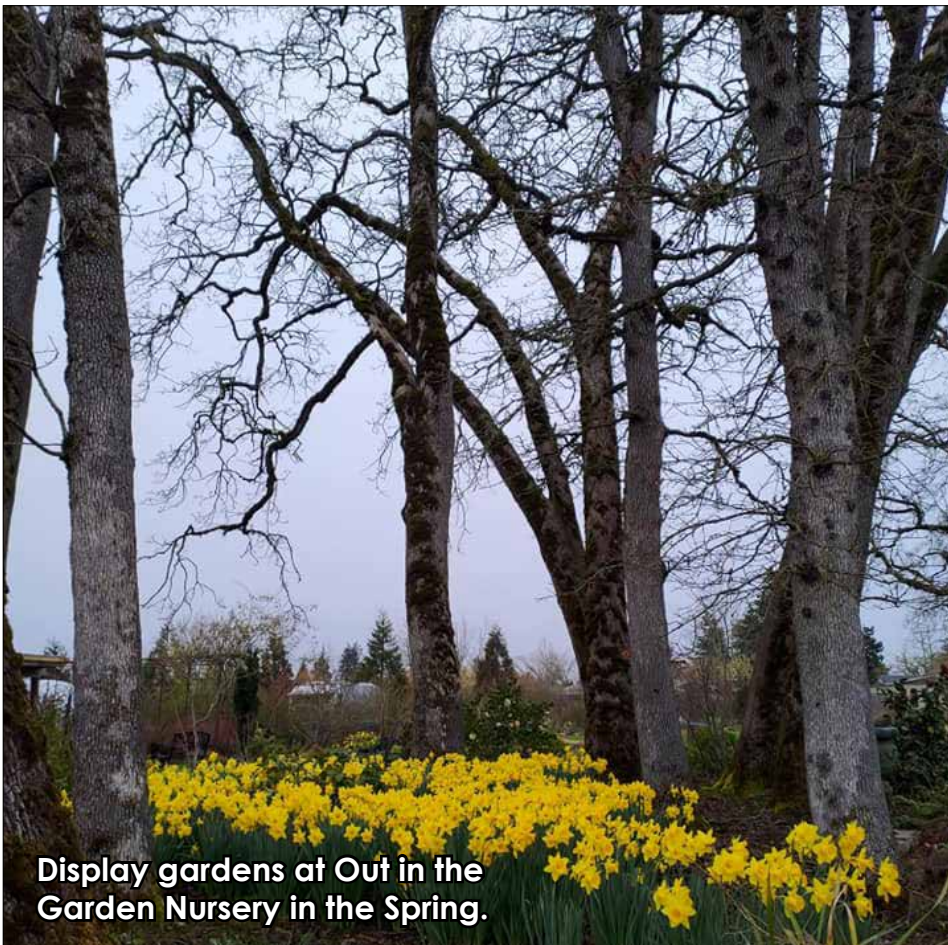
Make sure to check out their Facebook page for which days she'll be open.

Out in The Garden Nursery

www.outinthegardennursery.com

Tsugawa Nursery

Wow, what an impressive set of classes are on tap at Tsugawa Nursery in February. Due to Covid restrictions, reserve a seat for any of the seminars or classes by calling the nursery at 360-



Display gardens at Out in the Garden Nursery in the Spring.



225-8750. Masks are required. All seminars and classes will be held in the unheated greenhouse or outdoors. Please make sure you dress for the weather.

There are two free Fruit Tree Pruning and Spraying classes offered this month, both of them are free.

February 12th or 19th at 11:00am: Fruit Tree Pruning - "Learn the proper pruning techniques to control growth, remove dead wood and stimulate flower formation for abundant, healthy fruit."

February 12th or 19th at 1:00pm: Fruit Tree Spraying - "This informative seminar teaches the proper use of dormant spray to prevent the spread of fungal diseases and to control harmful insects."

Tsugawa Nursery's Vee Chilberg told me, "We will have potted and bare root fruit trees in stock and ready for you to create or add to your own personal orchard. It's a great time to plant a few fruit trees!"

"The next Bonsai classes will be held on February 26th. The Introductory class at 10:00am, the Continuing class at 1:00pm. Please note that the continuing classes will cover new subjects and procedures each month. The cost for one class is \$25. For two classes on the same day or two participants to the same class the cost is \$20 for each class or each participant."

Vee told me one more 2022 tid-bit, "Tsugawa Nursery has a Native Plant section now!! Native plants evolved in our area and so are designed by nature to



The Native Plant Area at Tsugawa Nursery

PHOTO CREDIT: VEE CHILBERG/TSUGAWA NURSERY



Wavra Farm & Nursery

thrive in our climate and growing conditions. Native plants are also the best source of food for our native birds and wildlife. Come on in and check it out!" I could not have said it better myself.

Tsugawa Nursery

www.tsugawanursery.com

Wavra Farms and Nursery

Every year Diana Wavra, owner of Wavra Farms and Nursery, has added a bit more plant material and garden accessories to her nursery. It's well-stocked this February and as she told me, "Join us for early spring color." Eye candy abounds with an assortment of seasonal interest plants, fruit trees, annuals, perennials and mixed containers. Diane



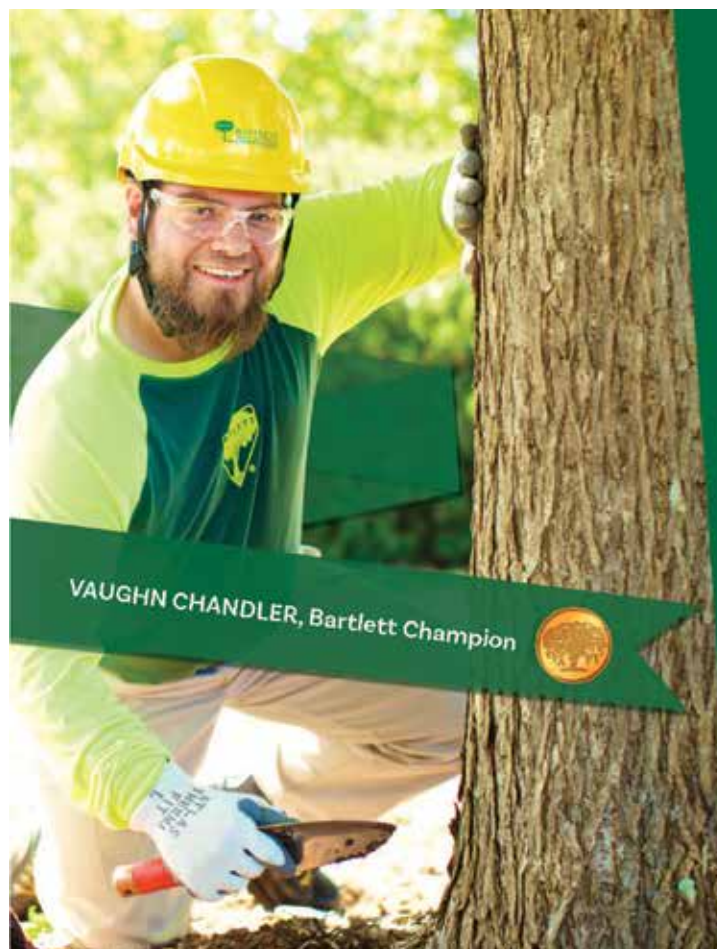
is especially excited about her collection of Hellebores that will be showing off their pretty flowers. There are not only plants to enjoy but garden accessories too, with new inventory of iron trellises, arbors and fountains. For your indoor plant craving, you'll find those too!

Wavra Farms & Nursery

www.wavrafarms.com

I hope you have been inspired to get off the couch and take in the amazing happenings and to check out the variety of interesting late winter plants found at local garden centers and nurseries around town. Remember to check out individual websites and their Facebook pages to get up to date information.


Spring is just around the corner and now is the time to get out of the house!



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Star Jasmine



Aroma Therapy

A deck, patio or balcony is a lovely place to relax and enjoy container plants. But don't forget to make it a feast for your nose, as well as your eyes.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Are you dreaming of a beautiful day and sitting on your deck this year? It's always a challenge to just sit and relax and admire the garden you spend time and energy tending, but really, as they say at Nike, "Just Do It"!

We do love to tend our gardens, but this year make the time to sit down on your deck and not weed or deadhead for an hour or so. BTW, it's a great place for more plants!!!

Container gardening is not just a garden trend but a garden staple. It's the perfect melding

of beautiful, colorful containers and plants and why not add fragrant flowers and foliage to those containers? If you're a novice in container gardening, here are a few tips.

- Make sure to fill the whole container with a good quality potting soil, any kind of inert filler material just makes you water more often and can harm potted shrubs and trees once they are planted a few years. Their roots run out of soil and try to find nutrients and moisture in plastic.
- Choose plants that require the same light and



A Balcony Garden

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

water requirements.

- Plant enough plants that fill the whole container. You want to have a finished container and not wait for it to fill in.
- Select plants with an assortment of foliage and flower textures. This assortment makes an interesting, artistic mix of plants.
- Change out seasonal annuals to keep the container looking fresh throughout the year.
- And as it is the subject of this article, add in a fragrant annual, perennial, shrub or even bulbs to achieve fragrance each season.

Winter to Spring

Not that we're sitting on the deck in February, but plant Winter Daphne, *Daphne odora* in a container right outside your doorway to enjoy a whiff when passing on your daily routes. The sweet almost citrus fragrance is intoxicating and a welcome breath of nature on a wintery day. This Daphne needs afternoon shade in warmer months but for winter, place the container where you can enjoy it!

Pansies and Primroses - These 2 annuals are their most fragrant on sunny days in fall, winter and spring. Not a bowl you over fragrance but remember stop to admire their flowers and catch a sniff of their light aroma.

Mid Spring through Summer

Hyacinth and Paperwhite Bulbs - Don't forget to add fragrant flowered bulbs when planting in the fall. These spring blooming bulbs have a strong fragrance and pretty blooms to brighten a springtime day.

Star Jasmine *Trachelospermum jasminoides* - Very fragrant, white flowers bloom mid to late spring until August. This evergreen foliage vine can be trained on an obelisk or trellis in a large container.

You may need to trim the vine to keep it in bounds. If it gets too large, make sure to transplant it near your deck to enjoy the lovely fragrance. Jasmine can take full sun to late afternoon shade.

Keep the soil moist as needed.



Roses in a Container

PHOTO CREDIT: MONROVIA

Lavender *Lavandula* - Lavender is an amazing fragrant flower and evergreen foliage perennial. It loves full sun and gives off a beautiful fragrance from the blooms or a spicy scent from the foliage. By planting this perennial, you can enjoy it from late spring until fall. Trim off the spent flowers as needed.

Roses – Ah, the quintessential fragrant bloom of summertime!

Make sure to shop for the most fragrant rose to your senses. Everyone's nose is just a little different. A great idea is to visit the Washington Park International Rose Test Garden and take in the wide array of roses. Make notes of the many varieties you love and then go to your favorite garden center to pick up a plant.

Hopefully, one of your chosen rose varieties will be in stock.

Roses love full sun and keep soil moist all summer long. Remove spent flowers as needed and fertilize regularly according to the package directions.

Lemon Scented Herbs and herbs in general

give off a fragrance when the foliage is gently brushed. A combination of herbs right on your deck is really a two-fold container. The herbs will give off pleasant aromas plus you can use them in your meal preparations.

Choose your favorite herbs and plant them in their correct light and water conditions.

Carnations *Dianthus* - These old-fashioned favorites are nice for late spring to early fall fragrance. Many varieties are available at your local nursery all season long. The flower colors can be found in shades of pink, white, red and even yellow in sizes from tiny to 3-inch blooms. For a different look, think about adding a railing pot or window box container. This way, fragrance will be closer to "nose level." Carnations love full sun to late afternoon shade. Remove spent flowers as needed and fertilize regularly according to the package directions.

Now you have a few ideas to create a container with fragrant plants for that deck, patio or balcony, AND make sure you sit down and enjoy the aroma around you!



PHOTO CREDIT: BIRDS & BLOOMS

Patio Container Ideas

Backpacking Tips for Beginners



Using a backpack sprayer.

Oh... did you think we were talking about taking a hike? Not quite. But using a Backpack Sprayer can make work time in your yard less of a chore.

by Jeff Gustin

When I was little, I would always dream of getting the coolest toys to play with, but now that I'm older and a gardener, it is cool garden tools that come to mind and get me excited. One of the things that I currently think is the coolest of tools is the backpack sprayer. This time saving tool can help a gardener create a healthier garden with less stress on your body.

If you currently have a handheld pump sprayer, you will be familiar with the soreness of lugging around a large tank by hand or even the stress of a smaller handheld model. This is where you should take a tip from landscape professionals and give your arm and hand a break. The weight of a backpack sprayer is distributed better with the

frame of your body doing all the carrying, but it is not just the handling of the weight that can provide benefits for the gardener. Here are a few other reasons to consider a backpack sprayer.

Most backpack sprayers have different pump components, many made of metal, so they last longer and are more durable. Many models come powered by rechargeable batteries or a gas engine, so you don't even have to pump anymore. You can have more options with spray nozzles which can allow application of anything from a stream to a fine mist and even some nozzles that allow for applying dry materials like a dust. You can also get a wider selection of wands/hoses to make your application easier with



PHOTO CREDIT: OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Always follow label directions and fill your sprayer on a flat surface.

less bending. They also can hold more material, so you don't have to stop to refill as often, some up to six or more gallons.

What you should look for when buying a backpack sprayer: Think about the area and job you want to cover. If it is a small job or area, maybe a regular handheld sprayer will work. If you are looking to cover a larger area or you have a bigger job, then a backpack sprayer may do the trick for you.

Tips for use are pretty much the same for handheld models as for backpack sprayers. You will always want to wear long sleeves, long pants, closed toed shoes and eye protection when using your sprayer. Always follow label directions for mixing your materials. Pick a calm day with temperatures well above freezing. Mark your sprayer with what you are applying so that you don't mix products in your sprayer. For example, if you are applying a weed or insect control you will want to keep that separated from other products like fertilizers or organic ma-

terials. Cross contamination is not a good thing!

When applying, always start at the furthest part of your application area and then walk backwards so you don't walk through and transfer any material that you are spraying. This is especially true if you are using a weed control.

If you are considering a backpack sprayer, check them out at your local garden center or hardware store. Put one on and walk around the store to make sure that it fits well. When you buy one, fill it with water first and walk around your garden and practice spraying, before you fill it with material. This will give you an even better idea of how it fits and works. If it doesn't feel right, you can then take it back since you only used water. The key is to find the right tool for the job, then your time in the garden will be a joy instead of a chore.



Backpack sprayers can be great if you are treating a large area.

PHOTO CREDIT: UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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www.GardenTime.tv/tours



The Hero of Spring

Think I'm exaggerating the virtues of rhubarb? Read on.

by Jan McNeilan, OSU Retired Community Horticulture

My family is from the mid-west and rhubarb (*Rheum rhabarbarum*) is a rite of passage in the spring. It is nearly a religious experience when the first pie comes out of the oven. Is it cool enough to cut yet? When can we have some pie? Do you have ice cream? I have to admit that I start watching the soil about this time of year so that I don't miss the rhubarb exploding through the ground with the promise of another year of pies, cakes, jams, jellies, sauces, chutneys and so much more!

I made my first pie when I was eight. It was pumpkin! I did everything right except I used whole cloves instead of ground. Great tasting pie except for spitting out the cloves. My second pie was rhubarb. Luckily, I put enough sugar in it to make it a darned good pie!

OK, for those of you that don't like rhubarb at all, you can stop reading now, or you can keep reading and learn more about this amazing plant that came

from China in the 16th Century. It was mainly used for medicinal purposes, but by the 19th Century rhubarb gained in popularity as a food source.

There are many health benefits from the giant stalks that grow all summer. They are rich in antioxidants, particularly anthocyanins (which give it its red color) and proanthocyanidins. These antioxidants have anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer properties, which help protect you from many health-related issues such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes. It's low in cholesterol and sodium, keeps the body cleansed and offers a good source of dietary fiber. This low-calorie vegetable also provides vitamins A and C as well as thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, calcium, potassium and more. (Source: www.webmd.com)

Rhubarb leaves contain oxalic acid which is toxic to humans and animals. There is no culinary use for the leaves. Some growers bunch the stalks for sale



and leave a fan of the leaf at the top of the stalk. This is for presentation and to prevent the end of the stalk from drying out. Make sure all leaf parts are trimmed before use.

Washington and Oregon are among the largest producing areas of the US. The two states have more than 650 acres in rhubarb production.

Hardiness

Suited for USDA Zones 3 - 8, rhubarb can be grown almost anywhere, but the plant requires a soil chilling period of less than 40 degrees in order to produce stems. Left in the ground it will return a crop for up to 20 years.

There are over 60 varieties of Rhubarb. The most common red varieties grown for production are *Crimson*, *Crimson Cherry*, *Crimson Red*, *Crimson Wine* and occasionally *Valentine*, *Canada Red* and *MacDonald*. *Riverside Giant* is a green variety.

Victoria – In this category the stalks' exterior colors range from green to light red, while the interior of the stalks are green. (This does not affect the taste, only the color.) The *Victoria* varieties are stronger, larger and less prone to disease.

Pure Red Rhubarb – The stalks are deep red inside and out. Red stalks are sweeter than green, but less robust and more prone to disease.

Planting Site

Soil

Rhubarb does best in soil that is well drained and slightly acidic to slightly alkaline (6.0 – 6.8 pH). If you know your soil is more acidic, you might want to add a little agricultural lime to the planting hole or to the soil surface. It seems that soggy clay soils can easily cause root rot, so keep adding organic matter to lighten the texture of the soil. I have to say that rhubarb does not seem to be too fussy and with the exception



of low sunlight or soggy soil, you will have a healthy stand of rhubarb that will last for years.

Full sun and well-drained soil are all this perennial vegetable needs to thrive. It can benefit from afternoon shade in the hottest summer climates. Planted in raised beds, containers or out in the open. When I divide my rhubarb next year, I am thinking of trying out some large cloth buckets. It worked well last year for tomatoes and dahlias.

Remember this plant gets large and has a large deep root system, so give it plenty of room to spread out to about three feet in diameter. Three to four feet apart will be plenty. As the new plants mature, you can plant other smaller crops in the open spaces, such as green onions, bush beans, chard etc.

Planting

When purchasing new crowns make sure the roots are labeled disease free to prevent the transmission of crown rot. Crown rot is a phytophthora root rot that can cause the demise of the plant. If you find you have crown rot, remove wilted leaves and the whole plant if necessary. Make sure the plant is not overwatered and that it is surrounded by dry mulch. If you are gleaning roots from a friend's garden, ask some questions about the health of the plants. If the plants have been healthy then it should be no problem.

You'll want to plant at least "one-year-old rhubarb crowns". Check to see if the roots are certified "disease free". Rhubarb can be grown from seed, but this is not recommended and takes several years for rhubarb plants to be mature enough to produce a good harvest.

Dig a big hole as deep as the length of the roots. Spread out the root system with a mound of soil in the center of the hole so that it can hold the top of the crown just below the soil level. Backfill with native soil, manure and compost. Water well by sticking a running hose in the planting hole and poke all the way around the plant to remove the air pockets and make sure the soil is damp.

Irrigation

Water is key to healthy succulent stalks. The more water you give the plants without drowning them will create a healthy stand of rhubarb. Last summer during the hottest days I watered once a day and was rewarded by large healthy, fleshy stalks of the biggest rhubarb I have ever grown. Normally, I would stop harvesting in late June or early July, but last year I harvested until mid-August. After that the plants were left to go dormant on their own. Do not remove all the leaves. You need about a third of the plant left to feed the roots as it goes into dormancy.

Fertilization



First Rhubarb of Spring



Rhubarb New Growth



Mature Rhubarb Plants

Each spring, apply a light sprinkling of a complete balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) or (16-16-16) when the ground is warming up or mulch heavily with manure or organic matter. I often use about a ½ cup of ammonia sulfate (AmSO₄) on each plant.

Dividing

There are many recommendations to divide every three or four years. I would say that as long as the hills are thriving and aren't in your way, let them go. The underground portion of rhubarb is composed of a large, woody rhizome with fibrous roots. The edible portion of this plant is the leaf stalk which grows buds in the crown near the surface of the soil. In the fall after dormancy or in the spring before new growth begins use a sharp shovel slice the root from the top of the crown down to the roots. Make sure that there are growth buds near the surface of the crown. At this point you can share with others or replant for more hills.



Rhubarb Harvesting

Overcrowding is a common problem with rhubarb and can lead to subpar growth. If needed, dig and split rhubarb roots if this becomes a problem. Divide when plants are dormant in early spring (or late fall). Divisions should have at least one large bud on them.

You can divide and replant rhubarb rhizomes in the fall or spring. It is best to do this when the plant is dormant (or at least less actively growing) in winter or late autumn. Some of the root structure will be damaged when lifting it, so stalk production will not be so good for a few months.

Care by the Season

Spring: Pull mulch off crowns. First leaves will appear from buds and open near the ground. Timing is weather dependent. Stalks begin to grow and at this point I begin to harvest the larger stalks and fertilize with AmSO₄ (Ammonia sulfate) 21-0-0. All you are interested in is leaf production so you are applying just nitrogen. You can also use a balanced fertil-

izer to bring the plants back to full production.

Summer: Ample water will have you enjoying rhubarb most of the summer. Normally, I pull stalks through the end of June or first part of July, but last year I continued to keep the stalks hydrated and pulled stalks clear into August. The stalks will get woody and stringy toward the end of the season and need to be left on the plant to bring energy to the root system.

Crowns will flower during warm weather. This is called bolting. Remove flower heads to keep them from draining the plants energy as it forms seed. I put the flower heads in a vase and watch them bloom. They are beautiful.

When I trim the large leaves off, I use them as a mulch wherever I want to block the sun from weeds. They work great!

Fall: In the fall, remove all plant debris. If your ground freezes, it's best to cover rhubarb with two to four inches of an organic mulch, preferably well-rotted compost. By adding nitrogen to the soil, you're preparing the rhubarb plants for a good spring season. Plants go dormant naturally, remove dead leaves and mulch with compost or steer manure for the winter.

Winter: Plant is dormant, no leaves appear. Older plants may go dormant before younger ones. The crown can be mulched over the winter in the coldest climates.

Pests/Diseases

Pests and diseases are rarely an issue with rhubarb. In the summer you will often see big holes chewed in the leaves by a wandering caterpillar. That won't hurt anything! They are eating the leaves.....the part you are not going to eat. The major issue can be root rot.

Preservation

I mainly make pies, jam and crisps. I will make two pies at a time and freeze one. The easiest way to have fresh rhubarb all year long is to harvest as many stalks as possible, remove leaves completely and cut into 1-inch chunks and fill one quart freezer bags. You can also make sauce and freeze in containers, or if you have a dehydrator, you can also make fruit leather.

Recipes

You'll find three wonderful recipes for your rhubarb at the end of this article. Note: If you find that the rhubarb you are using is not as red as you like, you can add a few drops of red food coloring to your recipes. One pound of rhubarb stalks yields about 3 cups chopped or 2 cups cooked.

Pardon me, I have to go out now and see if the rhubarb is up yet! See you next month!

Rhubarb Festivals

I found 22 Rhubarb Festivals in the USA, not to mention more in Britain, Canada and Australia. We are lucky enough to have one in La Pine, Oregon. This June it will be the 13th year since Linda Stephenson began the festival at L & S Nursery in La Pine. Linda has even written a rhubarb cookbook. Although Linda and Sonny are now in Prineville with their new venture, L & S Farm to Table, the La Pine Senior Center continues the tradition with Linda's help. You might want to wrap your plans around La Pine in June for vendors, music, over a thousand pies and of course, "everything" rhubarb from fudge to beer.

You will find the following recipe for rhubarb strawberry cake in the OSU Extension bulletin E 797, "Grow Your Own Rhubarb". If you have never tried using rhubarb in a recipe before, here is a simple one to try.



Annual Rhubarb Festival La Pine Senior Center

16345 Sixth St., La Pine, OR 97739 • 541-536-1432
<https://lapineseniorcenter.org/rhubarb-festival/>

Strawberry Rhubarb-Upside Down Cake

Linda Stephenson,
L & S Farm to Table, Prineville, OR

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

9 x 13 x 2 inch greased pan

4 – 6 cups of rhubarb, cut in 1" pieces

1 1/2 c. sugar

1 small pkg. of strawberry gelatin

Mix above ingredients together and pour into baking pan. Spread out evenly.

1 white or yellow cake mix

Follow package directions and pour over the mixture.

Bake 50 – 60 minutes

Aunt Happy's Rhubarb Meringue Dessert



Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees

Crust:

2 c. flour
1 c. butter or margarine
2 T. Powdered sugar
Little salt

Mix like piecrust & press in 9 x 13 pan – bake 10 minutes

Filling:

6 egg yolks beaten

Fold in:

4 T flour
2 c. sugar
5 c. rhubarb (chopped in 1 inch pieces)
½ pt. of whipped cream
1 t. dried orange rind or 1 T fresh
grated orange rind

Spread filling over hot crust and bake 45 minutes

Meringue Topping:

6 egg whites beaten stiff
2 T. sugar
Vanilla

Spread Meringue over filling.

Brown 5 to 10 minutes at 450 degrees

Note: This family dessert has graced potluck tables from North Dakota and Iowa to Wisconsin. A favorite for all.

Blueberry Rhubarb Jam

This recipe won third prize in The 1983 Old Farmer's Almanac Recipe Contest.

Ingredients:

3-1/4 cups blueberries
2-1/4 cubes rhubarb, diced into 1/2-inch pieces
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 cup water
5 1/2 cups sugar
1 package (1-3/4 ounces) fruit pectin
½ tsp butter or margarine

Instructions:

In a large sauce pan, crush the blueberries using a potato masher, then add the rhubarb, water, lemon juice, and sugar. Bring the mixture to a rolling boil for 1 minute. Add the pectin, stir well, and return mixture to a full rolling boil and boil for 1 minute.

Prepare boiling water canner and heat jars in simmering water until ready to use. Wash lids in warm soapy water and set aside.

Remove jam from heat and skim off any foam. Ladle hot jam into hot jars leaving a ¼ inch of headspace. Clean rims of jars before putting on jar lids. Screw the metal bands on finger tight and place in boiling-water bath canner. Process for 10 minutes.

Turn off heat and take off lid. After 10 minutes, remove jars and place on a rack or kitchen towel on the counter. Allow jars of jams to cool down without moving. You may hear pinging...the jars have sealed! After 24 hours remove the screw bands and test seal by pressing gently on the lid. Store for up to a year in a cool, dry place.





Cornell Farm Nursery and Cafe and its 117 year old Monkey Puzzle Tree.

When Ed Met Deby



A family photo. Back row: Berkeley, Ranann and Zoe. Front row: Ed and Deby.

Two people (and two gardening journeys) converged to create the foundation for Cornell Farm Nursery & Cafe, now celebrating its 35th year.

by Judy Alleruzzo

How fun to be able to learn more about Deby Barnhart and Ed Blatter from Cornell Farm for Garden Time Magazine's February Hortie article! I have known these owners of Cornell Farm Nursery for over 20 years, seeing them at garden center industry events, visiting their nursery and interviewing them over the years on the Garden Time show. Since we usually talk about plants and gardening topics, I've never really heard their history of growing up in Oregon and the start of Cornell Farm Nursery and Café.

Ed Blatter grew up on the property where Cornell Farm Nursery stands today in SW Portland. The property was originally called Cornell Jersey Dairy and begun by Ed's Grandfather, Wilhelm Blatter in 1921. The name, Cornell was an homage to Cornell Agricultural School which is now Cornell University in New York. Wilhelm attended this school in 1901 when he arrived in the US from his native Switzerland at 24 years of age. In 1926, the dairy was moved to the present site on Barnes Road. About 20 years later Ed's Dad, Ted Blatter, took over the Farm and in the mid 1950s, decided to go a different agricultural route and began to grow strawberries, trees and shrubs for the wholesale market. He was a busy man doing all this growing on a part time basis and working at other jobs too. Ed was a busy guy too, growing up on his family farm and remembers those days, "Besides mowing the grass, weeding the garden and gathering pruning's



1987 Mother's Day Stand

PHOTO CREDIT: ZOE BLATTER



The greenhouse filled with Pansies.



Cornell ~ Farm
Nursery & Cafe

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS!

from the orchard, I helped trim tips and sprays during holly season and earned extra money selling Gravenstein apples from our orchard trees from a roadside stand."

Deby's gardening journey was different as her family moved around to different areas of Oregon as her Dad worked for the US Forestry Service. She grew up in Dufer, Hines, Reedsport and Grants Pass, Oregon. Deby related, "These moves gave me a deep appreciation for all the climates and beauty of our magnificent state. I feel like I grew up around all our forests." As for gardening in her younger days, that is a bit different memory. Deby's Mom sought solace in her flower garden, so no children were allowed to help with those chores. That left her and siblings to help in her Dad's vegetable garden. "My father was the vegetable gardener who planted, and we kids were the labor for watering, weeding, harvesting. I didn't develop any love of gardening growing up." Isn't it funny how kids don't think those chores are fun and relaxing and how adults will say that's their favorite job in the garden. Deby went on to various agricultural and other jobs in her early years, as her "first job was picking beans for 7 cents/lb. in junior high, raising pigs for two summers for 4-H, nurses aid for three summers."

Fast forward to college years and Deby and Ed both attended Willamette University in Salem where they met in their freshman year.

Deby graduated "with the first college degree in the U.S. in Urban & Regional Government at the time Oregon was pioneering land use planning to preserve our agricultural lands. I'm sure it was my love of our green state and desire to maintain and preserve it that lit the fire to pursue that degree. The reality of being an Urban Planner was more paperwork and politics which did not fulfill my career expectations."

Ed studied journalism and as Deby told me, they became "serious life partners" and moved to California when "he was accepted to U.C. Berkeley's graduate program in Journalism at Berkeley, we moved there for two years until he graduated with his Masters in Journalism while I worked for an international finance company in San Francisco who needed someone to translate French (experience from six years of French classes plus six months studying in French at L'Universite de Caen, France, living with a family)."

Deby and Ed returned to Oregon after he graduated in 1980. Upon returning, Ed "became the Edi-



Early Spring Display

tor of the oldest community newspaper in Oregon, the St. Johns Review.” Deby related to me, she worked at several jobs in those first years, “Administrative Assistant/Urban Planning Department Zimmer Gunsel Frasca Architects (two years), co-publisher/photographer for Ed’s and my monthly cultural affairs magazine (Multnomah Monthly Magazine/Metro Magazine) five years.”

So that’s the history of Deby and Ed before the real start of Cornell Farm Nursery. The new chapter began in 1987, when they opened a retail nursery stand on Mother’s Day on the Cornell Farm property. They sold their first crop of 200 geraniums, 50 Fuchsia baskets and 50 5-gallon Tomatoes all grown in their first greenhouse. The pair divided up the business responsibilities considering their personal strengths. Ed became the production grower since growing plants is in his farming genes. Deby told me, “he grew up under his father’s green thumb and has had a natural ability to nurture and care for plants.” Being a man that wanted to learn more about the art of growing plants, Ed contacted Eric Ross, OSU Extension for commercial agriculture/horticulture to teach him the finer points of growing plants for the commercial market. Deby’s proud to say, “Commercial growing was easy for him to absorb, being

a technical wizard and drawn to perfection, but Ed received excellent instruction from experienced top growers like Bill Egan of Egan Gardens and others.”

While Ed was in the greenhouse growing plants, being the builder and fix-it-man around the nursery, Deby, the people person of the pair, was all about taking care of the retail end of the business. She loved to engage with the Cornell Farm customers and create the beautiful plant displays. Deby has an amazing eye for displays. She and Ed traveled extensively over the years for garden center industry tours and family vacations. This experience of seeing retailers in other places and just absorbing gardens was inspiration to Deby in her own nursery. Her European travels, living in France for several months and even gift buying shows brought creativity to her displays at Cornell Farm. Besides being creative at her nursery, I remember a Cornell Farm display at a Yard Garden & Patio Show in the late 1990s/early 2000s, yes, way back then. Deby and Ed created a Parisienne scene complete with a hand-painted Paris street backdrop, multitude of blooming plants and a vintage Citroën convertible car with more plants spilling out of the rooftop. It was a show stopping



Spring Blooms at Cornell Farm Nursery

centerpiece of the YGP event.

Deby remembers learning about plants, along with her customers. She had her "Plant Bible, the Sunset Western Garden Book" to help in her gaining more knowledge. "Discovering the beauty and year-round variety of so many plants was immediately addicting."

Present day Cornell Farm Nursery and Café is celebrating its 35th year in business. From that first crop on Mother's Day, they have expanded to growing over "800 varieties of annuals and perennials, including some herbs and vegetable starts." Over the years, they have built more greenhouses and made additions to the retail store, always looking to enhance the customer's experience while shopping for all things gardening at Cornell Farm.

The best part of present-day history is that Cornell Farm is still a place of family, as the next generation has joined the business, even though they've been "working" there since they were kids. When Deby and Ed's children were little, they helped around the nursery, picking up plant tags for a penny a piece. Later on, when they were older, "the kids just came home from school, the nursery was their playground, swinging from the bows of

greenhouses under construction and helping unload carts of plants onto tables."

Oldest daughter Berkeley has been the major display artist for the last 10 years and as Deby is proud to say, "graduated from OSU in Merchandising Management. She found her vision expressed through an internship and year-long employment with Anthropologie before deciding to take her creativity to Cornell Farm. She has also brought her eye to pottery and gift buying, establishing brands and styles that our talented team has continued."

Son Zoe, is a computer whiz, having set up computers for his grade-school teachers and building Cornell Farm's first website while he was in high school! He is now the Director of IT, Marketing and Social Media. He worked in the private sector before deciding to work full time in the family business. Ed is mentoring Zoe to learn the whole of the Cornell Farm business to one day step into that role.

Youngest daughter, Rannan joined her love of plants and wanting to help people, to achieve the first 4-year degree in Horticulture Therapy at OSU. She went on to Johns Hopkins to receive her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health. She has developed her own therapy practice three days a



Sunny Day Display

week but also works at Cornell Farm. She returned to work just as the Covid pandemic began, spearheaded the Online Store and became its coordinator. She is also the head of hiring and training development.

In learning about Deby, Ed and Cornell Farm, I would be remiss in not learning more about the Cornell Farm Café. They wanted to create something interesting in the space of the iconic farmhouse on the property. It is a beautiful structure and listed on the Washington County Historic Register (1926). Deby told me the family had many ideas for using the house and also considered comments from customers. The Café "idea emerged after talking with our customers about what they would like to see—food and drink." What an amazing addition to Cornell Farm, plus all three of Deby and Ed's children are co-owners and actively involved in its operation. Zoe is responsible in many Café aspects, from any physical changes, appliance upgrades to meetings with the chef. Rannan is responsible for customer service improvements and marketing. So, all that is behind the scenes to make a wonderful customer experience of tasty food and beautiful atmosphere. A day of plant shopping and a delicious lunch all in one location, what a concept!

It's now a new year and the start of the gardening season. The whole family is getting the nursery ready for the late winter blooming plants and their favorite fragrant plants, Sarcococca and Daphne odora Aureomarginata. They're also planning a few special events this year to mark their 35th year in business. Deby shared a little news of a Summer Solstice Party and another event for long time customers at the end of the summer and maybe another event will be planned too. Stay tuned to their website!

What a remarkable history of Deby and Ed, Cornell Farm and Nursery and their family. It is a rich story made even more wonderful since family is so involved all together. Deby summed up this whole story by saying, "We are very excited to bring new gardeners into the fold of botanical wonder, nurture nature observers and give wings to all their garden dreams! We had no idea we would be farmers when we graduated from college. And love it!

Cornell Farm Nursery & Café
8212 SW Barnes Road,
Portland, OR 97225
Phone: (503) 292-9895
<https://cornellfarms.com/>



A Dull Pain

Home maintenance can be tedious, but it's also necessary for a healthy home. Here's a seasonal list to help make the tasks less daunting.

by Ron Dunevant

Check your gutters and downspouts for debris.

Maintenance. Was there ever a word that sounded so... unglamorous? Keeping the status quo. On an even keel. Nothing to see here! There's not much exciting about it.

But, when it comes to your home, consistency is king. Home repairs are expensive, inconvenient and often intimidating. When everything works, we get to relax and enjoy our living space. And that's what we all want most from home ownership, right?

We all mean well. We intend to do those little chores around the house. But the fact is, we're all busy and time gets away from us. It's especially true during a pandemic when many of us have curtailed our outside activities, and one day -- one month -- begins to look like the next. It's hard to believe that two years have gone by since this all started.

So, in an effort to keep these important tasks front and center, may we suggest making a list? A rundown of all those little upkeep items that get lost in the shuffle. Something we can post and check off when things are completed. Something to remind us when we forget and to reward us with a checkmark when we remember. Divided by season so the tasks don't seem so daunting.

Since every home is different and each person's abilities vary, you'll need to make your own list. But we have some suggestions on where to start and when to do it that will help get you started, stay organized, save money and keep your home looking its best.

For those with a lack of time, desire or skill, consider hiring a professional for as many of these tasks as you afford.

MONTHLY

☑Clean or Replace HVAC Filters

A dirty furnace filter forces your unit to work harder to blow air throughout your house, resulting in higher heating and cooling bills. Keep a supply of filters in stock to make this job quick and easy. Write the date on your filter so you can easily see the last time it was changed.

☑Clean Garbage Disposal

Run the water until it's hot, then clean the disposal by grinding up some ice cubes and flushing with hot water and baking soda.

☑Unclog Drains

Clearing a nearly clean drain regularly is much easier than clearing a clogged one. Pour one tablespoon of salt into your drain followed by a quarter cup of white vinegar. Let it sit for an hour then run hot water to clear out the drain. Bleach can also be used, as well as a solution of liquid dish detergent and hot water, which will help clean out any grease. In fact, hot water alone will help get rid of excess gunk and residue, especially in the bathroom, which gets a lot of hair, soap and toothpaste buildup. Of course, there are numerous products at the store that will work on slow-running drains or tougher clogs.

☑Test and Inspect Smoke Alarms, CO Detectors and Fire Extinguishers

This one is a quick step. Smoke alarms and CO detectors should have test buttons on them. For fire extinguishers, check the pressure gauge, which has a red section and a green section. If it's in the green, you're good to go.

QUARTERLY

☑Vacuum Refrigerator Coils

Dirty coils make your refrigerator work harder and can shorten the life of mechanical parts. This

is also your chance to clean the drip trays and clean under the refrigerator. Some lists recommend this step semi-annually. Check the amount of dust on your coils to see which is most appropriate for your house.

SPRING

☑Clean Gutters and Downspouts

Clogged gutters can cause roof leaks, allow water into your house and cause problems with your home's foundation. Check them twice a year, more often if you have a lot of trees that surround your home. While you're there, check for any damage that may have occurred.

☑Clean/Replace Window Screens

As the weather warms up, we love to open our windows and let in a little fresh air. During the winter months, dust, moisture and bacteria can accumulate on your window screens creating unhealthy particles and even mold. Those elements come into your house along with the fresh air and can cause or irritate allergies, asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Cleaning your window screens removes these contaminants.

☑Inspect Roof and Siding for Storm Damage

Now that the weather is improving, take a sunny day and check your roof for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Remove debris, twigs and leaves from the roof's surface, then check for moss, raised or displaced shingles, discolorations, cracks, dents, and holes. Check caulking and flashing. While some parts of your roof can be inspected from the ground, you need to be up on the roof to do a complete inspection. If this makes you uncomfortable, employ the services of a profes-



Sharpen your lawn mower blades.

sional.

☑Sharpen Lawn Mower Blades

A dull blade makes your mower work harder and can damage grass. A sharp blade helps to maintain a healthy, green lawn and allows grass plants to recover more quickly. It also reduces mowing time.

☑Refinish Exterior Wood Surfaces

The outside of your house is what keeps the inside protected. If you have peeling paint, cracks around windows or trim, rotting siding or gaps at the seams, water and pests can get inside. Check all sides of your home and, if you find one or more of these problems, correct them.

☑Inspect Driveway and Sidewalks

Cracked or buckled cement can cause safety issues as well as drainage problems. Check your walkways for signs that the concrete is failing or cracking. There are many products to seal and fill cracked sidewalks and driveways. For major breakage, replacement of the slab may be necessary.

☑Service Air Conditioning Unit

Warmer weather means hot weather is on its way. Get your HVAC unit inspected now before the peak demand in the summer. Then, when the hot days arrive, you'll be able to relax in comfort.

☑Clear Lint from Dryer Vent

Sure, you probably clean the screen in your dryer after each load, but lint can also accumulate outside of the screen and along the vent. Check the dryer and vent for excessive buildup and clear it with a hose-style vacuum. The skinny wand attachment should fit in the slot where the screen sits.



Check window wells for dirt and debris.

☑ Inspect Septic Tank

If you aren't connected to the sewer, the septic tank is the most important part of your home's water system. If it gets backed up, you're in real trouble. A professional can inspect your underground tank and check for leaks and backups. There are also products that you can pour down your drain that will help keep your septic system running smoothly. If you notice slow drainage or a backup in your system, get it checked right away.

☑ Fertilize Your Lawn

After the harsh winter rains, your lawn will be looking for nutrients to help it grow as the weather warms up. Don't do this step too early. The best time for the first application is in late spring, just as the green grass is beginning to show hearty growth. In the early part of the spring, your grass is focusing on root development. Fertilizing too soon will interrupt this process and divert the plant's energy into leaf development, leaving it with weaker, shallower roots.

☑ Uncover Foundation/ Crawl Space Vents

Once the threat of freezing weather has passed, remove any vent covers from your foundation to allow air circulation, dissipate moisture and reduce the threat of dry rot under your house.

SUMMER

☑ Check Home for Insects

First, look for problem areas around your home that could attract pests, such as branches or shrubs touching the structure, tall brush or grasses, standing water or piles of debris and clean them up. Then, check for areas where pests can enter your home. Spots like torn window screens, large cracks or crevices along the foundation or by doors and windows,



Check your dryer vents for lint.

PHOTO CREDIT: WOODLEY WONDERWORKS VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS



Caulking around windows is an easy way to save money.

PHOTO CREDIT: FLICER CREATIVE COMMONS

and gaps around cables and pipes that lead into the structure can allow pests to come in. Look for areas of your property that indicate the presence of pests, such as nesting materials, chewed wood and dirt mounds in the lawn. Also, check for animal feces in your crawl space and any sign of animals or insects inside your home. If you see something, it's time to take action or call a professional.

☑Mulch Garden Beds

As the weather dries out and we begin to water more, adding mulch to your beds will keep moisture in, prevent dry spots and reduce the amount of water your plants will need during the summer.

☑Clean Kitchen Hood and Exhaust Fan Filter

Your hood fan reduces cooking fumes, odors, toxic chemicals and smoke in your house, and when it's clogged with grease, it doesn't work as well. A simple solution of baking soda and dish soap should suffice. Some people also suggest putting it in the dishwasher. If it's really clogged, you can use an automotive degreaser.

☑Switch Ceiling Fans to Counter-Clockwise

In the summer, your ceiling fan should turn counter-clockwise to create a downdraft, which will create a breeze and help you feel cooler, reducing the need for air conditioning.

☑Clean Grill and Fill Propane Tank

Summer is the time for outdoor cooking, so now is the time to get that grill ready to go. Some vinegar in a spray bottle and a bristle brush or balled-up piece of aluminum foil will do the trick. Make sure your propane tank has an adequate supply and consider purchasing a spare so you don't run

out of fuel mid-steak.

FALL

☑Service Heating System

As the weather cools down, it's time to check the heating system, before the cold weather begins. If you've ever had a furnace break down in January, you know how hard it is to schedule an appointment when the weather is cold. Make the call now while demand is low and the wait time is short. You may even want to have the entire HVAC system serviced and you can skip that step in the spring.

☑Schedule a Chimney Sweep

A fireplace that is used often will have creosote buildup which can catch fire. A rarely used fireplace can get clogged with spider webs or other animal debris that prevent smoke from rising up the flue. Use a bright light and a mirror or camera to see up your chimney and assess its condition. If you don't have the tools or knowhow to clean it yourself, call a professional.

☑Put Outdoor Furniture in Storage

Once the rainy season begins, if you will no longer be lounging outside, pack up your outdoor furniture and move it someplace dry. Sure, a lot of outdoor items are made to survive the rain, but they will also get dirty and may get coated with moss during the wet and warm days. Keeping them inside will reduce the amount of cleaning they need in the spring.

☑Fix Weather Stripping/Seal Cracks

This is an inexpensive way to lower your heating and cooling bills and keep out pests. Home improvement stores have caulk and weather stripping for almost any application and fall is the time

to do it before it gets too cold. A candle can be used to find drafts. Light it and hold it two inches from the windows and doors and move it to various points around the opening. A flickering flame will indicate air coming in from the outside. Look for cracks and gaps and seal them.

☑Rake Leaves

The biggest benefit to raking leaves is that it will help your grass grow. A thick layer of leaves will deprive it of sunlight and wet, heavy leaves can smother tender blades of grass. Leaves on sidewalks, decks and wood structures will retain moisture increasing the chance for dry rot and insects. Leaves may also prevent drainage. Rake some of the leaves into your beds to create mulch and insulate the plants over the winter.

☑Winterize Sprinklers and Hoses

Sprinklers and hoses hold water and when the water freezes, it can split both metal and rubber. Drain water from your hoses and sprinklers and bring them into a garage, if possible. For hoses, connect one end to the other to prevent any remaining water from running out when it's inside the house. Hoses will last much longer if not exposed to the elements. Be sure to cover your outside faucets with an insulating cover. If you have an in-ground sprinkler system, you may want to have a professional do this step. If you feel competent to do it yourself, there are several suggestions on the internet and even how-to videos on YouTube.

☑Aerate Lawn

Aeration allows air, water and nutrients to penetrate the soil. That relieves soil compaction, aids in thatch management, and increases the nutrient availability to the

roots. It also improves the effectiveness of fertilizer, making your lawn healthier.

☑ Drain Sediment from Hot Water Heater

Even our wonderful Northwest water has sediment in it, and if not flushed regularly, it can cause your water heater to corrode more quickly. It can also block or clog the relief pressure valve, an important safety measure.

☑ Cover Foundation/ Crawl Space Vents

When the temperature drops below freezing, water pipes in your crawl space can freeze. Closing off the vents during the winter months will help prevent this from happening.

☑ Clean Gutters and Downspouts

Just like you did in the spring.

☑ Clean Window Wells

Check for debris and remove it. Leaves and dirt can prevent the water from draining out of your window well and that creates the potential for water in your basement.

WINTER

☑ Remove Screens

While you may never have thought of removing screens from your windows in the winter, there are benefits. Doing so will allow up to 40% more natural light to enter through your windows and increase the heat from the sun inside your home. This step will also reduce the amount of cleaning you will have to do to the screens when you replace them in the spring.

☑ Clean Kitchen Hood and Exhaust Fan Filter



Rake the leaves to keep your lawn healthy.

PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT

Available Now! Garden Time Flowers

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



Garden Time Dahlia



Garden Time Rose



Garden Time Iris

ORDER TODAY!

More information at The Garden Time Store

www.gardentime.tv/store



Garden Time



Test your sump pump.

Didn't we just do this last summer? Yes! Time to do it again.

☑️ **Test Sump Pump**

If you have one, you know what it does: A sump pump prevents ground water from getting into the basement or crawl space by moving excess water away from the foundation. They are easy to test. One method involves unplugging the power to the float switch and the motor and then plugging back in the one for the pump. The second involves lifting the float arm or filling the sump pit with water to raise the float until the pump kicks on. If you test it without water, you should not let it run for more than a few seconds as it could damage the pump.

☑️ **Switch Ceiling Fans to Clockwise**

Now that it's winter, switch your ceiling fan back clockwise to create an updraft, which will take the breeze off you and help circulate warm air around the room.

Whew! We haven't even done anything and already this sounds exhausting. But it doesn't have to be done all at once. Pace yourself and you'll find that some chores will go quickly, especially when they are done regularly.

While the list is long, it is far from complete. Every home is different and will have its own specific items that need regular maintenance. Use this as a starting point and tailor it to your home. Even if you don't get to everything on the list as often as it suggests, each step that you are able to complete during the year means that your home will last longer and have fewer problems. And that's certainly worth a little time and effort.



Check siding and trim for dry rot.

OFFICIAL GARDEN TIME MERCHANDISE

More From the Store!



**Masks • Caps
Beanies • Aprons
Bags • T-Shirts
Denim Shirts
1/4 Zip Sweatshirts
Pullover Hoodies**



ORDER ON-LINE AT THE GARDEN TIME STORE

www.gardentime.tv/store

WTDITG

February, the month of Valentine's Day, is for lovers... of gardening! Sure, it's still a little cold, but your plants are preparing for their spring debut. Now is the time to give them a head start by pruning, cleaning, spraying and planting. Everything you do today will pay dividends for the rest of the year.

PLANNING



- Don't forget to add entries into your gardening journal! Planning ahead means you can be more focused on the important projects lined up for your garden spaces this year.

- Mason Bees: If you don't already have a Mason Bee nesting block, then this is the time to get one set up

so you can be ready to attract your own crop of pollinators. Mason Bees will start emerging late February or early March.



- Start thinking and planning what landscaping you want to do this year. Bring photos of spaces you'd like help with into your local independent garden center and ask for their advice.

PLANTING



- Fruit time! Plant blueberries, strawberries and cane berries.

Most of the plants will be available sometime in February - early shopping yields the best selection.

- Bare root fruit trees are available this month.

- Plant sweet peas! These fragrant pretty flowers should be planted late winter or early spring directly into their garden space.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Pruning can be done this month on fruit trees, blueberries, shade and flowering trees, as well as most shrubs. Rose pruning should be delayed until the last half of February. Please do some research before hacking away!

Briefly, pruning is done to improve the shape of the plant, to

open it up to allow more sun in and air to circulate through the foliage. Start your pruning by removing any dead or broken branches or crossing limbs. Suckers and water sprouts can be removed at



this time.

- Prune fall-bearing raspberries now. Check your local garden center for instructions.

- Hose off Blue Spruce and Alberta Spruce, or any spruce for that matter, with a hard stream of water to knock off any aphids feeding on the foliage.

What To Do In The Garden

FEBRUARY

- Dormant Spray with Bonide's All Seasons Spray Oil - a safe and natural pest control that smothers over wintering insects. If needed, dormant spray for diseases with Bonide's Copper Fungicide (dust or spray). Spray according to label directions. (Don't spray dormant oil on blue spruce.)



- Peach trees second spraying can be done this month for peach leaf curl with approved fungus control labeled for

peaches, like Fungonil or Microcop.

- Water any plants that are underneath the overhang of the house or under wide growing evergreens, where soil can become quite dry.

- Fertilize trees, shrubs and perennials with slow release fertil-

izer like 'All Purpose Tree & Shrub Fertilizer'.

- Soil prep for the garden. Dump on compost and turn over with a spade as it's too early and wet to rototill. You may find it interesting to know that spading the soil instead of rototilling is better for the soil structure, so don't fret if you don't have a tiller. Keep weeds pulled or smothered as you see them.



- Prune roses. The best month for pruning rose bushes is February. Please research good pruning meth-

ods for your rose bushes.

- Get your lawn mower ready for the months ahead with a sharper blade and maybe an engine tune up.

- Boost your lawn now with a

good lawn fertilizer. Do not apply grass seed until late April.

- Look for slug eggs out in the garden. The eggs look like little white BBs and can often be found under rocks and debris in the garden. Raking up and destroying all that you find now will eliminate many hungry adult slugs later. Use Slug magic to get rid of adults. Slug Magic is a very safe product that is only iron phosphate so the pets will not be harmed, but is deadly for slugs and snails. The broken down iron then gets to be consumed by the plants!



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures for best planting times for crops desired. Refer back to soil temperature chart (January issue) for best seed sowing times and soil temperature for planting out young starts.



- Plant horseradish, rhubarb and asparagus starting this month. Make sure you hydrate asparagus crowns first by soaking the crowns in water for about 30 minutes to one hour just before planting. This will ensure the roots are well hydrated.

- Plant these veggies and herbs outdoors: peas, arugula, onions, garlic cloves, fava or broad beans, onion sets, chives, parsley and radish.

- Start these veggies indoors: artichokes, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, celeriac. At the end of this month, start seeds for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant indoors.

- Plant onion sets, yellow, white or red.

- Watch for Walla Walla Sweets plant starts to come out late in the month or early March. It's a good idea to trim off any brown leaves from the green tops as well as set the roots into water to re-hydrate for one-half hour to one hour before planting out.





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.

Chinese New Year February 1-15, 2022

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Visit Lan Su to experience the most colorful and joyous Chinese festival during the garden's two-week Chinese New Year celebration. In accordance with the Lunar Calendar, the Chinese New Year celebration of the Year of the Tiger, begins on February 1, 2022 and ends February 15, 2022. The festival features cultural performances, festival decorations, and craft activities, audio tours, Year of the Tiger Scavenger Hunts and much more! www.lansugarden.org

Chinese New Year Lantern Viewing Evening Thursday, February 3, 2022

Lan Su Chinese Garden, Portland, OR

Experience Lan Su Chinese Garden at its most enchanting. Tickets available with sell out every year; buy yours soon for an unforgettable evening of beauty.

Join us at Portland's favorite Lunar New Year nighttime event! Lan Su welcomes the Year of the Tiger with eight evenings of traditional lantern viewings, when the garden glows with hanging red lanterns illuminating sweeping roof lines and the Lake Zither reflects the lights of dragon and phoenix lantern sculptures.

The lantern viewing evenings at Lan Su was inspired by the Lantern Festival, or Yuan Xian Jie, as part of Chinese New Year traditions. www.lansugarden.org

Northwest Flower & Garden Festival 2022 Wednesday, February 9–Sunday, February 13, 2022 Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA

Join us as we celebrate "Greetings from Spring" with over 20 display gardens, more than 90 free seminars and workshops, and thousands of treasures in the garden marketplace. The Northwest Flower & Garden Festival is the best annual event to gather ideas and inspiration for beautiful living spaces. Whether you're

continued next column

a seasoned gardener or just starting to dig in the dirt, there's something for everyone! www.gardenshow.com

Habitat Enhancement Wednesday February 9, 2022

Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Unwanted vegetation removal and planting. Dress for the weather! Rain gear, thick long pants, a long sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Bring a mask, water bottle, snack if you would like one. Instruction, tools, gloves provided.

What we provide: gloves, tools, and instruction on how to safely use tools and remove invasive weeds. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an attentive adult. This work is around and near sharp prickly plants and can be challenging for young children. We recommend children ages 12 and up for this type of event. www.jcwc.org/events/habitat-enhancement-at-leach-botanical-garden-7

Rose Care 101 Saturday, February 12, 2022 • 10:00am–11:00am Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Have you been dissatisfied with the Roses you've grown in the past, or have never considered growing Roses? If so, this class is for you! Ron will be sharing his knowledge on pre-Spring pruning, planting bare-root Roses, deadheading, and tips on how to keep your roses disease and pest free! \$10/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Fruit Tree Pruning Saturday, February 12, 2022 • 11:00am Saturday, February 19, 2022 • 11:00am Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Learn the proper pruning techniques to control growth, remove dead wood and stimulate flower formation for abundant, healthy fruit. FREE! Please call our nursery

continued next page



@360-225-8750 to reserve your seat. Class size will be limited due to covid restrictions. Face masks are required. www.tsugawanursery.com

Fruit Tree Spraying

Saturday, February 12, 2022 • 1:00pm

Saturday, February 19, 2022 • 1:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join us for this informative seminar on the proper use of dormant spray to prevent the spread of fungal diseases and to control harmful insects. FREE! Please call our nursery @360-225-8750 to reserve your seat. Class size will be limited due to covid restrictions. Face masks are required. www.tsugawanursery.com

Rose Pruning

Sunday, February 13, 2022 • 1:00pm-1:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Mitch will give some pointers on how to prune roses. www.garlandnursery.com

Portland Spring Home & Garden Show

Thursday, February 24-Sunday, February 27, 2022

• 10:00am-7:00pm

Portland Expo Center, Portland, OR

The annual Portland Spring Home & Garden Show returns to the Portland Expo Center Thursday, February 24 through Sunday, February 27. Spring is the perfect time to put your home project in motion. Find inspiration at the Portland Spring Home & Garden Show!

Visit the show to meet with expert remodelers in person and to touch and feel home products like tile and countertops - maybe even purchase a spa for the spring evenings to come or perhaps a new Mercedes for upcoming summer road trips. Artisan booths, design inspiration, garden tips and tricks - whatever you need, the Portland Spring Home & Garden Show is the place to help make your ideas a reality.

Admission \$10, FREE to children 12 years and under. For more information visit Spring Home and Garden Show. Parking is \$12 per space, per entry. <http://homeshow-pdx.com/>

continued next column

Early Season Pruning for Clematis

Saturday, February 26, 2022 • 10:00am-12:00pm

Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

The span of Valentine's Day to St. Patrick's Day is the sweet spot for pruning large-flowered hybrid clematis. You will have hands-on training in hard pruning, grooming, and tidying techniques for maximizing spring and summer bloom. Bring your favorite light-duty hand pruners; all other materials provided. Dress for the weather.

Note: if the weather is bad on February 26, the class will be held on March 5. Class Fee: \$10 for FRCC members, \$25 for non-members, free for FRCC Patron and Duchess of Waverly members. Instructors: Linda Beutler & Susan Toler. 125 Rosemont Road, West Linn, OR, 97068. <https://www.rogersonclematiscollection.org/>

Bonsai Introductory Class

Saturday, February 26, 2022 • 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 bonsai classes and save! Only \$40.00 per person. www.tsugawanursery.com

Bonsai Continuing Class

Saturday, February 26, 2022 • 1:00pm-3:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Continue learning all about the care, techniques and 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 bonsai classes and save! Only \$40.00 per person. www.tsugawanursery.com

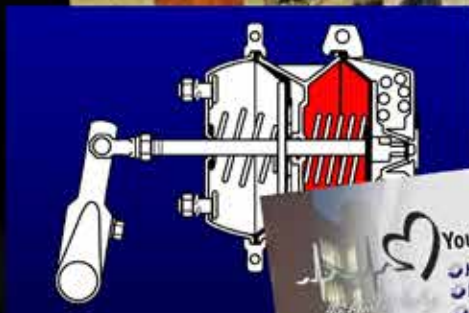
LOOKING FOR MORE?

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

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