

March 2022

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Getaway Vehicle Exploring Oregon with Grant McOmie

Companion Planting
Collards

RED PIG TOOLS'
Seth Pauley

Smith Rock State Park in
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A Beginning to an End

Welcome to the beginning of the spring and the beginning of our 17th season of the Garden Time show. Every spring we become more hopeful and excited about the upcoming season. There are longer days and bright blooms to greet us as the season progresses. Any warm day is an invitation for us to head out into the garden and do some prep work for the coming season. We are also starting to see the first new growth of our shrubs and perennials. There is so much to be hopeful for!

There is one big change that we would like to share. Our station in the Portland area, KPDX – Fox12 Plus has moved our TV show to 10:30 on Saturday mornings. This change is at their request to accommodate other local programming. We hope that you find us at our new time. If you would like a little more control over when you see the program, you can always watch the show on our YouTube channel. We usually post the show there a couple days before it airs so you can actually see it before everyone else!

This spring brings to Garden Time some special changes. My wife and I have decided to end the Garden Time program at the end of June of this year. There have been a lot of things that are pointing us in this direction (including a brand new grandson), but the timing just seemed right. This also means that the Garden Time Magazine will end too. We'll have one last issue in July. I know a lot of people will be disappointed and we will miss sharing all this great gardening information each month. You can always keep up with us as we will be maintaining our website, Facebook and YouTube pages for the foreseeable future. We are also looking for someone to take over the show and magazine, and there is some interest from people that may want to do that. If that happens, we will share that information with you.

On to this month's magazine. As we plant, we can also think about companion plants. These are the plants that work well with other plants in your garden or containers. Therese shares some tips with you on those. She also introduces you to Seth Pauley, the owner and maker of Red Pig Garden Tools. He has an interesting journey that has led him to this point in time of making the best garden tools on the market! David also chips in with the 10 things you should do every spring in your home!

We hope that you have a great early spring and get your gardening off to a great start!

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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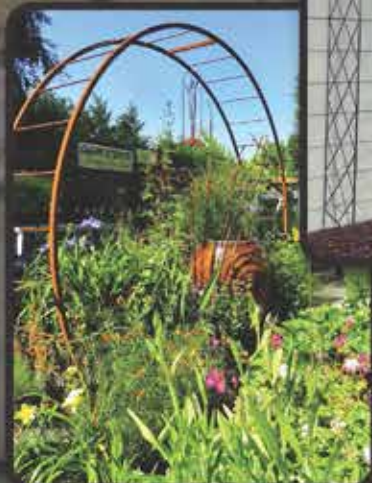


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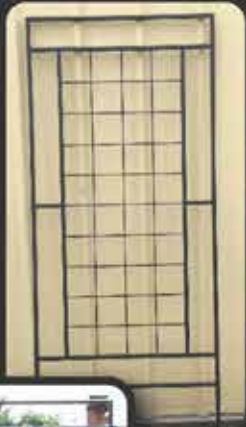
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Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

The moss has returned to my lawn with a vengeance!
I really want to get rid of it. How can I do that?

Signed,
Moaning About Moss

Dearest 'Moaning',

The moss in your lawn is the product of our environment. We have the perfect conditions for growing moss in the Northwest! From a plant's perspective (like mine) that's wonderful news! However, you seem to want to remove your moss, but don't jump the gun. The moss is growing because there is an opportunity for it to do so. If your lawn is weak and not full, the moss will grow to take its place. Removing it will take a little time and effort. There are two basic types of moss removal products. One group contains iron-based elements (look for the word 'ferrous' on the label) and the other group is an organic soap. Apply the product you prefer according to your label directions. The iron in the first group will actually kill the moss, turning it black and the grass a darker green. The soaps contain potassium salts which also kill the moss and leave the grass intact. Right now the temperatures in the garden are on the edge of being perfect for application of these products. The warmer weather of spring will cause the current moss to spread



Moss in Grass

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

its spores and that will make the moss problem continue in your lawn, so applying products and removing the dead moss is a must for the late winter gardener.

Once the moss has turned black and died, you will need to remove it with a thatching rake or a de-thatcher. You then can prep your lawn for new seed or apply a fertilizer to promote new lawn growth. Keeping your lawn thick and full through the coming growing season will help prevent the moss from returning in the future.

Check out this story we did a few years ago about removing moss:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW1pn0f6TcA

A 'natch' for the thatch,
Mortimer

.

Dear Mortimer,

When can I start cutting back plants for the spring?

Signed,
Anxious in Aurora

Dear Anxious,

Your question depends on the type of plant you are pruning back. There are a few simple rules for perennials and shrubs. If it is a fall blooming shrub, you can cut it back now. If it is a spring blooming shrub, any pruning you do now will cut off the blooming stalks/branches for this spring. A few examples. Lilacs usually bloom in April and May, they should be cut during their bloom time in late spring, so you can enjoy those blooms indoors, or right after they bloom. Any cutting now will rob you of all those wonderful blooms you hope to see in the spring. The same is true for most spring blooming plants. Leave them alone, just cutting dead or diseased branches off until after they bloom. Then you can do a larger pruning. A lot of these spring blooming plants will set their blooms for the following season during the late summer and early fall. Pruning them now will get rid of those potential blooms. Fall blooming shrubs can be cut back now and they should have time to set their blooms for later this season.

Perennials can be cleaned up now, but there really is not a huge rush. Look for the obviously dead, diseased and crossing branches and remove those first. Dead leaves can be cleaned up from around the base of your plants. You



Early season pruning.

PHOTO CREDIT: PETER LINEHAN VIA FLICKR

will want to look for new growth and buds and prune to those accordingly.

Now, having said all that, there are always specific rules to follow. For example, roses can be cut back now and they can be pruned HARD, meaning they can handle big cuts and thinning and still come back. Depending on varieties, hydrangeas, clematis and other perennials may need specific pruning to get the best out of your plants. For those plants you can always check our local experts to see how to cut those. Many of the local plant societies have meetings and classes to help people learn specific rules for the care and maintenance of your special garden plants. You can also check with plant growers for information on their websites. For example, the Hardy Plant Society, the Rose Society, Rogerson Clematis Garden, Swan Island Dahlias and Hydrangeas Plus, all have great resources at their meetings or 'help' pages on their various websites. You can also check with your independent garden center for more tips.

I hope that helps,
Mortimer



Fruit trees like apples can be cleaned up now too.

PHOTO CREDIT: APPLE AND PEAR AUSTRALIA VIA FLICKR

Grant McOmie

Getaway Vehicle

In the great state of Oregon, there are plenty of places to get away from it all. And, there's no one better to take you there than Grant McOmie.

by Jan McNeilan

They tell me that the Sunstone is the state gem of Oregon, but in my book the gem of Oregon is Grant McOmie. Yes, *that* Grant McOmie, the guy you see on Grant's Getaways every week on KGW. For nearly four decades he has been a broadcast journalist, teacher, producer and writer about environmental issues and all that is the Oregon outdoors.

I have been a fan of Grant's since his first outdoor report, many years ago. That recognizable enthusiastic voice that promises you a new adventure. Where to begin! Grant began his broadcasting career in 1981 at KGW and went on to work for other stations in Seattle and Portland. In 2008, he re-

turned to KGW. In 2010 he began the weekly segments of Grant's Getaways which is viewed by 2.8 million households a year.

Grant is a big wide-eyed kid in a candy store called Oregon and he is anxious to share. Now for me, the candy is Grant! He has so many stories to tell and history to relate. If you see me with earbuds in, I am probably listening to one of his podcasts.

Grant is a fifth generation native Oregonian who values his ancestry, the history and natural wonders of the world around him. Born on a Naval Base in Alaska he returned with his folks when he was

2. He has always been close to the land as he helped on the 40 acre family farm in Central Oregon. He said they had cattle, sheep and all the rest that goes with a farm. The family remains in the Prineville Redmond area. When he was 13 his main job and exercise was moving irrigation pipe.

When asked about childhood memories, he said "I tend to remember the good things. I try to convey the beauty of the state that I experienced as a boy."

Grant said he was the first one to leave the area to attend school. Once he learned how beautiful the coast was, he never went back except to visit family. He said it was the salmon that kept him nearer the coast.

He attended Pacific University in Forest Grove and continued his education at the University of Washington and the University of Portland, where he studied journalism, English, and speech communications (Master of Arts). He teaches Media Arts at Pacific University as an adjunct professor.

As a mentor, he stays in touch with his graduates across the country to support their careers. I can imagine he is a favorite professor of his students. I told him that if I had had a history or natural science teacher like him, I would have had much better grades. My teacher was the basketball coach and I learned much more about last Friday night's game than I did about history.

Grant and his wife Christine (his cherished travel companion) live in Forest Grove. Christine is a grade school teacher. Grant became a high school teacher after college and taught journalism, newspaper, year-



PHOTO CREDIT: GRANT'S GETAWAYS

Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events March 2022

Lane County Home & Garden Show
Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2022

Lane Events Center- Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR

A showcase of 225 exhibits for the home and garden! Explore over two acres of exhibits by home building & remodeling and landscaping & gardening experts. Meet the area's very best contractors who can help create your dream home and yard!

• eugenehomeshow.com

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

March 18-May 1, 2022

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

Experience the beauty of 40 acres of tulips and over 100 acres of outdoor space and activities this spring. We are again offering tickets online only this year to minimize crowds and allow for more time to enjoy our fields.

• www.woodenshoe.com

Kokedama

Saturday, March 19, 2022 • 12:00pm-2:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Join Amy Jo as she walks you through the step-by-step process of making these amazing Japanese moss balls! Pre-registration required. Price: \$20.00.

• www.garlandnursery.com





book, speech team and language arts.

They have three grown sons. He said that he and Christine did not encourage TV when the boys were young, but put books in front of them instead. From the time they were little, the boys spent most of their time outdoors. He said that the boys didn't always appreciate all that they saw and experienced

as they traveled Oregon with their folks, but as adults they very much appreciate their exposure to everything Oregon!

He knew he loved to teach and also loved the outdoors. Why not put the two together as an outdoor reporter. The rest is history. Grant's Getaways reaches over 2.8 million households every year.

Grant has received multiple Emmy Awards, the most recent being the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northwest Chapter 2021 Silver Circle Award that was presented by Laural Porter on KGW. He has been honored with the Edward R. Murrow Award for News Coverage from the Radio-Television News Directors Association and has received numerous awards from Oregon Associated Press and Oregon Association of Broadcasters.

You will find, when reading one of his books, watching a segment video or listening to one of his podcasts, that Grant is a storyteller that I could listen to 24/7. He is a walking encyclopedia of all things outdoors. His voice ebbs and flows with excitement as he relates an experience in the outdoors or a character in history that he has met.

He has explored every corner of Oregon with joy and amazing enthusiasm for the outdoors. His favorite thing: "Being close to water at any time of year!" One favorite excursion was the boat tour on Crater Lake.

You may have lived here all your life, but I can guarantee that there are dozens and dozens of places you have not seen. Pick up one of his books, download his e-books, listen to a podcast or watch a video to go along with Grant on an adventure that could take you



from the beach to the mountains with sand in your toes and snow under your boots in one day.

More stories: Have you ever been to the Rice Mineral Museum, caught crayfish on the Trask River, seen the Hidden Garden on the Umpqua, had a giraffe stare at you through your car window, found Oregon's gem, the Sunstone or just walked along the Esplanade in Portland? If not, as Grant says, "Get out there! There is nothing better than fresh air!"

Do you know about famous Daredevil Al Fausset (1879–1948) that in the late 1920s went over Willamette Falls at 42 feet tall during spring runoff in a handmade enclosed boat? He charged \$1 per spectator, hoping to get rich, but most people evaded the charge. Next, he ran Silver Falls State Park, the South Falls at a whopping 177 ft. drop into a splash pool with his homemade canoe. With a hearty dose of bootleg spirits over he went, only to get hung up on a cable. The venture was described as a "high diver doing a belly flop". While recuperating in the hospital, his partner ran off with all the money. There is more to the story and other falls he ran, so if you are curious, you might want to research a little more. Grant tells the story and there is actually a whole book written about his adventures!

Here are some more stories to explore, Tillamook Forest Center, Following the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, High in the Saddle – a first experience climbing Saddle Mountain and so much more!

Grant's Getaways is produced in partnership with Travel Oregon, Visit Tillamook Coast as well as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. and the Oregon State Marine Board.

Travel Oregon, which is an underwriter for the show, developed a tourism campaign called "7 Wonders of Oregon." Oregon is made

up of seven regions that offer a diverse look at how unique Oregon is.

His books are organized by season, so that if you decide on an adventure in muddy November, you will know the best places to go.

There is something for everyone on one of Grant's Adventures. No matter what your ability from white water rafting to strolling along a boardwalk in an ADA compliant wildlife refuge there is a way for all to enjoy the outdoors. He did a segment on a non-profit called Adventures Without Limits that offers outdoor experiences. Everyone gets to go whether they lack experience, skill or money. Wheelchair accessible opportunities are also available from US Fish and Wildlife and many wildlife refuges.

In April of 2020 Grant began to record podcasts. There is the weekly Grant's Getaways on KGW Channel 8, 5 guidebooks with one on the way and now you have wonderful podcasts to listen to. With the challenge of quarantine and distance he developed 20 short sessions of storytelling. Sit back, relax and enjoy the outdoors as Grant brings each adventure to life.

Grant said, "one of the lasting characteristics of the show is the message. I have never stopped being a teacher. It is important to teach what is here and what separates us from Cleveland, Houston or Miami. There are unique qualities that people saw here 170 years ago and they wanted to be here for reasons not just free land, but the promise of a new land. The Oregon outdoors still holds that."

When asked for a favorite segment he said, "all of them!"

On the Umpqua River near Reed-sport is Oregon's Secret Garden. It is one of Grant's favorites. He said, "it is on the top of my list, largely because of its backstory of

Daredevil Al Fausset

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpBxWX0a0iE>

Seven Wonders of Oregon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei8mXkG6TCY>

Smith Rock
Columbia River Gorge
Crater Lake
Painted Hills
Wallowa Mountains
Mt. Hood
Oregon Coast

Grant McOmie's Books

**Grant's Getaways
Oregon Adventures with Grant
McOmie (2001)**

**Grant's Getaways II
More Outdoor Adventures
(2003)**

**Grant's Getaways
101 Oregon Adventures (2013)**

**Grant's Getaways
Guide to Wildlife Watching in
Oregon (2015)**

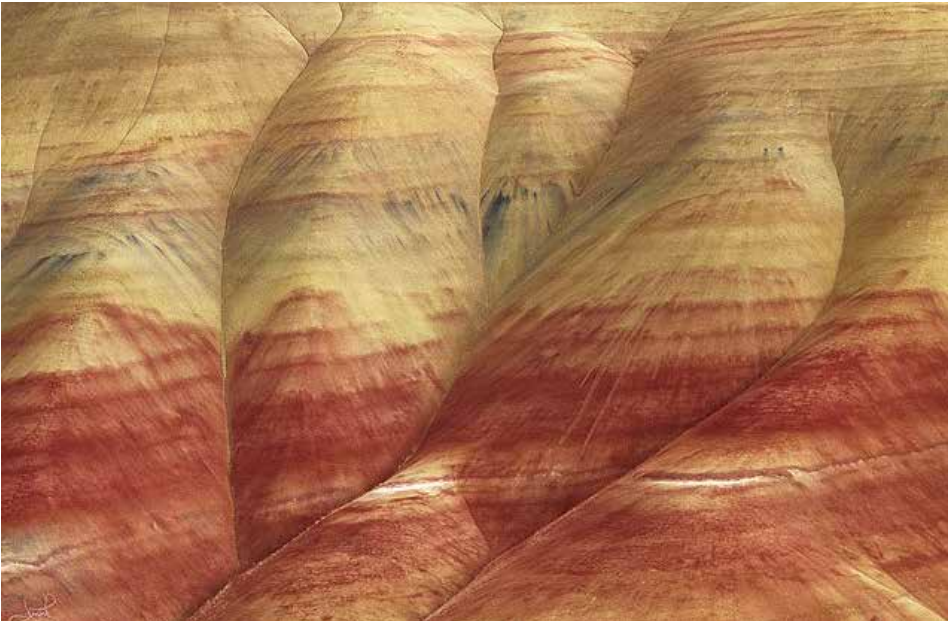
**Grant's Getaways
Oregon Adventures with the
Kids (2017)**

**Grant's Getaways
Another 101 Oregon
Adventures
(Scheduled to be released in
2022 or early 2023)**

Grant's Getaways: Oregon's Secret Garden

Watch on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey0OaCZVi1Q>



how it became a garden. A retreat of sorts for harried businessman, Howard Hinsdale, who created a place to escape. The family owned the property since 1912 and in the 1940s Mr. Hinsdale began to remodel their home and develop an amazing garden. The 55 acre Spruce Reach Island garden has over 300 species of mature rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. With the support of Friends of Hinsdale Garden and the BLM the garden is being preserved and available for visitors.

This was my adventure with Grant. Even at my age, I am ready to grab one of his books and start on page one. What about you?



Grant McOmie's Podcasts

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/grants-getaways/id1507982410>

Oregon Salmon Watch

Poor Man's Lobster

Oregon's Fish Whisperer

The Getaway that Nearly Killed Me

Climbing Oregon Giants

Huckleberry Hounds

A River Runs Thru the Heart of Oregon

Oregon's Most Dangerous River Bar

Oregon's Shangri-la By The Sea

Digging Oregon's Razor Clams

Know Your Trees, Know Your Forest

Whale of an Adventure

Campsite with a View

Wild Owyhee River Country

Oregon's Erratics

A Blizzard of Feathers

Forgotten Dreams and Hidden Treasures

Dinosaurs with Fins

The Story That Never Aired

Beginnings and a Beautiful Byway



Recipes

Grant says, "Now that we've shown you how to catch, capture, dig or whatever – here's what you can do with it." I asked Grant if I could print a couple of his recipes, he generously sent the following two suggestions.

STUFFED CRAB SANDWICH

1 c grated Swiss cheese

2 – 3 c crab meat

1 T Worcestershire

Lemon pepper to taste

1 c mayonnaise

½ c sliced olives

Sourdough sandwich rolls

Parmesan cheese

Mix one cup of grated Swiss cheese with 2-3 cups of crab meat

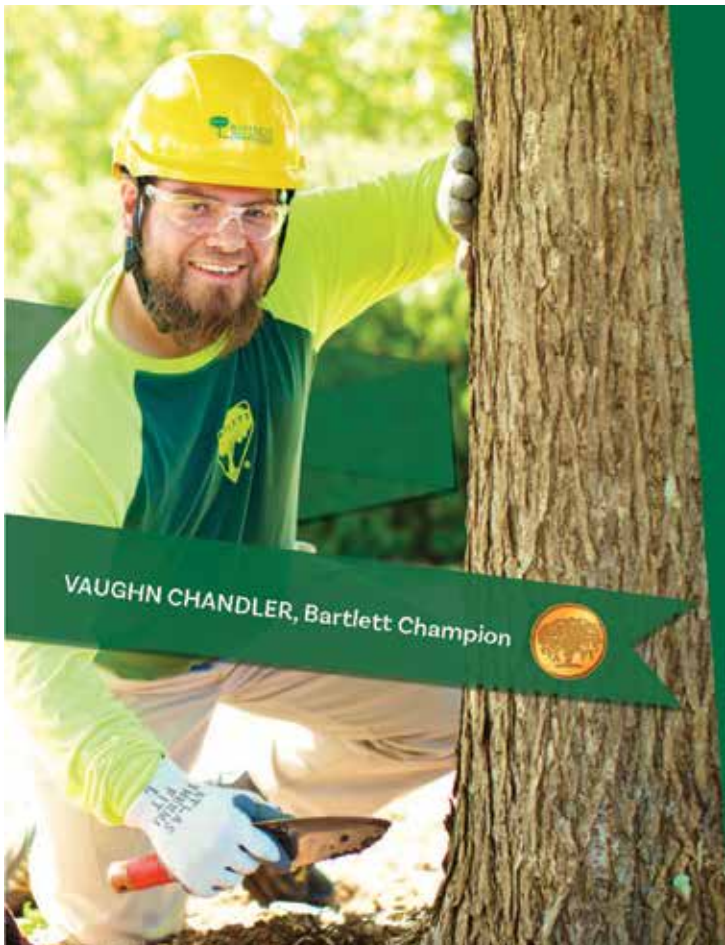
Add one teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce and a dash of lemon pepper

Mix in 1 cup of mayo and 1/2 cup of sliced olives

Paint the rolls with garlic butter and then it's time to stuff a sour dough sandwich roll

Hollow out the inside of each side of the roll and stuff mixture in each side

Spread a generous amount of grated parmesan cheese across the top of each roll side. Slide them into a 375-degree oven for seven to ten minutes.



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EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.

GRANT'S GETAWAYS STUFFED COCKLE CLAMS



PHOTO CREDIT: GRANT'S GETAWAYS

- 20 medium live cockle clams**
- 4 ounces butter**
- 2-4 cups of clam broth**
(I like to use the clam cooking water)
- 1 lb ground Italian sausage**
- ½ cup diced white onion**
- 8 cups unseasoned croutons**
(I like unseasoned bread stuffing)
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley**
- 1-2 cups of unseasoned breadcrumbs**

Directions: preheat the oven to 400 degrees f.

In a medium pot, bring 6 cups water to a boil over high heat. Place the clams in the pot and let them steam until they open, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove the clams and strain the water from the pot (which is now clam broth) and reserve it for later use.

Remove the meat from the shells and when cool, clean out the clams' stomachs and then chop into

chunky 1/4-inch pieces or use a food processor. (Don't over process, the meats should be chunky.)

The shells are set aside for later use. Make sure to remove any muscles left on the shells and discard any broken shells.

In a large skillet, over medium-high heat, melt the butter and add sausage and onions and parsley and cook until the onions become translucent.

Add the chopped clam meat and cook for 3 to 4 minutes longer.

In a large mixing bowl, add the clam broth to the croutons and fold together. When the croutons have absorbed the broth, add the hot ingredients to the bowl.

Incorporate all of the ingredients, and add enough plain breadcrumbs until the mixture is stiff. (I like it to be the consistency of bread dough.)

Divide the mixture into balls, about 5 ounces each or 3 inches in diameter and place firmly into the shells.

Place the shells on a sheet pan into the oven until the outside of the stuffing is toasted brown, approximately 10 minutes. The stuffed clams are now ready to be served.

Grant's Getaways on KGW

[www.kgw.com/
grants-getaways](http://www.kgw.com/grants-getaways)

Grant's Getaways
at Travel Oregon

[www.traveloregon.com/
trip-ideas/grants-getaways](http://www.traveloregon.com/trip-ideas/grants-getaways)

Grant's Getaways
is produced in partnership with
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Oregon State Marine Board

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Friends with Benefits



Calendula mixed with vegetables.

PHOTO CREDIT: EXTENSION.ILLINOIS.EDU

Companion planting is an excellent way to help your vegetables thrive and keep pests at bay.

by Therese Gustin

Just as we humans tend to thrive with companionship, plants can benefit from companionship as well! The definition of companion planting is combining certain plants together that can increase the health of the surrounding plants by attracting beneficial or repelling damaging insects as well as creating an environment for the plants to thrive. They can provide nutrients, support or shade and can be part of a more natural pest control program for your garden. The benefits of companion planting are not quite an exact science but have been discovered over years and years of observations.

One of the most familiar examples of companion planting is the Three Sisters trio of

corn, beans and winter squash which was routinely planted by Native American communities and subsequently adopted by settlers. The tall corn acted as a support system for the climbing beans, the large-leaved, low growing squash plants shaded the ground to prevent moisture loss and suppressed weed growth and the prickly leaves deterred insect pests. The beans were “nitrogen-fixers” which made nitrogen available to the corn and squash. A win-win-win situation!

The Farmer’s Almanac lists these reasons to plant certain crops together:

- Detering pests: Certain plants act as insect repellents or deter critters. For ex-

ample, garlic's smell is unappealing to many pests.

- **Attracting beneficials:** Some plants also attract beneficial insects. For example, borage attracts pollinating bees and tiny pest-eating wasps.
- **Shade regulation:** Large plants provide shade for smaller plants in need of sun protection. For example, corn shades lettuce.
- **Natural supports:** Tall plants, like corn and sunflowers, can support lower-growing, sprawling crops such as cucumbers and peas.
- **Improved plant health:** When one plant



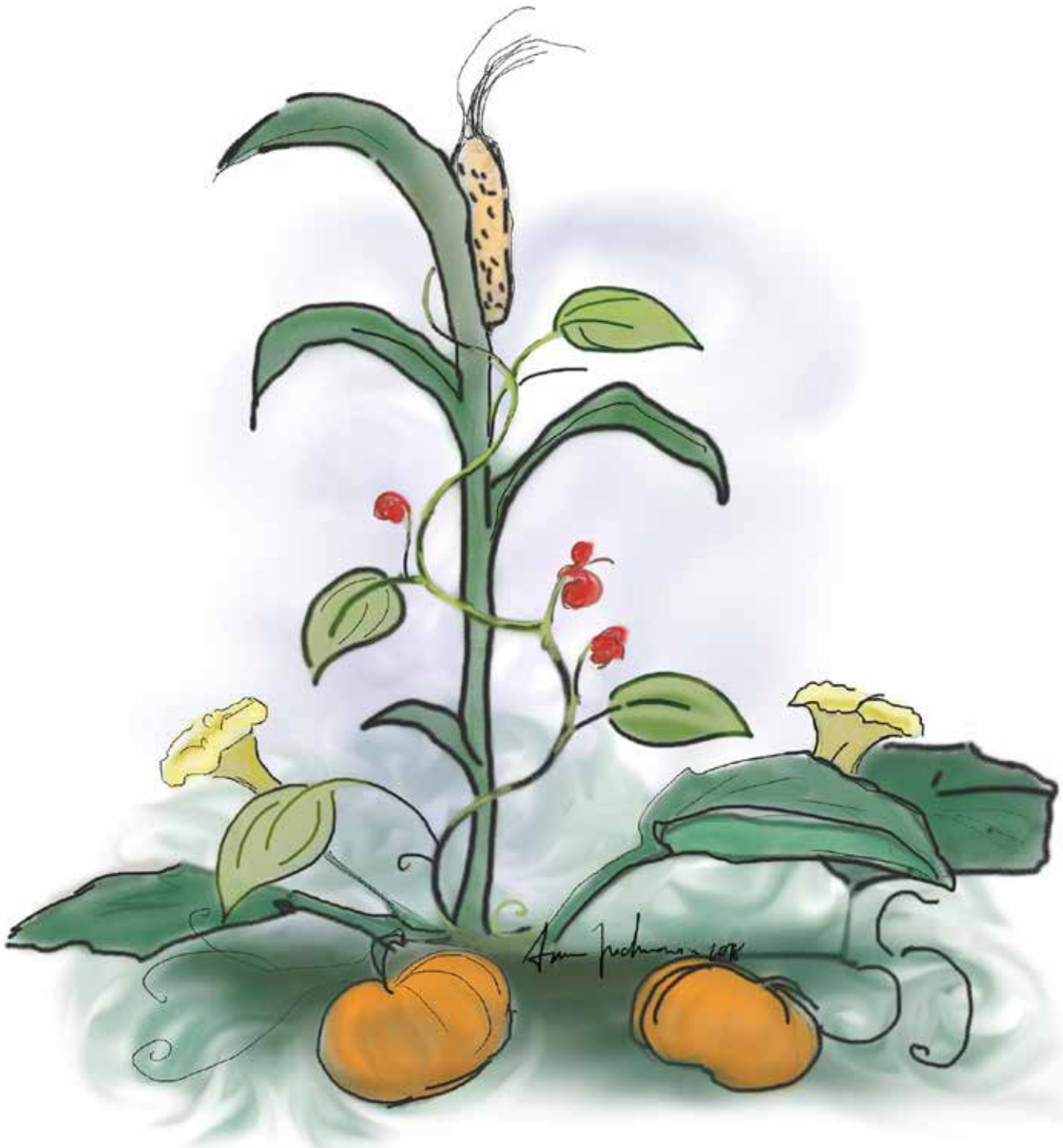
Nasturtiums with Aphids

PHOTO CREDIT: DELVENTHAL VIS FLICKR.COM



Companion Planting

PHOTO CREDIT: FARMERSALMANAC.COM



The Three Sisters companion planting technique.

absorbs certain substances from the soil, it may change the soil biochemistry in favor of nearby plants.

- Improving soil fertility: Some crops, like beans, peas, and other legumes, help to make nitrogen more available in the soil. Similarly, plants with long taproots, like burdock, bring up nutrients from deep in the soil, enriching the topsoil to the ben-

efit of shallow-rooted plants.

- Weed suppression: Planting sprawling crops like potatoes with tall, upright plants minimizes open areas, where weeds typically take hold.

Adding flowers to your vegetable garden not only adds beauty but can also repel pests and attract beneficial insects. Any-

one who has planted nasturtiums in their garden may have noticed they are aphid magnets! Calendulas are another flower that will attract aphids. By planting these “sacrificial” plants, you may be able to keep pests off your desirable vegetables. They also have the benefit of attracting pollinators to your garden.

Portland Nursery recommends planting plants that are known to benefit each other (friends) within two or three rows of each other. They recommend keeping plants that have detrimental effects on each other (foes) at least two to three rows apart. Those detrimental effects may include attracting the same pests or diseases. They also recommend planting neutral plants in among the friends and foes.

This year when you plan your vegetable garden, consider including companion planting into your design. It just might make for a ‘friendlier’, healthier vegetable garden.

Portland Nursery's website has this comprehensive chart to show you which vegetables and herbs are ‘friends’ and ‘foes’.

<https://portlandnursery.com/docs/veggies/CompanionPlanting.pdf>



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Beetroot, spinach, rocket, goat cheese
and pumpkin seeds salad.

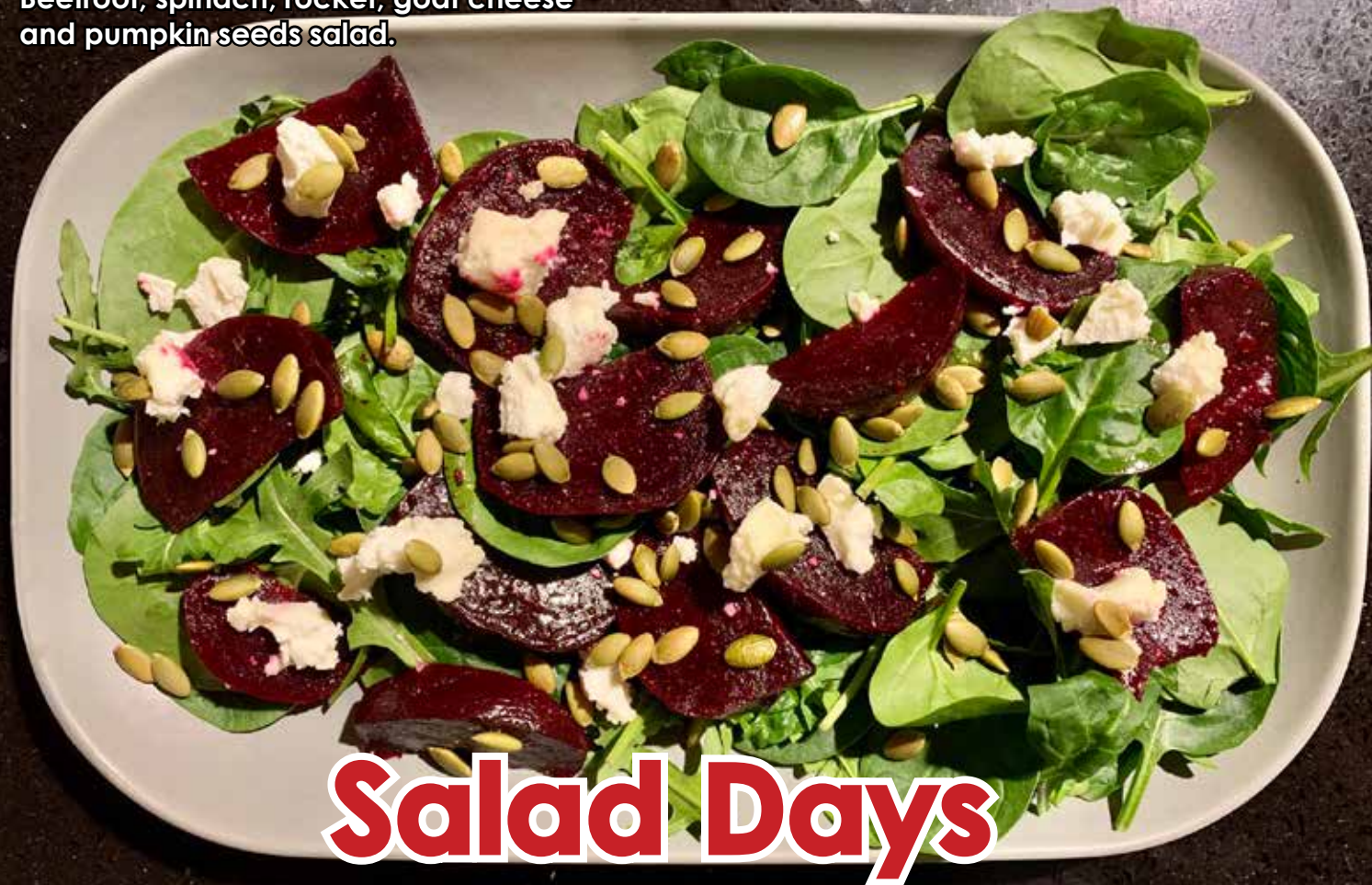


PHOTO CREDIT: KGBO VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Salad Days

As you begin to plan your vegetable garden, let us remind you that *lettuce* is just one of many edible salad greens that you can grow.

by Ron Dunevant

One of the benefits of gardening is the ability to grow some of your own food. Even the casual gardener can harvest an ample supply of herbs for seasoning, fruit for pies and jams, and vegetables for soups and sides. But what about that great American first-course, the salad? Sure, we add a few dices of our tomato bounty, maybe even a slice of zucchini or a carrot. But what about the salad, itself?

It's easy to save time by bringing home a bag of romaine or a head of iceberg lettuce from your local store, but there are many more interesting and delicious greens that you can combine to create a salad. And growing them yourself is both simple and satisfying, especially right now, when the days are starting to get longer and warmer but the nights are still cool. It's the perfect time to grow leafy greens, like lettuce, spinach, arugula, chard and more.

Many of these greens can sustain themselves from spring all the way into fall. That means fresh salad for most of the year! Have you heard of the "cut and come again" method? It is a vegetable harvesting technique that allows you to get several yields from the same plant by cutting away the mature leaves and letting young leaves continue to grow. This approach can give you a continuous supply of fresh vegetables and can be applied to many of the greens listed below, including chard, kale, beet greens, spinach, arugula and bok choy. You can continue to do this until the leaves start to take on a bitter or unpleasant taste, usually after about three complete cuttings.

Here are some of the varieties of edible greens that you should consider adding to your garden this year. They'll help you create a fresh, delicious salad that will be the envy of all your

neighbors (and perhaps a few rabbits!)

Lettuces

Let's face it. When you think of salad, the first thing that pops into most people's heads is lettuce. In addition to iceberg lettuce, there is also butterhead and romaine. Like iceberg, these two varieties also form a head and add a lot of crunch to your salad. Romaine is very nutritious and used in Caesar salads. The taste is strong but not overpowering. Butterhead lettuce (which includes Boston lettuce and Bibb lettuce) has a texture that is soft and buttery.

There are also loose-leaf and oak leaf lettuce varieties. Loose leaf lettuce is one of the simplest to grow in home gardens and is therefore the type grown by most home gardeners. Loose leaf lettuce varieties are those lettuces that do not form a compact head. Their flavor tends to be mild and sweet. Some of these varieties are 'Deer Tongue,' 'Green Ice,' 'Prizehead,' and 'Grand Rapids'.

Lettuces need extra attention because they can be easily damaged by frost. Be sure to cover yours with a frost blanket if cold weather is forecast. (If your bag of lettuce has ever accidentally frozen in your vegetable drawer, you know how quickly it can become limp and slimy.)

Lettuce likes full sun to partial shade, but make sure you protect it on extremely hot days, as it tends to bolt if it gets too much heat. Bolting is when a plant sends up a flower stalk and goes to seed. For plants grown for their leaves, such as lettuce, spinach, arugula and cabbage, this can cause the flavor to turn bitter and the leaves to get tough.

Kale

Kale is one of those vegetables that is being touted as a "superfood." Some people love it, others are not convinced of its virtues. And while it was used primarily as a cooking green until a few years ago, raw kale is finding a place in salads, especially when rubbed with olive oil.

In the home garden, kale is a fast grower, so you'll need to keep the soil moist. Plants can be set out quite early in the spring, but will need to be protected from severe cold by covering the young plants. Once the weather gets too warm, your kale will stop producing, but, you can plant



Oak Leaf Lettuce

PHOTO CREDIT: BJANKULOSKI06EN
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Kale

PHOTO CREDIT: RASBAK
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Endive

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMAIN
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Mustard Greens



Pak Choi



Beet Greens

a second crop when things cool down in the fall.

Endive

Classified as a type of chicory, endive is slightly bitter and adds a savory flavor to soups and salads. Endive grows in a manner similar to lettuce because it is from the same family. There are two types: The narrow-leaved variety is called curly endive. Another variety with broader leaves is called escarole. While they are both terrific in salads, endive can also be cooked, which softens the sharp flavor into a mellow, nutty sweetness.

Leaves harvested when they are young are less bitter. There are also some varieties that have a sweeter taste, so do a little taste-testing to find a variety that suits your palate. Many lovers of endive embrace the bitterness as a counterpoint to sweet and sour flavors.

Pay attention to when you plant your endive. It takes 80-90 days for it to be ready for harvest, but it absolutely needs to be picked before the first frost of fall, or else it will be ruined.

Mustard Greens

These aptly named “bitter greens” have a sharp, peppery taste akin to a strong radish. They can be eaten raw or cooked, steamed, simmered or sautéed much like spinach. Both the leaves and stalks can be eaten, but they will be at their most tender if they are harvested while young. As the weather warms, they tend to become more pungent and tough.

Mustard is an excellent crop for the cool seasons. It has interesting leaves that range in color from bright green to purple. The greens are popular in many dishes, including microgreens, stir-fries and curries. There are a number of species including black, white and brown. This is another crop that may bolt when the weather gets extremely warm.

Mustard Greens fall into two categories, western and Asian. The western varieties include mustard spinach which has dark green leaves that resemble spinach and common mustard (curly-leaf), which has frilled oval leaves. Asian mustards include mibuna, komatsuna, and mizuna.

Pak Choi (Bok Choy)

Sometimes called Chinese cabbage, Pak Choi is a leafy member of the cabbage family and is often used in Asian dishes. The tender leaves have a flavor that is akin to mild cabbage or spinach. The leaves can be served raw in salad, or cook them by steaming, stir frying or sautéing.

Use the top part of the plant, discarding the bottom of the stems. Like some other greens, pak choi can be prone to bolting in hot weather, so it is recommended to grow it in partial shade and keep it well watered.

Beet Greens

Beet plants, which are primarily grown for their roots, also have a delicious and nutrient-rich portion, the greens at the top of the plant. Its mild, sweet and earthy flavor takes on a delicate, silky texture when cooked.

If you harvest the leaves when they are about two inches long, they are excellent as an addition to your salad. Note that this method will delay the formation of large beets underground. If your focus is on growing the beets, you can pull



Arugula

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Mizuna

just a few outer leaves from the plant, saving most of them for after the beets are harvested.

Beet greens can be eaten raw or steamed, braised, sautéed, and added to soups. They are a great substitute for other greens such as spinach, Swiss chard and bok choy.

Arugula

The spicy taste of arugula makes it a popular choice for salads, sandwiches, nachos, wraps, even pizza. As a side salad, it is delicious with nothing more than a little extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper. It also works well as a base for other salad recipes and goes well with tomatoes, pears, mushrooms, lemon, garlic, cucumbers, basil, almonds, cheese, chicken, pancetta and more.

To keep arugula from becoming too peppery and bitter, harvest it often, as the plant can grow up to three feet tall if left unchecked. As long as you don't pull the stems, arugula will grow back when cut. This is another variety that will bolt quickly in heat.

Mizuna

Mizuna is a type of mustard green (as mentioned above), and has deeply serrated leaves and a peppery flavor with a slight mustardy bite. The green and purple varieties are great for adding color and a pungent flavor to your salads. Mizuna is grown like a loose-leaf lettuce and can be harvested using the "cut and come again" method.

Mizuna is best from spring through summer. It will be ready for harvest about four weeks after sowing. Unlike many leafy greens, it is slow to bolt in hot weather.

Chard

Also called Swiss chard, silverbeet, spinach beet and crab beet, this vegetable is a standout for its brightly colored stems in hues of pink, red, yellow and orange, and makes a dramatic addition to a plate of greens.

Chard is wonderful when eaten raw in salads. It is also excellent in sandwiches or wraps, boiled, sautéed, braised or when added to soups and casseroles.

It is an extremely healthy addition to your diet,



Swiss Chard



Spinach

as it contains large amounts of vitamin K, vitamin A and high levels of nitrates, which have been shown to lower blood pressure.

Spinach

Popeye's favorite and the favorite of many home gardeners. Another superfood, spinach is full of antioxidants and iron and its mild flavor allows it to integrate into a number of dishes, including soups, pasta and smoothies.

The young, milder leaves can be eaten raw in a salad. Older leaves are usually cooked. This is another variety that is subject to bolting in hot weather. As long as you are careful not to damage the growing point of your spinach plant, it should regrow for two or more harvests.

Growing your own salad greens is a healthy and rewarding endeavor and you should be able to grow most of these varieties in your yard from spring into the fall, barring an unusually hot summer. As the weather cools down in autumn, you can extend the growing season by setting up a cold frame or covering at night with a frost blanket. You'll get the best results if you keep the blanket from touching the leaves of the plant, so some means of support such as pipes or stakes is necessary.

So, let us head out to the garden and plant some greens. After all, these are the salad days!



Endive salad with nuts coated in caramel.

PHOTO CREDIT: LABLASCOVEGMENU VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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Garden Time

The Suspect was Collard

I was searching through an assortment of summertime produce when I encountered the largest leafy greens I had ever seen. I had to investigate to determine what this vegetable really was.

by Judy Alleruzzo

Looking for a different green vegetable to grow or enjoy this summer? Why not try collards? This vegetable is not well known outside the southern United States but it's a good leafy green to try in your vegetable garden. Collards are grouped together with kale, cabbage and broccoli in the Brassica family and are high in vitamin A and calcium. Collards love hot weather but also are frost tolerant, so you can sow a second crop in July for a late fall greens crop.

According to OSU, you can sow seeds indoors and plant out in April or direct sow the seeds, following the seed pack instructions. Harvest will be in about 9-12 weeks depending on planting date and variety. Check out the link listed below. The information is for commercial growing, but you'll get the gist of growing collards.

A few years ago, a friend went on a summer vacation and asked me to pick up her fruit and vegetable share from 'Our Table Cooperative' CSA (Community Sustainable Agriculture).

It was an amazing assortment of summertime produce, several tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, broccoli and the largest leafy greens I had ever seen. I had to look at the farm's chalkboard to understand what this vegetable really was! It was collards. I had heard about them sure, but never had seen them up close and personal. So now I knew what they were, how do I cook them? Luckily, the Our Table website

included recipes to share with the weekly harvest. I found an interesting one, Collard Green & Peanut Pesto. I know how to make pesto with basil and even arugula, so I was certain I could master this recipe. Translation, it's an easy recipe, plus any recipe with bacon is a great recipe. I emailed Our Table Cooperative, and staff person Barb sent me the recipe to share with all of you. The recipe originally was created by Sean Fowler, chef and owner of Mandolin in Raleigh, North Carolina.

This spring, while you're planning your vegetable garden, plant a few collard plants and if there's no room in your garden, take a drive to Our Table Cooperative in Sherwood or check out your local Farmers' Market for fresh collards and enjoy this delicious recipe to try this summer.

MORE INFORMATION

Our Table Cooperative

(Scroll down to Collards section for more recipes)

<https://www.ourtable.us/blog/springsummer-local-box-week-13>

Oregon State University

<https://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/oregon-vegetables/collards-and-kale>



COLLARD GREEN & PEANUT PESTO

Ingredients:

1 head garlic
10 pieces smoked bacon
(julienned)
1 lb. collard greens (stems
and ribs removed,
roughly chopped)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup toasted peanuts
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Parmesan cheese
1 cup extra virgin olive oil
juice of 2 lemons
 $\frac{1}{2}$ TBS fish sauce
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cider vinegar
1 tsp salt
1 tsp black pepper
 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp red pepper flake



Preparation:

1. Place the head of garlic in a piece of aluminum foil and drizzle with olive oil. Add a pinch of salt and pepper. Wrap the garlic head tightly in the foil, place it on a baking sheet and roast at 400F for about an hour, until the entire head is soft throughout. Once the garlic is removed from the oven unwrap it and allow it to cool for ten minutes. Remove the cloves from the husk and set the soft roasted cloves to the side.

2. Slowly cook the julienned bacon in a sauté pan over low heat so that the fat is slowly rendered, and the bacon gets brown and crispy, around 10-15 minutes. Remove the crispy bacon from the pan with a slotted spoon or a strainer and place it on a dry paper towel to soak up the excess grease. Strain and reserve the rendered bacon grease from the pan.

3. Bring 2 gallons of water and 1 cup of salt to a rapid boil. Prepare an ice water bath off to the side. Blanch the collard greens for one minute in the boiling water. Remove them from the blanching pot and immediately shock them in the ice water bath. Once they are cold, remove them from the water bath, squeeze out any excess water, and set them aside.

4. Place your toasted peanuts into your food processor. Pulse twelve times for one-second intervals. Add the Parmesan and roasted garlic to the food processor bowl and pulse another 12 times for a second at a time.

5. Add the collards, olive oil, lemon juice, fish sauce, bacon grease, vinegar, salt, black pepper, and red pepper flake to the food processing bowl. Process for a minute or until the pesto comes together to the desired consistency. Scrape down the sides of the bowl halfway through, if necessary. Fold the bacon into the pesto or reserve it to use as a garnish later.

6. Cover your pesto and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Serving Suggestions:

1. Fold some of your pesto into cooked fettuccine, serve over grilled asparagus, and garnish with the bacon bits and a poached egg.
2. Serve over grilled cobia or swordfish.
3. Serve, as a canapé, on crostini or crackers with chèvre

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Seth Pauley at work on another Red Pig Tool.

The Toolmaker

Seth Pauley, owner of Red Pig Tools, works hard to make our work in the garden easier.

by Therese Gustin

Each month we feature someone in the horticulture industry whose contribution to the gardening community is second to none. Most months we feature an individual who specializes in growing plants, but this month I want to highlight someone who makes our gardening experience just a little bit easier. That "Hortie" is Seth Pauley, owner of Red Pig Garden Tools. Those of you who've had the pleasure of using one of these handcrafted gardening tools know just how special they truly are!

Seth, like many who've chosen horticulture as their business, took a circuitous path to his ultimate profession. Seth has a bachelor's degree in history from Concordia University in Montreal,

Quebec, Canada. He studied in classics as well as peace and conflict studies at the University of Colorado and has a master's degree in Creative Writing from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. He worked for a couple years in publishing as an editorial assistant and then as a copywriter in New York City before starting his first business with a friend. They took standardized tests and technical manuals and created a methodology for turning them into scripts and recording accessible audio versions. They did a lot of work for the American Foundation for the Blind at that time. During and immediately after graduate school, he taught writing courses at Temple University, wrote freelance articles, edited for various publications, and worked as an on-site wood finish restorer.

He then moved into ecommerce, internet marketing, and management for two different niche American manufacturers.

All his craft, artisan, and business education was acquired through real life experience. He spent two years working in a ceramics studio with an artist learning to work with porcelain. He spent another year working with a spot refinisher, learning to repair wood finishes without stripping them. How did a history degree and Master's degree in Creative Writing morph into a blacksmithing career? In Seth's words...

"I've always been interested in pre-industrial crafts and artisanship, history, and storytelling. These are all aspects of what I saw Bob Denman doing in Red Pig Garden Tools, and I could see myself being happy doing it as well. When my wife, an art conservator, got the opportunity to work at the Portland Art Museum, we moved to Portland with our daughters. By then, I had been preparing for many years to start my own business and saving money to make it possible. I met my mentor, Bob Denman, at the Spring Garden Fair in Canby. Over the course of a few months of getting to know Bob and hanging around his shop to informally learn blacksmithing, I realized that we would both benefit if I committed to learning everything I needed to know to take over Red Pig Garden Tools. We came up with a plan for me to buy the business from Bob, which I did in 2017. Blacksmithing is a life-long practice of learning and I learn more every day from practice, from reading, and from seeking out the ideas and practices of other blacksmiths. I also spent around 10 years working directly with the owners of small American manufacturers helping them build their online businesses, which taught me a lot about



Red Pig Tools without handles.



More Red Pig Tools without handles.



Using the Forge



Grinding

running a small business.

That mentorship and friendship continues today. If you had asked me ten years ago if I could imagine myself making a living as an artisan blacksmith, I would have said no. Gardening has been a part of most of my life, and I helped to establish a school-community garden when my oldest daughter was just a toddler. It all came together kind of organically and has worked out very well."

In a world of mass-produced tools, it's refreshing to find a company that makes great quality relevant garden tools by hand. What I mean by relevant is one of the things that is so unique about Red Pig Garden tools. "Every person is unique and has their own physical and mental constraints to deal with. We try to make tools that suit the person as they are. The long ash handles we put on weeding tools and hoes are fit to around the height of the person so they can work to their side and keep their lower back straight while standing upright. This makes weeding more like sweeping. Hand tools have a 5 1/2" hickory handle for working down on the ground or an 18" handle for gaining additional reach into raised beds in particular. Our tools are heavier and stronger than most other tools people will find, and we try to be conscientious about how that impacts the ergonomics of the tool. We also adapt tools based on special needs or requirements for gardeners who use wheelchairs, have trouble gripping certain tools, or have other non-standard needs."

When designing tools Seth says he keeps design very simple and customer driven. He usually starts with a specific customer need or request for a tool to do a specific type of work that none of his current tools are well suited

to do. Sometimes, it comes from seeing an older historic tool that serves as inspiration. He tries to understand the core, repeatable work that will be done with the tool, and think through any major ergonomic constraints. At that point, a quick sketch helps him work through the order of operations for building the tool using the wide range of techniques he has developed making other tools. He then builds a prototype if it is something he's considering introducing to his regular line up, or a finished product if it is a custom tool. He tries to work with a common aesthetic that makes all his tools recognizable." You'll often see grinder marks, full welds, and other visual indicators that the tool was hand-made rather than mass produced."

Red Pig Garden Tools sell around 200 unique garden tools - from hand tools like trowels, weeders, and cultivators - to long handled hoes, edgers, spades and more. Additionally, they restore and repair old tools, make custom reproductions of historic tools, and a wide variety of general blacksmithing from fireplace sets, to hooks and hardware, to gates, to signs, to yard accessories and art. They also sell a variety of garden accessories and high-quality garden tools made by Japanese and European companies.

Seth doesn't really have a favorite tool to make but admits that every tool has its unique character, its own challenges and problems to solve, and the tools evolve over time. He particularly enjoys making tools that involve a wide range of techniques but that look simple. For example, "Making a trowel the way we do involves between 15 and 20 steps including cutting, bending, hammering, welding, and drilling."

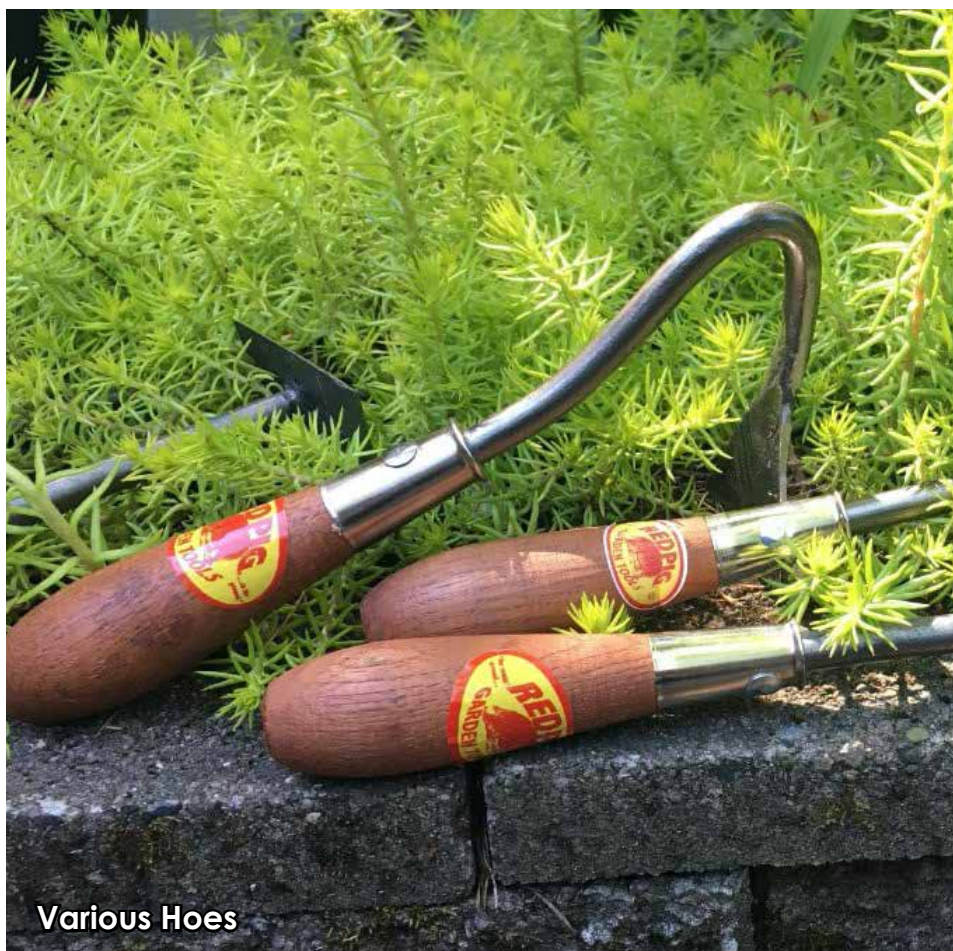




Seth at work

Creativity runs in the family. Seth's wife, an art conservator, has her own business (Art Solutions Lab) where she advises and carries out treatments and repairs for preservation of artwork owned by museums, government and non-profit organizations, artists and private individuals. They have two daughters who are very involved in art, music and robotics. They live in Lake Oswego. Seth's father also helps out with dropping off shipments.

Seth has been spending a lot of time introducing Red Pig tools to many new gardeners and educating gardeners of all ages and experience about garden tools and their uses. The best place to find Red Pig Garden Tools is on their website RedPigTools.com. He's also had booths at a number of events like GardenPalooza, the Master Gardeners Spring Garden Fair in Canby, Hortlandia, and home and garden shows. He has a line of tools named Piginor by Red Pig Garden Tools that people can find locally and around the country in independent retailers, boutiques, and nurseries/garden centers. Local customers can also come to his home workshop by appointment to look at or buy tools. He's hoping within the next year to have a commercial location where people can come and buy their tools and see them making them at the same time.



Various Hoes

And Seth's future plans? "I'd like to share Red Pig Garden Tools with even more people around the region and country as the place to buy the best quality, American made, artisan forged garden tools. I now have two assistants who I'm teaching to make our most popular tools. Once they are fully trained - it can take 1-2 years of teaching and practice to learn the range of skills needed to make our tools - we'll be in a good position for the next leg of growth. It has

been a real challenge to keep up with the growing demand, and we now have to make more tools each year than I can do on my own. We will continue to expand the number of locations selling our Piginor line of tools, especially outside the Portland area. And in the Portland area, we will set up a commercial location, once we find just the right spot. The goal is to have a permanent home where people can drop in year after year to buy tools, learn about gardening and blacksmithing, take classes, and commission custom work."

He wants to tell stories of each of his tools and teach people how to use them through online videos and he's also working on a couple of book concepts that he would like to complete in the next year or two. One covers varieties of the tools he makes, their stories, and he hopes to document the work process with photos showing the techniques he uses to make his tools. The other explores some of the challenges and rewards of building an artisan-based business and deals largely with the question of developing mastery within a craft.

Seth has lofty ambitions for his future and leaves us with this humble quote "Lastly, but maybe most important... I see a lot of value and potential in building a community around artisan work. As gardeners know - over time, if you practice patience, apply knowledge, and work hard on a consistent basis, something wonderful can grow."



Seth Pauley at work.



Red Pig Tools

Red Pig Tools

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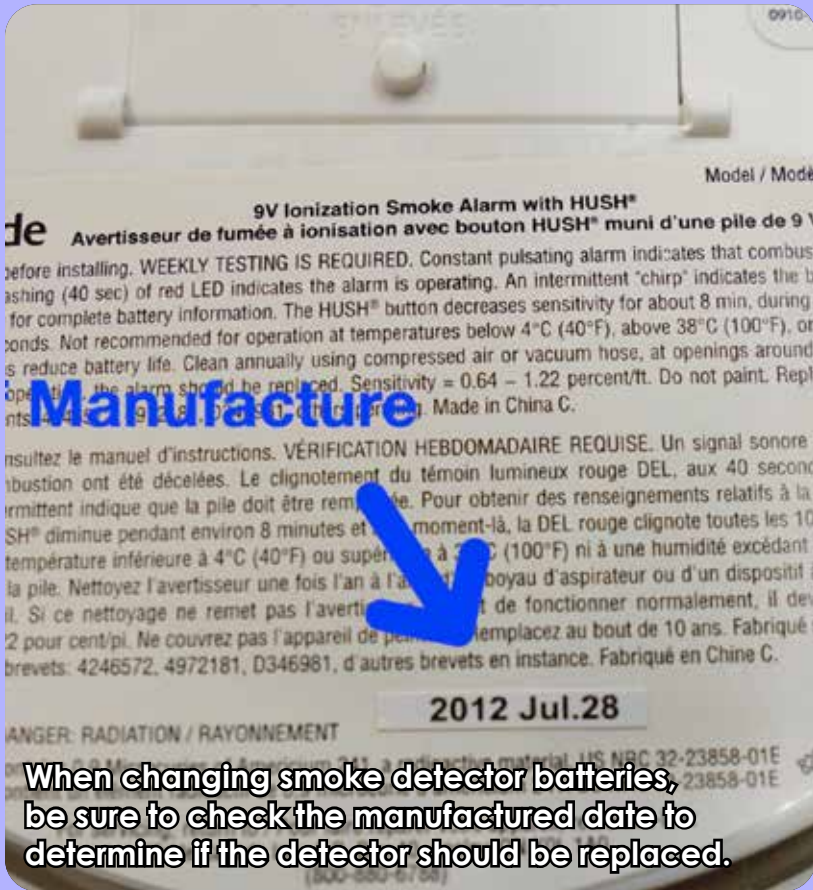


A Clean Sweep

If it's spring, that means one thing. Or does it? Most of us associate spring with spring cleaning and the practice of a thorough cleaning of the house. While I fully support a good house cleaning, I would suggest that the scope be broadened to include other chores that should be done in spring as well.

It's time to incorporate some other inside and outside chores to your spring list. To get started, here are ten suggestions starting with inside chores and finishing up outside.

by David Musial



When changing smoke detector batteries, be sure to check the manufactured date to determine if the detector should be replaced.

Smoke and CO Detectors

It is recommended that smoke detector batteries be replaced twice a year, once in fall and once in spring. This is both sound advice and can be life saving. Of less importance, but somewhat annoying is that smoke detectors make a chirping sound when the batteries are low and it always seems to be at night. With regular battery changing this can be avoided.

Your detectors may be battery operated or hardwired. What is confusing is that even hardwired units have batteries that require replacing. When replacing batteries, follow the listed directions and test the unit once the batteries have been installed.

It should also be noted that it is recommended that smoke detectors be replaced every ten year years. If you didn't write the date they were installed, take a look on the inside and you will likely see a manufactured date. If over ten years, it's time to replace.

HVAC Filters

The changing of heater, ventilation and AC (HVAC) filters has been written before, but the importance cannot be over emphasized. The heater has worked hard over the winter and the filter has trapped all sorts of dirt and contaminates which ultimately makes the unit work harder. This results in an increased energy bill and decreased unit life. If you're out buying filters, buy a four pack so you're set for several months.



Changing a furnace filter is easy once you learn how.

Refrigerator Coils

After the HVAC system, the refrigerator is probably the next most expensive and important appliance in your house. Like the HVAC system some simple routine maintenance will extend the life and efficiency of the unit.

In the case of the refrigerator, what is required is the cleaning of the condenser coils. They contain refrigerant to cool the unit and as they are exposed, not internal, they have a tendency to collect dust which, as mentioned, reduce performance and life. These coils are located either at the base of the fridge or on the back.

If the fridge has the coils at the base, you will see a grill at the bottom of the fridge. Otherwise, the coils will be on the back of the fridge. You will need an inexpensive condenser coil brush prior to starting and you should be able to find at your local hardware store.

First step for either coil location is to unplug the refrigerator. It will only be for a few minutes so won't impact the food but do remember to plug back in when done. If the condensers are behind a grill, remove the grill and if on the back of fridge; roll the fridge out to access the back.

Put on a mask and carefully maneuver the brush around the coils to remove the dust and periodically vacuum what has been dislodged. A flashlight will help you see your progress, in particular if the coils are at the base of the fridge. When done, replace the grill or roll the fridge back in place and remember to plug the unit back in. It's that simple.

Note that if you have never done this before to your coils, it may be a longer job than subsequent cleaning.



Refrigerator base coils in need of cleaning.



Refrigerator coil brush.



Refrigerator base coils after cleaning.



Waiting this long to clean the dryer exhaust can be dangerous and decrease dryer efficiency.

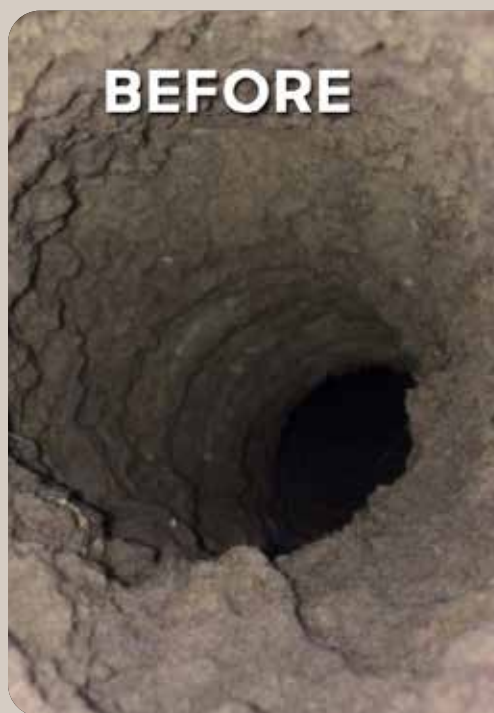
Clothes Dryer

We all know to clean the lint filter in our clothes dryers; and hopefully do after each use, but most of us don't routinely inspect the exhaust side of the dryer which includes the dryer exhaust vent, wall duct and the exterior exhaust vent. Not only can a buildup of lint lead to fires, but it affects the operating efficiency of the dryer.

Depending on the configuration of your dryer, there are some specialized tools that you may need in addition to your vacuum cleaner. Such as a flexible vacuum crevice tool, dryer vent cleaning brush or a dryer lint brush.

In general, the steps will be to unplug the dryer and carefully move from the wall to gain access to the back of the dryer. Be mindful of the hose attached to the dryer. Once the hose is removed from the dryer and the wall, you will be able to access the dryer exhaust vent and wall duct for cleaning. Once you're done and put back together, inside the exterior exhaust vent will need to be examined and cleaned. For detailed steps, consult your manufacturer's instruction.

If you have a gas dryer, it would be recommended to contact a professional to avoid damage to gas lines that can result in a gas leak.





Draining a hot water heater.

Drain Hot Water Tank

Most of us take our hot water heater for granted until you're ready for a shower and all you get is cold water. Although hot water tanks are expected to need replacing over time, one thing you can do to extend the life is to drain the tank.

Over time, sediment builds up on the bottom of the tank and can lead to clogs. This sediment is made up of mineral and other debris, and draining the tank removes the sediment, resulting in an increased tank life.

Although the steps to drain the tank are simple, if this is a job you have not tackled in the past, I would suggest doing a quick Google search for instructions. It can help save damage to the water heater as well as avoid having the water drain where you don't want it.

Pest Control

There are three steps to controlling pests, identification, cause and mitigation.

The first step is to determine if you have a visible pest problem. This requires a tour of your home both inside and outside. Look for signs of insects or animal droppings. Be sure to inspect cupboards and crawl spaces. It would also be suggested that during the inspection to proactively identify areas that could attract pests in the future and should be rectified. This could include areas with moisture that attract insects, cupboards or other areas with spilled food and small cracks or crevices in doors, vents or foundations that could allow mice entry.

If signs of pests are present, the next step is to determine the cause or where they are coming from and why. The reasons can be many and can depend on the pest. If you can't determine the cause, but know the pest, a little online research can help isolate the most likely cause.

Mitigation is dependent on the pest and has two steps. Removing the pests and creating necessary barriers to deter in the future.



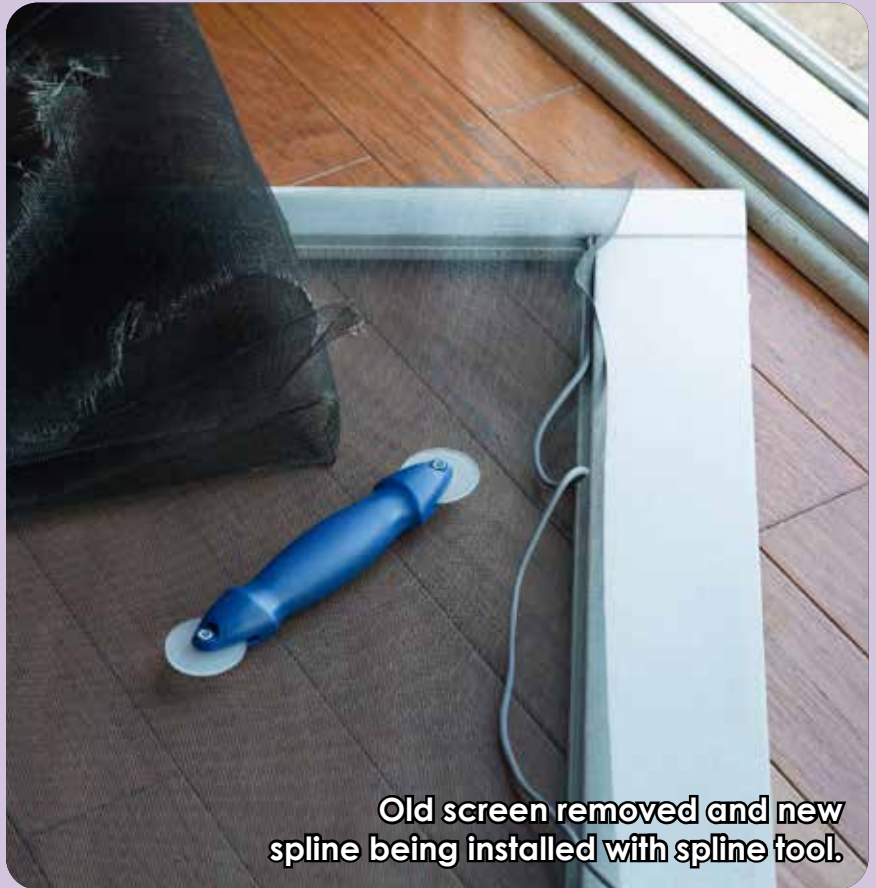
Check for evidence of pests.

Exterior Windows and Screens

Windows and screens should be inspected for weather damage. Broken windows will be obvious, but caulking of windows will require closer inspection. If the caulking is cracked or deteriorating, it will need to be removed, the surface cleaned and recaulked.

Damaged window screens are easy to repair with replacement screen and a screen spline tool. It's as simple as removing the old screen and spline; the rubber piece that holds the screen in the screen channel (see photo), cutting a slightly larger piece of screen, use the spline tool to replace the spline and secure the screen, cut excess screen and replace screen in the window.

Note that I can attest to the ease of replacement as we have cats that enjoy kneading their paws on our screens, resulting in the need to replace the screens.



Old screen removed and new spline being installed with spline tool.

PHOTO CREDIT: TANDCGLOSS.COM



When cleaning gutters, safety first and this photo clearly shows what is not safe.

PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.FOREVERCLEANGUTTER.COM

Gutter Cleaning

Although most of the heavy gutter cleaning occurred in the fall and winter, with spring showers, it is a good time to check the gutters. Even most gutters with gutter guards that are 'guaranteed' not to clog require cleaning.

As always, safety is of prime concern. Know your limits and hire a professional when needed.



Modern and safe way to inspect your roof.

Roof Inspection

After a long winter, the roof generally takes a beating and should be inspected, much of which can be done safely on the ground...assisted by a pair of binoculars, if available.

Look for missing or loose shingles as well as shingles that are starting to curl. Additionally, check for buildup of moss that can cause shingles to buckle and potentially leak rain into the home. Additionally, as moss holds moisture, it can also cause wood decay. Moss treatments are available for the homeowner, but do require applying while on the roof.

If you have attic access, inspection should take place to ensure there are no signs of water leaks. Although water may not be visible, if mold or wood rot is present, it is a sure sign of water leakage.

Although most roof repairs will need to be done by a professional, with a self inspection you will know what to anticipate from the professional related to repairs.

Self Inspection

The tenth and last chore is to take care of yourself. Do a self inspection to determine what you need to renew yourself after a long winter. Spa day, hike in the woods, golf outing...your call. Enjoy, you deserve it.

In closing, might I suggest a method to tackle these new tasks? Spring is thirteen weeks long and if you tackle one of these ten chores each week-end, you will still have three week-ends with no chores. Since some are easy, you might tackle two in a week-end and add another free weekend to your calendar.

Lastly, I propose that this new list be added to the traditional spring cleaning checklist and be renamed the Spring Renewal Checklist. The sense of accomplishment knowing that you have completed much and are extending the life of your property is a great feeling.



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WTDITG

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But, for gardeners, March is more like a turtle: Slow and steady wins the race. Keep up with your gardening regimen, prune and fertilize--and stay ahead of the weeds. March is the month of Spring, and the bare branches of winter will soon be sprouting forth with color!

PLANNING

- Have you been making notes in your garden journal? It'll be fun to see what all you were able to accomplish this year when you look back on your notes!



- Do more vegetable garden planning to take advantage of all the space available. For instance, planting pole beans at the base of corn plants is a great combo! As the beans grow they have the corn to grow on for support and the beans add back to the soil nitrogen needed by the corn.

- We recommend you research some additional companion planting for your vegetable crops. By planting 'companion plants' together and keeping disagreeable plants apart, you can have the best production ever! If you can tweak your planting

plan to allow for these little natural friendships to develop, then your harvests will be more bountiful than ever!

Ed Hume's seed website has some good info on companion planting or you can find lots of companion planting information in a book by Louise Riotte, "Carrots Love Tomatoes".

Here are just three examples;

Beans like celery and cucumbers but do not like onions and fennel.

Corn lives happily with pumpkins, peas, beans and cucumber but does not like tomatoes!

Tomatoes like carrots, onions and parsley but don't plant them near cabbage or cauliflower.



PLANTING

- This is a good 'general' planting and landscaping month, an excellent time to start looking at what's available to add color and drama to your landscaping. More stock will be available this time of year and the plants can get off to a great start as the soil begins to warm up.

- Your last chance to buy bare root fruit trees is this month. You want to get the bare root trees planted before they leaf out, so hurry in to your local garden center to see what's available.

- Plant berry crops: Strawber-



ries, blueberries and all the cane berries like raspberries and blackberries, currants and gooseberries.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up perennials and divide daylilies, hosta, asters, garden mums and other summer and fall blooming perennials. Cut back dormant perennial grasses to 2" above soil.

- Fertilize trees and shrubs, if you haven't yet, with an all purpose slow release fertilizer. This is the 'last chance' month to apply this six-month slow release formula. You want it to be used up by

What To Do In The Garden

MARCH

your plants by the end of July. This way your plants will have the months of August and September to get toughened up for winter.



- Prune roses if you haven't yet. Thin them out, spacing the branches you leave for best sun exposure. Fertilize roses with a granular slow release fertilizer to keep them strong and healthy, making the rose bush better able to resist disease and insects. Watch for aphids as they love the new growth on roses.

- Prune flowering trees and shrubs when they finish flower-

ing. After forsythia's blooms fade is when you should prune it. Cut out up to 1/3rd of the stems or branches all the way down to the ground. This allows for the new stems to grow that will bloom next season. Look up pruning tips for each plant you are thinking of working on. Your research now will payoff later in better looking trees and shrubs.

- Spread compost over the veggie garden and landscape beds to help enrich the soil.

- Early spring is a good time to apply a lawn fertilizer with extra iron for moss control. The seed germination inhibiting iron will be gone in time for your grass seeding in late April.

- Weeds? Remember that if weeds are allowed to go to seed, more and more work will be added to your garden. Keep up with this task by pulling them or covering the weeds with newspaper and compost, letting them rot beneath and then turning them into the soil once rotted.

- Watch for slugs. Use Bonide's slug bait called 'Slug Magic' to kill slugs safely with its active ingredient, iron phosphate.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Check soil temperatures often this month to see what can be planted out by seed. Refer back to the soil temperature chart (in our January issue) for planting vegetables by seed out into the garden. The chart also lists the best soil temperatures for planting young starts.



- Vegetable garden: Apply organic compost to the soil. Spade in this amendment or roto-till. (If soil is still too wet, just spade in amendments as spading is better for the soil structure anyway).

- Start plants indoors, using good organic seed starting soil; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chives, green onions, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

- Plant seeds outdoors, unless otherwise specified; beets, garden peas, fava beans, cabbage starts, cilantro, garlic cloves, green onion starts, onion sets, shallots, mustard greens, spinach, swiss chard and radishes .

Plant most of the perennial varieties of veggies now like asparagus crowns, artichokes horseradish and rhubarb. Plant carrot seeds at the end of the month.

- Plant Walla Walla onion set starts and the dry white, yellow or red onion sets.

- Pick up your seed potatoes this month as soon as they are available, since they should be chitted first before planting. (It's not a mistake, we do mean chit!) 'Chitting' potatoes is a term that means pre-sprouting seed potatoes. Place the seed spuds in a single layer, eyes facing up, in a cool frost free (no lower than 50F) but well-lit space. Good strong



light, even sun, is best for creating the plump, strong stubby sprouts, not any long weak sprouts you see from stored potatoes. When the sprouts are about 3/4"-1" long the tubers can be planted out in the garden. Chitting first helps with an earlier and larger harvest.



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.

New Species and New Rhododendron Introductions

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 • 7:00pm

Willamette Heritage Center, Salem, OR

Salem Hardy Plant Society is pleased to announce Steve Hootman, Executive Director and Curator of the Rhododendron Species Garden in Federal Way Washington will be our March speaker. Steve is a well known plant hunter and excellent speaker who will discuss new species and new rhododendron introductions.

The presentation will be in-person at the Willamette Heritage Center (formerly known as Mission Mill), 1313 Mill St SE, Salem, on Tuesday March 1st at 7pm. The event is sponsored by Salem Hardy Plant Society and there is no charge to attend. Masks are required please. If you need further information please contact SHPS at SHPS147@gmail.com

Ladybug Nature Walk

Wednesdays, March 2-30, 2022

• 10:30am-11:30am

Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

Ladybug Nature Walks are a way for children ages 18 months-6 years (with an adult) to explore a local Portland park or natural area with a trained educator. Walks are child-directed and open-ended. Nature educators walk with the children in small groups, encouraging them to learn through questions, observation, and play. Groups move slowly through the park, stopping frequently, so children have time to notice the plants and animals around them. Each participating child gets to borrow a small

continued next column

ladybug backpack for the walk containing a few simple tools for exploring. <https://leachgarden.org/>

Raised Bed

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 • 12:00pm-1:00pm

VIRTUAL (ONLINE) EVENT,

OSU Extension Master Gardener

OSU Extension Master Gardener, 10 minute University, Noon time chat. Raised beds are a viable way to increase crop production through greater early warmth in the growing beds. Whether starting beds from scratch or improving yields in existing garden space, take time to consider options for raised beds, like incorporating cold frames, trellises, watering systems, and cold weather protection. These topics including the pros and cons of raised beds, material choices, and tips for construction and continued maintenance will be covered in this class.

Our speaker Sherry Holley is an Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener who teaches for the award-winning 10-Minute University™ Program. Sherry's expertise spans growing vegetables, fruiting trees, shrubs, and vines, and raised bed gardening. She has many educational videos to her credit. Sherry and her husband subsistence farm their home garden and several community garden plots. The class is free but advanced registration is required. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FTu4OK70RUKeoTzY5YF_fg

Talking "NUNO": Visionary Japanese Textile

Friday, March 4, 2022 • 3:00pm-4:00pm

continued next page



VIRTUAL (ONLINE) EVENT, Portland Japanese Garden

Japanese textile has never lost its craft spirit after industrialization. A celebrated cultural observer with a deep connection with Japan and the editor of the new book, *NUNO: Visionary Japanese Textiles*, Naomi Pollock, explores the creative world-vision of one of Japan's most inventive textile design studios through a captivating dialogue with Anne Higonnet (Art historian and professor at Barnard College/Columbia University).

For nearly four decades, NUNO Corp., headed by Reiko Sudo, has been trailblazing the world of Japanese textile art by refashioning the traditional textile-making through their innovative yet highly collaborative approach, rejuvenating the centuries-old craftsmanship while helping preserve it.

This free webinar, commemorating the book launch of *NUNO: Visionary Japanese Textiles* is co-organized by publisher Thames & Hudson and Portland Japanese Garden, and is open to the public through the registration link below. Japanesegarden.org

Planning a Vegetable Garden

Saturday, March 5, 2022 • 10:00am–11:00am
Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

It's time to start planning your summer garden! We'll cover starting seeds indoors, planning your garden layout, when to direct sow and transplant vegetables, herbs and more! \$10/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Habitat Enhancement at Leach Botanical Garden

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 • 10:00am-12:00am
Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR

continued next column

Join us in removing invasive weeds from the Leach Botanical Garden! This work helps to create new spaces and supports our collaborative Back 5 educational project. No experience necessary!

The Leach Botanical Garden is a hidden gem in outer SE Portland. Beyond the manicured paths of the garden are several acres of forests and fields which have become overrun by Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and other invasive weeds. The garden needs your help to become a healthy ecosystem again!

6704 SE 122nd Ave, Portland, OR 97236.
Leachgarden.org

Lane County Home & Garden Show Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2022

Lane Events Center- Fairgrounds, Eugene, OR

The Lane County Home & Garden Show Presented by NW Natural will showcase 225 exhibits for the home and garden! Explore over two acres of exhibits by home building & remodeling and landscaping & gardening experts. Meet the area's very best contractors who can help create your dream home and yard!

At this spring show meet everyone and see everything that can create your dream home and garden! Discover aisles of exhibits to see what's new for inside and outside of your home. Take home fresh ideas & design trends! See the latest in building and landscaping materials and tools. See all the elements to create stunning interiors and outdoor fine living spaces. Meet contractors, builders, remodelers, landscapers, suppliers and designers to kick off those spring projects.

Tour exhibits and shop the plant sales in the Convention Center. Learn "How-To" at 36

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PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town (continued)

Home & Garden Seminars from National HGTV Stars John Gidding and Rachel Young, and Garden Guru's Ciscoe Morris, Mary-Kate Mackey, and John Fischer "The Relaxed Gardener"! Remodelers will be sharing the secrets to successful Kitchen, Bath and Home remodels. The OSU Extension Service will present three days of culinary and gardening seminars, and the 4-H Small Animal "Show & Tell"! Eugenehomeshow.com

Little Sprouts Leprechaun Garden

Saturday, March 12, 2022 • 11:00am-12:30pm

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

TG will be helping your Little Sprout create a Leprechaun Garden. Cost: \$10.00. Garland-nursery.com

Intro to Mason Bees

Saturday, March 12, 2022 • 10:00am-11:00am

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Looking to get the maximum yield out of our fruiting trees and berries? Learn how easy it is to establish and maintain a backyard mason bee nesting station. Topics include life cycle, environmental needs, and nesting behaviors of mason bees. Cost: \$12/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Spring Fashion Preview

Thursday, March 17-Sunday, March 20, 2022

• All day

Als Garden & Home, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, Wilsonville, OR

20% off new styles and more! Get inspired with the newest spring fashion. Refresh your wardrobe! www.als-gardencenter.com

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival

March 18-May 1, 2022

Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

continued next column

Our family is excited to invite you back to our farm for our 38th annual Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival. Experience the beauty of 40 acres of tulips and over 100 acres of outdoor space and activities this spring. We are again offering tickets online only this year to minimize crowds and allow for more time to enjoy our fields. We thank you all for the continued support for our farm and we look forward to bringing the beauty of the Willamette Valley to you and your family. With 40 acres of tulips, over 100 acres of outdoor space, and activities, the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival is identified as one of the top spring attractions in the state of Oregon.

A FARM NOTE: Tulips are an agricultural crop and therefore subject to weather, growing conditions and blooming variables. We cannot guarantee that the tulips will be in bloom on a particular date, so prepare to be flexible by 7 to 10 days in your visit. Stay tuned on Facebook or our Field Report for current field conditions. This is an outdoor event in an agricultural field with uneven walking surfaces. The event will not close due to bad weather.

We will be opening our day passes for our 2022 Festival on March 1st. Individual season passes available here. Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00am-6:00pm; Saturday and Sunday: 8:00am-7:00pm; Sunrise Entry: 5:00am-7:00am. www.woodenshoe.com

Succulent Wreath Workshop

Saturday, March 19, 2022

• 10:00am-11:30am, 2:00pm-2:30pm

Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Have you ever wanted to make a beautiful, living succulent wreath like the ones they sell at the high-end Floral Shoppes in Portland? Well now you can! We'll provide all the materials

continued next page



that go into making either a 14 or 20" Succulent Wreath, along with detailed & individual instruction in the making & care of your new masterpiece! Reserve your spot early as this class sells out quickly. \$65-\$85/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Kokedama

Saturday, March 19, 2022 • 12:00pm-2:30pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

If you're looking for a fun plant project, this is the class for you! Join Amy Jo as she walks you through the step-by-step process of making these amazing Japanese moss balls! Pre-registration required. Price: \$20.00. www.garlandnursery.com

Beginners Guide to Gardening

Sunday, March 20, 2022 • 1:00pm-2:00pm
Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

If you are brand new to gardening, this is the class for you! Our very own Mitch Pyles will be going over soil types, light requirements, gardening verbiage, and more in the beginner's guide to gardening! Sign-up requested but not required. Price: Free. www.garlandnursery.com

African Violet Sale

Saturday, March 26, 2022 • 10:00am-3:00pm •
9000 SE Division

Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

More details at www.portlandnursery.com

Bonsai Introductory Class

Saturday, March 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 classes

continued next column

and save! Only \$40.00 per person. Call to sign up: 360-225-8750 www.tsugawanursery.com

Cutting Gardens Part 1 -

Planning, Planting, Cutting

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

Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

Learn how to create beauty in your garden and bring it indoors. In the first class in this series you'll learn when, where and what to plant. Planting lists and ideas provided. A second class later in the season covers how to harvest your blooms and arrange them like an expert. \$25 for general public, \$10 for FRCC Members, free for Duchess level FRCC Members. Instructor: Kathy Whitman. 125 Rosemont Road West Linn, OR, 97068. Rogersonclematiscollection.org

Bonsai Continuing Class

Saturday, March 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 classes and save! Only \$40.00 per person. Call to sign up: 360-225-8750 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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Clark County Fair • Exercise Equipment Northwest • Ludeman's
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Terra Casa • Taggart's • Tsugawa Nursery**

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