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Spring into Action!

Every year when the weather starts to turn warmer and sunnier, I'm pushed outside into the garden and into a different state of mind. My disposition seems more positive and optimistic. I'm happier, less stressed and more excited for the coming season. The parade of colors with each new bloom just adds to my cheerfulness. This year though, the cheerfulness is tinged with a little sorrow. As you all know by now, the Garden Time show and magazine are approaching their end in their current form. We will continue to look for opportunities to pass the Garden Time torch to other owners, but for us (Therese and I), we are approaching the end of this version of the show and entering retirement.

We invite you to stay tuned, though, to the TV show and magazine, for our final three months until July as we will continue to bring you great gardening information. Our sorrow is softened by a bright future of possibilities; of spending more time with our family and friends, and with our new grandson. We want to thank everyone for their understanding and support.

This month we will 'spring' into action with some great stories to share. Our adventure of the month is a trip to our final GardenPalooza event. After a two year hiatus, we are back with a new location at Bauman's Farm and Garden in Woodburn for our 18th annual event on April 9th. What hasn't changed is the excitement of having some great garden vendors for you to enjoy. Therese will fill you in on all the details. We'll also meet Heather Schloe from Swan Island Dahlias. They are the largest grower of dahlias in the U.S., and she helps keep this beautiful business growing. Plus, since it is spring, Jan McNeilan talks about growing vegetables in the home garden. Finally, we slip into the kitchen and talk about the latest craze in cooking, Insta Pots, and how they compare with Air Fryers. You will need this information if you are cooking up some tasty dishes with all those summer vegetables you'll be growing this summer.

We also wanted to remind everyone that we also have our last Garden Time tour coming up in September. We are planning on visiting Holland and Belgium, and stopping by the Floriade. This is a once a decade garden adventure and we hope that you will join us. Check out this link for more information, www.gardentime.tv/tours.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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Dear Mortimer,

Every spring some of my plants and fruits get a grey mold on them. What is happening and can I prevent

> Signed, Puzzled in Prineville

Dear Puzzled,

A lot of gardeners find this type of mold on their plants in the spring, though it can appear at any time of year. Botrytis cinerea, or grey mold, is a very familiar fungus to grape growers, but local gardeners mostly notice it on their strawberries in the home garden. It grows when conditions are just right. It could start with some wet weather (or over watering) and then warmer conditions show up. This creates the prefect humid conditions for it to grow. It can also grow when you have warmer weather, followed by moisture or wetter conditions.

This 'soft rot' has brown spots and the telltale grey fuzzy mold. The spores travel easily, so it



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



is best that you try to limit the conditions for its growth, with good ventilation to prevent the buildup of moisture. Water in the morning and let the plant dry out during the day. You may also treat your plants with a fungicide to limit the growth. There are lots of commercial products on the market, so check with your local Extension office or your independent garden center.

Best of luck, Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I'm seeing ants earlier this season than in the past and some of them are looking a little different than the ones I've encountered in the past. These are appearing around my wood deck and the lower parts of my house and siding. What are the newer and larger ants that I'm seeing?

> Yours, Peter P.

Dear Peter,

Yup, it is that time of year. Usually ants are very active in the early spring as nests start building up again and in the fall when they seek a warmer and drier environment. The tiny ants that most people find in their kitchen or pantry



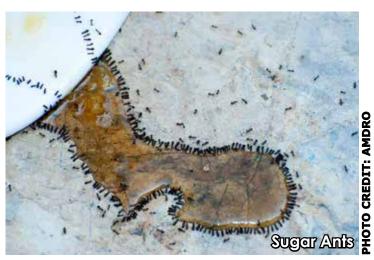
are the commonly called Sugar Ants. They are after food for the most part and don't do much damage, if any, to your home. They can be treated with numerous borax based and other commercial products. Just follow the package instructions for their safe use.

Based on your comment about the size, these sound like they are not your typical sugar ants. These may be termites or carpenter ants. Carpenter ants chew out spaces in damp or rotting wood. They don't eat wood, but the damage that they cause can do structural damage to your home or property. They look for any wood whether it is your home or trees, in fact they help break down old trees in the forest. They are not so nice for your home. Walk around your home and look for bits of sawdust, a sign of their burrowing. If you have your garden soil touching any wooden part of your home, siding for example, they will find an easier way to enter your home.

Termites are in a different category. These guys also eat/chew dead plant material, but they also eat cellulous, usually in the form of wood. They look different and have a large, single body with a head, and not the segmented body like most ants. You may also see some winged termites in an infested area in addition to sawdust/sand around areas where they may be nesting. They can form colonies in your landscape or in your home.

Sugar ants can be controlled by the homeowner, but termites and carpenter ants should be diagnosed and treated by a pest control company, especially if you see a lot of them. They will know where to look for damage and where to find the main colony. To identify the difference between the two you can check out images on-line.

Hope you can control your problem soon, Mortimer





One Last Spring Fling

Like a bear awakening from a long hibernation, Spring's premier gardening event rises in a new location to take a final curtain call.

by Therese Gustin

After a two-year break from GardenPalooza...it's back! For the 18th and final year for the Garden Time crew, GardenPalooza will celebrate all that is good about gardening! Yes, I said final year (unless someone would like to take it over). My husband Jeff and I have reached that time in our lives where we are ready to retire. As the Garden Time show and Garden Time magazine come to an end, so too does the widely popular GardenPalooza event.

We are honored to be partnering with our friends at Dramm, (www.rainwand.com) creators of those amazing high quality colorful watering tools, hoses, pruners and even fertilizer again this year as our title sponsor. Stop by the Garden Time booth to see what great Dramm products we have to give away this year. GardenPalooza is the perfect place to find that unique plant, garden accessory or perfect piece of garden art to enhance your garden.

There will be some new vendors and old favorites for your shopping pleasure. This year's event has moved to a new location. Bauman Farms will be hosting the GardenPalooza event this year at their location in Gervais, Oregon. Just a few miles south of Woodburn, Bauman Farms is located at 12989 Howell Prairie Rd NE, Gervais, OR just off Hwy 99 E. You'll find the ideal event that will fulfill all your



gardening desires! Saturday, April 9, 2022 marks the 18th year of this much anticipated exciting, fun and FREE event! Spend the day from 8:00am to 3:00pm at Bauman Farms in Gervais. Some of the most unique nursery and garden art vendors in the Northwest are all together in one location. It's a great opportunity to get a jump on your gardening needs. Come early and shop from over 30 local plant and garden art vendors who will tempt you with their gardening treasures.

The hosts of the Garden Time TV show, Ryan Seely and Judy Alleruzzo will be there and would love to meet and talk with you. Be sure to find them as they will be offering many drawings throughout the day. There will be drawings for Al's Garden Center and Portland Nursery gift cards. Ryan and Judy will be pulling tickets every half hour throughout the day. You must be present to win. Look for Ryan and Judy at the Garden Time booth for your tickets for the giveaways.

Don Sprague from Garden Gallery Iron Works has donated a potting table to give away this year as well. Sign up for the potting table giveaway at the Garden Time booth. The complimentary Plant Holding Area is located in front of the large greenhouse. You can drop off your purchases, go back for more shopping and when you are finished, drive around and pick everything up! If all that shopping wears you out, take a break and enjoy some delicious food. Bauman's will

Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



Local Events April 2022

Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 16, 2022 • 10:00am-4:00pm Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

Out of an abundance of caution, this year's event will be held completely outside. Talk with various environmental education organizations, peruse vendors offering eco-friendly products and services and enjoy children's activities, guided tours, food trucks and more. Free!

• www.oregongarden.org

Spring Open House Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 10:00am-4:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Join us in welcoming spring by celebrating our 85th Anniversary. The weekend is packed with great classes and amazing guests. Wine and spirit tastings, door prizes, refreshments, and specials.

www.garlandnursery.com

2022 Spring Garden Fair Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9:00am-5:00pm Sunday, May 1, 2022 • 9:00am-4:00pm Clackamas County Fairgrounds, Canby, OR

A two day event with over 140 vendors.

https://springgardenfair.org



capitolsubaru.com



be providing a food booth which will feature tacos, sandwiches and salads available for purchase. They will also be sampling their delicious ciders!

Be sure to pick up something delectable from their bakery to take home with you. If you bring your children, take a stroll and visit all of the farm animals while you are there.

One of the best parts of this family friendly adventure is that it is free to attend. There is plenty of free parking on site so all that savings can go towards supporting your plant addiction! If you check out GardenPalooza.com, you can print out vendor coupons, get directions, check out the parking situation, view pictures from past year's events and see which vendors will be participating. Add a dose of color to your garden! Rain or shine, put on your boots, come on down to Bauman Farms in Gervais and don't miss GardenPalooza 2022, sponsored by Dramm, Garden Time and Bauman Farms. Hope to see you there!

18th Annual GardenPalooza

Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 8:00am-3:00pm Bauman's Farm & Garden, Gervais

www.gardenpalooza.com





Because of being confined to home for the past two years, many have decided to try their hand at vegetable gardening. According to the National Gardening Bureau over 80% of first-time gardeners will be planting again this spring.

If you are a beginner, take advantage of other gardeners you know or the many educational resources available. Seasoned gardeners can always learn something new to try. Check out all of the links provided.

Gardening is not rocket science and can be very rewarding to everyone from the novice to the seasoned gardener. Gardening is supposed to be good for you, relaxing and fun! If you worry about that one brown spot on a pansy leaf, you will miss the joy of the blossom.

Your garden can be a few containers on a deck or a large production garden. You can increase your crops as you learn to balance your choice of plants with your environment. You may only want one pot with a patio tomato or just some lettuce or a cucumber.

I have been vegetable gardening my whole life. My family is from the mid-west and every letter that came from home had seeds in it. Uncle Omar's green beans or Aunt Mary's marigolds. My family shared a love of all growing things.

My Dad tilled up our 2,000 square foot vegetable garden when we moved here 63 years ago. I have been privileged to live and tend the same garden space ever since.

I learned to can everything from the first strawberry to the last head of cabbage every year. That was then! Anyone need any canning jars? Now it's just me and I have 17 raised beds and many containers on the same plot. Yes, 17 beds are too many, but I am still having fun sharing produce with others and planting extra for the food bank.

You Have Some Choices

Open Garden ● You can grow anything in an open garden. All of the vegetables I have listed would work in addition to crops that take a lot of room such as corn, melons, winter squash, vining cucumbers.

Raised Beds • Raised beds can be any size and are commonly made of cedar. For accessibility they can

Open Gardening Growing Your Own Tabloid

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/em9027

Raised Bed Gardening

https://extension. oregonstate.edu/pub/fs-270

HOTO CREDIT: JAN MCNEILAN Raised Beds

be built on legs. Many pre-cut kits are available. The advantage of raised beds is that the soil warms up faster, you can plant sooner and they are easier to weed.

Container Garden • As long as there are holes in the bottom for good drainage, anything can be a container. Anything from milk cartons to take home food containers. A clay pot dries out faster than a plastic pot. Always use clean potting soil. I never use native garden soil as my heavy clay loam does not drain as well as potting soil.

If you are short on space, you can always garden vertically. Put a small trellis in a big pot and let the cucumbers go straight up!



Container Gardening

https://cmastergardeners. files.wordpress.com/2022/02/ growing-pretty-and-deliciouscontainers.pdf

What Will I Need?

You will need a location with at least 6 hours of sun a day. Some leafy vegetables such as kale, mesclun, lettuce, collards and spinach can take a little shade.

Tools • Only a basic set of tools are needed to do most tasks necessary for planting and maintenance. Used tools can easily be found at garage sales. A hoe, shovel, garden rake, hand loppers, spading fork and hand trowel. If you are gardening in containers you just need some hand loppers and hand trowel.

Soil • To keep the soil healthy, rake out or remove larger sticks and rocks to create a fluffy soil that is weed free. For an open garden or raised beds it is recommended that you get a soil test to determine its pH (soil acidity or alkalinity). Most vegetables do best in slightly acidic soil at 6.0.

Starting Seeds • It is tricky to start your transplants from seed. You certainly can do it but you need to provide enough heat and light to keep the seedlings from stretching for light before it is time to put them outside. Seeds and seedlings planted too early will likely rot before they germinate.

Choose quality seed from a reputable company. Bargain seeds are not as viable, meaning the percentage of germination is usually pretty low. If you share seeds with your neighbor, do them a favor and copy the instructions off of the packet. I know, take a picture with your iPhone and send it to them. Oh my, my kids would be so proud to know Grandma has an iPhone!

On a seed packet you will find:

- At what soil temperature the seed will begin to germinate
- Soil planting depth
- Days to germination



- Recommended soil temperature
- Days to maturity
- Spacing after thinning
- Location full sun or sun part shade

Look on the seed packet to see how deep to plant the seed. The depth is important because some seeds actually need light to germinate. Example: You plant pea seeds about an inch deep and a lettuce seed less than a quarter inch deep. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy during germination.

Each seed packet will tell you how far apart each plant should be. This is the hardest part of vegetable gardening! You carefully tend all those new seedlings and then you pull them out to space plants for optimum growth. If you don't thin, your plants will not produce as well and the crowded plants will be prone to disease. Transplant after the true leaves appear on the seedling. The first two leaves are the seed leaves and the next one that looks different is the true leaf.

Transplants • Choose stocky, disease-free plants. Starts, direct sow in ground, your seedling starts. Your starts may have just come from the production greenhouse and have not been hardened off.

Hardening, or "hardening off," is the process of allowing a plant to transition from a protected indoor or greenhouse environment to the harsh outdoor conditions of fluctuating spring temperatures, wind, and full sun exposure. To gradually acclimatize your transplants and seedlings bring plants out during the warmer part of the day and back in at night. (Please don't leave them out at night when they are tender, like I did. By the next morning slugs mowed off two entire flats of seedlings! Oops!

How to Transplant a Seedling or a Purchased Start



HOTO CREDIT: FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS



Pretty much everything is available in 6 packs at your local nursery. You will have the most success with lettuce, greens, cabbage, broccoli, peppers, eggplant and tomatoes. Some plants are available as transplants, but really don't do very well. Such as corn, carrots and any root crops. It is best to seed directly into the soil.

First, water the plant so that the soil is moist in the root zone. Choose a healthy plant and dig a hole that is wider and slightly deeper than the root system.

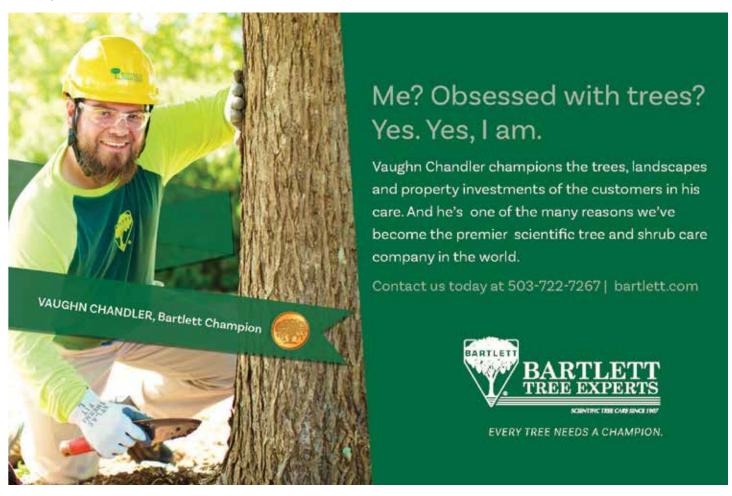
Most, especially indeterminate tomatoes need cages or poles for support. I cut poles from my landscapes' clumping bamboo. Some dwarf tomatoes, such as Patio don't take any staking.

I always have hog wire, netting, tee pees or poles to support my Hyacinth Beans, edible pod peas, Sweet Peas, Morning Glory and other flowering vines. To avoid too many poles I use bush beans, bush peas, bush cucumbers and determinate tomatoes.

Mark your planting container or row with date planted and name of the plant. I have always used the seed packet on a stake in the raised bed until the crows moved them around or they disappeared. Now I use a stake with the variety marked on it!

Thinning seedlings is the painful part of planting your own seeds. Read the spacing on the packet and make yourself do it. By September you will be amazed how healthy your plants will be.

Heirloom • An heirloom seed is a seed from a plant that has been passed from one generation to another, carefully grown and saved because it is considered valuable. The value could lie in its flavor, pro-





ductivity, hardiness or adaptability. Many heirlooms have been grown, saved and passed down for more than 100 years. Heirlooms are considered non-GMO (not genetically modified organism).

Open Pollination • Plants produce seed true to type if they are allowed to cross-pollinate other varieties of the same species, their seed will not come out true to the original plant. Example: Cross pollination can be seen in the squashes and pumpkins. Summer squash, pumpkins, gourds, and some types of winter squash belong to the same plant species Cucurbita pepo. All species members may cross with one another. Thus, an acorn squash will cross pollinate with a zucchini or a miniature gourd. You can really come up with some inedible strange critters the next year.

Hybrid • A hybrid vegetable is created when a plant breeder deliberately controls pollination by cross-pollinating two different varieties of a plant. The parent plants are chosen for characteristics like fruit size, plant vigor, or disease resistance. The hope is that the resulting offspring will have the positive characteristics.

Indeterminate Tomatoes • Indeterminate vines keep producing new shoots and blossoms even after fruit set. Tomatoes in all stages of development are on the vine at the same time, so harvest is extended over a longer period. Plants tend to grow vertically and should be staked because they take up a lot more space.

Determinate Tomatoes • Determinate plants have vines that make little or no growth once fruit is set. Fruit ripens about the same time, so they're a good choice for canning. Determinate tomatoes tend to grow laterally, and they don't need as much sup-

port.

Bolting • A plant such as lettuce, spinach and other leafy vegetables will bolt. It means that the weather has turned hot and the plant thinks it is the end of the season, so it begins to flower and go to seed. Most of the time, you can't do anything about it, but if you snap off the flowers, you may borrow a little time.

Fertilizer - Up, Down, All Around

N = Nitrogen for foliage growth **[UP]**

P = Phosphorus for roots (flowering or fruiting plants)
[DOWN]

K = Potash for overall health [ALL AROUND]

Micronutrients are also in some blends

Organic vs. Synthetic • Natural fertilizers are organic products that have been extracted from living things or from the earth. They can be either plant-derived or animal-derived. Some examples would be mushroom manure, blood meal, bone meal, cottonseed meal, kelp meal, poultry or horse manure (aged) and compost. Organic fertilizers feed the soil, improve water retention, feeds the plant and is slow to breakdown.

Synthetic fertilizers are those composed of the synthesized chemicals of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and cost less than organics. In general, natural fertilizers contain lesser amounts of N-P-K than their synthesized counterparts, so you need to use more of them to supply the plant with the required amount of nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium.



OTO CREDIT: JAN MCNEIL

Take Jour Gardening to the Mext Level!

Grow delicious food anywhere with our raised bed container gardens.



Perfect for balconies, decks, patios and yards big or small.

Gardening at home is a great way to enjoy the flavors and health benefits of fresh-grown food, and raised bed gardening makes it easy! By planting in containers, you have greater control over soil, fertilizer and water. Your crops can be placed where sun and shade is optimal, even moving the planters as the sun moves. Plus, there's no bending over to harvest!

For more than a century, beginning with the Victory Gardens in World War I, home gardeners have used this technique to grow their favorite vegetables, especially when gardening space is limited.

Garden Gallery is proud to offer a complete line of raised garden beds, manufactured in the USA with recycled metal. They're handsome, sturdy, and come in a variety of sizes and styles to fit any yard.

Drop by our store or see our online catalog to learn more about these modern-day Victory Gardens, and take your gardening to the next level.

Open Monday-Friday 10am-3pm;

Closed Saturday and Sunday

Garden Gallery Iron Works • 2967 Industrial Avenue, Hubbard, OR 97032 503-981-0297 or 1-800-423-0158 • www.gardengalleryironworks.net

Best Organic fertilizers:

- Manure
- Bone Meal
- Blood Meal
- Worm Castings
- Guano
- Fish Emulsion
- Seaweed Fertilizer
- Kelp Meal (seaweed that can be used in your vegetable garden as an organic fertilizer.

When fertilizing pots: Water first to make sure the soil is not dry, then fertilize with a liquid fertilizer per package directions. If using a coated fertilizer such as Osmocote, don't let pots completely dry out as the fertilizer will not be available to your plants. I use a bloom booster to mix for a liquid (10-30-20) for my flower and vegetable containers. This ratio produces less leaves, more root growth and overall plant health.

Water

Keep the soil moisture consistent to prevent misshapen fruit. Raised beds and clay pots dry out faster than plastic pots or in ground plantings. The best time to water is when you have time. Yes, I know, it is not what you have heard before, but if you can't water in the early morning, water when you can. Try to keep the water off of the foliage in the evening. If you have soaker hoses or drip irrigation, that is great!

For pots, slowly water until the water drains through the pot. If you are going to fertilize, water the pot first, then fertilize. That way the fertilizer will not come in contact with dry roots.

Mulching

Prevents most annual weeds and conserves soil moisture. You can mulch the soil surface of containers, raised beds or open gardens. Mulches can be made of leaves, sawdust, compost, paper, plastic sheeting, or anything that will shade the soil.

More Information on Pests and Diseases

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/ files/project/pdf/fs139.pdf Encouraging Beneficial Insects in the Home Garden

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/ files/project/pdf/pnw550.pdf

Pests and Diseases

Frequent observation will help you avoid problems.

Blossom End Rot on Tomatoes • In certain years this is a big enemy of the home gardener. It happens when the soil is low on calcium and the plant pulls calcium out of the blossom end of the fruit. They are still edible by just cutting off the blackened area. Signs show up when the temperature at night is still high and the humidity is also high. This can be remedied by using agricultural lime in the planting hole. See the "Pests and Diseases" link on this page for more details.

There are many beneficial insects that chow down on your garden pests. Learn to identify them to avoid treating when you are already getting help from the beneficials. Other pests can be aphids, flea beetles, cucumber beetles.

Encouraging Beneficial Insects in the Home Garden • Learn to tell the difference between a beneficial insect and a pest. Keep in mind that when left to the beneficials many pests will be consumed. Include plants that attract beneficials to your garden. Learn to identify what insects can attack your plants and what to do about them if anything. Watch for them to appear. Pick off and kill them as you find them eating your plants. Constant observation can catch a lot of problems before they damage your crop. See the link on this page for more information.

Plant diseases often appear when plants are too crowded. Make sure you have thinned the seedlings as recommended. Plant diseases often appear as dead areas in a leaf or moldy appearing leaves and stems, pick off or cut out the affected parts and remove them from the garden. Make every effort to provide good air movement through the garden. Water during the early part of the day so the foliage is dry most of the time. With that said, if you only have time to water in the evening, then try to keep the water off of the plant foliage.

See the links to "Encouraging Benefical Insects" and "Natural Enemies of Nursery Crops" on this page for more information.

Using Pesticides

Identify the problem first. You may not need to treat at all. Most gardeners try to grow organically or at

Natural Enemies of Nursery Crops and Garden Pests

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/ files/project/pdf/ec1613.pdf least reduce the use of pesticides. When selecting a plant, it helps to choose disease and insect resistant varieties. Just because a given product is not, or minimally, toxic to humans, that does not mean you should apply it to your garden by the bucket load. Always apply any garden chemical with care and thought, using the right amount at the right time for the right purpose.

Organic pesticides are usually considered as those pesticides that come from natural sources. These natural sources are usually plants, as is the case with pyrethrum, rotenone or ryania (botanical insecticides), or diatomaceous earth. When using a commercial product, follow the label directions carefully.

Jan's Favorite Choices for Her Garden

Over many years I have developed my favorites, but that doesn't keep me from trying a new variety or two every year. Keep in mind that my garden is in the Willamette Valley of Oregon at an elevation of 600 feet and is USDA Zone 8.

Tomatoes • (D) = Determinate (I) = Indeterminate

- Black Krim Russian Heirloom (I)
 - raised from seed
- Legend Developed by OSU (D)



Springtime is go time.

5050 SE STARK 503-231-5050

9000 SE DIVISION 503-788-9000

www.portlandnursery.com





- Celebrity (D)
- Bush Goliath (D)
- San Marzano (I)
- Moskovich Russian Heirloom (I)
- Oregon Star Developed by OSU (D)
- Siletz Developed by OSU (D)
- Sungold hybrid Cherry (I)
- Oregon Spring Developed by OSU (D)

Other vegetable varieties that have consistently produced well for me are: Oregon Sugar Pod Peas, Kentucky Wonder Bush beans, Detroit Dark Red beets, Danvers half-long carrots, Spacemaster cucumber, Ruby Red Swiss Chard, Dark Green Zucchini, Tomatillos, various greens and lettuce. Many of these are

Publication for Growing Tomatoes and Tomatillos

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/ec1333 **More Strawberry Information**

https://extension.oregonstate. edu/pub/ec-1307

heirlooms.

More Favorites

- Tomatillos easily grown I buy plants. More information available from the link on this page.
- Onion sets for green onions
- Seed potatoes: Yukon Gold, Red Pontiac and fingerlings – buy only certified disease-free seed potatoes.
- Strawberries I have Hoods, Seascape and Quinault. More information available from the link on this page.

Thinning

Each seed packet will tell you how far apart each plant should be. This is the hardest part of vegetable gardening! You carefully tend all those new seedlings and then you pull them out to space plants for op-

Winter Vegetable Gardening

CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

https://catalog.extension. oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/ files/project/pdf/pnw548.pdf timum growth. If you don't thin, your plants will not produce as well and the crowded plants will be prone to disease. Transplant after the true leaves appear on the seedling. The first two leaves are the seed leaves and the next one that looks different is the true leaf.

Frequent observation of your garden or containers can help catch problems before it damages your crop. Weeds will be the first plants to grow in your garden so keep your garden as weed free as possible. Water the containers and vegetable garden when the soil becomes dry. Use mulches to help keep the soil damp.

Harvest

Gather and use your vegetables when they are ready. Leaving them in the garden after they are ready to eat is wasteful. Some vegetables produce an edible crop quickly (radishes for example) so you can harvest and replant for another crop until summer heat arrives. This is called "succession planting" and it works well for beans, radishes, green onions and lettuce. I don't really like radishes, but they come up first and I get so excited!

Fall & Winter Cleanup

- Remove spent plants from your garden and compost
- Dispose of all diseased plants
- For larger gardens, cover crops can be used in the fall to protect the soil and add organic matter.

Want to try some winter vegetable gardening? Check the previous page for a link to an amazing publication that will tell you everything you need to know.

I always have flowers in my vegetable garden. These raised beds are in too much shade for growing vegetables, but flowers work well. If you have excess produce, share with your neighbors or take to a







Visit us and enjoy our curated selection of garden plants for the Pacific Northwest! Discover an uncommon selection of hardy perennials, herbs, annuals, shrubs specialty conifers and shade trees that will thrive in your home garden. Wander through our greenhouse and discover new houseplants and tropicals!



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Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 35105 NW Zion Church Rd, Cornelius, Or www.bloomingjunction.com, (503) 681-4646









local food bank!

Enjoy your garden. Experiment with different ways of growing vegetables and find out what works best for your environment. Keep records so you remember what did best last time and what to avoid. Good luck and good eating.

Quote from a senior gardener: "Days like this leave me with an incredible sense of peace and serenity, when I stand in my garden I can feel the seeds under the earth, everything growing, and I have a connection to all of life."



RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jan's PNW Gardening Tips

https://www.facebook.com/PNWgardentips

Links to All Statewide
Master Gardener Programs

https://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/metro

Gardening Questions

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If you haven't already added lilacs to your garden, this is the year to do it!

by Therese Gustin

They say the sense of smell can bring back long-ago memories and for me that holds true with the sweet fragrance of lilacs! Growing up in the Chicago suburbs, we had three large lilac bushes right outside our front door. Each spring I couldn't wait to head outside and see the exquisite blooms and smell that delicate scent as the shrubs stirred in the wind. I don't know which varieties we had, only that one was dark purple, one was violet and one was white. All made for gorgeous bouquets when my mom cut them and brought them into the house. When I moved to Oregon and we purchased our home, I knew I wanted to add lilacs to our landscape to recapture that memorable experience each spring.

If you haven't already added lilacs to your garden, this is the year to do it! Each year the National Garden Bureau selects their "Year of" plants in categories including houseplants, annuals, perennials, edibles, bulbs and shrubs. This year's shrub category is "The Year of the Lilac". What makes lilacs such

a good choice for the NGB shrub of the year? In their own words... "Lilacs are among the most carefree spring-flowering, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrubs (or small trees), well-loved for their toughness, reliability, and fragrance."

The common lilac, Lilac vulgaris is a member of the olive family and originated in southeastern Europe. Other lilac species originated in western Asia. Lilacs were imported by the French, and they developed many new varieties. They were brought to America in the 17th century. According to the National Garden Bureau, Carl Linnaeus first described the lilac genus, Syringa in 1753. The name came from the Greek word syrinx which means pipe or tube. The stems of the common lilac have a spongy pith that can be removed leaving hollow tubes that were used to make pan pipes or pan flutes.

We are fortunate in the Pacific Northwest to have a local garden to visit each spring which showcases

all the beauty and fragrance of lilacs...The Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens. Located in Woodland, Washington, Hulda Klager will host Lilac Days April 16th through May 8th when the lilacs are in their glory. It's the perfect place to stroll and see just some of the colors, sizes and varieties of lilacs that are available. They even have some of the varieties for sale at the garden for you to take home and enjoy in your own garden.

Lilacs are best grown in full sun in an area with good air circulation as they are susceptible to powdery mildew. They like good drainage and fertile soil. Lilac pruning should be done in the spring right after they bloom as they start to set their flower buds later in the summer. Annual pruning is not necessary but cutting off spent flower heads within a month after bloom helps the plant set more flowers for next year. Any late fall or winter pruning will remove the next year's flower buds. Lilacs can live a very long time...up to 100 years. We at Garden Time even did a story about the 100-plusyear-old lilac brought by boat from Maine to Philip Foster Farm in Eagle Creek, Oregon. A testament to the hardiness and toughness of the species. One of the best ways to prune your lilacs is when they are in full bloom and you can bring a bouquet indoors. The folks at Hulda Klager suggested that by hammering the bottom of the stem before putting it in water will help the flowers last longer inside. You can experiment for yourself and see if the crushed stems last longer than the intact ones.

There are many different types of lilacs including Syringa x chinensis - Chinese Lilac,

Foster Farm Historic Lilac **Garden Time** Episode 511 • May 4, 2019 https://youtu. be/8uMSR25V_2Y









Syringa x hyacinthiflora - Early Flowering Lilac, Syringa josikaea -Hungarian Lilac, Syringa laciniata - Cutleaf or Feathered Persian Lilac, Syringa pubescens patula (Syringa patula) 'Miss Kim', Syringa meyeri - Meyer or Korean Lilac, Syringa persica - Persian Lilac, Syringa x prestoniae - Preston (Canadian) Lilac, Syringa reticulata - Japanese Tree Lilac, Syringa vulgaris - Common Lilac. The current trend is to breed lilacs for compactness, fragrance and reblooming. There's a lilac out there for every garden!

My top 5 favorite lilacs include:

Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation': This variety is a showstopper with purple florets edged in white. The shrub grows about 10 feet high and 6 feet wide and needs full sun. Average bloom time is mid-May. Plant this beauty in a prominent spot where you can enjoy the loveliness of the blooms and its great fragrance.

Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskvy': This white variety is very fragrant and boasts pink buds which open to double blooms in white and can retain a bit of pink in the florets. The shrub grows 10 to 12 feet high and has an 8 foot spread. Like most lilacs it needs full sun. Krasavitsa Moskvy makes a very beautiful and fragrant cut flower.

Syringa x lacinata: I first saw this compact lilac at the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens and didn't think it was a lilac. Its short stature and airy finely textured leaves didn't resemble any lilac I had seen before. This lilac variety stays small, about 6 to 8 feet tall and wide. It can also tolerate part shade. It can be pruned to stay small and is great for smaller gardens. Its pale purple flowers have a delicate fragrance.

Syringa vulgaris 'Dappled Dawn': Lilacs in general aren't all that interesting to look at after they bloom in the spring. Not so with the Dappled Dawn lilac. Its yellow





and green variegated foliage remains a showstopper even after its fragrant lilac purple flowers fade. This shrub grows to about ten feet tall and six feet wide.

Syringa vulgaris 'My Favorite': Another lilac variety which has dark purple double flowers is 'My Favorite'.

This very fragrant lilac grows to about ten to twelve feet tall and six to eight feet wide. This eye-catching variety makes a lovely cut flower.

Why not add a lilac shrub to your garden and start making a fragrant memory of your own.



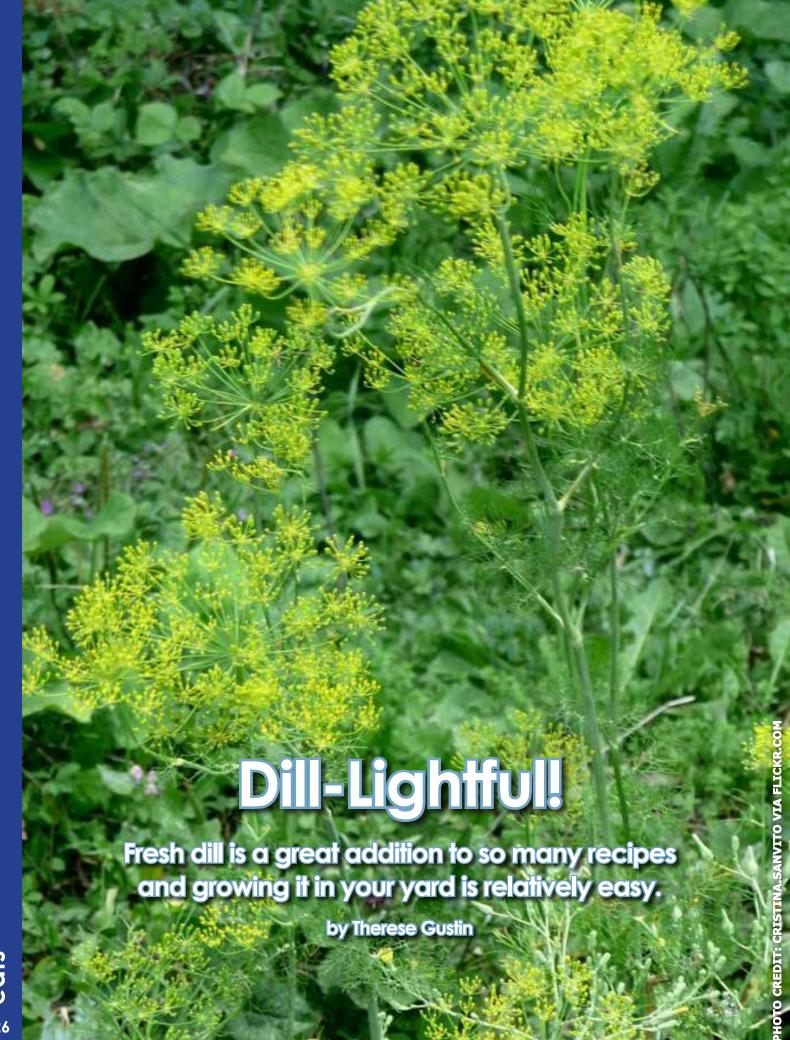


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I love cooking with fresh herbs as their delicate, just-picked-from-the-garden flavor usually outshines their dry counterparts. On top of the list is fresh dill. Whether I use it to flavor salmon, tzatziki or pickles, dill adds that unique zingy flavor to whatever it seasons.

Dill has been around a long time dating back to the time of the Egyptian Pharoah Amenhotep II where it was found in his tomb around 1400 BC. Ancient Egyptians used dill to ward off witches and it was used as an aphrodisiac. It was also found in the Greek city of Samos around the 7th century B.C. The Greeks believed dill signified wealth. Dill is native to the eastern Mediterranean region and western Asia. Dill goes by the botanical name Anethum graveolens and is a member of the parsley and celery family. The word dill comes from the old Norse word dylla which means to soothe or lull. It was used in many cultures to soothe an upset stomach. Quakers and Puritans gave their children dill seeds to chew in church to suppress their appetite. Today some use dill seed as a breath freshener and some believe it has anti-bacterial properties. Most of us just use it for flavoring our food these days.

Growing dill is relatively easy. This annual is best planted from seed as it has a long taproot and doesn't transplant well. Directly sow your dill seeds when all danger of frost is over. Plant the seeds in loose well drained soil in a sunny location. Sow the seed about 1/4 inch deep and 6 to 8 inches apart. You may need to thin the plants as they grow so as not to be too crowded. You can always use the thinned-out dill in a recipe. Dill also bushes out more if you pinch back the tips as it grows. In order to continue to have a season-long fresh supply of dill, sow seeds every few weeks. To extend your harvest, don't allow flowers to grow on the plants. Keep the plants well-watered so as not to dry out during the growing season. If the plants are allowed to dry out, they will flower prematurely and set seed.

You can start harvesting the fresh dill weed as soon as the plant has four or five leaves. Harvest the older leaves first by pinching them off the stem or using a scissors. The flowerheads are usually used for making dill pickles. Dill will self-sow, so if left to go to seed, it will come back the next year in your garden. I have found this to be true in my own garden. Although it doesn't always pop up exactly where I want it, I usually just let it grow where it lies.

There are several varieties of dill to choose from. Some taller than others and some that do well in containers. My dill of choice is Dukat which grows





from one to two feet high.

According to Renee's Seeds, "Dukat is an especially sweet and mellow dill bred in Denmark for traditional Scandinavian dishes. The fine cut, blue green leaves hold longer than other varieties. Use Dukat's aromatic fresh leaf fronds lavishly. Sprinkle on steamed summer vegetables, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, in mixed green salads and dressings, in sauces and, most deliciously, over grilled or poached salmon and other fish. Let some plants bloom to give nectar to butterflies and then harvest the pungent seed heads to season pickles." I can personally attest to the excellent flavor of this variety both in its leaves and flowerheads. I've used it on poached salmon with lemon juice and I've canned many jars of pickles with the flowerheads.

Mammoth Dill is a particularly large variety and can grow up to three feet high and two feet wide. A great one to plant if you are making a lot of pickles!

Fernleaf Dill is a compact variety which will do well in a container. It maxes out at 18 inches high and 8 inches wide and is perfect for a patio or deck.

Whichever variety you choose, freshly picked dill will be a delicious addition to your favorite fish, vegetable, soup or salad recipe.



Tzatziki Recipe

1/3 cup freshly chopped peeled cucumber

1/3 cup fat free plain yogurt

3 Tablespoons fat free sour cream

2 teaspoons chopped fresh dillweed

2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

1 medium garlic clove finely chopped

1/8 teaspoon pepper

Stir together all ingredients. Serve with chicken, pita, vegetables or crackers.

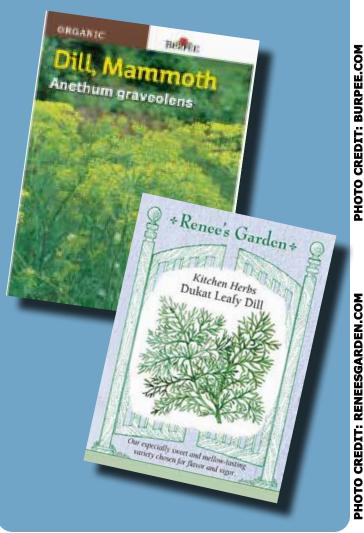


PHOTO CREDIT: BURPEE.COM









Dream Job

Raised on the family farm, Swan Island Dahlias' Heather Schloe left to pursue her dreams, and found them where her journey began.

by Judy Alleruzzo

One of Garden Time's favorite late summer interviews is meeting with Heather Schloe and Nick Gitts at Swan Island Dahlias in Canby, Oregon. The two are daughter and father and fun to be around and talk dahlias. Their passion for dahlias is infectious and the farm is an impact of color to be enjoyed. This month I had the pleasure of learning more about Heather, who is our Hortie of the month.

Many of our Horties grew up on the family farm which possess a rich history. Swan Island Dahlias is no different, as they have been in business over 93 years. The previous owners began growing dahlias in Portland before moving to the present farm location in Canby, Oregon in approximately 1953. Heather's grandparents, Nick and Margaret Gitts purchased the business in 1963. They were dairy farmers from Washington and also grew and sold dahlias via a retail mail order and wholesale business. Their sons, Nicholas and Ted joined the family business in 1971. Today, Nicholas and Linda Gitts and Heather Gitts-Schloe are the owners of the 40 acre Swan Island Dahlia farm.

Horties always have a story or two to tell and

sometimes a rebellious tale. Heather said right off the top, "I'm not a rebellious person." She did go on to say she did have chores to carry out and that was weeding. Her summers were filled with "weekday weeding." She also had other responsibilities and a favorite memory was, "I loved when we used to use an old fashioned glue machine to do case packs for wholesale orders. The process was fascinating." Funny what sticks in your memory! Later on, as Heather grew up, she related to me, "I learned to cut flowers and then took on the deliveries and orders for the Portland Floral Market." Even while she was still in school, Heather was an integral part of farm activities.

The Swan Island Dahlia Festival has been a tradition for many years and an event that cannot be missed! Heather loves to make dahlia flower arrangements. It has become one of her favorite past times, having learned way back when she was six years old. She learned by watching the "talented florists that participated each year in setting our indoor festival." I can imagine the 6-year-old Heather, totally surrounded by the creative chaos of floral designers working on the dahlia arrangements. Last year she began to teach classes at the farm and she's hoping to offer more classes this year. (Check out the website for future information.)

Heather loved to work at the farm when growing up, but her Dad, Nick encouraged her to not "settle" by just working there. She took his advice and went off to college to earn a bachelor's degree. After graduating, she taught second grade for a short time, but something was missing in Heather's life, "I truly missed the "farm life" and came back to join my family."

She told me, "I had no idea I would join the farm again. I had big dreams, but later found the dreams pulled me back to the farm. The longer I am here the more deeply I love what I do!" I can see this deep love when talking with Heather. She has a big smile whenever we film. It can be a busy or an extremely hot day and she is smiling and talking about dahlias.

Family businesses, whether it is a farm or another enterprise, is a place where the owners wear many hats and are responsible for many aspects of that business. Heather is no exception. Remember her jobs when younger? She now does, "a little of everything except tractor work. I would love to be on a tractor, but time just doesn't allow it." She is a busy woman at her many jobs, the heart and soul of the office, organizer of the retail store, creator of the catalogue, and over seer of the annual dahlia







festival, plus many other day to day activities.

Heather is most proud of the retail store she began about ten years ago, and which expands every year. People coming to pick up their dahlias or attending the festival, kept asking for a shop with local crafts and gifts. She was finally able to create the gift shop and is happy it is so well received by customers.

Heather is a businesswoman, a farmer, a floral designer and a wife and Mom. She loves all these aspects of her life. Husband, Brendan Schloe officially joined the farm in 2010 as a much-needed

IT Tech for the growing business. Heather told me, "He has been helping on the side ever since we met. I couldn't do it without him anymore. He does it all right alongside me, helping with all parts of the farm." Heather and Brendan have two beautiful kids, Gabrielle,17 and Cooper, 11. The kids are busy workers like their Mom and Dad and help out during the summertime. "This is really our home for the summer months, with very long hours, home feels more like a vacation home. We don't live on the farm, but it feels like it sometimes."

I'm always intrigued by the sheer number of different dahlia varieties.



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Garden Time has featured Heather and Nick talking about the many styles of dahlia blossoms over the years. I had to ask Heather if she is part of the team that hybridizes the new blooms. She told me, "Most of the breeding is done by the bees. We let them do the cross pollinating and then seed is picked from the "mother" plants. We pick mother plants that have strong qualities that are desired and then their seeds are picked and planted the following spring. It takes about five years to introduce a variety at our farm. We start with about 15,000 seeds and then cull down each year, looking for the next best varieties, and finally five years later we introduce about ten new varieties. We do get rid of many nice varieties, but they have to be special and not like something we already have to introduce it and put our name on it." I think this is all amazing and so happy they have the patience to complete the process each year to keep making beautiful flowers.

My other favorite part of visiting Swan Island Dahlias is the names of the flower varieties. Some are sentimental, some are patriotic, some are a little risqué and some are really funny! I asked about the naming part of the hybridizing process and Heather said, "Naming is one of the hardest parts! We sit around in our office and run through our list of possible names, and we just brainstorm to find the best name that fits the bloom. We are known in the dahlia world for our "fun" names." I think they should film that afternoon in the office. Sounds like a crazy time!

Speaking of naming dahlias, I had to ask how the 'Garden Time' dahlia was chosen and named? It's a pretty dahlia bloom of "golden yellow, brushed with a bit of orange" plus there is a good back story. "Garden Time is an excellent garden plant. My dad, Nicholas, was taken back by the amount of bloom and bushiness that it had. It has a beautiful petite bloom that just covers the plant all summer. We decided to name it Garden Time after a conversation with Jeff. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time working with Garden Time for years. Finally, in 2016 we thought the variety fit the name, and so Garden Time dahlia variety was born." All of us at Garden Time have this dahlia in our gardens and it is an amazing performer. I have mine in a large container with a very sturdy cage as I love to let it grow BIG! I saw in the online catalogue that the Garden Time dahlia is sold out for the year. The farm has been over the top busy for the last 2 years supplying dahlias to all the new gardeners and some popular varieties are sold out. Heather explained about the inventory, "once it sells out, it is out for the season, as we are our own supplier. However, most of the sold-out varieties will

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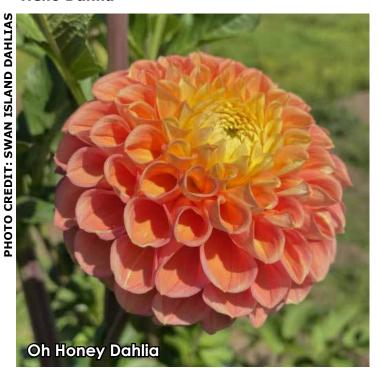
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be back the following year. We begin accepting orders each summer on August 1st, its best to order early if you have a favorite you don't want to miss out on." Start making your wish list and include a Garden Time dahlia in your order. It's a beauty!

Since I've told you one of my favorite dahlias, I have to share Heather's favorite dahlias for the season. I'm sure it was very difficult to pick only four varieties! (I am quoting the descriptions for each of Heather's picks from the Swan Island Dahlias 2022 online catalogue)

'Hello Dahlia'





"She is hot! 6" Glowing magenta blooms! The blooms are deep magenta, and the petals can turn hot pink as the bloom ages. Strong and sturdy plant with slightly lacey foliage at 4'."

'Grandma's Hug' Dahlia

"5" Apricot and gold blossoms. Each petal is lightly outlined with love in red, making it very striking. These blooms will give you the warm feeling of grandma's arms wrapped tightly around you. May she live on forever in this beautiful waterlily form with a lush plant at 3 ½'. "



'Nighty Night' Dahlia

"The 4" black red blooms remind us all of the calming dark skies. As you sing your lullabies each night these beauties will forever remind you of the sweet memories you made. Unusually firm dark blooms are stunning on the 4 1/2' plant."

'Oh Honey!' Dahlia

"You just won't be able to resist gasping "oh honey" each time you see this plant! It is strong and sturdy covered in 4" peach and yellow blooms. It is an excellent cut flower with long stems on its 4 1/2'. This is an outstanding plant with extra lush foliage and many flowers. Repeat after me "Oh honey, you don't even KNOW how amazing this variety is!"

Now for the facts we all have been waiting for, Dahlia Festival information! Heather already has the lineup for the 2022 Dahlia Festival ready to begin in August. Please check out their website for more details as the dates get closer.

"The format and plan for summer 2022 is the same

as 2021. We will be open six days a week, 9:00am-5:30pm, closed Wednesday. We plan to have many food trucks, concerts, and classes, along with our stunning fields for everyone to enjoy. There will also be a farmers market every Sunday in August & September, including Labor Day (Monday)."

Wow, what energy Heather has in her and I hope that has carried over to this article. She's a whirlwind at the farm, making sure everything is running smoothly! Make sure to mark your calendar to visit Swan Island Dahlias in August and September and enjoy the amazing assortment of flowers in the fields. You may even see Heather walking around the farm or teaching a class. Don't forget to say "Hi!"

Swan Island Dahlias

995 NW 22nd Avenue Canby, Oregon 97013

https://www.dahlias.com







Battle of the Kitchen Appliances

It's the culinary confrontation of the century as Air Fryer takes on Instant Pot for the title of best galley gadget.

by David Musial

A little over ten years ago, no one had heard of the Instant Pot (multi-cooker) or an air fryer. However, today about 20% of households own a multi-cooker and 40% an air fryer. I currently own neither, but will be gifted an Instant Pot soon. So what are these appliances that have captured the interest of cooks everywhere and which is the champ in the kitchen?

Before the battle begins, to clarify, Instant Pot is a brand name of a multi-cooker. Similar to Kleenex and tissue. Air fryer is the name given to counter top convection ovens sold under several different brands.

Up first, the Instant Pot. The original Instant Pot was developed in Canada and started selling in 2010 as a 6-in-1 multicooker. It's primary claim to fame was its pressure cooker feature, but it could perform all of the following functions:

Pressure Cooker

- Rice Cooker
- Sauté
- Steamer
- Slow Cooker
- Warmer

Since the introduction of the original model, there are now models up to 11-in-1 that also include:

- Sous Vide
- Air Fry (will address this later in the article)
- Roast
- Bake
- Broil
- Dehydrate
- ...they also have a yogurt function,



If you love making beans from scratch, the Instant Pot gives wonderful results.

but that probably falls under slow cooker.

It is clear that this appliance is not a uni-tasker and has some very versatile cooking capability, but what is an Instant Pot. At its core, it is a pressure cooker and to some those two words strike fear. However, technology has made pressure cookers much safer. So what does a pressure cooker do?

Basically, by trapping steam from boiling water in the pressure cooker, the PSI are increased and you raise the temperature of water from 212° to about 240°. This ultimately cooks food faster, the same as a 425° oven cooks food faster than a 350° oven. However, the Instant Pot does more than pressure cook as indicated above.

So what are the pros and cons, and what does it do best?

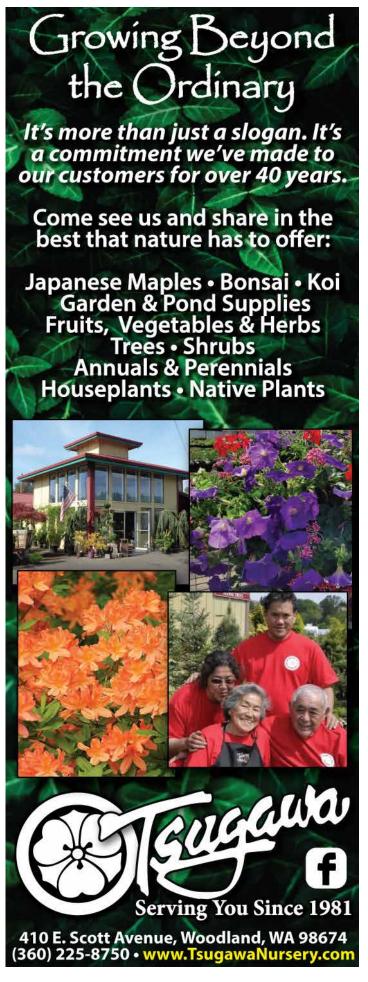
Let's start with the pros:

- In general, cooking food under pressure takes less time. That whole chicken that takes about 20 minutes per pound to cook only takes about 6 minutes per pound in the instant pot.
- Flavor development is where the Instant Pot shines. It can develop flavor quickly



for soups, stews, braises and broths. What would normally take all day can be done in a couple of hours.

- Instant Pots are energy efficient due to their size and insulation
- Since it comes to temperature quickly, it is safer to cook frozen food than a slow cooker which is not recommended.
- As a multi-cooker, you can sear and then pressure cook meat which develops more flavor.
- Can keep food warm and safe by maintaining a consistent temperature over 145°.
- Available in multiple sizes to fit the cooking needs of most families.
- Finally, other than prep, it's hands off cooking.





Moving on to cons:

- Although called an Instant Pot, it can take up to 30 minutes for the multicooker to reach 240°, whereas a traditional pressure cooker can reach 250° and quicker.
- Food can burn if inadequate liquid is introduced.
- It is a multi-tasker and you will need to explore what it does best. Remember that it is best at soups, stews, braises and broths. Reconsider if those are not a part of your regular menu.
- There are lots of buttons and instructions to learn.
- They come in many sizes, but do take up a fair amount of real estate in the kitchen.

Moving on to the air fryer. Let's be clear,

air fryers don't fry. Frying is a cooking method where food is cooked in hot oil. Either partially or fully submerged to create the crispy golden brown outer layer we all love. What an air fryer does is try to mimic the end result by cooking the food in a convection oven with minimal oil.

A convection oven is basically a conventional oven with a fan that circulates the warm air. They have been around for over 75 years and the fan helps to create a more constant temperature in the oven, resulting in better and more browning.

In 2010, Philips introduced the Philips Airfryer. It had a heating element above the food and provided an air stream that circulated around the food similar to a convection oven. Since its introduction, the word air fryer is now generically used and does not refer to a specific brand, but only Phillips can use the one word Airfryer.

Although models vary, they all have three basic components; the base, basket and basket base. The base is the main component with all the units' controls, while the basket holds the food and sits in the basket base. The basket has holes for food particles to fall into the basket base. Baskets made of stainless steel are recommended.

Here are the air fryer pros and cons:

Pros

- Develops a nice crisp and crunchy texture without frying.
- Great for cooking frozen snacks such as pizza rolls and chicken nuggets.
- Some meat, fish and vegetables can be cooked in the air fryer with wonderful results.
- Heats up quickly and produces less heat in the kitchen than your full

size convection oven.

Considered relatively healthy as it cooks with little to no oil. However, the food is only as healthy as what you cook.

Cons

- Capacity can be fairly limited requiring cooking multiple batches.
- Fairly hands on as it is generally necessary to turn your food.
- Takes up kitchen space when you may already have a convection oven in the kitchen.
- Due to the circulating fan, it does not work well with wet battered foods.
- The basket and base need to be cleaned after each use, but there is no grease splatter around the kitchen.





 Lots of models available, but quality air fryers are not inexpensive.

This now brings us to the Instant Pot Air Fryer Lid. For those interested in both an Instant Pot and an air fryer, Instant Pot now offers an Air Fryer Lid and the reviews of performance are positive. It heats up

quickly and performs well. One of the biggest benefits is not having to purchase and store two bulky appliances. The drawbacks are that it only fits the 6 quart models and the basket is smaller than most air fryers, thus requiring cooking multiple batches for larger families. As it is not inexpensive, if you want to give it a try, look for sales.

So, after careful review and analysis, the winner of Battle Instant vs. Air Fryer is...drumroll please, neither, the battle has been cancelled. Why, because the appliances both cook food, but the method of how they cook can't be compared. They each stand on their own.

Ultimately, the choice of which appliance to choose is personal and depends on your eating habits and cooking style. Both units perform well based on what they were created to do. So which appliance to choose? That depends, but if you are interested in what both can do, the Instant Pot with an Air Fryer Lid may be just the ticket.

Remember that with any new appliance or cooking technique there is a learning curve. Also, there is an abundance of advice and recipes available online to help guide you through the process. Happy cooking and I look forward to receiving my instant pot and exploring all the functions available. First up, yogurt making as I recently donated my '80s orange color yogurt maker.



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April si dodge pensiv

April showers bring May flowers! They also make gardening a little trickier, when you have to dodge between the drops. If you prefer not to get wet, we recommend you invest in an inexpensive plastic poncho. Remember, your plants need you, rain or shine.

PLANNING

• Remember to make entries in your gardening journal!



- Plan on creating raised garden beds for veggies in spaces where the soil is hard to warm each spring or you have drainage problems.
- Observe the Mason Bees. Watch your bee population increase as more nesting block

tunnels are filled with bee eggs and sealed over with a mud plug. More bees equals more fruit! You still have time to put up nesting blocks this month to attract native bees to take up residence and start working for you and your garden.

Plan a visit or two or three to your local garden center as the weather warms

center as the weather warms and spring is sprouting out everywhere. There you will come across plenty of bulbs, flowers, veggies and herb starts, as well as all the trees and shrubs for any landscaping project you may have. This time of year, many garden centers will have new plants arriving daily, so plan to visit them often.



PLANTING

 Plant summer bulbs like dahlia, gladiola and lilies. Wait one more



month to plant out begonias and can-nas.

 Start planting perennials.
 Now is a great time

to start finding more and more

varieties available at your local nursery.

- April is a good month for planting, period. Edibles like blueberries and strawberries, landscape plants, ground covers, perennials or any other tree and shrub for the garden.
- Plant out glad bulbs and pot up dahlias if you want to pre-sprout the dahlias before May's planting. It is safe to plant lily bulbs

out now.

- Sow seed for alyssum, forgetme-nots, pansies, lobelia, portulaca aka Moss Rose and daisies this month just to name a few. Check the back of seed packages to see when the best time would be to sow your favorite flowers.
- If you have wintered over any fuchsias or geraniums now is the time to repot them into a larger pot with fresh potting soil.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Prepare garden beds for planting, adding organic compost to garden beds and work in if this hasn't been done yet this year.
- Check the plants under the eaves of the house for water needs.
- Monitor soil temperature with a soil thermometer. When garden soil is consistently above 60 degrees F, the warm season crops can be planted out.
- Fertilize cane berries, blueberries, currants and strawberries.

• Spray apples and pears if needed to prevent scab. Bonide Liquid Copper Fungicide is a good spray for the organic gardener for this

purpose.



 Fertilize vour lawn with a good organic lawn food. Check your local garden center for their

recommendations for the best food for the Northwest climate.

• Thatching and lawn aerating are great to do in months of April or May. Grass seed can be put down safely the last half of April, avoiding most frosts. May and June are also good months to seed or

overseed the lawn.

- Apply Calpril lime to the lawn. Lime raises the soil ph to a level the grass enjoys, helping it to grow thicker and greener.
- Watch for frosts and cover tender transplants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover.
- Prune evergreen conifers now. The months of April and May are great for pruning your various conifers. Cypress, spruce, junipers and cedars will respond to pruning by becoming fuller and bushier. Cut into only the green leafy part of the plants. Going back too far into the brown woody portions may mean that branch or section won't be able to re-grow more

foliage from that point.

• 'Candle pruning' pines are an easy way to control their height and width. As the new growth at branch tips in the form of a 'candle' lengthens, you can snap the new growth in half or even a little shorter. This type of pruning on pines is easy to do and won't leave visible scars.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Plant perennial vegetables like asparagus, rhubarb, horseradish now.
- April is a good month to plant seeds outdoors for peas, carrots, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts,



cauliflower, cabbage, celery, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, lima beans, onions, radishes, scarlet runner beans, spinach, swiss chard, parsnips and turnips.

- Artichoke plants can go in now.
- Seed potatoes can be planted now after they have been chit-

ted. Refer to March planning section for an explanation on chitting or pick up an info sheet in the garden center on growing potatoes.

- Plant Walla Walla onion plant starts and red, yellow or white onion sets.
- The warmer weather crops like tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers, corn and beans should not be

planted out until the soil temp is above 60 F consistently.

- Start indoors, or pick up plant starts next month at your local garden center: basil, cucumbers, melons, and pumpkins.
- Use a floating row cover like Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover to prevent insects like leaf miners, cabbage maggot flies and carrot rust fly from attacking the veggies.
- Harden-off any young plant started indoors, before planting outside, by setting the plants outdoors



in a protected area, away from direct sun, for a few hours a day. Bring indoors at night. Increase time left out a half-hour each day, slowly exposing the seedlings to more sun, wind and rain. This helps to toughen up the leaves with a thicker cuticle and stronger stems.



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.

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival Through May 1, 2022 Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Woodburn, OR

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

Hortlandia

Saturday, April 2, 2022 • 9:00am-4:00pm Westside Commons (formerly Washington County Fairplex), Hillsboro, OR

On Saturday, Hortlandia will feature longer hours than ever before. Your \$5 Hortlandia admission includes the Grow With Us Lecture Series at the sale. Three great speakers will be featured in the series this year. Don't continued next column

forget to check out the HPSO book sale, too. With few in-person sales in the past two years, the HPSO Book Committee has stocked up a great collection of used books for this year's event. \$5 admission. FREE after 3:00pm. https://www.hardyplantsociety.org/hortlandia

Crafting Garden Plant Markers Saturday, April 2, 2022 • 10:00am–11:00am Saturday, April 2, 2022 • 1:00pm–2:00pm Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

In this hands on workshop you'll make your own set of five unique plant markers, completely weather proof and ready to use in your garden, planters and house-plants! This workshop is fun for children and adults of all ages. Taught by guest instructor Katie Organ. \$25 per person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Kids' Club: Basket of Blooms Saturday, April 2, 2022 • 11:00am-12:00pm Al's Garden and Home, Gresham & Wilsonville, OR

Spring is here and we're getting into the new season with this fun class all about hanging baskets. Plant a hanging basket to take home and enjoy! Experiment with an assortment of trailing annuals to make a beautiful and unique hanging flower display. Learn what it means to be an "annual" flower and how they add beauty to our outdoor spaces. https://als-garden-and-home.myshopify.com/

Soil School

Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 5-28, 2022 • 6:00pm ONLINE CLASS, Clackamas County Master Gardeners

Join us and West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District for the tenth annual Soil School! Every Tuesday and Thursday in April we'll host experts to share their knowledge and answer your questions in a series of soil-related webinars. Head over to our website for details registration! https://tualatinswcd.org/event/

• April 5th, 6:00pm – Opening Session: It's all about SOIL! **continued next page**



Get ready to learn what soil actually IS and how it actually WORKS and what that means for civilization (and your garden) going forward! SOIL!!!

• April 7th, 6:00pm – Soil Health 101 This session will be an introduction to the principles of soil health. We will explore how minimizing disturbance, maximizing diversity, maximizing soil cover, and maximizing continuous live roots increases soil function and we will talk about various gardening practices that can be used to implement these principles.

• April 12th, 6:00pm - Kiss The Ground film Q & A -Special Session

This special session provides free access to the film Kiss The Ground and an opportunity to ask questions to Kiss the Ground staff person, Don Smith. This is a unique, interactive opportunity to ask questions surrounding soil and regenerative agriculture and discover ways to take action in your own community.

 April 14th, 6:00pm – KEYNOTE: The Soil Food Web Presenter: Dr. Elaine, Soil Food Web

Dr. Elaine Ingham uncovered the Soil Food Web nearly 4 decades ago and has been pioneering research about Soil Food Web ever since. Widely recognized as the world's foremost soil biologist, she's passionate about empowering people to bring the soils in their communities back to life.

• April 19th, 6:00pm – Soil Microbes

Billions of organisms live below ground and are critical to support plant, animal, and human health above ground. This session aims to unravel some of these unseen mysterious life forces and explain how they contribute to soil health. Learn not only what they are doing for your soils, but also what you can do to support them. By shifting our view of soils from an inert growing material to a biologically diverse and active ecosystem, we can help create more sustainable farms, ranches, gardens and forests to provide the food and fiber for our rapidly growing population while protecting land, air and water resources for future generations.

 April 21st, 6:00pm – Integrated Pest Management continued next column

Learn the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) decision making method. IPM examines the benefits and risks of control methods to determine the best action(s) for the situation. It emphasizes preventing pest and weed problems in the first place. Apply the IPM method to example problems such as yellowiackets, mice, common weeds, and invasive plants. Get a preview of OSU's forthcoming Solve Pest Problems website intended for the public.

- April 26th, 6:00pm Biochar and Soil Amendments In this class you will learn how to recharge soil fast and inexpensively. Burn piles can be transformed into biochar with a technique referred to as "Conservation" Burn." Good Probiotic microbes can be cultured from washing rice and making a tea or burying rice in a small bag near healthy soil capturing the beneficial fungi and bacteria specifically for your farm! The power of microbes and fermentation will super change the soil and plants saving money and time!
- April 28th, 6:00pm Regenerative Agriculture and Gardening

This fun workshop will include an overview of regenerative growing principles, the science of living soils, and tangible examples about how to implement these ideas on your farm or in your garden. You will leave this class with a better understanding of how to implement regenerative ag. and gardening by planting seeds and letting roots do most of the hard work!

Cultural Demonstration: Bonsai Wednesday, April 6, 2022 • 1:15pm-2:15pm Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR

Join us for a live bonsai presentation by Andrew Robson, Director of the Portland Bonsai Village, at the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center from 1:15 - 2:15pm. Included with garden admission. Japanesegarden.org

GardenPalooza at Bauman Farms Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 8:00am-3:00pm Bauman's Farm and Garden, Gervais, OR

Over 30 plant and garden art vendors in one New location. Meet Judy and Ryan from Garden Time TV. There continued next page



are chances to win Portland Nursery and Al's Garden and Home gift cards, Dramm watering tools and a potting table from Garden Gallery Iron Works. www.GardenPalooza.com

Newberg Camellia Festival Saturday, April 9, 2022 Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg, Oregon

The annual Camellia Festival and Run/Walk is located at the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, Oregon. The Newberg Camellia Festival is an annual all-day festival in April celebrating the City of Newberg's official flower the Camellia and its Asian origins featuring a 5k and 10k Run/Walk coordinated by Chehalem Parks and Recreation District (CPRD) followed by performances, kids activities, vendors, and more at the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, Oregon. Plant sales run throughout the festival, offering gardeners an opportunity to purchase garden art and unique plants at special wholesale prices. www.chehalemcultural-center.org

Gardening for Cut Flowers Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 10:00am–11:00am Blooming Junction, Cornelius, OR

Looking to maximize production, minimize maintenance, and grow flowers that will look great together in a vase? Join us for this informational class where you'll learn the basics of planning, planting and growing your own cut flowers for beautiful bouquets. Taught by local flower farmer Lara Rowles. \$10/person. www.bloomingjunction.com

Terrace Plant Sales Begin Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 10:00am-2:00pm Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

The Rogerson Clematis Garden is located at Luscher Farm, part of Lake Oswego's Park & Recreation system. 125 Rosemont Rd, West Linn, OR. www.rogersonclematiscollection.org

Kids' Club: Basket of Blooms
Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Al's Garden and Home, Sherwood & Woodburn, OR
Spring is here and we're getting into the new season
continued next column

with this fun class all about hanging baskets. Plant a hanging basket to take home and enjoy! Experiment with an assortment of trailing annuals to make a beautiful and unique hanging flower display. Learn what it means to be an "annual" flower and how they add beauty to our outdoor spaces. https://als-garden-and-home.myshopify.com/

Little Sprouts Strawberry Planter Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 11:00am-12:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Enjoy the taste of spring with your very own, homegrown strawberries! You will be planting your own bare-root Seascape strawberries in a pot made from recycled materials. \$10.00 prepayment required, call us today to reserve your kits. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Annual Planter Design Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 1:00pm-3:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Get creative in this container design class as you learn how to make an eye-catching arrangement! With a wide variety of annuals to choose from, you'll be sure to walk away with a stunning design to brighten up your yard! Pre-registration required. Price \$50. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330 www.garlandnursery.com

Annual Planter Design Sunday, April 10, 2022 • 1:00pm-3:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Get creative in this container design class as you learn how to make an eye-catching arrangement! With a wide variety of annuals to choose from, you'll be sure to walk away with a stunning design to brighten up your yard! Pre-registration required. Price \$50. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www. aarlandnursery.com

Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 16, 2022 • 10:00am–4:00pm Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

The Oregon Garden is so excited to announce the return of our annual Earth Day event!

continued next page



Out of an abundance of caution, this year's event will be held completely outside - so come prepared to enjoy the Garden grounds and celebrate our planet, rain or shine! Talk with various environmental education organizations, peruse vendors offering eco-friendly products and services and enjoy children's activities, guided tours, food trucks and more. Admission To Earth Day At The Oregon Garden Is Free! www.oregongarden.org

Spring Open House Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 10:00am-4:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Join us in welcoming spring by celebrating our 85th Anniversary. The weekend is packed with great classes and amazing guests. Wine and spirit tastings, door prizes, refreshments, and specials. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery. com

Bonsai Introductory Class Saturday, April 23, 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 and save! Only \$40.00 per person. Call to sign up: 360-225-8750 www.tsugawanursery.com

Insects Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 11:00am-12:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Want to know how to attract beneficial insects while getting rid of the bad bugs? Join Sharon Knight, our resident insect expert, to learn all about what creepy crawlers you want in your garden! Registration requested but not required. Price: free. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery. com

Breathtaking LO Baskets Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 1:00pm-3:00pm Rogerson Clematis Garden, West Linn, OR

Plant materials for this project are identical to those in continued next column

the fabulous hanging baskets on our city streets. Plants, baskets, planting materials, and maintenance instructions are provided. Choose from sun-loving plants or shade-tolerant varieties. Leave with your own beautiful creation just in time for Mother's Day! \$25 for general public, \$10 for FRCC Members, free for Duchess level FRCC Members, plus a \$25 materials fee. Instructor: Kathy Whitman. https://www.rogersonclematiscollection.org

Hanging Basket Saturday, April 23, 2022 • 2:00pm-3:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Want to make your very own flowering hanging basket? You'll be able to do just that in either of our hanging basket classes! Choose from a wide variety of annual spring flowers to fill your basket with color and spring beauty! Pre-registration required. Price \$50. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www. garlandnursery.com

Spring Open House Sunday, April 24, 2022 • 11:00am-3:00pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Join us in welcoming spring by celebrating our 85th Anniversary. The weekend is packed with great classes and amazing guests. Wine and spirit tastings, door prizes, refreshments, and specials. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery. com

Veggies Sunday, April 24, 2022 • 11:00am-12:30pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

If you want to start growing your own veggies but don't know where to start, this is the class for you! Join Mitch Pyles as he walks you through everything you need to have a successful crop! Registration requested but not required. Price: free. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www.garlandnursery.com

Hanging Basket Sunday, April 24, 2022 • 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Want to make your very own flowering hanging basket? continued next page



You'll be able to do just that in either of our hanging basket classes! Choose from a wide variety of annual spring flowers to fill your basket with color and spring beauty! Pre-registration required. Price \$50. Garland Nursery, 5470 NE Highway 20, Corvallis, 97330. www. garlandnursery.com

Lake Grove Garden Club Plant Sale Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 8:00am-12:00pm Our Lady of the Lake School, Lake Oswego, OR

Offering favorite plants from our gardens at great prices! Perennials, shrubs and trees, native plants, shade & sun, plus gardeners to answer any question.

What's new? We're opening early so we can be your first plant sale of the day. An expanded selection of native plants we love - for your bees and humming-birds. We're accepting credit and debit cards, along with checks and cash now. What's the same? These plants are LOCAL - mainly grown by us. The sale is indoors, so good rain or shine! Our price points will be low enough to make you smile! This is our main fundraiser for the charities we support - getting flowers to shut-ins, enhancing several public gardens, sponsoring a horticultural scholarship and more - all thanks to you! Our wagon volunteers will assist you getting your plants to your car! 650 Avenue A, Lake Oswego. https://www.facebook.com/LGGC1924/

Clackamas County Master Gardeners™ presents: 36th Spring Garden Fair Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9:00am-5:00pm Sunday, May 1, 2022 • 9:00am-4:00pm Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center, Canby, OR

We are excited to announce the 36th Spring Garden Fair will be held once again this year. Save the dates: April 30th and May 1st, 2022. The theme for this year's Spring Garden Fair is "Back to Basics". We will bring together your favorite garden vendors in one place once again after a two year hiatus. Many of your favorite Master Gardener activities will be returning as well. Look for the Plant Taxi's, Garden Fair Raffle, Ask a Master Gardener booth, and Potting Station. New Plant Introductions featuring our silent auction, free

plant check, and the Portland Iris Society will also be returning - all in their usual spots at the fairgrounds. The popular Good Thyme Food Court will be set up on the main lawn when it's time for lunch or just a snack.

Unpack your little red wagon and head over to shop everything garden! Located at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds and Event Center - 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby 97013. The hours for the Spring Garden Fair will be the same as previous years: Saturday 9am – 5pm and Sunday 9am – 4pm. The \$5.00 admission is still a bargain, and parking is FREE! Please remember that the fairgrounds is a smoke-free facility, and no pets are allowed - service dogs only, please.

The Clackamas County Master Gardener Association acts in collaboration with and in support of the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program. Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by Oregon State University in the science of gardening, to serve the community as garden educators. Proceeds fund horticulture scholarships for students at Clackamas Community College as well as community grants and free educational programs. Find out more about our event at www.SpringGardenFair.org or https://www.facebook.com/SpringGardenFair.

Aloha Garden Club Plant Sale Saturday, April 30, 2022 • 9:00am-12:00pm Aloha Huber Park Elementary School, Aloha, OR

Perennials, ground covers, grasses, shrubs, trees and houseplants. Great prices, \$3 to \$5 and up! Come early for best selection. Debit and credit cards accepted. Aloha Huber Park Elementary School, 5000 SW 173rd Avenue, Aloha, OR, off of Farmington Road. https://alohagardenclub.weebly.com/plant-sale.html

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





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

Benson High School • Central City Concern • Malarkey Roofing Lewis and Clark Law School • Muscular Distrophy Association Oregon Cancer SkiOut • Regional Water Providers Consortium SOLV • Salem Hospital • Team Oregon • Willow Station

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