



Garden Time

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022

Pollinators

Let's Talk About the Birds and the Bees

A bee approaches an Oregon lupine plant.



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PODCAST 003

Season 1
Episode 3

August 7, 2022

This week on Garden Time we talk about the birds and the bees. But don't get excited, we're talking about pollinators. Do you know about the pollinators in your garden and what you can do to attract them? We have the buzz on pollinators next on Garden Time.

For our podcast this week we are talking about the birds and the bees. Actually, we are talking about pollinators. Of course the first question is 'What is a pollinator?' It could be a lot of different insects and animals. The ones that people think about are bees, butterflies and birds, but there are also ants, moths, slugs, bats and even wasps. The variety of pollinators are incredible and not limited to daytime. There are blooms during the day and at night. Of course we talked about the Xerces Society and their definition of a pollinator. <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/about-pollinators> (by the way, a bee is not a bug!) Oregon State Extension also has some great links to lists of pollinators. <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/pollinators>. How does a pollinator work? Many pollinators use sight and smell to find the flowers and nectar that they crave. Some even use UV light sensitivity like polarized light and UV, to find their flowers, even at night.

Most people are familiar with the European Honey Bee. The Oregon Bee Project - <https://www.oregonbeeproject.org/> has resources for beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, foresters and gardeners. They also

have a list of the top native pollinators in Oregon that can be found on the Educator page of the website.

Why should we care? According to the Xerces Society 'The ecological service they provide is necessary for the reproduction of over 85% of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The United States alone grows more than 100 crops that either need or benefit from pollinators, and the economic value of these native pollinators is estimated at \$3 billion per year in the U.S. Beyond agriculture, pollinators are keystone species in most terrestrial ecosystems. Fruits and seeds derived from insect pollination are a major part of the diet of approximately 25% of all birds, and of mammals ranging from red-backed voles to grizzly bears.' - <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/whats-at-stake>. If you don't have pollinators, you would see the yields from fruits and flowers diminish greatly. The food chain would be severely affected and other species would have problems surviving.

What about the native pollinator vs. introduced pollinator (native bugs vs. European bees and introduced species). The honey

bee is the workhorse for many farmers, but there were native pollinators that were here before the bees were imported. The Xerces Society has a lot of great information about native species on their website, <http://www.xerces.org/>.

Of course the next question is 'How can we help?' Here is a link to a site with four ways to start, <http://www.xerces.org/bring-back-the-pollinators>. You can even sign a pledge and join a Pollinator Conservation Program - <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation>.

You can also use plants to attract and help pollinators. Here's a short plant list from OSU <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/12281/pollinatorplants.pdf>. We even talked about Stoller Family Estate planting their pollinator garden to help with diversity in their vineyard. That included the nature-scaping in their meadow and around the signature Oak tree. You could even start with the planting of a milkweed plant for the monarch butterfly, though we recommended to plant milkweed species that are native to your area. We also recommend a planting of Native plants, along with cultivars and nativars, and don't



forget trees! Use staggered plantings to provide for pollinators through the whole season.

There are two charts that we talked about. The perennial plant list we have on our website, <http://gardentime.tv/charts/perennial.htm>, which is pretty specific to the Pacific Northwest, and Ryan's list of pollinator plants (see page 6).

A few other tips include using fewer chemicals. When you do, apply them at the right time and read the label. Remember that organic chemicals can be as damaging as synthetics if used incorrectly and at the wrong time. You can also provide nesting sites for native pollinators such as mason bee houses. Not cleaning your garden too much to allow for ground based bees and pollinators is another way to help.

An effective design is a great place to start. You can begin with a simple potted plant or container, or get some great design tips here: Designing a pollinator friendly garden - <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/video/buzzing-beautiful-designing-pollinator-gardens-osu-extension>.



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Pollinator Bird: The House Finch

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- Petunia
- Ptilotus
- Salvia
- Scaevola
- Snapdragon
- Verbena
- Zinnia



Building a Multi-Season Pollinator Garden

Spring Perennial

- Achillea
- Astilbe
- Aquilegia
- Campanula
- Coreopsis
- Delphinium
- Dianthus
- Digitalis
- Iberis
- Leucanthemum
- Papaver
- Salvia

Summer Perennial

- Agastache
- Asclepias
- Buddleia
- Dahlia
- Echinacea
- Gaillardia
- Kniphofia
- Helenium
- Lavender
- Lobelia
- Monarda
- Phlox
- Penstemon
- Perovskia

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PODCAST 004

Season 1
Episode 4

Aug. 29, 2022

We take a look into the future! This week we are talking about gardening trends. Who starts them and what they mean for the average gardener. Are trends something new or are they just renamed old ideas to market new plants? We also take a look at a couple of plants that you should be looking for next year in your garden center.



In this episode of the Garden Time podcast we take a trip into the future! We are talking about gardening trends. We'll discuss how trends start and even look at a few hot new plants you may want to try in your garden. We have often wondered who decides what is trending. Sure, the customers determine what is hot and what is not, but someone has to introduce these plants and trends to the market. We have found a couple of companies that help bring these new ideas

to market and introduce them to the public.

Garden Media Group (www.GardenMediaGroup.com) is one company. They are a marketing and consulting firm that does the research to find out what is coming up in the garden industry. They do a yearly study and release the information to the market. We talked about their recent ideas for what will be trending for 2023. The other group is one that we have talked about before. The National Garden Bureau ([\[ngb.org/\]\(https://ngb.org/\)\) releases their 'plants of the year', which showcases various plants and talks about the benefits of each one. The GMG looks at a lot of different indicators to see what consumers want and what garden centers and growers can do to meet those needs \(and trends\). The NGB is pretty much picking plants to showcase them to homeowners to get them excited about gardening.](https://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Ryan and Judy also talked about where they see a lot of new plants and trends, at

national trade shows. Ryan recently attended Cultivate, a trade show in July that is a place where a lot of new plants and trends are revealed to retailers. Judy talked about the Far West Show which is a trade show here in Portland that does the same thing. Retailers go to these shows and see new products, and sometimes they place orders for new products that you will see in your garden center the following year.

Some of the plants that Ryan saw at Cultivate included Delphinium 'Red Lark', with its reddish colored blooms, the Sedum 'Little Shimmer', with tight variegated foliage, the Calibrachoa Million Bells 'Orangina', a rare orange-colored bloom on a million bells, and the Monstera obliqua with Swiss cheese foliage.

We also chatted about the indoor plant trends and design trends. Smaller gardens and the influx of new gardeners have people looking for plants that show-off and fit in tight spaces.

Give it a listen to hear more about these trends and why they are important to you, the gardener and also to your local retailer.



Delphinium 'Red Lark'



Sedum 'Little Shimmer'

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PODCAST 005 PREVIEW

Sept. 2022

We're preparing for our next podcast, and here are some of the topics we plan to discuss. Since the Garden Time Podcast is a free-form format, we never know what might pop up as we talk, but the information below is a loose guide as to where we'll begin. We would love to have your input on topics for future podcasts. Send us your ideas and questions at gardentime@comcast.net.



PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT
Jan McNeilan (center) and the Garden Time crew at the last "tips" shoot in June 2022.



PHOTO CREDIT: RON DUNEVANT
Raking up garden gold!

PODCAST 005 • FALL TIPS

As summer comes to a close, it's time to get your garden ready for fall, and we have just the person to help us do that: Long-time Garden Time friend and retired OSU Extension Agent, **Jan McNeilan!**

Jan will join us in the studio and she has a whole list of topics to cover. Of course, our discussion may vary a bit, but here's what's on the agenda.

Garden Evaluation

It's the year-end review. Gardening is a learning experience, and each year we learn more about what works and what doesn't. Which plants struggled? Which ones thrived? What should be moved or removed? Take a tour of your garden and have some notes handy for this pop quiz!

Planting

Time's a wastin'! As the weather changes, we have a limited time to get our gardens prepped before the first hard freeze. Jan will have tips for what to plant and where to plant it.

Bringing Houseplants Inside

Carrying in the pots is just the first part. There are a number of steps you can take to make your indoor plants look better, stay healthy, discourage pests and keep insect eggs from hatching.

What to do with Leaves

You may think of your leaves as a nuisance, but for your garden, they are pure GOLD! Jan will tell us how to use your leaves to enrich and protect your plants.

Protecting Potted Plants

For the plants you can't take inside, Jan will share some tips for keeping your container plants safe and healthy as the weather turns cold.

Caring for You

Before you take care of your plants, be sure to protect yourself with padded tools, pressure gloves, padded benches and more. These items will make your chores easier and safer.

Be sure to watch for these topics and more in this new podcast, coming this month!

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What To Do in the Garden

SEPTEMBER



The time goes so fast! With Summer winding down, it's time to enjoy the last warm days of the year, and turn our focus to Fall. September is a good month to plant, and it's a great time to start planning your garden for next year. With Fall rains coming, new plants will get established before the cold weather arrives.

PLANNING

- Plan some new color for spring by figuring out where to plant some spring bulbs. Creating pots with 'layers' of bulbs would be fun. A cluster of bright yellow daffodils planted at the base of a tree or three will really liven the yard up in the early months. Daffodils aren't eaten by squirrels or deer so they should remain intact for years giving you more color every spring.



- Check on the vegetables to be harvested. This is an important time to check on the crops, picking them before the veggies lose their flavor.
- Since September is a good month to plant and there are usually sales now on nursery stock, why not do a little landscape renovation? If you need help, bring some photos and notes into your local independent garden center. They can help you put together some good ideas of what to plant and where.

PLANTING

- It's time for shopping and planting spring bulbs! As the weather cools, that should be your signal to purchase some bulbs for a spring display of sunny color. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus can be found now. You'll have up until late October to plant them, but selection of the coolest

bulbs is gone early so don't delay.

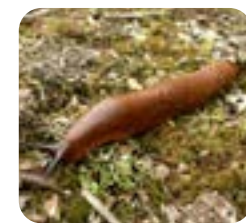
- Fall is an exceptional time to plant landscape trees and shrubs! With the rains coming on soon and the soil being so warm from the summer sun, the plant's root systems take right off this time of year. Most likely there are sales

to take advantage of, so the savings make it even more enticing.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage. Root weevil adults do the damage above ground that is visible so you'll know if they are around. The grubs below ground are the killers, girdling the trunk, besides eating the majority of the roots. Beneficial Nematodes are microscopic creatures that hunt out and destroy these pests and 229 more species of insects, but are not harmful at all to earthworms, humans or pets. They are active for two years in the soil too!



are easy to spot and get rid of, if you know what they look like. Slugs lay eggs under stones, pavers, boards, plant debris or wherever they can find a hiding spot. The eggs are usually clustered in groups and look like little BB's, but are a creamy color. By finding and destroying these eggs before they hatch, you will take care of hundreds of the slimy leaf-chompers before they can get to your plants.

- Be on the lookout for slugs and their eggs. Fall is egg laying time again for the slimy creatures. Eggs

- Begin to get plants ready for winter by holding back on the watering and stop any fertilizing this

month. The plants need to get toughened up for the coming winter. If watered frequently and fed too late in the season the leaves are more tender and apt to freeze or be severely damaged.

- September is an excellent month to start a lawn from scratch or over seed a thin lawn. In fact this time of year is about the best and fastest time to start a lawn.



- Fertilize the lawn now if you haven't done so for a couple of months. With the cooler weather and rains on the way you will notice the lawns becoming greener and thicker again, naturally.

- Pull up begonia tubers before

it gets too cold or at least move the pot into a garage or shed. Let foliage die down naturally, then remove foliage, lift bulb out of the soil and store the begonia tubers separately in paper bags (breathable!) in a protected cool, not cold, environment like a basement or a chilly room.

- Dahlias: to dig or not to dig? If you dig up the dahlias to store them, and then divide and replant in the spring, they will continue to come up bigger and better every year. If left in the ground eventually they will poop out, getting many smaller stems and fewer flowers.

Dig the tubers at least one week after a frost and after the stalks have died down. Dahlias dug too early will not store well. Cut the stalks down to 6-8", shake the loose soil off the clumps (don't wash the clump) then allow the



clump of tubers to cure or dry for a few days before being stored indoors in a cool dark area. Check stored tubers occasionally for any rot developing. You will divide and replant them next May.

- This is a great month to divide iris and other spring and early summer blooming perennials. Iris and other perennials can become overcrowded and that slows down on its flowering show. By lifting the clumps, cutting out the old centers or mushy parts and then replanting the leading growing edge of the clump immediately back into the garden, the perennials can again take off and give you additional years of flowers.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

- You can still seed these crops right into the garden: Arugula, beets, cabbage (for spring harvest), carrots, endive, fava beans, garlic cloves, lettuce, kale, mache, onion sets, radish, salad greens and shallot bulbs.

- Mulch the mature carrots, beets, turnips and parsnips for winter harvesting. By applying good 3-5" thick mulch you can store these veggies right out in the garden. Pull some up whenever you want to fix some for a meal.

- Harvest the winter squash when the 'ground spot' turns from white to a cream or gold color. (The ground spot is just what it sounds like, the part of the squash fruit that lay on the ground.) Winter squash can be harvested whenever the fruits have turned a deeper color and the rind is hard. Harvest the main part of the crop in September or October, before the heavy frosts. Cut squash from the vines

carefully, leaving two inches of stem attached if possible. Squash that is not fully mature, has been injured, or had their stems knocked off, or has been subjected to heavy frost will not keep.

- Harvest potatoes when the tops die down and before the first frost. Dig up the tubers, being careful not to nick the spuds with the shovel. Any tubers that have a damaged spot from digging should be cooked up and not stored. By hand remove any soil clinging to the potatoes and then leave them on top of the soil for a few hours to dry out - if they are stored damp, they will rot. Leaving them on the soil surface in the sun will harden the skin slightly, doubling the storage time.

- Protect the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant from early frost. Drape the plants with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover. Pick green tomatoes and ripen indoors if cold weather threatens.

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