



Garden Time

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2022



Fall Gardening
Topical and
Timely Tips from
Jan McNeilan

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PODCAST 005

Season 1
Episode 5

September 5, 2022

Hey, you wanna hot tip? Today on Garden Time we give you some tips for getting your garden ready for fall. What should you be doing and what should you avoid? We talk with our favorite Extension Agent, Jan McNeilan and she fills us in on all you need to know next on Garden Time.



Jan McNeilan joins Ryan and Judy for the Garden Time Podcast.

This time on the Garden Time podcast we are talking about fall gardening tips. For the 17 years of the weekly Garden Time program, Jan McNeilan, retired OSU Extension Agent, joined us once a month with her tips for the garden. She would give us topical and timely tips that we could do in our garden locally. If there were insect or disease problems that people were facing, she would always have great 'university backed research' to help gardeners solve their problems.

We thought it would be great to continue the partnership on our podcast and Jan was very gracious in agreeing to be with us again. This podcast we are talking about

the fall and approaching winter and what we can be doing in our gardens. Jan came with a list of topics and we dove right in.

We started with garden evaluation. This is the process of walking around your garden and seeing how your plants are doing. What is struggling? Is there too much sun for some and too much shade for others? Are some plants too crowded and need to be divided or moved? Jan noted that she found some plants that were not doing so well. She had a hydrangea that she has been pouring water on and it was suffering, while a fern at its base was doing great. Out comes the hydrangea and in goes more ferns and similar plants. This

is the time that you can be doing a tiny bit of cleaning. Cleaning out dead annuals from your garden and pots can be done now. You can also discard some diseased plants and throw them in your garbage. If you compost them, they may spread those diseases to your plants next year. Getting them in the garbage will get those diseases far away from your future garden. For those plants that have winter interest or provide food and shelter for the native wildlife, you can leave those in place. In fact, keep part of your garden a little messy. Don't be in a rush to have clean and pristine garden beds. The ground dwelling pollinators like bumblebees need those messy areas for their nests and protection

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Daffodil Bulbs



Tulip Bulbs

over the cold winter months. Speaking of birds and pollinators, we also talked about seed heads on your plants. You save some of those seeds and plant them again the following season (they will not always be the same plant, but something similar) or you can leave the heads and let the birds eat them.

We also talked about pruning. This is a touchy area. You can cut back some of your perennials but be careful. For some of your perennial plants and shrubs you could be cutting off the blooms for next year. Spring blooming plants need to be pruned right after they bloom in the spring. Starting in the summer they start setting buds for next year's blooms. Lilacs, rhododendrons and azaleas all should have been clipped months ago. Others like hydrangeas, rosemary, and roses can be cut back at any time. Roses can be trimmed and they will send out new growth. When we get closer to winter you can cut them back to about waist high to prevent wind damage. When you get to February then roses can be trimmed even harder in preparation for the spring.

We then moved to bringing your indoor plants back inside for the fall. Some plants like Christmas cactus can handle some cold temps, but once they come in they will start to bloom pretty fast. For those other plants they can stay outside until temps get to the lower 40s and then you can clean them up for the move inside. This means looking for pests and diseases and cleaning the plants before you do anything. You can also remove the top inch of soil from the pots and replace it with new, fresh potting soil. This removal of old soil will get rid of pests and insect eggs.

Finally, we finished the first half of the show by talking about protecting your tender outdoor plants. If you have a sensitive plant, it may need a good layer of mulch to protect the crown of the plant. We also talked about a hardy banana that Jan's neighbor has.

This plant can survive, but the leaves will get wet and rotten when the frost comes. She recommends that you cut the trunk of the banana, leaving about 2-4 feet above ground. Then wrap it with bubble wrap, bury it in leaves in a wire cage, or cover it as much as possible. If you have plants in large pots or no room to move plants indoors, cover them the same way or do like Jan and pile leaves over them. When spring comes around, keep an eye on the containers. Remove the leaves when new growth starts to push so the new plants can harden off and slow down their growth. If those plants are under your eaves, keep them watered. Even in winter some plants will need water to survive and make it to the next growing season.

After our break we talked about planting. We have always heard that fall is a great time to plant, and it's true! The days are still pretty warm and the soil is warmer as well. In the spring we wait until the soil temps get warm before we plant, in the fall that is not a problem. Jan said it is best to plant 6 weeks before the chance of a hard frost. She focuses on plantings that have more than one season of interest and then she plants them where she can enjoy them. Her view from her kitchen window is a favorite location for her new plants. The key to a plant doing well in the fall is water. Even if fall rains return, they may not be heavy enough showers to water in your plants. Jan has always been a big fan of 'mudding in' your plants. This is where you dig a hole as deep as your plant container and twice as wide. You fill the hole with water and then place the plant in the hole and fill around it with soil. Make sure that your soil is pressed down and the air bubbles are out and then deeply water that same plant at least weekly until the rains return in earnest. Fall is also the time for planting your spring and early summer bulbs. Judy had brought some bulbs for us to look at including tulips, daffodils and garlic. The garlic can be planted now and harvested in late June and early July next

summer. Break apart the bulb into cloves and then plant those cloves in your garden according to the package instructions. Then we talked about planting the tulips and daffodils. You can simply follow the instructions on soil prep and planting depth and you'll be fine. We used to hear people talk about planting the 'pointy side up', but the bulbs know which way to grow and will do fine, even if you plant them upside down.

The benefits of protecting your fall and winter plants with a good mulch is key. A good mulch will protect the crown of the plant and prevent freezing, plus it can retain moisture and provide nutrients for the plant as the mulch decomposes. It will enrich your soil. You can add fertilizer if you want, but it can wash away or not break down fast enough if you get a frost. Many gardeners do what Jan does and use the fall leaves to cover their garden beds.

We then finished by talking about planting and caring for your lawn. Some people still like a nice green lawn and what you do in the fall can help your lawn survive and thrive in the new year. Ryan did a story with JB Instant Sod for the Garden Time show and he had some great tips for rejuvenating your lawn. First, you have to remove the old lawn either with a turf cutter or by spraying it with a broad herbicide (like a Round-up), then you add a couple of inches of garden mulch or compost and roto-till that in. You then roll it to remove the bumps and lumps. Next you can treat the soil with lime to sweeten the soil (making the soil a neutral pH). This will create a more favorable condition for the seed to germinate. You then spread the new seed, making sure that you use the seed that is right for your sun or shade conditions. You can then apply another light layer of mulch, and water it in. Make sure that you keep the soil lightly moist. Once the seed germinates, it needs to stay moist until the plant reaches about 3-4 inches in height. Remember, fall is the perfect time to act, the soil temperatures are warm and the seed can establish before those cold winds blow.

Places where you can find great gardening information include your local University Extension Office. Jan said that there are offices in nearly every county in the country! Locally, you can check out the Oregon State University Extension website at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>. The OSU Extension Service Clackamas County Master Gardener 10 Minute University also has some great handouts and videos that Jan referred to. You can find them at <https://clackamascountymastergardeners.org/10-minute-university/>. Also if you are looking for specific plant information you can look up the society or group that focuses on that plant. Roses, dahlias, rhododendrons and many others all have societies with tons of expert information that you can access. Look for the group in your area.

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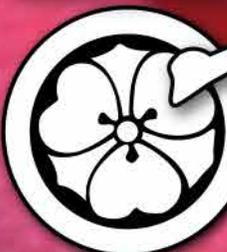
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**PODCAST
006
PREVUE**

October 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.



The tropical gardens in the greenhouses at the botanical gardens at the University of Ghent.

**PODCAST 006 •
GARDENS FROM THE GARDEN TIME
TOUR TO BELGIUM AND HOLLAND**

The Garden Time Crew just returned from their latest tour, a 10-day trip to destinations in Belgium and Holland.

As all the Garden Time Tours have been, this latest excursion included visits to some of Europe's oldest botanic gardens, farms and the Aalsmeer Flower Auction. They also attended the legendary Floriade Garden Expo in Amsterdam.

One thing of particular interest on these tours is the question of how gardening in Europe compares to gardening in the Pacific Northwest, especially for plants that grow in both places.

As you know, Holland is famous for its tulips and we also grow them in Oregon and Washington. What techniques are they us-

ing in Amsterdam that might benefit us at home? Many of the growers in Holland are using procedures that are centuries old, along with ideas developed in the 21st century. How might we apply this knowledge to help us be more successful?

We recorded interviews with some of the gardeners along the way, and they will share their knowledge. We'll also talk about some of the different plants we saw, and some unique varieties and colors we found that impressed us. You may be surprised at what is the same and what is different in gardens that are halfway around the world.

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



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SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GARDEN TIME TOUR



A canal tour of Bruges, Belgium

After COVID delays in 2020 and 2021, the Garden Time crew finally got to go on their much anticipated tour of Holland and Belgium. From September 7th through 16th, Producer Jeff, Assistant Producer Therese, hosts Judy and Ryan and gardening guru Jan McNeilan joined a hardy troop of garden enthusiasts for a 10 day/9 night tour that included the world famous Aalsmeer Flower Auction, the Floriade Expo 2022, Floriworld, University Gardens of Ghent, Japanese Gardens of the Hague and private tours of museums, guided city walks, multi-course dining, tastings of local specialties and lots of local flavor.

This was to be the final Garden Time

Tour, since the weekly program has come to an end. However, Jeff indicated that there may be a possibility of another tour in the future. Keep an eye on the Garden Time Facebook page and website. If a decision is made in favor of another tour, the information will be posted there.

In the meantime, here are a few pictures that Jeff shared from the journey. It looks like they all had a great time!

To see more pictures, check out the Garden Time Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Garden-Time-1426801224299287>.



The Amsterdam Centraal, the main station for trains, busses, ferries and trams.



Alstroemeria in bloom... some new varieties coming to market.



A beautiful amaryllis in bloom.



A before and after shot. Before, a block of wood. After, a finished shoe.



Boats along the river Leie in Belgium.



Most of the happy tour group and crew at dinner.



Belgian beer.



The tropical gardens at Rosen and Radijs.



An explanation of cheese making and a tasting. This cheese was very Gouda!



The City Hall in Antwerp, finished in 1565, features dozens of flags from different nations, representing the diversity of its citizens.



The auction floor at the world famous Aalsmeer Flower Auction is over 250 football fields in area.



A peek inside the Rijks Museum greenhouse.



The front of the Mauritshuis museum. The 17th century building holds the collections of art from former kings. The floral display is to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the museum.



We stopped by the Rembrandt Windmill. No one knows how it got its name or if he ever was here but it is beautiful. It is now a residence with a family living here.



The entrance to the Rijks Museum. The bike lane runs right through the center of the building.



The city hall on the market square in Haarlem.



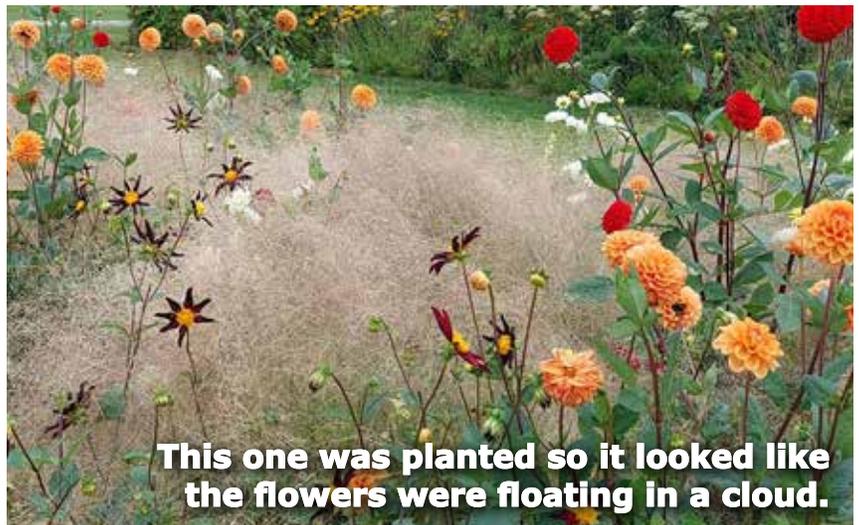
The Royal Dutch Theater in the old town in Ghent. There is a large mosaic on the front and the architecture is phenomenal.



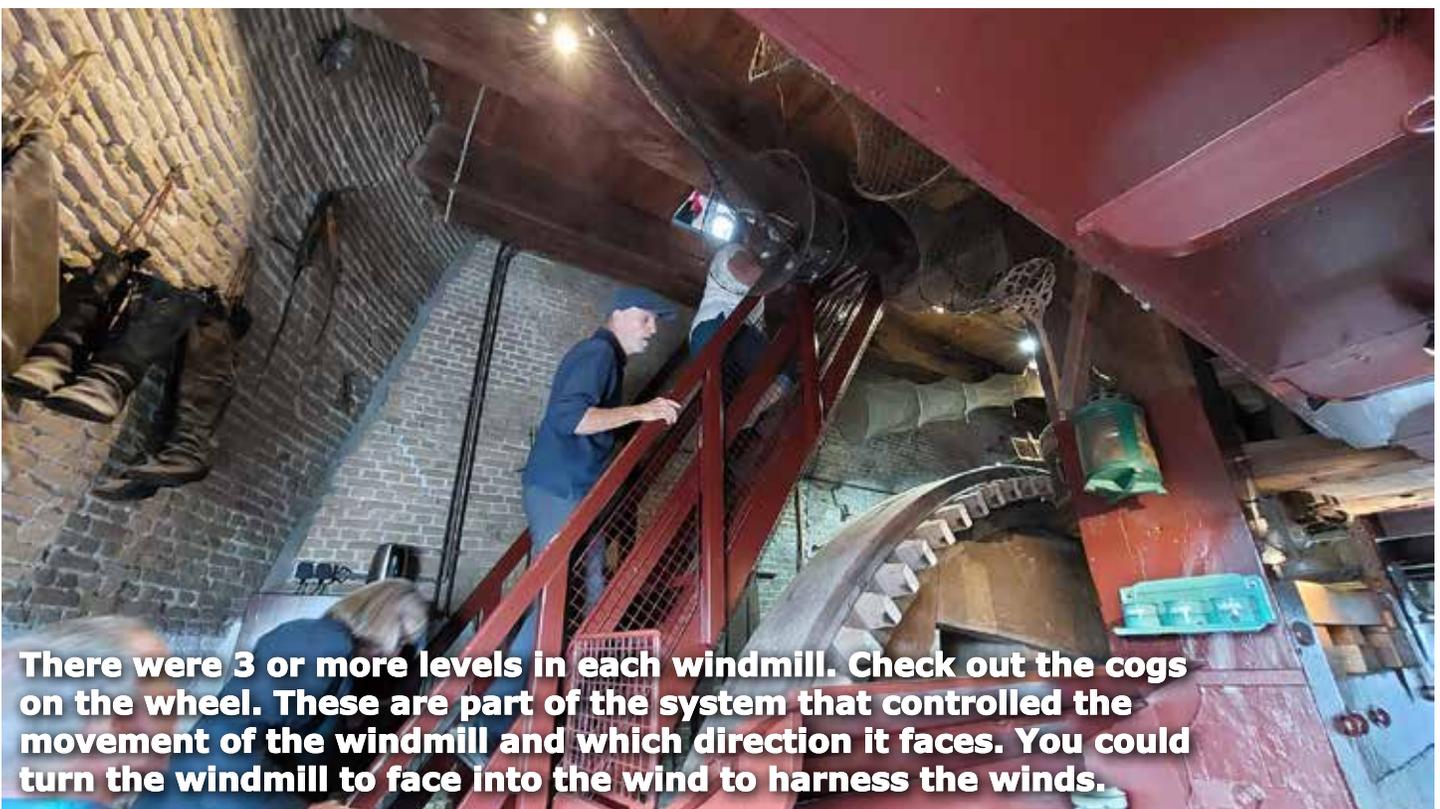
How would you like this display for your indoor plants!?



Lisianthus on display. Jeff loved this color!



This one was planted so it looked like the flowers were floating in a cloud.



There were 3 or more levels in each windmill. Check out the cogs on the wheel. These are part of the system that controlled the movement of the windmill and which direction it faces. You could turn the windmill to face into the wind to harness the winds.

What To Do in the Garden

OCTOBER

Ah, the shades of Autumn. Just when you think all the color is leaving your garden, Fall arrives and we're presented with a brand new palette of hues. It's also a reminder that time is running out to prepare your plants for winter. Take advantage of the longer daylight hours and make sure your plants are ready for the cold days ahead.

PLANNING

- Start to plan next year's vegetable garden. Take your notes from this year while everything is fresh in your mind and create the plan for next year's garden. Rotate the spaces where crops were this year to help control disease and insect problems.



- Garden Journal catch-up

time. There is no time like the present for getting caught up. This will help with the plan for next year's vegetable garden.

- Check out any conifer sales and plan the live Christmas tree purchase early. Starting a green tradition of planting a live tree after Christmas is something to get the entire family involved in. Plant the 'seed' early this year to get the family excited about the new yearly tradition!

PLANTING

- The best time to plant anything into the landscape is actually all winter long! You can move plants around in the yard now and plant in any new acquisitions to the landscape. With the rain coming on you won't have to worry about watering them until next spring sometime.

- Move the plants that are stuck beneath the house overhang under the eaves where rain doesn't reach.

- There are about two weeks left to plant a new lawn or over-seed an existing one. Lawns started in the fall start quickly but don't wait until the frosts are here or you won't have good results.

- Plant spring bulbs starting this month through December. There is no better time to get your spring bulbs in the ground for next year's bloom. This includes tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus. Choose a sunny location

with well-draining soil. Add compost to the soil by spading it in with a fertilizer.

- Bulb tip! Keep the squirrels and deer from eating the tulips by placing a tablespoon of Bonide's 'Molemax' into the planting hole before the bulb goes in.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons.
- Watch for Crane Fly infestations in the lawn. Using Beneficial Nematodes in the soil can safely kill these lawn destroyers before they eat it all, however you can actually have 25 grubs per square foot of lawn without seeing a lot of damage if the lawn is healthy and thick. Fertilize the lawn, apply Cal-piril lime yearly, aerate and dethatch every so often and mow the grass taller to help create a lush thick

grass lawn the Crane Fly grubs can't destroy.

- Compost excess leaves and garden debris. Composting is a great way to recycle all the yard waste back to the Earth. Mow the leaves to chop them up and add to the compost pile with greens like grass clippings to aid the breakdown of the leaves. Think layer cake when doing compost; a layer of



W T D I T G

wet green grass clippings followed by a layer of dry brown leaves.

Saving bags of dry leaves for next summer's compost pile is not too hard to do and helps provide the 'brown' needed in the compost



layer cake. You probably found out when it's all green grass clippings it quickly becomes a smelly pile of guck. Good

compost smells like good earth, not stinky at all. Turning the pile every other week helps to introduce oxygen into the mix, much needed by the microbes breaking down the material. More oxygen means faster breakdown. Do a little research and start composting!

- Don't compost diseased leaves from fruit trees. Burn them or send to municipal composting facilities.

- Get garden plants ready for winter, but don't prune back hard. Too often folks are eager to cut back their plants hard in the fall. Not a good idea. Plants get ready for winter weather from the top down, so if you cut off the top then the plant will be more susceptible to cold damage. It is more prudent to leave the plants tall and even with spent flowers on them (birds will thank you) and then pile on the leaves from the yard to cover the soil. Leaves are good insulation against the cold coming in winter. If you have to clean everything up then come back with a thick topdressing of organic compost or bark.



- Slugs patrol for eggs or adults. Use safe slug controls like Slug Magic which is just iron phosphate. As this prod-

uct breaks down the plants get

the benefit of the extra iron. Eggs look like little off-white BBs. Gather them up and toss them in the garbage. Look under rocks, boards, garden debris; wherever the mama slug found a protected spot to lay her egg stash.

- Watering, especially under the house eaves, getting ready for colder weather. Plants that go into cold weather with dry roots are extremely susceptible to cold damage. Just like our skin, plants can take the cold better when hydrated. Water plants deeply this fall if the rains are not getting to the roots; like under evergreen trees and eaves of the house.

- Winterize the more tender plants you want to save for next year like the hanging fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and tuberous begonias. Bring them into a protected environment before the frost gets them. Treating them as a houseplant can give you a head start on next year's flower gardens.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Be sure to pick the crops as they mature before they lose their best flavor. Some crops can stay in the ground over winter and pulled up when wanting to prepare them for a meal; like beets, carrots, parsnips & turnips. Mulch them in good with a thick layer of leaves or compost.

- Planting cover crops to help fight weeds in winter and add back nutrients to the soil for next years crops. Give back to the soil the nutrition that your plants took out as they grew. Cover crops are the bee's knees when it comes to adding back some nitrogen plus other nutrients and adds lots of organic

matter back to the soil when you spade it under to rot next spring.

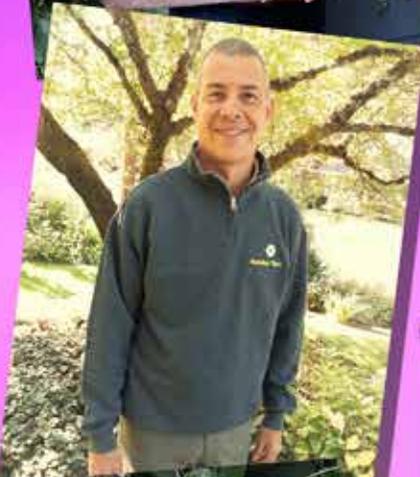


- Plant Garlic cloves You still have time to plant some garlic this fall. Be sure to purchase some heads soon or they'll be gone before you get yours! Garlic gets planted in the fall and sends up a green sprout soon afterward. The cloves need months

to mature so you should get them in soon. After it sprouts you can pop a layer of compost over them to protect them this winter. Then mark your calendar for next July to harvest the best tasting garlic ever-your own crop!

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