



# Garden Time

## Newsletter

APRIL 2023



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Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival/PAGE 4

APRIL 2023

PODCAST 017



PODCAST 018



COMING UP



GARDEN TIPS



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**PODCAST**  
**017**

Season 2  
Episode 5

Mar. 16, 2023

*How do you mark the beginning of Spring? For many it is a visit to the Wooden Shoe Tulip Fest in Woodburn, Oregon. On this episode of Garden Time we will pay a visit to the fields and preview the upcoming 39th festival. We will talk with owner Barb Iverson about the history of the fest and get some tips on growing tulips in your garden.*



**Ryan, Judy and Jeff with Barb Iverson from Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm.**

Spring is a time when gardeners start to get excited about the warmer, flower-filled months ahead. For many that excitement starts in a flower field in the mid-Willamette Valley at the Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm. For 39 years the Wooden Shoe Tulip Fest (<https://www.wooden-shoe.com/>) and the Iverson family have welcomed people to their 40-plus acre tulip farm early each spring to celebrate the tulip. We had a chance to stop by the farm before the festival started to chat with Barb Iverson about the history of the Tulip Fest and growing tulips.

The festival is the signature event for the farm and the Iversons, but they have been growing tulips for more than 39 years, since the mid-

'70s. They started when they were approached by a tulip grower from Indiana. The earlier growing season here in the Northwest was why he came to talk to them. Growing bulbs is a tough business, so members of the family got together and decided to start a little festival to drum up interest in bulb sales. Their first little festival was not much more than a wheelbarrow full of tulip bunches and they ended up with a traffic jam. Being a farming family, they were surprised at the response. They were also growing rhododendrons at the same time and slowly got out of that business to free up more fields for blooms and it has grown consistently since then. Starting with about three acres, they now plant between 35 and 40 acres

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**Tulips in bloom at a previous festival.**

of bulbs. All those acres means waves of color when you come out to visit.

Those waves of color are all weather-dependent. Some years, like this one, the colder weather of the late winter has slowed down the blooms. The festival for 2023 was supposed to start on the 17th of March, but due to the cold rains and snow, they had to push the opening until the 24th of March. Once blooming, they like a little cooler weather to keep the tulips from blooming too quickly. The good thing about Wooden Shoe is that they try to have plenty for people to do when they come out even if the flowers don't cooperate. There are lots of fun activities and things to do for the whole family. You can always see how the fields are doing by checking out their website and the updated Field Report, <https://www.woodenshoe.com/events/tulip-fest/field-report/>.

One of the problems of the past was the huge crowds that would be attracted to see the blooms. When the COVID-19 pandemic came, they had to change to a timed ticketing system to keep the crowds lower. It worked out so well that they have continued to use that

system. Now, instead of waiting in a traffic jam for hours, you can drive right in and know there will be a parking spot for you and your family. Plus, the crowds are smaller so you can enjoy the fields without a huge crush of humanity to deal with. People are always aiming to catch the blooms at their peak, but as Barb told us, there really is no peak. Since there are so many varieties with differing bloom times you may have a 'peak' of a week or more, once again, depending on the weather. We were told that the best time to see the most blooms will occur in April. Always check the field report to get updated information.

It is a lot of work for the family and all the Wooden Shoe employees, but there are a lot of perks. One is just being in the fields every day. The color of the blooms with the backdrop of snow covered Mt. Hood is amazing. Then there are the memories that are being made. Barb loves to see the families with little kids out in the field and seeing them walking among the blooms. There is also the reach that this festival has. There used to be a world map on a wall near the office and they counted visitors from nearly 140 different countries one year.

The farm figures that there have been over between 3.5 and 4 million people who have visited the farm. That's a lot of smiles over nearly four decades.

What can you do once you get your ticket and come out? Well, there are the fields, of course. Then they have a lot happening back near the gift shop. They have their own wine, so you can have a glass or two of that. If you are really into wines they offer wine tours around the fields and a tasting of their fabulous vintages. There are a lot of kids' games and activities, jump tents and carnival rides, including cow wagons and photo cut-out boards. There are a lot of onsite food vendors. On weekends you can see how wooden shoes are made, check out steam tractor demonstrations and craft vendors. Depending on the weather you can even book a tethered hot air balloon ride.

If you fall in love with the tulips, you can purchase cut flowers to take home or order bulbs to be delivered next fall so you can plant them and enjoy some of this great color in your own garden. If you forget to do it at the festival, check out their sales page where you can or-

der bulbs like tulips, daffodils, grape hyacinth, alliums and crocus (<https://www.woodenshoe.com/shop/>).

Once you fall in love with the tulips you will want to learn a few tips on how to take care of them. First of all, tulip bulbs do not like wet feet. That means they don't like to sit in wet or damp conditions. Tulips really like good drainage. It doesn't take long for the bulbs to rot if they are sitting in water. You don't have to worry about planting them in a certain direction. The bulbs don't have an up or down. They will grow the right direction no matter which way they are planted. They also like a little chilling; the bulbs like a little bit of cold to trigger their spring growth. As far as pests, rodents love tulips. Mice and voles will nibble them to get to the tasty center of the bulb where the new plant is forming. After they bloom in your garden, then deer become a problem. They love the blooms for a whole different reason than you! It is a delicacy for them to eat. Of course, slugs can also be a problem, eating the leaves and blooms, stunting their growth. Other than that there are not a lot of pests for tulips. There is a mold that you might encounter from moist



**A balloon floats majestically over a field of tulips.**

conditions and it can spread so fast that it is called "fire blight." Pick those diseased plants once you see them and throw them in the garbage to prevent the spread of the disease.

Once you have them planted you can pretty much leave them in the ground. Some people want to know if you should dig them every year, but they are a perennial bulb so for most locations it is safe to leave them alone. The only time to dig them is if you are seeing a lot of foliage and no blooms. The bulbs will multiply over time and that crowding of the bulbs will cause them to compete for resources and become weak. Dig them up after they bloom and separate the bulbs and plant the extras in a different area in your garden. If you don't have room in your garden, remember that tulips are great for your early spring containers. To help them get stronger you can deadhead them after they bloom. Deadheading is when you snap off the old bloom, and the seed pod that is forming, and leave the foliage. This allows the foliage to feed nutrients to the bulbs and helps form the new blooms for next year. If you want to help them grow you can add a bulb fertilizer. The best bulb fertilizer is one that doesn't have a lot

of nitrogen in it. Nitrogen will promote leaf and green growth. You want the phosphorus to be a little higher than other nutrients, since that promotes root growth.

For displaying your cut tulips you will want to give them a fresh cut when you get them home or from the store. Then get them in cold water. You don't need to add anything to the water to keep them going. In fact, tulips are one of the few flowers that will continue growing once they have been cut. The only warning that Barb gave us about displaying them is to not put them in a vase with fresh cut daffodils. Daffodils release a sap and if placed in a vase with tulips they will plug the vascular system of the tulip and shorten its life. Put your daffodils in another container for at least a day before you include them in a vase with your tulips.

So, check out their website and book your tickets to come out to the fields if you are in the area. If you live a little further away, be sure to check out their sales page to get some bulbs for your spring garden. Kick off your spring with some wonderful color!



A rainbow of tulip colors.

PHOTO CREDIT: SARAH MCD VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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# PODCAST 018

Season 2  
Episode 6

Mar. 22, 2023

*It must be spring because GardenPalooza is here! The 19th annual GardenPalooza is back and on today's episode we talk with Brian Bauman of Bauman's Farm and Garden to hear about all the great plant vendors you can find there. We also talk about some great Dramm garden tools for your garden and we get some tips on fertilizing with organics from Espoma. It's all coming up next on Garden Time.*



**Ryan and Judy with guest Brian Bauman.**

This episode of the Garden Time Podcast finds us at Bauman's Farm and Garden to talk about GardenPalooza (<http://www.gardenpalooza.com/>). For those who don't know, GardenPalooza is an annual event that started nearly 20 years ago. Producer Jeff was one of the original founders of this event, which features small local garden nurseries from around the Pacific Northwest. After a couple years off for the covid pandemic, we returned last year with the event at a new location, Bauman's Farm and Garden (<https://baumanfarms.com/>, 503-792-3524). The first year at Bauman's was great and we are excited to return for a second year! Recently we stopped by Bauman's to talk with Brian Bauman about all the activities that you will find when you come out on the 1st of April.

GardenPalooza is known for a great mix of garden vendors. That hasn't changed. You will find a huge group (over 35) of garden supply, art and plant vendors to choose from. Plus there is free parking and free admission. Being at Bauman's adds even more to the mix. You can bring the whole family because the petting zoo and kids play area is right next to the garden vendor area. They also have a great bakery full of delicious items. The selections include sandwiches, soup, and salads. You can also grab a glass of Bauman Cider to enjoy while you shop.

GardenPalooza is not only a great place to pick up plants for your garden, you can save money while you shop. If you check out the GardenPalooza website you will find a bunch of coupons that you can use at vendors while you are

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**A variety of plants will be available for purchase at GardenPalooza.**



**There's something to appeal to every gardener at GardenPalooza!**

there, <http://www.gardenpalooza.com/coupon.htm>. If you stop by and see the Garden Time crew at the Garden Time booth you can register for giveaways on the half hour. These include Bauman gift cards and watering and cutting tools from Dramm (<https://rainwand.com/>), which we will talk about later in the podcast. We will also have a drawing for a large metal arbor, valued at \$850, from Garden Gallery Iron Works. Garden Gallery is known for their great home and garden art. If you are looking for useful and beautiful garden décor you need to stop by their booth. If you want to see more of their great items after GardenPalooza, stop by the Garden Gallery Iron Works store in Hubbard!

Finding GardenPalooza is easy. Bauman's Farm and Garden is located just south of Woodburn on 99E. Just check out these directions:

#### **From Portland:**

Take I-5 South to the Woodburn Exit 271. Take a left off of the freeway and go about 2 miles to Hwy 99E. (you will see Safeway on the corner). Take a right on to Hwy 99E and travel about 3 miles to Howell Prairie Road. (You will see our signs on Hwy 99E before and at Howell Prairie). Travel down Howell Prairie Road about 1/2 mile. We are the first place on the right.

#### **From Salem:**

Take I-5 North of Salem to the Brooks / Gervais Exit #263. Turn right off the Freeway, go about 1 mile to the stoplight. Turn left at the stoplight onto 99E. Go 6 1/2 miles to Howell Prairie Road. Turn Right, go 1/2 mile to our farm. (There are signs on 99E when to turn.)

Once you get to the farm you will find signs to direct you to the free parking. Park your car and then head towards the barn/store. You won't be able to miss all the great garden vendors on your way to Bauman's store. Purchase the plants and garden art that tickles your fancy and then drop them off at the free holding area to continue your shopping. Since these are individual vendors, please pay each vendor for your purchase, since there is no central check-out area.

A couple more tips. Since the farm has gravel surfaces the shopping carts don't roll well on those surfaces, so use the plant holding area to



**One of many Dramm watering tools.**

'store' your plants. Then pull your car around to pick them up when you're done for the day. Also, Bauman's Farm and Garden does welcome well-behaved pets on a leash, but since crowds tend to be large it may be upsetting to them. It might be a good idea to leave them at home for this event. We do ask that you clean up after your pet. Please be aware that Oregon law prohibits all animals in the grocery, coffee shop and bakery areas of the farm store at all times.

For more information on the event you can go to [www.GardenPalooza.com](http://www.GardenPalooza.com) (<http://www.GardenPalooza.com>) and check out the map of the farm to help you navigate, <http://www.gardenpalooza.com/directions.htm>.

This year our friends at Dramm Tools are helping us out by being presenting sponsors for GardenPalooza. Now that Spring is here, it is time to start checking out your tools to see if they might need replacing. This applies to all your tools. If you have a poor tool it can really make your job harder and that will take all the fun out of gardening for you. We found an easy way to find some really excellent tools. We just looked for the colorful Dramm display at our



PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF GUSTIN

Looking for color? You'll find it at GardenPalooza.



PHOTO CREDIT: JEFF GUSTIN

Come check out GardenPalooza... guaranteed to give you a sunny disposition.

local garden center. Dramm (<http://www.rainwand.com>) makes a huge line of quality tools. We first started with the watering tools. Dramm has been the leader in watering tools for decades. Judy started with the handheld watering tools, including the **One Touch Rain Wand** • (<https://rainwand.com/style/one-touch>). You can ensure your newly planted seeds get the right amount of water with the One Touch Rain Wand. The One Touch Rain Wand creates a gentle, full flow for quick and thorough watering. The One Touch Valve allows complete and total water flow control with just one touch of your thumb. The watering wand is available in 16" and 30" lengths in all of Dramm's eye-catching colors. The watering wand will help you reach all those tall hanging baskets and when you pair it with the shut-off valve you can save a ton of water too. They also produce a hand-held sprayer. It has a choice of nine different settings so you could go from a powerful stream to a light mist; perfect for any garden job. Brian and Ryan talked about how Dramm is the choice of professionals in the gardening industry. Almost all growers and retailers use Dramm watering tools for their businesses because they are durable and very functional. Dramm also makes a great line of pruning tools. We focused on the two types of pruners that they carry.

**Bypass Pro Pruner** • (<https://rainwand.com/model/colorpoint-cutting-bypass-pro-pruner/>) This tool is a great item for spring garden clean-up! You can prune small plants, branches, and shrubs effortlessly. The professional-grade pruner is equipped with a blade adjustment gear, which allows adjustment for blade gap maintenance. It has a one-half inch cutting capacity and is made with corrosion-resistant stainless steel blades and the ergonomic handle and non-slip grips fit your hand for a comfortable cut every time. These are also available in Dramm's six enticing colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and berry.

**Compact Shear** • (<https://rainwand.com/model/colorpoint-compact-shear/>) This is another great item for garden spring clean-up on a lighter scale! It is an ideal tool for cutting flowers and trimming back plants with a fine point for detailed cutting. The lightweight shear is made with corrosion-resistant stainless steel blades for precise trimming and shaping. Dramm also has a selection of large 'loppers' for

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One of many Espoma products.

itself to the roots of your plant and help it convert the nutrients in the soil into food for your plant. Once the plant is growing with a nice healthy root system, you can use **Garden-tone** to keep the plants growing with even more beneficial nutrients. You will have healthy plants with more flowers and fruit later in the season.

Espoma looks at the needs of many types of plants and then formulates specific blends of fertilizers to address those individual needs. Carla had bags of the **Azalea-tone**, **Rose-tone** and **Bulb-tone**. Each one is made to meet the needs of those plant families. If you are wondering about what type of product to use on your plants and how to apply them, check out their website. They have a 'Learn' tab on their website where you can find great information about when and where to use their products.

We wrapped up our visit talking about soils. Last year Bauman's replanted some beds around their offices. To do that Brian picked the **Organic Land and Sea Gourmet Compost** from Espoma (<https://www.espoma.com/>). This new soil amendment was the newest to the complete line of composts and potting soils from Espoma. This one is called Land and Sea because it combines the best peat and humus from the land and crab and lobster shells from the sea. This gives you a great compost loaded with tons of nitrogen. It also has the two different mycorrhizae to help with superior root growth. This soil amendment was worked into the existing soil. Then as he planted the new plants Brian also added the Bio-Tone Starter fertilizer. This transplant fertilizer helps the plants deal with transplant shock and gives them a little more nutrients to boost their early growth.

As it is said, you want to give your plants the best chance for a healthy start, and to do that you really need the Espoma products.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the GardenPalooza event at Bauman's Farm and Garden on April 1st from 8am to 3pm. If you miss the event and want to contact the individual nurseries, check out the GardenPalooza website (<http://www.GardenPalooza.com>). You can also visit Bauman's any time of year for some of their great events, wonderful plants and delicious food!

those big pruning jobs.

Dramm tools are available at most of your local garden centers.

Finally, we had a chance to talk with Carla from Espoma products. When you are planting your new vegetable garden, remember to get it off to the right start. That means helping your plant get the energy it needs from the soil by using the great products from Espoma (<https://www.espoma.com>). We talked about Espoma and their commitment to the environment. They have been producing great garden fertilizers and amendments for over 94 years. They even converted their production facility and head office to 100% solar energy! Carla brought out four of the main products that people are focusing on for the spring. We commented on the signature look of the bags and how they are easy to pick out in the garden center, but those bags are filled with some great products. The first product was the **Bio-tone Starter Plus**. Bio-tone Starter Plus is magic in a bag according to Carla. It has soil microbes, mycorrhizae and a starter fertilizer all in one bag. You add this to the hole when you plant. It will attach

# IT'S BACK! <sup>19TH ANNUAL SPRING</sup> GardenPalooza

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**SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2023**  
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**PODCAST  
019  
PREVUE**

April 2023

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](mailto:gardentime@comcast.net).

PHOTO CREDIT: TSUGAWA NURSERY



A 'Yuletide' Camellia in bloom.

Coming up in one of our April podcasts, if you are looking for a shrub that does well in our Northwest soils and conditions, and blooms in late Fall and through to Spring, then you might consider a camellia. Camellias love the Pacific Northwest and will reward you with color in your garden when other plants are just trying to survive. Depending on the variety you can have blooms through the winter and even wonderful blooms into the spring. In fact we have a celebration of camellias every spring in Newberg, Oregon. The camellia is the official flower of Newberg! We will visit the festival and talk with experts on how you can grow great camellias in your garden.

Keep an eye on the Garden Time website and our Facebook page for updates, garden videos and information.

Go to our website for links to the latest podcasts, plus all past podcasts at [www.GardenTime.tv](http://www.GardenTime.tv).

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# What To Do in the Garden

## APRIL

# W T D I T G

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 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 cannas.



- 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, forget-me-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.

- Monitor soil temperature with a soil thermometer. When garden soil is consistently above 60 degrees F, the warm season crops can be planted out.

- Check the plants under the eaves of the house for water needs.

- 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 your 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 chitted. 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.



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