



Garden Time

Newsletter

MAY 2023



Hulda Klager Lilac Festival Something for Your Bucket List

A freshly-picked lilac stem
nestled in a pail of cool water.



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Camellias/PAGE 4

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**PODCAST
019**

Season 2
Episode 7

April 8, 2023

One of the signature flowers of spring is the camellia. On this episode of Garden Time we get some history and tips about growing these beauties from the Oregon Camellia Society. We also preview the annual Newberg Camellia Festival in Newberg, Oregon. Coming up on this episode of Garden Time.



Ryan, Judy and Jeff with Kathy Lintault from the Oregon Camellia Society.

One of the signature flowers of spring is the camellia, specifically the Japanese hybrids, the Camellia Japonica varieties. One place to see a lot of them is in Newberg, Oregon around the middle of April. That is when the Newberg Camellia Festival (<https://www.newbergcamelliafestival.com>) takes place. This year the festival falls on the 15th of April, 2023. To learn more about these beautiful plants and this wonderful festival we stopped by the Chehalem Cultural Center (<https://www.chehalemculturalcenter.org/>), the home of the festival, to talk with a couple of the people involved.

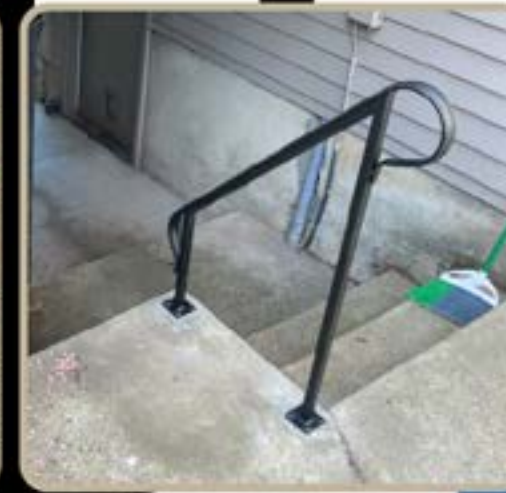
We started our visit with a chat with Kathy from the Oregon Camellia Society (<https://www.oregoncamelliasociety.org/>).

She has dozens of camellias in her garden and filled us in with everything camellia. There are three main families of camellias: japonica, sinensis and sasanqua. They have different characteristics and bloom at different times of the year, so by planting different types you can get blooms for up to three-quarters of the year or even longer. In the Northwestern United States, the Camellia sasanquas start blooming in October and continue until early winter. Then you will have the Japonicas and hybrids blooming from winter until mid-spring, and a newer type of camellia called the 'Camellia azalea' will bloom through summer and into fall. As a plant, the Camellia azalea is a bit ten-

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'Apple Blossom' Camellia

der and so you have to protect it from hard frosts to help it survive in our climate. Camellias originated in eastern and Southeast Asia. Cultivated in Japan and China for centuries, traders brought plants to Europe, not only for the beautiful blooms, but also as tea plants, specifically the *Camellia sinensis*. The tea camellia is grown for its tender and tasty leaves which are then made into various types of teas. The camellia became very popular in England and the tea camellia was sent to the various British colonies around the world, thus their appetite for tea over coffee (care for a nice afternoon tea?).

This large evergreen shrub/small tree grows in a wide range of climates which makes it perfect for many gardens around the world. In fact, most varieties want to be tall and there are very few that stay small, though they can be pruned to maintain a smaller shape. They can survive down to about zero degrees Fahrenheit and prefer morning sun and afternoon shade. If your plant doesn't like the spot in which it was planted or the growing conditions are not favorable, the leaves will start to turn yellow. They like to have cool roots, which means they prefer less heat at the base of the plant. For that reason they like having perennial groundcovers and lower growing plants to help protect their roots. They also love slightly acidic soil which is something we have in the Pacific Northwest. Once established, the camellia can also be drought tolerant. When mature they send down a tap root that helps them survive long periods with less water. The key is starting them correctly, which includes digging a large hole, amending the soil with a good compost that does not bury the crown of the plant (the area between the plant and the start of the roots) and keeping it well-watered but not waterlogged.

The camellia bloom is unique, too. We have heard that, next to the dahlia, the camellia has the widest range of bloom types and styles. In the camellia family, there are six main types of bloom styles, plus a special type. There are singles, doubles, anemone form, peony form, a rose form double, a for-

mal double and the special one, a higo camellia. These blooms also have a wide range of colors, too, from whites to pinks to corals and also orangy reds, reds and even plums and purples. There is even a yellow camellia which is very tender in our area.

Camellias don't have a lot of problems with pests and diseases, but aphids can cause issues if there is a large infestation. Also, a lack of water can cause leaf curling. The biggest problem, however, could be fungal issues. With the warming spring weather and heavy rains you could see 'petal blight'. This can cause brown spots on your blooms. If you see these brown patches, pick up the petals as they drop and dispose of them in your trash and not in your compost. Composting them will allow the blight to spread out in your garden when you spread the compost. Regarding pruning, they can be pruned at any time of year to the shape you want in your garden. However, pruning your plant too late will result in fewer blooms the following season. It is best to prune your plant right after it blooms. This gives the plant time to recover and helps preserve your future blooms.

If you grow camellias or want to learn more about them, the Newberg Camellia Festival is the place to be. The Society has their annual bloom show at the Che-



'Nuccios Bella Rossa' Camellia



'Marie Bracey' Camellia

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'Swan Lake' Camellia

halem Cultural Center as part of the festival. This year is their 82nd annual statewide show. Anyone can enter their best blooms by bringing them to the center between 8:00am and 11:00am. Camellia Society members will be there to help you enter and also to answer questions about the care and feeding of your camellia. If you can't make it to the festival you can even find information on their website at <https://www.oregoncamelliasociety.org/plant-culture>.

After a quick break we brought in Bryan Stewart from the Chehalem Parks and Recreation Department. Bryan helped organize the very first Newberg Camellia Festival along with help from the Oregon Camellia Society. Newberg is the perfect host for the festival because it is the official city flower, designated so in 1949. After the initial excitement of choosing a city flower, it was forgotten until the Camellia Society reached out to the city of Newberg. That started the festival which is now in its 15th year. That first year was small with only a few doz-

en people showing up, but it has grown to be a huge festival with the whole community getting involved. Bryan convinced the city to focus on camellia plantings and now there are over 80 wine barrels planted with camellias throughout the city.

The Chehalem Cultural Center was brand new when the first festival happened, but now it is packed with lots of different events happening throughout the day. The festival starts with the Camellia Festival Walk/Run. The run starts at 9:00am and you can sign up for it on the festival website, though they will accept walk-ups on the morning of the run. Once the run is finished, the festival opens at 10:00am and continues until 4:00pm. Inside and outside the Cultural Center you can find lots to do. In the ballroom and front lobby you can see performances and demonstrations celebrating Asian culture. These include the White Lotus Dragon Dancers, Taiko drumming, an Ikebana demonstration with Nana Bellerud, a tea ceremony with Margie Yap, Oregon Koto-Kai, and Hula Hala 'Ohana Holo'oko'a. Of course the Bloom show is happening all day, but there is a lot more. There are a variety of vendors selling flower-themed arts and crafts. There is also a large plant sale on the back patio with camellias for sale (naturally) along with other great garden plants. Of course there is food, too. Local food vendors and food carts are located on the grounds and will offer a wide range of goodies. If you have kids, they will not be bored! There are kids' activities and outside there is a large playground to let them run around.

In addition to talking about the festival, Bryan filled us in on a new camellia, the 'City of Newberg'. This camellia was developed by a camellia hybridizer and will be available in the future at this great event. All in all, it is a great event and it is even better because it is free. Stop by the festival, see the beautiful camellias and enjoy the wonderful community of Newberg.

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**PODCAST
020**

Season 2
Episode 8

Apr., 2023

Want to bring some great fragrance into your spring garden? Look no further than the lilac. On this episode of Garden Time we travel to the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens in Woodland, Washington to learn about this wonderful plant, how to grow them and to hear about the Hulda Klager Lilac Days festival.



Ryan, Judy and Jeff with Ruth Wendt from the Hulda Klager Lilac Society.

We have had a wet and cold spring. Along with all this cold weather, the local gardener yearns to experience some of the early signs of the changing of the seasons. Tulips and daffodils are a great start, but for many people the smells of spring trigger the best memories. If you are looking for a burst of fragrance, a short trip up I-5 to Woodland, Washington to check out the lilacs at the Hulda Klager Lilac Days is in order. This year the blooms were just coming on. The cold weather has held the plants back, but now they are starting to pop! Last year they

were blooming a month ahead of their normal schedule, but now they are ready for the Lilac Days festival.

Due to the cold weather this spring, the blooms are just starting to pop and the fragrance will be better than ever! Plus, they will be hitting their peak in the next few weeks. Ruth from the Hulda Klager Lilac Society met us to fill us in on what the lilac plant needs to survive in our climate. Her tips for success in growing these beauties: Alkaline soil, good drainage (they hate wet

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and standing water) and lots of sun! You can control the height of the larger varieties by cutting them back right after they bloom, or better yet, cut them as they bloom and bring them indoors to enjoy. They have a heavy bloom so they can tend to flop over, but pack them tightly in a vase to help them stay upright. They have a woody stem, so you can help them last longer by lightly pounding the stems at the cut to let the vascular system take up more water. There are lots of newer varieties so you can find one that will work in any garden. Ruth even told us that some of the newer varieties are smaller, allowing them to be used in containers. Some of the newest varieties can even re-bloom later in the season.

Now until Mother's Day weekend you can stop by and see acres of these cool varieties during the Hulda Klager Lilac Days. It is a great time to see some of the different varieties and what they might look like in your yard. This spring has also tested the lilacs for you! You can check out the varieties that

One of many lilacs growing on the Hulda Klager property.



Garden Time

The Hulda Klager home.



'Sensation' Lilac, one of many varieties for sale.



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Garden Time

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are performing the best in this challenging weather.

We met with Mari to talk about the Lilac Days and to learn a little bit more about Hulda. Hulda hybridized many lilacs and became known as the 'Lilac Lady' in the Woodland area. She opened her garden to the public for an open house in the spring during the 1920s and kept that tradition going for many years. She passed away in 1960. The Hulda Klager Lilac Society now runs the garden and opens it every year for this festival. The festival is open daily from 10am to 4pm. They charge a \$5 fee during the festival and children under 12 are free. That fee, and the proceeds from the gift shop and lilac plant sales, keeps this garden going all year long. The Society has spent a lot of money in the

past few years to improve the gardens and grounds. The improvements include restoration to the historic home, the water tower and the addition of signage. New seating areas and even an expanded and improved parking lot. New this year is the museum in the old barn. You can check out the historical displays and even buy a raffle ticket to enter to win a wonderful handmade quilt. They are also offering tours of Hulda's house, so check out their website for operating hours. Certain restrictions for pets can be found on their website, as well.

Remember the 2023 Lilac Days will run through Mother's Day. Take the time and visit when you get a chance. It is truly spectacular!



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**PODCAST
021
PREVUE**

May 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.



Shop come rain or shine under the Capitol Subaru Events Pavilion.

Coming up in May we will preview one of the signature garden events of spring, Subaru Garden Dayz. This cozy event at the Capitol Subaru Pavilion in Salem is a wonderful garden event that has a little something for everyone. There is food, drinks, garden vendors, kids activities and giveaways. It is a one day event, but it has grown to be recognized as a 'must-see' occasion for many Northwest gardeners. We will talk about the specialty vendors and all of the fun activities, including free plants and even pencils that you can plant when you are done using them.

Then we travel to the wonderful fields at Schreiner's Iris Gardens to check out the biggest grower of irises in the United States. We'll have tips on growing and helping them to thrive in any climate. Plus we will talk about their open gardens taking place throughout the month of May. The huge display gardens are featured in travel brochures as one of the most beautiful places to visit in Oregon every spring. It is a "must-see" event and we'll bring you the highlights.

Check our website for details on the latest podcasts, premiering in May.

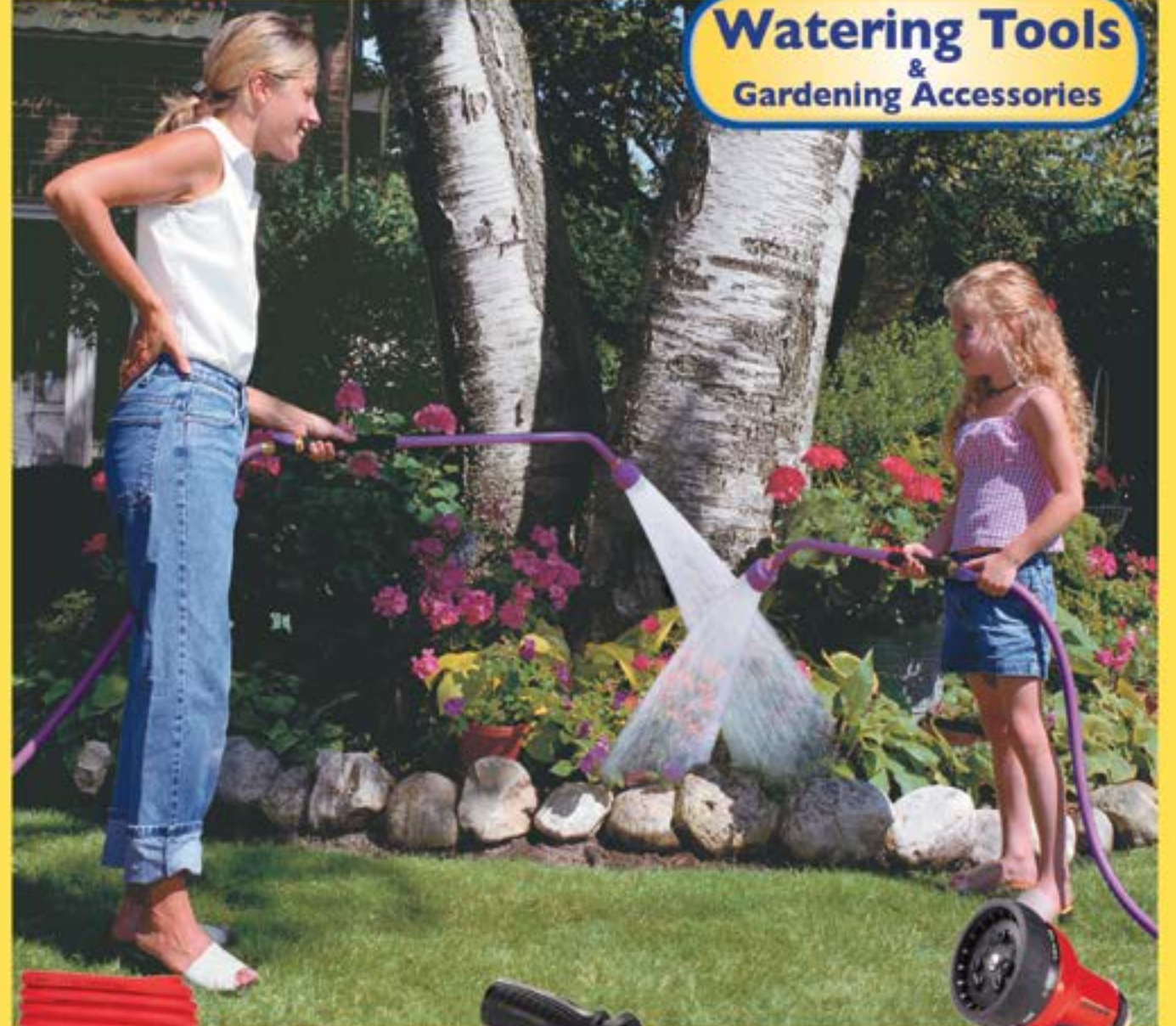


'Dusky Challenger' Iris, one of the delights at Schreiner's Iris Garden.

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What To Do in the Garden

MAY

W T D I T G

The month of May is the best of all worlds. Most of the Spring flowers are still in bloom. The weather continues to get warmer and, occasionally, teases us with an almost-summer-like day. And, the fruits of our labors (figuratively and literally) start to reveal themselves. It also ushers in the arrival of plant-harming insects. Be vigilant! Your plants are counting on you to protect them.

PLANNING



- Get ready to hang your flowering baskets. This is the best month for getting a basket or three to hang outdoors and show off your green thumb to all the neighbors. Use a good flower fertilizer every other watering to get the best results.

to make sure they still work well. This would be a good time to create a more automatic drip irrigation system for the gardens!

- Keep a check on soil temperature for veggies you can plant out this month. Most of the warmer season veggies will be able to go in this month.



- Get the watering system ready for summer irrigation. Check hoses for leaks and the sprinklers

PLANTING

- Divide your stored dahlia clumps and plant the tubers. Dahlias produce more flowers on thicker stems if lifted in the fall and then divided in the spring and replanted.



- Flowers & Annuals: Plant out gladiolas,

begonias, canna lilies, dahlia and lilies bulbs. Planting after mid-

month should be safe for all these annuals: marigolds, asters, fuchsias, wax begonias, geraniums, daisies, salvias, snapdragons, stock... in other words, most all the annual flowers!

- Perennials like carnations, candytuft, delphiniums, daylilies, phlox, cone flowers, lavender and heuchera are just a few of the varieties of perennials you can plant right now.

- Landscape planting now still

gives the plants a good head start on a strong root system before the summer heat sets in.

- This is the month to plant your Rose bushes. They also make a great Mother's Day gift!



- Tomatoes and other warmer weather veggies can go in now.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Watch for late frost! This is the time of year the late frosts can do the most damage when plants have flower buds ready to burst and we get all excited and plant out everything we can find. Cover the tender plants when frost is forecast with Harvest Guard protective yard and garden cover.
- Remove Rhododendrons spent flower heads as

soon as they are done blooming. This is mostly for appearance because the plants will set buds for next year even if they are not deadheaded.

- Protect young plants from slugs with Bonide's Slug magic. Be on the lookout for the little eggs that resemble white B-Bs. Using Bonide's Slug Mag-

ic is safe around pets and breaks down into usable iron for the plants to consume.



- Monitor plants for insects like aphids and spittlebugs and the like. Most control can be handled with a burst of water from the hose or hand picking off.

- Be on the lookout for codling moths on apple and pear trees. Adults typically emerge in May-June. Pheromone-baited traps can be used to reduce populations of male moths. Remove brush, debris, and culled fruit from orchards. Remove loose

bark to eliminate possible hiding places for cocoons. Wrap trunk with corrugated cardboard or burlap to trap migrating larvae. Periodic removal of these tree wraps to destroy cocooning larvae, can help a lot.

- Watch for notching insect feeding damage on rhodys and other broad-leafed evergreen plants. This could be the root weevil and it is a bit harder to detect. Go out at night with a flashlight to see them eating your rhodys or place some paper below the plants at night and tap on the plants. If you hear the little 'plops' of something dropping onto the paper, you may get to see the sneaky root weevil adults. Once the soil temperature is 55F or above you can use the safe

organic 'Beneficial Nematodes' around the plants if the weevils are found. BN are safe to use and work up to two years to totally destroy root weevil adults and grubs.

- Over seeding a grass lawn or starting from scratch: May is a good month for both of these tasks. Fertilize the lawn once every two months for



optimal color. Mow a bit higher as the weather warms. If you have used a moss killer on the lawn, don't put down grass seed for at least 6 weeks after that application.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Vegetables - Monitor soil temperature to see when you can safely plant out the warmer season crops. Wait until the soil is consistently above 70 F to plant out basil, cucumber, eggplant, melons, peppers, tomatoes and pumpkins or squash.

Plant anytime in May by seed: Arugula, Asian greens, snap beans, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, sweet corn, dill, kale, lettuce, green onions, parsnips, potatoes, radishes, slow bolting spinach, swiss chard, turnips.

Plant out these starts in May (waiting for warmer soil temps for above mentioned veggies): Artichokes, basil, beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, collard greens, cukes, eggplant, kale, leeks, lettuce, onions, parsley, peppers, squash, swiss chard, tomatoes and watermelon.



- Consider planting the veggie garden in what is called 'intensive planting' style AKA 'wide-row

gardening. This will produce the most amount of produce from your space available! Traditional practice of planting long rows is not as productive as planting closer together and in 3-4' wide blocks. The benefits of closer planting; easier to mulch, less weed growth, snap to water, little wasted space and the cool shade created by the foliage for soil and roots.

- Control many vegetable insect problems by covering the crop with a row cover, like Harvest Guard.

- Control the many below ground insect pests like root maggots safely by using Beneficial Nematodes once the soil temperature has reached 55 F or warmer. These little microscopic creatures seek out and consume over 230 soil dwelling garden pests.

- Control weeds by covering them, in between the rows, with layers of wet black and white newspaper or cardboard covered with compost.



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