



Garden Time

Newsletter

AUGUST 2023



Hold Your Water

Tips for Creating a Drought-Tolerant Garden

Rudbeckia



**BUILT FOR THE ROAD
AHEAD!**



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID HILL FARM

Forza Red Lilies/PAGE 4

AUGUST 2023

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Season 2
Episode 13

July 14, 2023

The beauty of the mid-summer garden is highlighted by the lily. On this episode of Garden Time we visit David Hill Farm in Forest Grove, Oregon to preview their great lily festival and to get some tips on how to plant and care for this incredible flower in your own garden.



Ryan and Judy interview Lisie and Erik Aartsen, owners of David Hill Farm.

The heat of summer is tough on all of us, but it is a welcome sign to the lily. Lilies are celebrated every summer in Forest Grove, Oregon during the annual Lily Flower Festival at David Hill Farm (www.DavidHillFarm.com). We stopped by to see the lilies and to visit with David Hill Farm owners Lisie and Erik Aartsen. If you have watched the Garden Time show you know that we have visited the farm in the past, but Lisie and Erik are the new owners of the farm and they are making lots of great changes to the farm including adding more varieties of lilies and other late summer blooming

plants.

We started by talking about the 2023 Lily Flower Festival happening weekends between now and the end of July. This festival is all about the lily! The festival usually happens between mid-July and early August. It is all dependent on the weather and the lilies. The farm grows all kinds of different lilies including Oriental, Asiatic, Orientpets, trumpet, tiger and even toad and pineapple lilies. They are all arranged under huge shade nets in wonderful display beds. You can show up and wander through the beds

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Spend Summer in the Garden



Garden Rewards Weekend
August 10th - 13th

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August 17th - 20th

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August 24th - September 13th

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and check out a large assortment of blooms. They have about 75 different varieties to choose from. The blooms are spectacular. They come in all kinds of colors and bloom styles. Most of the colors are bright yellows, oranges, pinks, whites and reds. A lot of these blooms are fragrant, too.

The festival also includes a couple of vendors featuring local products, including ice cream treats, wine tastings from David Hill Vineyards and Winery, and a variety of charcuterie from 'Smorgasbord'. You can also pick up selected varieties of potted lilies and other summer blooming plants, and they are even offering bunches of bouquets while they last. Check out their website for more details including hours and directions.

After a break we talked about the care of those lilies once they get into your garden. As soon as you get your bulbs you can get them into the ground. If you bought them in a pot, you can enjoy the bloom and then move them into your garden. Bulbs are planted about 8 inches into the soil. They love a very sunny location. The soil should be amended and be well-draining. Bulbs will rot if left in standing water or are moist for an extended period of time. You can fertilize them in the early spring when the leaves first appear, and then again as they begin

SUMMER WATERING TIPS

Water before high temps arrive

Early morning watering is best

Add mulch to maintain moisture

Focus on pots & new plants first

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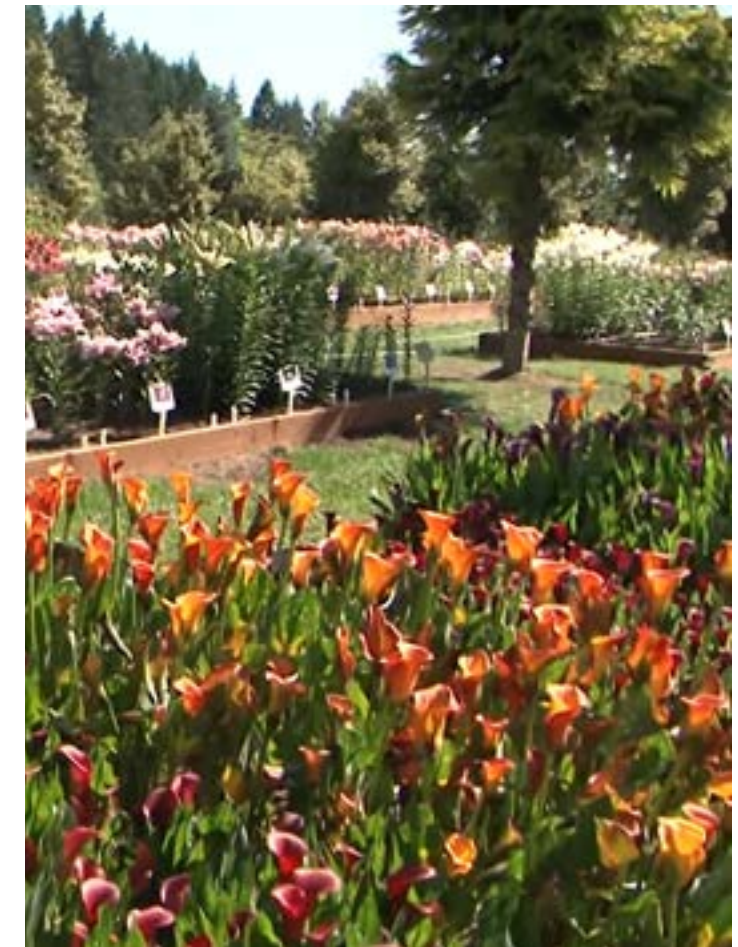


to bloom. Once the blooms are done you can clip them off about 3-4 inches below the dead blooms and leave most of the stalk and leaves to continue to grow and feed the bulb under the ground. The more energy that gets stored into the bulb, the better your future blooms will be. Before the first frost you will want to cover the area of the bulbs with a nice layer of mulch to protect it and help feed the bulb during the winter months.

Once your bulb starts to grow, you will find that they may flop over due to the height of the stem and the weight of the bloom. In that case you may need to stake them to prevent that from happening. In a packed pe-

renial garden other plants can help to hold them up, but not in all cases. There are even some varieties that have a huge stem and can stand on its own, but keep an eye on them and stake them as needed. If you are looking to use them as a cut flower in your home, cut them as the first bloom is just starting to pop. By getting the bloom early, it will survive in your arrangement longer. You will also want to remove the stamens from the center of the bloom. The puffy anthers at the end of these stamens has the pollen on them and it can stain your hands, clothes and even the bloom itself. The only other warning that we have about lilies is that they can be poisonous for people and pets, so keep them away from your pets and small children.

We really recommend that you stop by David Hill Farm for their wonderful festival and take some home for your garden. The blooms will knock your socks off and they will become a treasured bloom in your summer garden!



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**PODCAST
026**

Season 2
Episode 14

July 25, 2023

The summer heat is on in the garden and your plants are paying the price. On this episode of Garden Time we stop by Blooming Junction in Cornelius, Oregon to check out their drought-tolerant garden and learn what plants you can use for xeriscaping your own backyard.



Ryan and Judy with Ron Guilford of Blooming Junction.

The last few summers have been tough on the garden. We had an extended period of warm dry weather that left many plants in the garden dying of thirst. A lot of people are now looking at drought-tolerant plants as part of their regular gardens. Well, we found a place where you can actually see a large variety of drought-tolerant plants in a garden and check out how they perform. We stopped by Blooming Junction (www.bloomingjunction.com, 503-681-4646) at 35105 NW Zion Church Road, near Cornelius and chatted with Ron the manager about xeriscaping and to see a selection of plants that do well with little or no water.

We first talked about xeriscaping and what that means. The basic definition of xeriscaping is land-

scaping or gardening in a style that requires little or no watering or irrigation. This refers to the types of plants you use and how you landscape your garden. So it isn't just about drought-tolerant plants, it could also include the use of lawn, mulches and irrigation types. The first thing to consider is to have a plan and to know your garden. Where is the most light or shade and at what times of the day will you get sun exposure? Does the area you are considering have access to water or a sprinkler system? How much time do you have to take care of your garden? All these things need to be considered before you head to your local garden center. After you have that basic information in hand, Ron had a group of gardening principles to consider when you are designing a xeriscape garden.

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them a little more porous and less like concrete. Remember the plants that you will be planting and adjust the amendments to their requirements.

Third, consider your usage of turf and lawns. If you are going for less water usage, remember that lawns are one of the biggest water users in your garden. Some people love that green lawn look, but it takes a lot of water to get and keep those grass varieties happy and healthy. Consider a small lawn or use an alternative like sedums and wildflower/clover mixes that use less water. You can also do other things like raising the blade on your mower and cutting less often to help save water.

Fourth, irrigation. Since you have placed plants with similar needs together, you can now adjust the amount of water that goes in those areas. Remember that you will need to use a little more water in the first year of planting to help those young plants get established, but once their roots are firmly in the ground, you can start reducing watering in the second year. Some people like to hand-water, but you should also think about adding a watering system to your garden plans. A system on a timer is great and can help you control the amount of water used in your garden. Once you have the system in place, including drip irrigation, then keep checking the system to make sure it is doing a good job. You want to be sure the heads are not blocked and that the water is going where you want and not watering the pavement. A system will also allow you to deep water, which is better for your plants. A deep watering twice a week will get the plant to send more roots deeper into the soil for that water. If you do shorter watering, more frequently, then the roots will stay near the surface of the soil and the plant will be more susceptible to drought stress.

The next tip was about the use of mulch. This mulch can take many forms; bark, compost, top soil or even -- in the case of some gardens -- crushed concrete or gravel. Mulch helps retain moisture, suppress weeds and maintain an even temperature at the root zone. It can also look nice too.

Finally, maintain your garden once you have planted it. This could mean that you need to move plants if they don't perform well, changing watering patterns or pruning plants to make room for others and to help shape their growth, and keeping ahead of the weeds.

Now, for some, the thought of a drought-tolerant garden brings images of brown and bare plants and barren landscapes. However that is not true. Next we talked about a bunch of plants that Ron had assembled that were looking great in the mid-summer heat and would do well in our climate and conditions. Rudbeckia was our first plant. This is a tried-and-true plant for the drought-tolerant garden. This

plant, Goldstar, was a great representative of the group. It sends up tons of 'sunflower-like' blooms and just keeps blooming and blooming. It also has some varieties that have different colors and bloom styles, like a second one we saw called 'Lion Cub' with mum-type flowers. Next we looked at a yarrow. These are pretty recognizable with flower clusters that look like mini tree tops. The color variety has increased in recent years too. Originally just covered in yellow blooms, the newer colors include pinks, oranges, reds and purples. The one we featured was Saucy Seduction which has deep magenta and pink colors in the blooms. They love full sun and are a favorite of butterflies and bees. Gaura (wind flower) 'Whirling Butterflies' was next. The blooms on this one look like little fishing poles waving in the wind with delicate white blooms at the ends of the poles. Though this one is quite tall, there are other varieties that are shorter and more compact. Other varieties also come in different bloom and foliage colors. A favorite of Ron's was next with a rockrose, also known as Cistus, called 'Orchid Rockrose'. The one we featured had pink and burgundy blooms. They are very hardy and are known to be deer-resistant, and they get big, 6 by 6 feet. If you want something a little bigger, we had an Arbutus (Strawberry Tree). The Arbutus is called a strawberry tree due to the small round red fruit that appears later in the season. They are edible, though most people don't know that. It is in the Manzanita family, which makes it very easy to grow in our area. We then moved to some less hardy plants for this area. The first was a Lantana. The Lantanas are great in your summer beds, though you can have them winter-over if you keep them in a container and move them inside for the winter. They have very cool blooms with clusters of tiny flowers that start out bright peach and then turn a deep pink. We have found them to be a little bit of a prima donna in the garden; they wilt if they get even a tiny bit dry, but then perk back up with a cool drink. Another annual, drought-tolerant, plant is the Celosia (Cock's Comb) 'Orange Fire'. The blooms on these are a tall cone of color, reddish/orange on this plant, that look like tongues of flames. Then we focused on a group of sedums and succulents. This family of plants are great for the dry summer garden. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but all of them do well with little or no water once established. There are even some that are small enough to become lawn replacements if you want to do that.

After focusing on colorful blooms, we then moved over to Judy's side of the table with silver and white foliage plants. The first one was a cushion bush, which resembled a silver tumbleweed with its fine foliage and tiny flowers. The tiny pom-pom flowers bloom a bright yellow, which will really make this pop in the garden. Another silver foliage plant was the Senecio with leaves that are a little waxy.



First, look for plants that like the same growing conditions. Picking plants that have the same water requirements, the same lighting needs and the same fertilization requirements will go a long way to making sure that they survive and thrive. It would be a good idea to walk around your garden center with a cart that represents the area you are planting. Considering the requirements of the area in your garden, start assembling the selection of plants on that cart. Some gardeners adopt the same rules for building a garden bed as they would for designing a container garden. The idea of 'Thriller, Filler, Spiller' works well for your garden beds too. The thrillers are the large plant specimens. These could go at the back of your garden beds. The fillers are the medium sized plants that go in front of those and the spillers are the lower ground cover types of plants to soften the leading edge of your garden. This plant selection process can be helped by the garden center staff if you feel like you need help.

Second, you should consider your soil conditions. Most drought-tolerant plants like nutritious and well-draining soil. That could mean that you need to add compost or other nutrients to your soil. It is a good idea to get a soil test (check with your local university extension office for testing in your area) before you spend any money on amendments. We have a lot of clay soils in our area. They can be nutritious but need help with other materials to make

The plant will really glow in the garden when it gets taller, though it looks great at any size. A small silver foliage plant was the silver lotus. It has tiny soft leaves that beg to be touched. It does get a tiny beak-type flower which gives it another common name of 'Hairy Canary'. A unique plant was next, a Paraheliosiphon. This plant looks like a small eucalyptus, but it isn't even in the same family. In fact, it isn't even in the Hebe family. This one will reward you with tall purple flower spikes. The next plant was a Ceanothus 'Dark star'. This plant has tiny waxy leaves and gets really tall (so give it room) and is covered with clusters of tiny purple flowers that bees go crazy for. It is a deer-proof plant, as well. Lavenders were next on the list and are a favorite of many gardeners already. 'Ana Luisa' was the one we were looking at and it was in full bloom with tall flower spikes of purple flowers. This one had silver foliage and was smelling great. Remember to not water this one too much (it is a drought-tolerant plant) and to prune it down after it blooms to help it keep its shape. Another plant with tall purple flowers is Russian Sage 'Little Spire'. It is called a sage, but it isn't a sage. It will get really tall, but the silver foliage and lavender colored blooms make it a showcase plant in your garden. The star of the summer garden are the Echinaceas. These plants now come in lots of different flower colors. We had a bright yellow and a smoky/burnt

red to represent this great family of plants. These are pollinator-friendly plants and are very hardy in our area. Just about every garden needs grasses too. We had a couple to look at that were looking good and even with the light breeze we were having, were waving in the wind. Blue Stem and Switch Grass are well-behaved. A lot of grasses will spread and take over an area, but these hold their ground and don't wander too much. The motion and texture are a great addition to the garden. We then ended on a tall tree for the garden, the Serviceberry. There are shorter varieties that can become shrubs, but this one was a larger tree form. It will have tiny white flowers followed by red berries for the fall. These were all great plants for the dry summer garden, but we also wanted to see how they perform in the real world. Lucky for us they have a drought-tolerant display garden in the front of the store.

After the break we moved to the front display garden full of water-wise plants. This garden was planted about eight years ago. We had featured it on the Garden Time show right after it was planted and it has really filled in. In the beginning they started with creating a bed with a recycled concrete mulch base. This allows for water to drain quickly through the roots and provide weed suppression at the surface. Then they grouped the plants together based on their water needs. Because of this they only had

to water a little bit to help the plants get started and then they watered only about four more times during the season during the extreme heat. Now they water only occasionally, once or twice a summer, if temps get really hot.

Most of the original plants made it and some did not. The first plant we looked at was the cardoon. This plant was huge and really loves the dry, full sun. It resembles the artichoke, but it is just a statement plant from the thistle family. Be careful, these can reseed so keep an eye out for baby plants popping up in your garden. Another huge plant in the garden is the olive. There was a large one in the garden, but because there is not another pollinator in the garden, this one doesn't get fruit. It's a nice plant that gives your garden a Mediterranean look. Next to the olive tree was an agave. It was one of the original plants and it has become huge. The large fleshy spiked leaves look stunning in the garden. There were also assorted groundcovers including the Hairy Canary!

We then moved to the other side of the garden. It was full of healthy plants loaded with blooms. The Russian Sage was in full bloom as was the yarrow and a large grouping of Shasta Daisy. They also had Euphorbia and a huge example of the Arbutus with its great red bark and deep green foliage. The garden was a perfect example of how you can build a garden like this in your yard. If you want to see how different drought-tolerant plants look in the garden, you should stop by. Pretty much everything they sell is a 'Blooming Advantage' plant. They are grown right here in Oregon and every one of them performs well in the Northwest garden.



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**PODCAST
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PREVUE**

August 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.

Coming up in August we will take a trip to the Swan Island Dahlia fields to see the acres and acres of dahlia blooms. This used to be just a two weekend, end of August festival. But it is so popular that they expanded it to two months, August and September! Every day is full of color and surprises, and the weekends have even more activities planned. We will talk with Heather about this wonderful festival and also about how you can get your dahlias to look as great as theirs, both in your garden and inside your home too!



PHOTO CREDIT: SWAN ISLAND DAHLIAS

Nighty Night Dahlia

We will also pay a visit to see Kevin Vaughn. If you are a fan of the Garden Time TV show, you will know Kevin from our past visits to his garden. Kevin is one of the best hybridizers on the west coast. He has introduced new varieties of daffodils, sedums, geraniums, irises, daylilies and kniphofias, among others! We will talk to him about how he hybridizes these beautiful flowers and what goes into picking a winner from his garden/laboratory.



Hybridizer Kevin Vaughn

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What To Do in the Garden

AUGUST



Our Northwest summers aren't nearly as hot as other places in the country, but it's not uncommon to have a few 100 degree days. Plants, just like people, need special care when the temperature rises. Be sure you give your plants the same attention during these hot spells that you would your pets or kids.

PLANNING

- Have you been good about keeping up with the journal writing? We won't tell if you want to just sit down and cheat some notes from spring and summer now. If this helps you grow better crops next year we think you'll enjoy the act of noting the good and the bad things that happened in the garden this season.

PLANTING



- Time to plan on a new lawn? August through mid-October is prime time to get a new lawn put in. In the late

summer and fall the grass seed germinates in the warm soil so much faster than in April or May. Good grass seed blends will give you the best looking lawn on the block, plus add some lime and good fertilizers to start lawns with!

- Time to over seed a tired lawn? For the same reasons given in the above note on planting a new lawn, over seeding an old tired lawn is great to do now too. Mow the lawn short, (this one time we give you permission to mow it short) thatch (rent a thatching machine to make the job a lot easier) and then seed with premium lawn seed blends for this area. Cover the seed barely with some Organic Compost to keep the birds away from the seed. Fertilize with natural lawn fertilizers for outstanding results. Keep the compost dark with moisture

while seed is starting.

- Plant perennials and biennials from seed this month directly in the garden. The seed germinates pretty quickly in the warm soil and big beds of future flower



color can be created starting with seed now.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Clean up the strawberry beds. After final harvest, cut off all foliage (fun and fast to run over the bed with a lawn mower set on high, so as not to damage the plant crowns). Water and fertilize with Azalea & Camellia fertilizer to encourage strong new growth. You can also reduce a thick planting at this time by removing the "mother" plants, leaving the newer "daughter" plants.

- Mulch the garden and ornamental beds if needed to conserve soil moisture. If you have not mulched the garden beds yet you'll notice they dry out very fast. Get topdressing on the beds of Organic Com-

post or bark to hold in soil moisture, retard weeds and make it easier for soil to absorb water. Keep the flowering annuals dead-headed and fertilized to keep them going strong until fall.



- Prune Raspberries and other cane berries after harvest.

Summer crop raspberries produce fruit on two-year-old canes. After harvest, the two-year-old canes that produced the fruit begin to die. Remove the old

canes anytime after harvest.



the small canes and sprouts. The big, strong canes will produce the following summer's crop.

Ever bearing raspberries produce their main crop of berries in the fall, on the top 12" of one-year-old canes. After harvest, you have two choices: 1) remove the top portion of the cane that has fruited, leaving the rest of the cane to produce a crop the following spring, or 2) cut the canes off at ground level in mid-October, thus allowing the plant to fruit only in fall (the fall crop on ever bearing varieties is superior to the spring crop). If you choose to let the plant produce two crops, remove the two-year-old canes after harvest.

- Make sure the irrigation system is working properly if using one or create one if you haven't yet-it's never too late. Watering plants thoroughly and deeply is

very important this time of year.

- Work on your compost piles. Make compost out of grass clippings and any clippings or pulled plants that are ready to be recycled, unless foliage is diseased. If you have a pile going already,



turn the compost over and water it if necessary. Do not use grass clippings in compost if you have used weed killers on the lawn! To get the pile decomposing faster use compost starter. The addition of microbes and good bacteria will help plant material break down faster.

- Mow the lawn higher in hotter weather. Grass 'roots' length is directly related to the grass 'shoots' length. In other words if you scalp the lawn short, then the roots will be ultra short too. The longer grass blades help shade the lawn roots, help the grass compete with weeds for space and allow the grass plants to lengthen its roots deeper to where the soil does not dry out as quickly. Plus the leaf blades are where photosynthesis takes place

so when you cut the lawn short it can no longer feed itself!

- Water the lawn with 1 inch of water once a week. To determine how long to water, place empty cat food or tuna fish cans out on the lawn under a sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill the can to 1" deep. That is all the water needed, once a week to maintain a beautiful lawn.

- If you have been maintaining your lawn with irrigation then apply a good fertilizer to carry it into the fall. Use natural lawn fertilizer for a dose of natural probiotic microbes that will help break down naturally, thatch and encourage deep root development.



- Keep an eye out for fresh notched leaves on ornamentals. Root Weevil adults are still feeding this month.

- Apply Beneficial Nematodes to the beds below rhododendrons and azaleas to fight root weevil damage.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



- Continue to fertilize the vegetable and herb crops. This will aid in maintaining good production through your harvest months.

Seed out, directly in the garden, for fall and winter crops; Arugula, basil, broccoli raab (aka Italian broccoli) cabbage, cauliflower, cilantro, collards, kale, lettuce,

mache, mustard greens, radishes, salad greens, spinach, swiss chard and turnips.



- Plant a cover crop called 'green manure' in the spaces vacated by harvested crops. This 'green manure' will be turned over, into the soil before it flowers to decompose, adding rich nutrients back into the garden soil.

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