



Garden Time

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2023



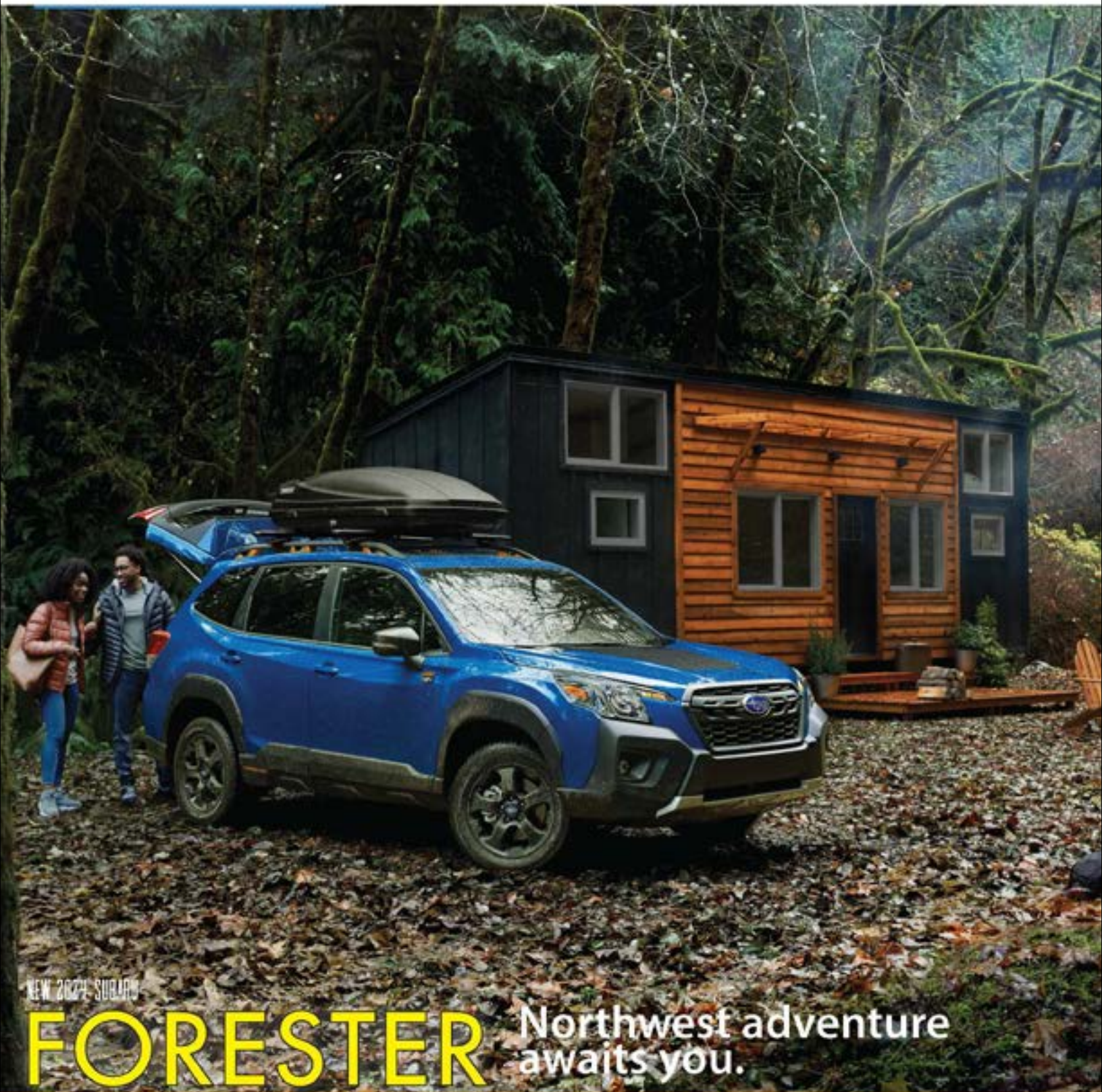
Garden Bedtime Stories

The Real Dirt on Some Gardening Myths

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Spring Bulbs/PAGE 4

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**PODCAST
031**

Season 2
Episode 19

Oct. 9, 2023

Is it spring already? It is if you want spring color bulbs. On this episode of Garden Time we talk about planting your spring bulbs now for waves of early spring blooms. We tell you how to plant them and about some of the more unusual places where you can put them for a welcome spring surprise.



Portland Nursery's Shelley Grosjean with Judy and Ryan.

Now is the time to start getting your spring flower bulbs in the ground. A little work now and you will be rewarded with great spring color! We stopped by Portland Nursery on Division (<https://www.portlandnursery.com>, 503-788-9000) to talk with Shelley about her favorite (and the most popular) bulbs for spring. She talked about the large number of

bulbs that you can plant now including daffodils, crocus, alliums and tulips. The first blooms of the spring are the crocus. Actually a lot of these bloom in the winter. They are also the shortest of the spring bloomers, but you can't beat the colors! They are so vibrant after a winter of blah! Next are the daffodils. They are the signature flower of the early spring. Most

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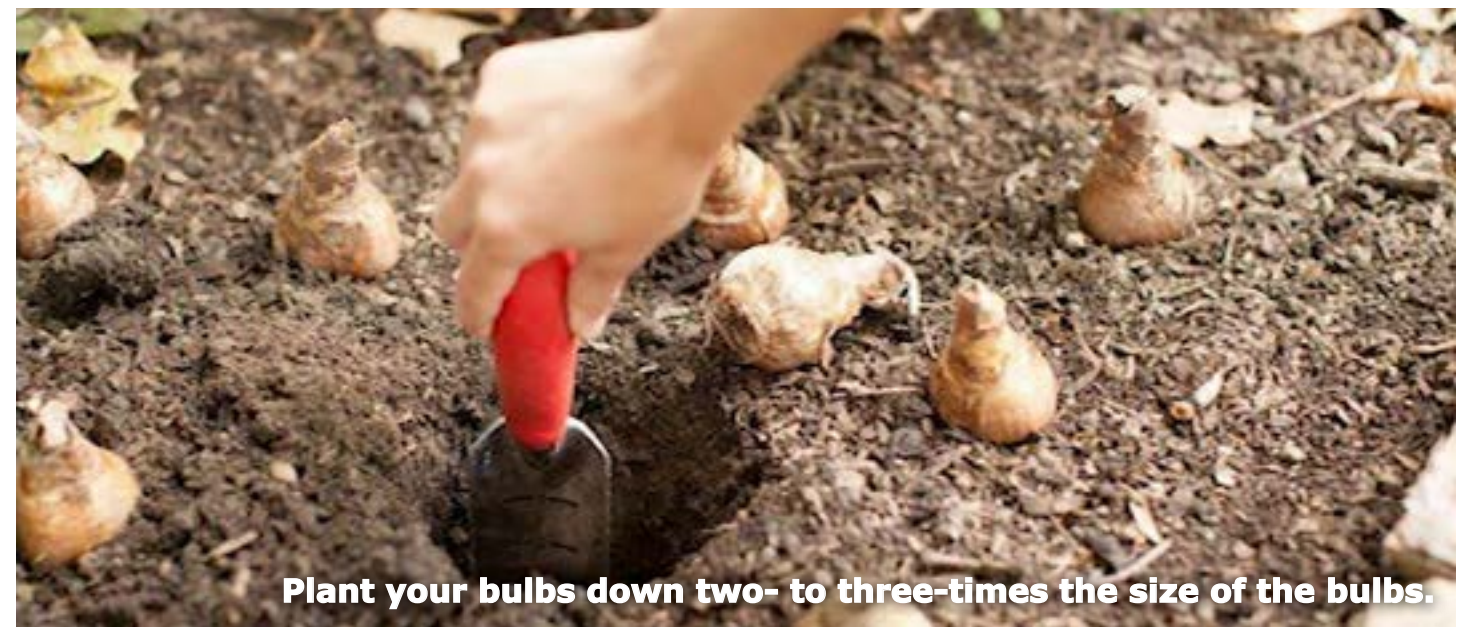
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people think of the old standby of King Alfred, the bright yellow daffodil, but nowadays they come in so many other colors! You can get creams, pinks and peach-colored blooms. Plus they bloom for a long time. You can also get smaller jonquil varieties that won't flop over as much. The final flower of the spring garden that most people are familiar with is the tulip. These are late spring bloomers with a huge array of colors. You can also get double petals and blended colors. If you get the larger varieties they can

be floppy in a heavy rain, but there is nothing like a tulip in the spring.

Shelley recommended that you plant all different types of bulbs in your garden beds, then you can have waves of color for months. But how deep can you plant them? The package will generally tell you, but a good rule of thumb is to go down about two- to three-times the size of the bulb. She also recommended that you plant large groupings of bulbs so they come up in a large bunch as opposed to planting



Plant your bulbs down two- to three-times the size of the bulbs.

single bulbs throughout your garden. You can plant them anytime now until December. This will give them time to experience the colder temperatures which helps trigger their blooms later in the spring. Of course you will want to plant them in well-drained soil. This will help prevent them from rotting.

If you notice that your well-established bulbs bloom less after a few years, they may be fighting for nutrients with newer, baby, bulbs. Dig them up and replant them in the fall in another area of your garden.

If you don't have room in your garden or you are lacking gardening space, she reminded us that bulbs are great in pots, too! You can create waves of color by layering your spring-blooming bulbs. You can do that by us-

ing different layers of bulbs in a pot so you can have color that lasts all spring! You can use daffodils, tulips and crocuses in three different layers. Then top it all off with some great fall color plants. When the warm days of spring arrive you will have these bulbs blooming at different times and will have bursts of color for months. Don't worry, the bulbs will find their way up through the plants in the pot. For the best results always remember to start with a quality potting soil, bulb fertilizer and water them well!

Other bulbs that people forget about planting during the fall are onions and garlic. These can be planted now so they can establish roots and then by late June or July you can harvest them for use in your kitchen.



Planting bulbs in a container.



Garlic Bulbs

GIVE THE GIFT THAT GROWS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



PURCHASE HERE

PODCAST 032

Season 2
Episode 20

Oct. 23, 2023

Are we done yet? Not if you're a gardener. The fall has its own to-do list for the active gardener. We visit with Jan McNeilan again about some fall gardening tips to help you get ready for spring. We also talk about a few common gardening myths and how they can be a detriment to maintaining a healthy garden.



Ryan, Judy and Jeff with Jan McNeilan.

You may think that fall is a time to slow down in the garden. The cold breezes and rain showers have returned and, with the darker days, it is easy to say that we'll just wait until March to return to our outdoor activities. Still, there are a lot of things that you can do in your garden to help it make the transition to winter and prepare it for the distant spring.

Retired Oregon State University Extension (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening>) Agent, Jan McNeilan, joined us again to fill us in on a few of the projects that we can tackle now between the showers.

She started with clean up. Your vegetable plants and a few of your other garden plants are now dying back and you can get rid of the dead and diseased plants in your garden. If you have diseased plants you will want to throw them in the garbage. If you put them in your compost pile they will just return when you spread that compost out the next spring or summer. You can also walk around your garden and make some changes now that things are going to sleep. Moving plants that have gotten too big or are unhappy in their current location can be at the top of your list. The outside temps may be cold, but the soil temps are still pretty warm and the plants will get a few weeks to acclimate to their

new surroundings. If you are walking around make sure to bring in your nearly ripe tomatoes. They can be kept on your kitchen counter and may ripen after a few days. You can also harvest seeds from flowers and vegetables now, to use in your garden next spring. You can leave your root crops in the ground for now and pull them out as you need them in the kitchen. In fact, some root vegetables, like carrots, can get a little sweeter after they have experienced a frost. Fall is also a great time to plant some of those cold-hardy cole crops that will slowly ripen over the winter. Of course, winter gourds and squashes can also be picked and stored in a cool, dry area of your garage so you can enjoy them later too.

Clean up can also take many forms. You can still be a little messy and leave the seed heads from your old perennials for the wildlife to enjoy and piles of stuff around the garden to provide shelter for the smaller critters in your garden. Your leaves can also be used to provide a mulch covering for your garden beds instead of raking them up and sending them to the curb for pick up. Those old leaves are like gold to your plants, helping to replace the nutrients in your soil. You can also plant a cover crop to help restore nutrients to your garden. Cover crops, like clovers, peas and vetch, are called 'green mulch' for the natural elements they return to the soil.

If you have a lawn that needs to be rejuvenated you have to do it before it gets too cold. The seed needs to be warm and kept moist to germinate and grow, but if you get a chance



Leaves feed and protect plants.



Warm autumn soils are great for growing grass.

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To bee or not to bee: Are there benefits to bee houses?

it could help you start the spring season with some new grass to enjoy. You can also add a fall fertilizer to your lawn now. The fall mixes are formulated to help strengthen roots for a quicker and healthier start to your grass for the spring. You can also do a soil sample now too. That will tell you if you even need to use a fertilizer in your garden, or if you have enough nutrients there already.

Fall can be a time for pruning, too. Remove the dead, diseased and crossing branches to prevent them from falling and damaging your garden or home in the winter. If you are unsure about what to cut and where to cut, contact a certified and bonded arborist. If you've had your trees thinned a few years ago, it may be time to do it again. You can also get your schedule together for your late winter dormant spraying. Different trees and shrubs may require spraying at different times. Find out what your plants require and then put dates in your calendar to remember to spray at the correct time. You can also do a first cut to your roses in the fall. Cutting them down to waist high will keep them from whipping around in the wind. Your next big 'hard' pruning on your roses will be in February or March.

Pest control can also take place now, especially when it comes to slugs in your garden. Baiting for -- and getting rid of -- slugs will prevent them from laying eggs that will create slug problems in the spring. The reduction of the population now will mean fewer slugs five months from now.

After a break we had a bunch of garden myths that Jan also wanted to talk about. One of them deals with the use of lime in the garden. Unless you know that you have a problem with pH in your soil, there is a myth that using lime in your lawn will help control moss. It doesn't. Moss thrives in our climate due to a couple of factors: shade and moisture. Lime doesn't do much to deter that. However, adding lime or calcium to your tomatoes when planting them in the spring can help prevent 'Blossom End Rot'. The lime will sweeten your soil, making it less acidic. On the other end of the spectrum are the people who want to add wood chips or pine needles to their soil to help acid-loving plants. That doesn't work well either. It is best to use a product that contains a more concentrated mix of minerals and nutrients to help with that. What about controlling the height of a tall tree by topping it? If you



Moss in the grass: Can lime make it go away?

top a tree it won't stop it from growing. What may happen is that you may reshape the tree away from its natural form and that may cause problems in the future. This may be caused by the tree growing in a different direction, creating weak branching, or a weaker structure.

Another myth involves compost. Can you add too much? Not really, if you can incorporate it into your garden beds, being careful to not pile it up around the base of your trees and shrubs. If you pile it around the trunk of plants it will cause rot to the base. Also, do bee houses benefit bees? The short answer is yes. However, a majority of your native bees are ground dwellers and so you should be aware of that and try to keep a few spots in your garden a little messy to avoid disturbing their homes. The next one was about tree roots. Some think that tree roots extend out only to the drip line of the tree. The drip line is the line marking the extent of the foliage from a tree. The edge of the tree where water drips down. However the root system can grow much further than that. This can determine where you should water and fertilize your plants. One of the most popular myths involves Epsom salts and using it on your plants, including tomatoes and roses. Does it work? Possibly. It is mainly magnesium and your plants may benefit from using it in your garden, or they may not. If you are not throwing an excessive amount of Epsom salts out on your plants, and it isn't causing any harm, then continue to do it if you think it works. Remember some home remedies can do harm to your garden if they are untested. Commercially available products generally have to be tested to be considered safe in their recommended dosages. That is why they are considered safe and effective for use in your garden.

Now, there are many more myths out there and if you ever have questions about garden myths or tall tales, contact your local university sponsored Extension Service or local garden center help desk.

We finished this podcast talking about our upcoming Garden Time tour to Spain and Portugal in September and October of 2024. If you would like to join us on this incredible trip, check out our website, www.GardenTime.tv and click on the little airplane at the bottom of the page. Or go directly to the tour page at <https://www.gardentime.tv/tours>.

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**PODCAST
033**

Season 2
Episode 21

Oct. 26, 2023

The holidays are here and it's time to set up those decorations, including your holiday plants. On this episode we visit Al's Garden and Home to learn how they grow their huge crop of poinsettias and we get tips on how to care for them in your own home. We also get a preview of their annual Week of Lights event.



Judy, Ryan and Jeff with Dorothy Russo from Al's Garden & Home.

Believe it or not, it is time for poinsettias. They are starting to make their appearance at local garden centers and other stores. The big push will be in a couple of weeks but you can get some nice plants right now. The big questions that we hear are "how do you grow them?", "how do I pick a good one?", and "how can I make it last?" To find out the answer to these questions we stopped by the Sherwood location of Al's Garden & Home (<http://www.als-gardencenter.com>, 503-726-

1162) and talked to Dorothy, the grower. She pulled a few plants out of the greenhouse to show us the different varieties and to explain how they are grown. They start growing them in the middle of summer and use a combination of light, shade, coolness and heat to trick the plants into producing wonderful color! Did you know that colors of poinsettias and holiday décor change every year? Buyers and designers at your local stores know this and try to bring in the new and "trending"

decorations every year. This year they are growing 25 different varieties of poinsettias for their stores.

If you are looking for a good plant, first look for good branching. A single branch plant will not give you the bunches of blooms that you want. And speaking of blooms, the bright colors you see are not the flowers of the poinsettia. The flower is the small center buds that are usually yellow. The bright colors are modified leaves (bracts). As for the blooms you will want small, tight buds that are not yellow yet. That means they are early in their bloom cycle. Also look for good healthy green leaves under the brightly colored ones.

Now that you have picked out a good one, how can you make it last? Al's recommends that you treat your plant with tender loving care. Make sure that it doesn't get placed in too hot of a spot, that it doesn't get in too many drafts and



A selection of poinsettias.



A new hue for an old tradition.

keep it in bright non-direct sunlight. You will also want to water it regularly without overwatering or having it set in water. Remember to remove the decorative foil sleeve when you are watering it. If you follow these tips it will be around for a couple of months if not longer! You can find a sheet of 'care tips' at all Al's Garden & Home locations or on their website.

Also, you can find all of these varieties at the upcoming Al's Week of Lights event. Dorothy told us how you can experience a year of preparation for the holiday season at this event. Al's buyers have traveled far and wide to bring you the newest trends and decorating ideas. The event takes place at the Sherwood location on November 2nd from 4:00-8:00pm, the Gresham location on November 3rd from 4:00-8:00pm, the Wilsonville location on November 4th from 4:00-8:00pm and the Woodburn location on November 5th from

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1:00-5:00pm! If you would like to see how they grow these beauties then you should take a tour of the AI's growing facilities at the Gresham location on November 5th. This is a great tour but it does require that you reserve your spot. Even if you can't make the tour, don't miss the party at your local AI's Garden & Home center.

During the holiday season you can also pick out some great holiday décor at all four stores. Each store has a huge selection of decorated trees to give you ideas on what you can do in your own home. This coming week is a great time to get started on your holiday prep, and have a wonderful evening strolling through the stores, enjoying live music, food and beverages, some time with Santa and even a 25 percent discount on your purchase (some restrictions apply). There are lots of opportunities to get you and your home ready for the wonderful holidays ahead.



Dream of the Holidays

WEEK OF LIGHTS

November 2nd-5th, 2023

Revel in the sights, smells, and joy of the holiday season and 25% off all merchandise.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

November 25th

Visit AI's Garden & Home Sherwood for an exciting Small Business Saturday Market!

CHRISTMAS COLOR DOLLAR REDEMPTION

December 7th - 13th

Enjoy up to 50% savings on Christmas merchandise, including poinsettias, trees, ornaments, lights and more!

LEARN MORE

PODCAST 034

Season 2
Episode 22

Oct. 28, 2023

The cold days of winter are around the corner and it's time to move those indoor plants back inside, along with your green thumb. You don't have to give up gardening just because the weather is cold! We have some great tips to help those indoor plants survive and thrive in the winter.



Portland Nursery's Jarid Kroes with Judy and Ryan.

The fall is a time of transition and that is true for your indoor plants, too. We met with Jarid at the Portland Nursery (<https://www.portlandnursery.com/>, 503-788-9000) on Division St. to talk about that transformation. Jarid told us that passage from fall to winter is a critical time for your plants. You could be bringing in bugs and diseases if you don't take the right steps. First, you will want to give them a good cleaning. You can mist them with water and wipe them down, or you can use a "leaf shine" product on the larger-leaved plants to knock off the dust

and dirt. While you are doing that, check for bugs or diseases. If you notice something you may want to check with your local garden center to narrow down what you find. The winter is when all your indoor plants could start showing signs of pests and diseases from their summer vacation outside. Judy mentioned that her first steps are to acclimate the plants by moving them into the garage or shed for a couple of days to get them used to the temperature change. She also mentioned that you could give them a good spray with a hose to knock down most

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of the bugs and clean them before you bring them in. Jarid then covered a few synthetic and natural products that you could use. For the natural products you could use an Insecticidal Soap spray. This is a natural product that will smother the eggs and young insects. If you have a problem with mites, you might want to use the Bonide Mite-X product. The last natural product is Bon-Neem. This will deliver a double hit to bugs. The first effect is a quick knock-down action for the insects and then the sulfur in the product will help control fungus and mites.

For a quicker and more synthetic approach, Jarid had the Systemic Houseplant Insect Control. This product is sprinkled around the

base of the plant and is taken up through the "system" of the plant. It takes care of those critters in the roots and the leaves. The final product was the "Eight Insect Control." This is a foliar application so you spray it on the leaves to knock down those nasty bugs.

Of course the difference between the natural product and the chemical product is the times for application. Natural and Organic products have to be applied more often than synthetic and chemical products. Natural and organic products tend to break down quicker in nature than the others. Also, remember that the label is the law! Always follow the printed instructions for proper use and don't use a product for a problem that isn't listed





One solution for cleaning outdoor plants before the move indoors.

on the label.

Regarding fertilization, you can give a light fertilization when you bring your plants in. Also be aware of your plant placement. Some plants will need to be closer to windows for sun exposure and others will be able to handle a little shadier place in your home. Also be aware of drafts in your home. A heating vent may be your enemy if your plant doesn't like to be baked by the hot air. Other plants may welcome the warmth. Watering can also be a problem. Remember to not overwater your plants just because they are inside. Get them on a schedule and keep checking foliage for pests or diseases that can pop up. If you have questions, either location of Portland Nursery has the experts to help you with answering them. If you are looking for a new winter plant companion, check out the selection at either location, though the Division store has a larger selection to choose from.



When the season changes, bring your plants inside with you.

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**PODCAST
035
PREVIEW**

December 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.

Ho-ho-ho! Just like Santa Claus, the Garden Time podcast is making a list and checking it twice to help every gardener make the upcoming winter holidays fun and memorable.

To begin, we will feature one of the most traditional of holiday plants when we visit a grower of Christmas trees. How do you pick a good tree and how can you make it last through the entire holiday season? These questions are the most common and we'll get the answers for you. We will also talk a little bit about the history

of the Christmas tree and how it became a fixture of the season and a holiday tradition.

We will also talk about Christmas gifts for the gardener and how you can pick something unique for your garden fanatic. We will visit a local garden center and see some cool gift ideas. We will also give you some "not so normal" ideas that any gardener will love.

Before you head out to the stores and the tree lots, be sure to watch or listen to our holiday podcasts.



Fresh-Cut Christmas Trees



Stocking Stuffers for the Gardener

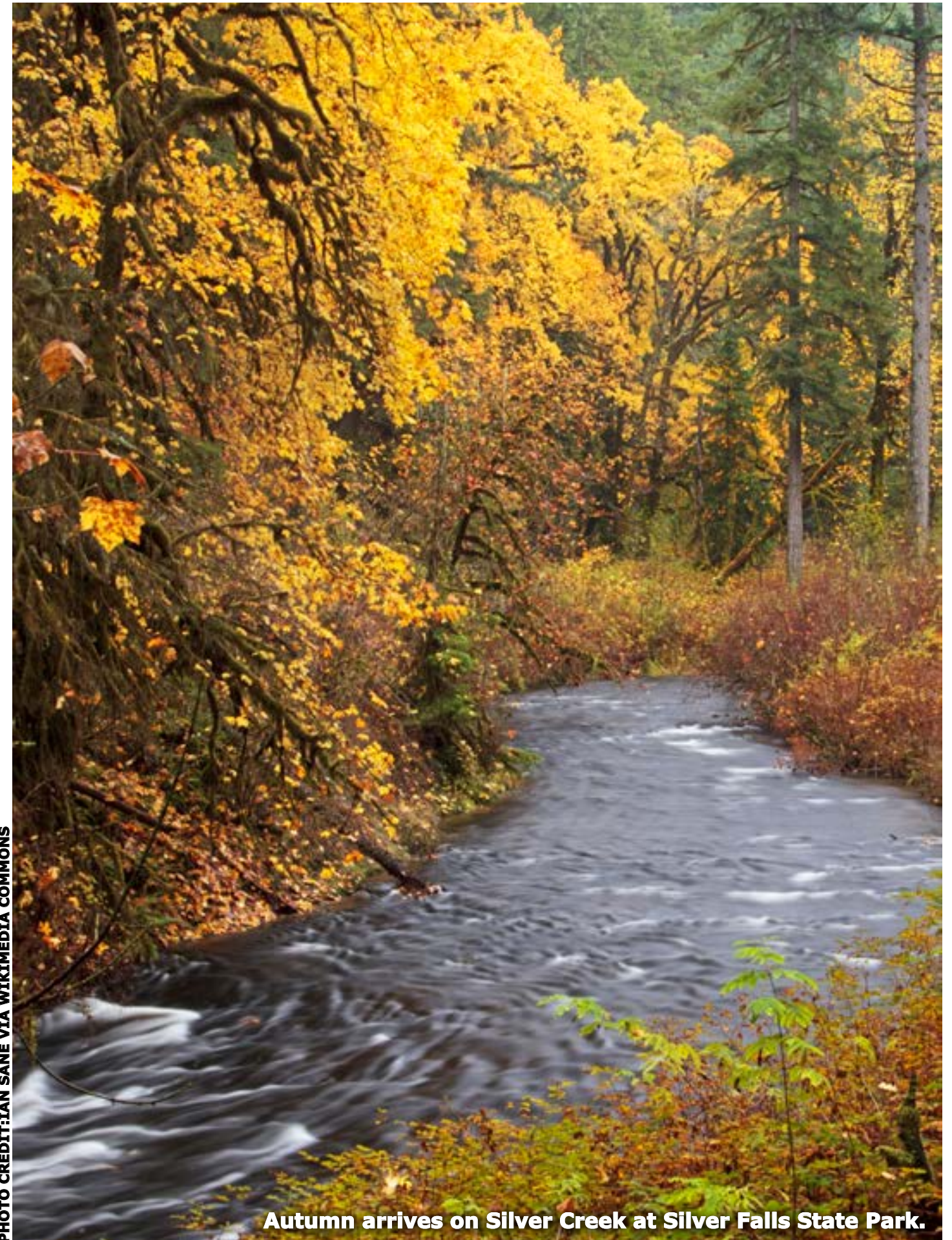


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Autumn arrives on Silver Creek at Silver Falls State Park.

What To Do in the Garden

NOVEMBER

W T D I T G

We know the days get shorter beginning in June, but somehow it becomes most evident in November. Suddenly, it's dark when we get up and dark when we come home. For many gardeners, their time in the yard is confined to weekends. But less time doesn't have to mean unproductive time. There are many simple tasks you can perform in the fall that will improve your garden next year.

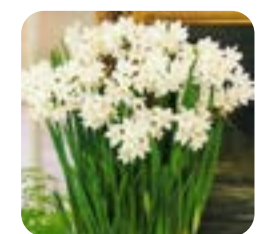
PLANNING

- Consider purchasing a live tree this year. Live trees brought in the house for the holidays are such a great tradition. Discuss the idea with your family this month and then get set to pick out this year's tree early while the selection is best.



shorter, not so tall and lanky that they fall over.

- Watch for very wet areas and begin planning how to tackle your poor drainage issues. One solution is to create a rain garden, something you see more and more in new developments and commercial sites. An area of a depression in the ground that collects the rainwater and allows the water to percolate downward instead of running off. You can plant red and yellow twig dogwoods, small bush type willows, like Arctic or Dappled willow to help soak up the water.



- Force some Paperwhites for some great smelling indoor flowers for the holidays. Pick them up this month before they are all gone. A tip; give them a shot of vodka (really) after they begin to send up foliage. The alcohol helps to keep the growth

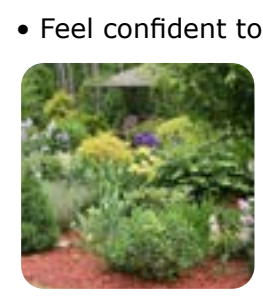
PLANTING

- Get the garlic planted. Fall is the time to plant garlic and if you haven't gotten them planted yet, do so this month. You'll be harvesting the tasty garlic next July.



into the soil now. In fact, they'll like it much more than sitting above ground this winter in a pot!

- Plant a cover crop in the veggie garden if you haven't yet. This is the last chance to get a green manure crop growing in winter.



- Feel confident to plant your landscape plants this month. Roots will grow a little all winter long so plants don't mind being tucked

- There is still time to get the spring bulbs planted. Don't put this off much longer. The sooner you get them in the ground in the fall the better the root development will be encouraging the best blossom display for next spring.



TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

- Time to clean out the Mason Bee condos and clean up the cocoons. Many of your local garden centers have information on how to manage your overwintering bees.



a registered spray. Dormant oils help to smother overwintering insects.

- Don't freak out when the evergreen conifers get some brown foliage showing now. Every fall the evergreens lose their oldest foliage; from the bottom upward and the center outward. This is normal and there is no need to panic.

- WAIT! Don't trim back shrubs and evergreens hard now. Cutting back plants now cuts away the parts of the plants that are signaling the rest of the plant that

cold weather is coming.

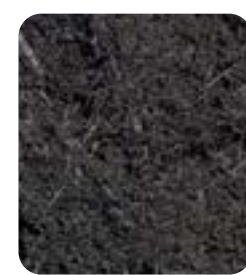
- Cut the roses to about 3-4' tall, no shorter. Cutting back too hard now exposes too much of the lower portions of the bush to the winter cold. You can cut them back lower next March.

- Don't cut back ornamental grasses. The seed heads are



super pretty with frost on them and the birds get the seeds when they are ripe. The plants go through winter best when intact. Next spring, the end of January or the first week of March, cut back the growth to 3 to 6 inches tall.

- Mulch the beds for winter cold protection. Leaves work well or a compost mulch. Mulches are great at stopping soil erosion and keeping the soil from compacting as a result of all the rain. Mulch-



ing the beds includes; the cane berries, shrubs, bulb areas and perennial flowers.

- Rhubarb and asparagus

beds: Protect and insulate these plants with a good dose of manure for winter.

- Lawn mower cleaned up and set for next year. If there is gas left in the tank you can get something called Sta-bil to add to the tank. This helps keep gas fresh for up to 12 months in stored equipment like lawn mowers.



- Get the irrigation system put away or blown out so no freeze damage takes place.

VEGETABLE GARDEN



or clear plastic or with reemay cloth, like Harvest Guard. It's placed over the top of cold sensitive

- Check the stored potatoes to make sure nothing is rotting. Discard anything that is soft or rotting before it affects more of the stored tubers.

- Create a row cloche over crops of winter vegetables. A cloche is a small structure made of glass

plants. Harvesting veggies all winter is going to be so yummy!



- Keep weeds from taking over in the winter. If you didn't plant a cover crop in time for winter protection, consider laying down wet black and white newspapers, 6 layers thick and covering with an organic compost mulch or manure.

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