

March 2012

garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

Dicentra Formosa

Add a Little Heart
to Your Garden

**SCHOOL
GARDENS**

Raised Beds

Out in the Garden Nursery's
Carol Westergreen

"Together, We Create the Message"

-Jeff Gustin, President

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Awaiting the Return of Spring

In spring, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of... gardening?

When you receive this copy of the *Garden Time* magazine we will be just a couple of days away from the start of the new seasons of *Garden Time* and *Fusion*. This time of year, I can't help but get excited. The spring is just such a great time to live in the Northwest. A good friend who moved out of state to a warmer climate once commented to me that he missed the change of seasons that he had here. It's true. We have distinct seasons, but not ones that go to extremes. There are no days of extreme heat and I don't have to shovel snow either. I even heard that one of the local forecasters said that we have seen the end of winter on the floor of the Willamette Valley. Of course if you get stuck in an ice cold late winter rain it is hard to think of the warmer summer days ahead. But really, this is the perfect time to think about spring. Soon we will be talking about planting the garden. In fact, this month we talk about radishes. It is the perfect crop to start your garden for the spring. The seeds can go directly in the soil and it is one of the fastest vegetables to mature. We also talk about building raised beds in your garden. We were surprised at how much better the veggie garden grew last year when our neighbor planted one.

Robin also gets involved with decorating with antiques in this month's issue. Decorating with heirlooms and collectables can be fun and it can add another dimension to your home décor. I have to admit I'm a bit of a 'collector' when it comes to certain things. I'm not a hoarder by any means, but I was excited to see that my 'valuables' can become a welcome addition to our home décor. Be watching the *Fusion* show in the coming weeks as we tackle the same topic in the show.

Finally, we would like to thank our returning advertisers. This year we have seen the return of most of our sponsors and even seen some new businesses come on board. When you see a commercial on the shows or an ad in this magazine, it is from a business that is a supporter of the home gardener and do-it-yourselfer in Oregon and SW Washington. Without them, we would not be here for you each month. Be watching for these fine supporters when we return to the air this coming week and if you get a chance, stop by and thank them for their support. Don't forget to start watching this week, March 3rd! We can be seen on KOIN Local 6 in Portland, KWVT, Willamette Valley Television in Salem and Portland, and KEVU in the Eugene area.

See you on TV and next month, in your e-mail box.

Happy Gardening!

Jeff Gustin, Publisher

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In this issue...

Dicentra Formosa

got to have it...pg. 4

School Gardens

adventures...pg. 6

Raised Beds

backyard...pg. 10

Carol Westergreen

hortie...pg. 12

Radishes

eats...pg. 14

Decorating with Antiques

home...pg. 16

March Gardening

wtditg...pg. 20

Gardening Events

play time...back cover



Heart & Soul

**Delicate yet sturdy,
this unassuming filler
plant finally takes
center stage.**

by William McClenathan

As the last days of winter come to a close, all gardeners start to think about plants; new ones to buy, ones that did not perform the way we had expected and want to dig out, and plants we want to move to a better location.

If you have been searching for a delicate yet sturdy plant, allow me to introduce you to a beautiful perennial, *Dicentra Formosa*, commonly called Pacific Bleeding Hearts. This unassuming little gal is a stunning addition to any shady area. It also doubles as a native, one which is seen on many hikes through our forested areas in the Valley.

Long considered as a "filler" plant by many, within the last few years, breeding has brought us a large variety of new cultivars that are wonderful. One reason this is a great garden plant choice is its ease of maintenance. It does nicely in moist soils and along streambeds, but works equally as well in a more dry setting, once established. In addition, although it does prefer dappled shade, it can be forgiving if it gets less light, or a little more. If they do get a lot of sun, be sure to supplement their water as they can dry out rather quickly.

Spreading by rhizomes secretly hidden underground, it is not so invasive as to become a concern. I inevitably end up sharing some of it when I dig up plants to give to friends, none of which has complained about this diminutive hitchhiker appearing in their gardens.

Even without its flowers, the foliage is lovely with its soft blue-green hue that many mistake for some kind of fern. Then the flowers extend up beyond the foliage and the pink 'bleeding hearts' appear. One would never think such a delicate plant could be so hearty. One plant alone can reach a general height of just under 20" with time and can get over 2' wide. Just a few placed in a larger space can fill in nicely within a couple of years.

My only caveat would be that once they are growing, they tend to be very easily broken, so children, pets and wildlife have a difficult time traipsing through them unnoticed. It will not kill the plant and they tend to recover quickly. I love mixing them under large shrubs with Hostas and Hellebores, adding a softening layer to those architectural plants.

Because of where they grow natively, they tell us they appreciate a well-draining, rich humus soil, so be sure to amend appropriately.

These plants look great in Woodland and English gardens and around streams and water features, as well. So if it's the first time you have considered them, or you would like to add some more, be sure to check out your local independent garden center for their selection and ask for the Western or Pacific Bleeding Heart, *Dicentra Formosa* and add a little heart to your garden.



School's Out... side!

Local schools are encouraging students to get their hands dirty, by turning yard work into homework.

by Judy Alleruzzo

When I was a kid in elementary school, my day did not include a class outdoors in a garden. I was deprived! Today many students are now able to be in the fresh air, learning about gardening and nature. Wow, what a concept!

This return to "The Land" is sup-

Tualatin Bolton Primary School • West Linn, Oregon The Bolton Giving Garden



include four fruit trees, a worm bin and compost bins.

There will also be chickens at the garden during school hours. A generous staff member and a local family are bringing their chickens for the students to care for each week day.

Bolton's science classes are including the gardens in their studies of the natural cycles of the garden and the outdoor environment around the school.

Principal, Holly Omlin-Ruback, teachers and all staff are proud of the students growing produce for the food pantry, being good stewards of the land, understanding their outdoor environment and learning the importance of being involved in their community.



In 2010, 2 teachers, Kelley Jones and Lisa Terrall decided to spearhead a new garden for their school. They wrote to ProGrass, a local landscape care and design company and received a \$5,000 grant. The 5th grade class at that time helped the ProGrass designer create a garden that would help grow fresh vegetables for the local food pantry. The class decided they wanted to help people in need. From the first harvest, the school donated 100 pounds of produce to the West Linn Food Pantry.

This year, there is a new 'Kid Kitchen' that classes will use to prepare and taste new foods that include the vegetables grown right in their garden.

Other new features to the garden



ported by many local schools. School gardens are being designed and created to get students involved with growing trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables. What a great way to learn.

All schools involved in the article laud high praise on parents,

teachers, staff, principals and the local community for making the school gardens succeed. It is all these people coming together to keep the gardens maintained and funded all year long.

The one theme I heard over and over about these elementary

school gardens is how much the students like planting vegetables then harvesting and eating the produce. If that's all it takes to get kids to eat fresh vegetables, parents, get them out in your own gardens. Imagine, kids liking Swiss Chard; it makes it all worth while!

Mary Woodward Elementary School • Tigard, Oregon Woodward Gardens

Many hands have been busy at the Woodward Gardens.

Begun in 1998, this garden has developed into a collection of garden rooms that include a wetland, vegetable and flower gardens and even gardens that attract birds and butterflies. The 16 vegetable raised beds provide some of the produce prepared in the school cafeteria. Excess vegetables are donated to the local food bank.

Students and teachers use the gardens in many daily classes including math, science, social studies, creative writing and art. New this year will be after school gardening classes.

The school has a series of fund raisers to support the garden including a calendar and note cards



made up of garden photos. Plants grown by the students are sold each spring with parents and staff being the best customers. Other help comes from their School Parent Organization, The City of Tigard, Metro, local Eagle Scouts, local garden centers and many community members.

Besides the fun of caring for the vegetable gardens, Nancy Ross, lead garden teacher, says Woodward Gardens is "helping students to understand where their food comes from and learn important connections between everyday food choices, their health and the environment."



Tualatin Elementary School • Tualatin, Oregon Tualatin Elementary Sustainable Garden



Paul Taylor is a local garden designer and consultant with a lot of energy.

He wanted to share his love of gardening and being outdoors with students at Tualatin Elementary School. With much help from school staff and parents, he helped start this garden in 2010 and has helped expand the activities to include after school classes.

Students from Kindergarten to 5th grade work in all aspects of the garden. From starting seeds to planting them, to harvesting and eating vegetables, students help

do it all. Students learn much from this garden and many classes are held in it.

The wetland area shows the life cycles of insects and tadpoles, other areas are inspirations for art projects, math and science lessons.

Garden Time filmed a segment at the garden last spring. The class of the day was planting blueberry bushes donated by The Garden Corner Garden Center in Tualatin. The blueberry planting was a frenzy of activity. The kids were especially looking forward to the fresh



blueberries in the coming years. They had fun and learned basic planting techniques.

Monthly weekend work parties include kids, parents and staff. Fundraisers selling native plants and garden photo note cards, assistance from the school PTA and local grants get even more people involved in the garden. Everyone helps out to make the garden a success.

New this season is the "Signs of Spring" list, improved compost system and planting more vegetables for school use. All are looking forward to the warmer weather for more time in the garden.

**Garden Time - Episode 201
April 30, 2011**

[www.gardentime.tv/
archive/show110430.htm](http://www.gardentime.tv/archive/show110430.htm)



Kennedy High School • Mt Angel, Oregon

It's not only students at local primary schools that are involved in gardens.

For his Senior project, Luke Schmidt of Kennedy High School in Mt Angel, decided to redesign the south side landscape of the school.

Since this is a very hot exposure, he chose a design inspired by a vacation in Hawaii.

The tropical theme made an interesting plant selection with a Windmill Palm, Luke's favorite tree, being a focal point. He was also sensitive to the ongoing care of the new landscape. He chose plants that would be lower maintenance and drought tolerant once they are established in the landscape. Luke received donations of plants from Al's Garden Centers, Schreiner's Iris Gardens, 13th Street Nursery, Salem and Woodburn Nursery and Azaleas.

Beginning the renovation last summer, Luke dug out the landscape's overgrown plants and prepped the area for fall planting. He worked at this renovation with much positive feedback from fellow students and



school staff. He told them if they think the landscape looks good now to "wait a few years then it will really look nice."

school in your neighborhood. Give them a call, they would probably love an extra set of hands.



Luke is happy that his design will be enjoyed by all in the community in the years to come.

School Gardens are here to stay and provide many facets of learning. From being outdoors to nurturing plants to helping the local food bank, school gardens have become an integral part of the school day.

It is a great idea to teach the next generation the love of being outdoors and getting their hands in the dirt to grow flowers and vegetables. We gardeners were probably taught by a Grampa or Auntie. Giving back to a school garden is a wonderful way to mentor a new gardener. I'm sure there is always a project to help with at the local



MOVIN' ON UP



Raising your garden bed can also raise your spirits.

by William McClenathan

The idea of raised garden beds has been around a long time. I mean, really, what were the *Hanging Gardens of Babylon* if not a gigantic raised bed?

Of course, one need not be that elaborate. I remember Grandpa using old tires to raise up the beds from the harsh Texas Panhandle soil. And not so long ago people used old train track timbers; both of these practices have become rather obsolete because of the danger thought by some to



exist from growing things in them.

However, do not worry! Garden Centers today have a vast array of pre-made, easy to use products that will work in any garden setting.

But let us first think about the *why* before the *how*. There are many reasons a person might choose

to plant in raised beds. The first reason that jumps to mind for most folks is that their soil is difficult to garden in. Other reasons may involve soil that is too wet or has poor drainage. By planting in a raised area, their roots will not rot. Also, let us not forget that, as we get older, bending becomes more strenuous. A nice raised bed can alleviate many of those concerns.

Some companies create the whole kit. They include all the pre-cut materials from wood, or another product such as a composite, and the stakes to connect it to the ground. Some can be stacked,



if you desire a deeper raised bed, while other kits offer the ability to buy and connect more kits together over time so your raised bed garden can grow with your needs. Others just offer the 'corners' or end stakes and you add your own material for the sides.

Stone can also be used to create raised garden beds.

Regardless of the material, all you have to do is consider a couple of things before you choose your space; the main one being what it will be used for. If you want a cut flower garden or a vegetable garden, then be sure your area gets a good seven hours of direct sun a day. Also, do not forget that raised beds lose water faster because of wind and evaporation, so be sure that there is a faucet handy.

A large container or wine barrel could be considered a raised bed too; it is all about how you are purposing it.

The easiest raised beds are those you buy and construct in a matter of minutes. Always make sure that your ground is level and within a few minutes, your bed is ready.

Now comes the fun part, filling it with soil. If you have only a small area, bagged potting soil can be purchased. If your space is larger, check into bulk soil delivery, from



a company such as Grimm's Fuel (www.grimmsfuel.com). They would be more than happy to answer your questions.

Once the soil is in place, I would suggest giving the bed a day or two to 'settle' before planting. If you are like me though, that most likely will not happen. Just be aware that the soil will settle over time with rain or watering, so leave a little extra soil to fill in with later.

Root vegetables love raised beds but almost all plants perform better in great soil. So this year, try out raised bed gardening and see if this easy backyard project might just raise your spirits as well.



Inside **OUT**

Short on space in Portland,
Carol Westergreen finds
plants and paradise
Out in the Garden.

by William McClenathan



Out in the Garden Nursery
32483 S Mathias Road
Molalla OR 97038
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www.outinthegardennursery.com



stands of statuesquely mature white Oaks (*Quercus alba*) which provide a delightful park-like setting to the grounds. Tucked around these grand trees, Carol has created wonderful display gardens filled with unusual plants. Nothing inspires a gardener like seeing plants actually growing and no setting could be lovelier than the beds that have been created around these great trees. Ever changing, they add a mystique to the nursery that is both exhilarating and peaceful. The gardens are expanding to accommodate meeting spaces for small groups and events as well.

If all this wasn't enough to entice you to visit *Out in the Garden Nursery* and get to know Carol, spring time includes a great selection of vegetables and other edibles. Summer and fall also add a U-cut flower garden to enhance the inside of your home. Carol also offers classes through local community schools and knowledgeable, friendly service along with her selection of plants. And this April, Carol will be joining us at *Gardenpalooza* where you can get an up close and personal look at her lovely selection of plants, and buy some to take home with you.

Visit their website, then take a trip to Molalla and pay *Out in the Garden Nursery* a visit. The broad array of plants "both tried and true, as well as new" will enhance your gardens, and the knowledgeable advice and friendly service will keep you going back again and again.



Finding a garden center that is unique and delightful is like finding a serendipitous treasure.

Carol Westergreen is the owner of such a place. On Mathias Road in Molalla sits *Out in the Garden Nursery*. Carol has been an avid gardener all of her life, and like other horties we have spotlighted, she has made a career out of her love of plants. Educated at Washington University where she obtained a degree in Landscape Architecture with a minor in Horticulture, Carol spent the next 16 years after graduation working at a large wholesale company, various nurseries, and in the Christmas industry in the Portland area.

So many avid gardeners run out of space for plants at their homes. This also happened to Carol and her husband on their residential lot in Portland. After much consideration, they decided to sell the home and bought five acres of land in Molalla. That was in 2003, and by 2004, *Out in the Garden Nursery* was propagated.

The focus on plants was for shade, but with time, she expanded to sun plants as well. Carol also loves textures of different foliage with an emphasis on exceptional color, so it wasn't long before she included these plants, along with ones that have multi-seasonal appeal.

A delightful key feature to the nursery is three

Putting the Rad in Radishes

Plant some radish seeds today, and you could be enjoying this zesty, healthy treat in only a month.

by Sarah Gustin



The radish is a root vegetable that has been cultivated for centuries. They are very easy to grow, have loads of health benefits, and make a zesty snack. With the expansive diversity in varieties, I can only recommend that you check out a local garden center for help picking just the right one for you. To get the best seeds try local Territorial Seeds or New Dimension Seeds. Both of these amazing vendors have eight different

ent varieties of radishes, with no overlap! They have varieties in purple, red, white, and green as well as giant radishes that I know I would love to try!

Depending upon the variety of radish seed you choose, you can begin planting your radish seeds outdoors in any season. Be sure to read your seed packet for the most accurate planting instructions. Some radishes need to be started indoors in winter.

Radishes

may be harvested after about a month from planting which may be why the name radish comes from a Greek word meaning "quickly appearing." With some varieties you may keep planting seeds every two weeks into early summer.

What am I going to do with my radishes when I harvest them? Eat them! Not only are radishes peppery and delish, they are also really good for you. One cup of sliced radish-





Fava Bean and Radish Bruschetta

makes 8

- 1 pound fresh fava beans, shelled
- 2-3 medium radishes, julienned (about 1/2 cup)
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped mint leaves
- Fleur del sel or other salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 8 baguette slices
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, peeled

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil and cook fava beans for 2 minutes. Drain and transfer beans to a large bowl of ice water. Let cool and then drain. Slip the outer skin off each bean and discard the skin. Place the beans in a large bowl and coarsely mash with a fork leaving some beans whole or in chunks.

Combine the beans, radishes, lemon zest, lemon juice, mint leaves, and fennel fronds (optional). Season to taste with salt and pepper. Brush olive oil over both sides of the baguette slices and grill or broil. Rub toasts with garlic and then spoon the fava bean mixture on top. Sprinkle a little extra salt on top and serve.

es has only twenty calories and is full of vitamin B6, riboflavin, magnesium, calcium, folic acid, and potassium.

Most people only eat the radish root, but the leaves are also edible. The go-to for me is slicing up a few and sprinkling them on a salad. A few other fun food experiments I want to try: radish butter and radish chips. Use a food processor to blend together a dozen radishes and a stick of butter and spread on some bread. Or toss sliced radishes with olive oil and spices and bake in a 350 degree oven for twenty minutes flipping and reducing the heat halfway through. If you want to get fancy, try our recipe for some fava bean and radish bruchetta.

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Everything Old is New Again

You've just bought the perfect antique. But, how do you make it fit-in with the rest of your décor?

by Robin Burke
Fusion co-host



1

An antique piece of furniture inherited from Grandma often comes with fond memories and instant nostalgia of holidays and summers spent being spoiled rotten. Of course you want it, no matter what "it" is! You wouldn't turn down that kind of ancestral karma.

Now you're the proud owner of (insert piece of furniture or decorative item here). Only, it doesn't look nearly as good with your mid-century modern décor as it did in Grandma's 1900s farmhouse. So, you have to make a decision. Do you pass it on to your niece?

Consign it? Store it away? Or, do you suck it up and display it proudly with a lengthy explanation every time someone points out the elephant in the room?

If you have even a tiny, sentimental bone in your body, keeping the "hand-me-down" will make you feel good, especially if you can find a harmonious compromise between old and new.

Design blogger Peter Brown says the first step is to be brave. "Don't be afraid to pair antique with sleek. Antiques transcend time periods. They add richness



2

and depth to your home." "Plus," he says, throwing it in the mix "frees you up to begin decorating instead of waiting for all the right pieces."

Unless you *want* the piece to stand out as a focal point of the room, there are some ways (but, Brown says "no rules") to defy tradition and mix it up. First, if



3

fusion
décor



the piece is upholstered (photo 1, 2), cover it in a fabric that gives it an updated feel while coordinating with your existing design. If it is a functional piece you've inherited, say a Tiffany-style lamp (3, 6), simply use it! Put it on a bedside table or in an entryway, and its mere use will mean it belongs.

Another way to incorporate antiques into your living space is to repurpose them. This option has gained wide popularity in recent years and makes for good conversation pieces.

At "Antiques and Oddities" on NW

Everett in downtown Portland, helpful sales clerk, Sara Schultz, demonstrates how an old rice scoop could be hung on the wall to act as the communication center of your kitchen by holding bills, a roll of paper on the handle for notes, and even covered creatively with chalkboard paint.

Schultz says it's okay to make an antique into something else. "Whatever works for you," she says. "One of our clients cut the legs off of a very old antique bench and used the seat for a mantle, then used the base of the bench as a pedestal for a table by adding a stone top."

Apparently, just because it's old doesn't mean it's a holy relic. A piece isn't truly considered "antique" until it's reached 100 years old. Before the century mark, it's polite to call something 50 or 60 years old "vintage" and something with a simple, post-modern past is "retro". It's possible Grandma's china hutch isn't even antique, but will be one day soon and that could mean it's monetary value will go up. Another reason to hang on to it. Besides Schultz says, "Ninety-percent of shoppers are looking for an eclectic style these days. The past 25 years



people have become more open to incorporating designs that don't exactly match their existing décor or are from an entirely different time period." She says it's a good sign that we're all becoming more culturally aware of the differences





in the world.

Asian antiques (4) are quite popular in the Pacific Northwest. The majority of the pieces at "Antiques and Oddities" come from the Pacific Rim. Schultz says, those with a floral motif look great with French décor, and "Mid-century modern mixes particularly well." For example, IKEA furniture with its clean and modern lines would pair well with a long, Chinese side table that has some scalloped edges. Using an antique can ground the scene and "makes everything pop". She says if there is color in the piece, use that color in accents around the room such as pillows, a rug or draperies with a current

print.

Again, there are no rules. If it's a very vintage piece you're trying to incorporate, and you don't particularly like the trim or the glass or the hardware, change it! The decorative wood design on this 1940s secretary (5, 8) can be removed, the handles updated and, Schultz says, you could even distress it.

This 1930s art deco piece (7) is from Liverpool. The stained glass can be matched with accessories displayed inside, such as dishware or vases, which don't have to be from the same time period. Schultz suggests adding hardware to complete the look.

This pretty American Pennsylvania piece (13) is reminiscent of the '40s and '50s. Schultz recommends painting the inside of the display case and replacing the heavy wood shelves with glass. The dark color of the wood makes it a versatile addition.

Maybe what you end up with isn't furniture at all, but a collection or complete set of dishware or china (9, 10).

The plate below (11) is the last surviving piece from my great-grandmother's collection. The cut glass bowl next to it is from Germany. Purchased in 1964 by my aunt and uncle and given to me as





a wedding gift.

Shultz suggests getting a display case and putting the full set on display (12), giving the plates special emphasis. Choose the pieces you like most and those that you know you'll use, and consign the rest. It's okay.

You could also create a display



that celebrates not only the collection, but also the person who gave it to you by including photos. Shultz says, "Why not take a drab corner of your home and get creative with it?"

If you still feel at a loss, pick up a few decorating magazines and check out their eclectic examples. However, Shultz cautions, "Over-

thinking it kills every good idea. Go with your gut!"

Also on this page are a couple of other pieces from my collection: (14) My in-law's bought this from a Palm Desert consignment store. (15) Another in-law find, purchased at a London flea market. Their first purchase as a married couple in 1952.



You can find more Fusion tips, recipes and streaming videos on our website, www.FusionNW.com.

AMONG the spades we can put in your hand are a nursery spade, border spade, root pruning spade, Iowa pattern trenching spade, post hold spade and a plain old garden variety spade.



(You might say we have'em in spades.)

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W T D I T G

They say March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. But, for gardeners, March is more like a turtle: Slow and steady wins the race. Keep up with your gardening regimen, prune and fertilize--and stay ahead of the weeds. March is the month of Spring, and the bare branches of winter will soon be sprouting forth with color!

PLANNING

~ Have you been making notes in your garden journal? It'll be fun to see what all you were able to accomplish this year when you look back on your notes!



~ Do more vegetable garden planning to take advantage of all the space available. For instance, planting pole beans at the base of corn plants is a great combo! As the beans grow they have the corn to grow on for support and the beans add back to the soil nitrogen needed by the corn.

~ We recommend you research some additional companion planting for your vegetable crops. By planting 'companion plants' together and keeping disagreeable plants apart, you can have the best production ever! If you can tweak your planting

plan to allow for these little natural friendships to develop, then your harvests will be more bountiful than ever!

Ed Hume's seed website has some good info on companion planting or you can find lots of companion planting information in a book by Louise Riotte, "Carrots Love Tomatoes".

Here are just three examples;

Beans like celery and cucumbers but do not like onions and fennel.

Corn lives happily with pumpkins, peas, beans and cucumber but does not like tomatoes!

Tomatoes like carrots, onions and parsley but don't plant them near cabbage or cauliflower.



PLANTING

~ This is a good 'general' planting and landscaping month, an excellent time to start looking at what's available to add color and drama to your landscaping. More stock will be available this time of year and the plants can get off to a great start as the soil begins to warm up.

~ Your last chance to buy bare root fruit trees is this month. You want to get the bare root trees planted before they leaf out, so hurry in to your local garden center to see what's available.

~ Plant berry crops: Strawber-



ries, blueberries and all the cane berries like raspberries and blackberries, currants and gooseberries.

TASKS, MAINTENANCE & CLEAN-UP

~ Clean up perennials and divide daylilies, hosta, asters, garden mums and other summer and fall blooming perennials. Cut back dormant perennial grasses to 2" above soil.

~ Fertilize trees and shrubs, if you haven't yet, with an all purpose slow release fertilizer. This is the 'last chance' month to apply this six-month slow release formula. You want it to be used up by

What To Do In The Garden

MARCH

your plants by the end of July. This way your plants will have the months of August and September to get toughened up for winter.



~ Prune roses if you haven't yet. Thin them out, spacing the branches you leave for best sun exposure. Fertilize

roses with a granular slow release fertilizer to keep them strong and healthy, making the rose bush better able to resist disease and insects. Watch for aphids as they love the new growth on roses.

~ Prune flowering trees and shrubs when they finish flower-

ing. After forsythia's blooms fade is when you should prune it. Cut out up to 1/3rd of the stems or branches all the way down to the ground. This allows for the new stems to grow that will bloom next season. Look up pruning tips for each plant you are thinking of working on. Your research now will payoff later in better looking trees and shrubs.

~ Spread compost over the veggie garden and landscape beds to help enrich the soil.

~ Early spring is a good time to apply a lawn fertilizer with extra iron for moss control. The seed germination inhibiting iron will be gone in time for your grass seeding in late April.

~ Weeds? Remember that if weeds are allowed to go to seed, more and more work will be added to your garden. Keep up with this task by pulling them or covering the weeds with newspaper and compost, letting them rot beneath and then turning them into the soil once rotted.

~ Watch for slugs. Use Bonide's slug bait called 'Slug Magic' to kill slugs safely with its active ingredient, iron phosphate.



VEGETABLE GARDEN

~ Check soil temperatures often this month to see what can be planted out by seed. Refer back to the soil temperature chart (in our January issue) for planting vegetables by seed out into the garden. The chart also lists the best soil temperatures for planting young starts.



~ Vegetable garden: Apply organic compost to the soil. Spade in this amendment or roto-till. (If soil is still too wet, just spade in amendments as spading is better for the soil structure anyway).

~ Start plants indoors, using good organic seed starting soil; broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chives, green onions, leeks, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

~ Plant seeds outdoors, unless otherwise specified; beets, garden peas, fava beans, cabbage starts, cilantro, garlic cloves, green onion starts, onion sets, shallots, mustard greens, spinach, swiss chard and radishes .

Plant most of the perennial varieties of veggies now like asparagus crowns, artichokes horseradish and rhubarb. Plant carrot seeds at the end of the month.

~ Plant Walla Walla onion set starts and the dry white, yellow or red onion sets.

~ Pick up your seed potatoes this month as soon as they are available, since they should be chitted first before planting. (It's not a mistake, we do mean chit!) 'Chitting' potatoes is a term that means pre-sprouting seed potatoes. Place the seed spuds in a single layer, eyes facing up, in a cool frost free (no lower than 50F) but well-lit space. Good strong

light, even sun, is best for creating the plump, strong stubby sprouts, not any long weak sprouts you see from stored potatoes. When the sprouts are about 3/4"-1" long the tubers can be planted out in the garden. Chitting first helps with an earlier and larger harvest.





PLAY TIME

Gardening Events Around Town

Building Ponds & Waterfalls

Saturday March 3, 2012 • 10:00am

Hughes Water Gardens, Tualatin, OR

The manager of Hughes Water Gardens – Niki Atterbury - teaches how to design and construct natural rock water features using flexible liner.

Basics of Seed Starting with Corina Reynolds

Sunday March 4, 2012 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

Starting your garden plants from seed can save you money, let you try varieties that are unavailable as starts, and importantly – let you start growing things while it's still too cold to put them outside.

Moles and Gophers

Saturday March 10, 2012 • 10:00am(W); 1:00pm(S)

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn & Sherwood, OR

Moles and gophers can ruin your lawn and garden. Attend this class and learn how to tell which critters are causing trouble in your yard. Once you've learned how to tell what you've got, learn about some of the many ways of getting rid of them and what works best. Come early, as this is one of our most popular classes of the year. Speaker: Don Sprague. Registration is not required. The seminar is free and open to the public.

Little Sprouts

Saturday March 10, 2012 • 11:00am

Garland Nursery, Corvallis, OR

Even the little ones like to get their hands dirty. This month's Little Sprouts we are starting flower and veggie seeds. Each Little Sprout will learn about the starting and care of seeds and will be able to bring home some to start for their own garden. This month's Little Sprouts participants will be planting the first Little Sprouts Raised Garden here at Garland Nursery. They will plant vegetables and flowers in this fun garden to proudly visit at any time to admire growth and maturity of a garden they help start. Registration Required; Call (541) 753-6601 to register. \$5 per child.

Grow Up with Vertical Gardening

Saturday March 17, 2012 • 11:00am

The Garden Corner, Tualatin, OR

If you are limited on space or looking to add something cool and different to your garden, you may want to consider growing up! We will be demonstrating vertical gardening using edibles, annuals and perennials. Come get inspired to grow up with vertical gardening.

Bonsai Class - Beginning Bonsai

Saturday March 17, 2012 • 11:00am

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Here's a class for the novice. If you've been intimidated by the art of bonsai and not quite sure where to start or what to ask, this class is for you. Let our experts show you where to begin, and what plants, pots, soil and tools are needed.

Medicinal Plants in the Garden with Gradey Proctor

Saturday March 17, 2012 • 1:00pm

Portland Nursery (Stark), Portland, OR

Join us for a class on the common medicinal plants that are easily grown in Northwest gardens. In fact, some may already be living in your yard! We will discuss the plants' healing properties and ways in which these garden herbs can be processed for medicine.

Fertilizing your Roses Properly

Saturday March 24, 2012 • 10:00am

Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, OR

Liquid or granular? How often and how much? Learn how to feed and nourish your roses for the best health and performance

Plants That Attract Honey Bees and Hummingbirds

Saturday March 31, 2012 • 10:00am

Al's Garden Center, Gresham, Sherwood and Woodburn, OR

You can make your yard attractive to honey bees and hummingbirds. Attend this class and learn which plants these helpful friends like. Speaker: Al's experts at all 3 locations. Registration is not required. The seminar is free and open to the public.

Best Fruit Trees and Berries for the Pacific Northwest

Saturday March 31, 2012 • 1:00pm

Tsugawa Nursery, Woodland, WA

Join this informative class on fruit trees and berries that have been selected for the Pacific Northwest climate. We will cover pollination, fertilization, pruning, and care to help you grow an abundance of fruits and berries in your landscape.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

You will find more events and updated information on the Garden Time Events Calendar
www.gardentime.tv/events.htm