

March 2017

# garden time

A Digital Monthly Magazine for Your Garden & Home

## Hidden Gems

5 Scenic Sites and  
Local Gardens for Your  
'Must-See' List

Choosing the  
Right Grass Seed

**Cabbage**

HORTICULTURIST

Kevin Vaughn

Shore Acres State Park

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## Spring Fever!

I have to say that this year I seem to have spring fever like never before! A lot of different factors are feeding that infection. First of all, the weather. This current winter has been one for the record books. We are colder, wetter and have seen more snow than we have in years. That blast of cold, while sometimes pretty with blankets of white, has really worn me down. The record rainfall has also washed away my good mood and my ability to get outside most of the time. This year our garden is a mess. A lot of plants never were pruned back and the garden, deck and patio are messier than ever. The only thing that made me feel better was the Garden Time tour to Hawaii! The tours of gardens in this tropical paradise raised my spirits, even if it was only for a few days. The bad news is that it also fed the fever! After seeing so much color, it just made me wish for an early spring! I now actively seek out color in the garden. The Pink Dawn viburnum, the edgeworthia and the witchhazel are drawing me closer! I'm stooping to see every bloom on the hellebores as they pop open. Spring can't come soon enough!

We try to treat that garden fever in this month's issue. First Judy talks about grass seed and what types do well here in the Northwest. She also talks about the options for a non-traditional lawn and how to plant it. One thing that we don't have to worry about growing is English Ivy! We check out how this beautiful garden plant has become an invasive plant in our area and how we can control it! Finally, Therese fills us in on cabbage. A staple of St. Patrick's Day dinners, cabbage and its edible history goes back centuries. Cabbage has a slew of health benefits and is one of the easier vegetables to grow during the colder months of the year in our gardens. She even shares one of her favorite recipes for Cole Slaw.

As I mentioned earlier, the Garden Time tour to Hawaii was one of the bright spots of our winter. We saw many wonderful gardens, including an orchid grower and a distillery that makes vodka out of sugarcane. We shot some stories for the TV show and you will see them popping up over the next few months. We even had a chance to shoot footage of the lava flowing into the sea from the volcano on the big island and the whales frolicking near Maui. Links can be found on the Garden Time website. Hopefully it will help take care of your spring fever problems until you can get back outside. Also, in just a few days we will be returning to the air for our 12th season. March 4th marks our return and we hope that you join us each and every week on our three-station network! Times and listings can also be found on the Garden Time website.

## Happy Gardening!

**Jeff Gustin, Publisher**

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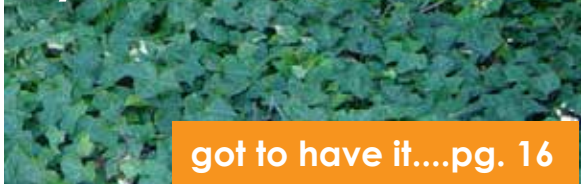
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# Garden Time's Iconic Spokesflower Answers Your Questions!



# Ask Mortimer

Dear Mortimer,

I'm concerned that I didn't get my roses pruned in time. I always heard that the first major pruning should be around mid-February, Presidents Day. It was so cold and wet, I didn't make it out. Am I going to get blooms this year?

Signed,  
Concerned Cuts

Dear Cuts,

The timing of pruning your roses is considered to be a guideline, only. Pruning them now will get them ready for the coming season, but your roses don't read a calendar, so they will only respond when you do your job, no matter what time that happens. We once did an interview with someone who told us that six weeks was a good timeline for rose care. Once you do your early spring pruning; Mid-February to mid-March, then you base a timeline for care on that event. 6 weeks after pruning you can apply fertilizer, 6 weeks later you should have full bloom, deadhead (if needed) and 6 weeks later you should have more blooms, etc. That timeline starts when you do your spring pruning, which could be anytime now. The other thing to note is that you shouldn't be afraid of cutting off new growth at this point. If you have 2-3 foot canes right now, you will notice that there is new growth starting. Feel free to cut those canes down to about 5-6 inches from the ground.

*For more tips on how to prune your roses, you can check out this story we did with our friends at Heirloom Roses:*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPibhB7Nqfk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPibhB7Nqfk)

Happy cutting,  
Mortimer



*Mortimer answers selected questions and comments every month in Garden Time Magazine. To send him your question, email*  
[AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv](mailto:AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv)



Dear Mortimer,

The moss has returned to my lawn with a vengeance! I really want to get rid of it. How can I do that?

Signed,  
Moaning about Moss

Dearest 'Moaning',

The moss in your lawn is the product of our environment. We have the perfect conditions for growing moss in the Northwest! From a plant's perspective (like mine) that's wonderful news! However, you seem to want to remove your moss, but don't jump the gun. The moss is growing because there is an opportunity for it to do so. If your lawn is weak and not full, the moss will grow to take its place. Removing it will take a little time and effort. There are 2 basic types of moss removal products. One group contains iron-based elements (look for the word 'ferrous' on the label) and the other group is an organic soap. Apply the product you prefer according to your label directions. The iron in the first group will actually kill the moss, turning it black and the grass a darker green. The soaps contain potassium salts which also kill the moss and leave the grass intact. Right now the temperatures in the garden are on the edge of being perfect for application of these products. The warmer weather of spring will cause the current moss to spread its spores and that will make the moss problem continue in your lawn, so applying products and removing the dead moss is a must for the late winter gardener.

Once the moss has turned black and died, you will need to remove it with a thatching rake or a dethatcher. You then can prep your lawn for new seed or apply a fertilizer to promote new lawn growth. Keeping your lawn thick and full through the coming growing season will help prevent the moss from returning in the future.

Check out this story we did a few years ago about removing moss:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW1pn0f6TcA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bW1pn0f6TcA)

A 'natch' for the thatch,  
Mortimer

# Hidden Gems



**With spring close at hand, these nearby sites should be on your 'Must-See' list.**  
by Judy Alleruzzo

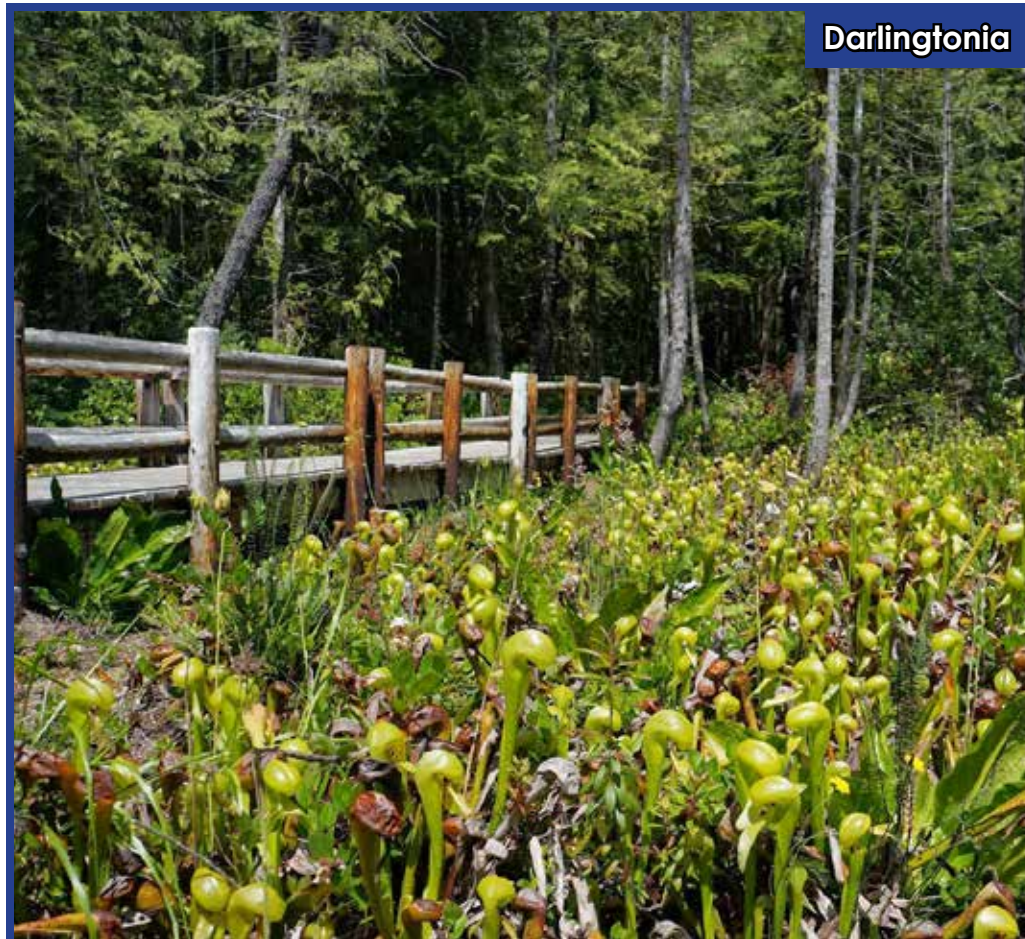
## Darlingtonia

Spring is coming, really, it's right around the corner after this very snowy, rainy winter.

Plants are starting to wake up and it's time to get on the road to check out new plants in new settings. I have not visited all these places but I do have them on my 2017 'Must-See' list.

### Darlingtonia State Natural Site

The Darlingtonia State Natural Site, north of Florence, Oregon is a park I have wanted to visit since I heard that there is a carnivorous plant site in Oregon. I thought it was a gardening legend, but there really is such a State site. *Darlingtonia californica* is the only species of Pitcher Plants, Sarracenaceae that is native to Oregon. These unique carnivorous plants grow in thick swaths around the



## Darlingtonia



**Darlingtonia**

18 acre site.

Visitors walk on a sturdy boardwalk to observe the plants without stepping on and destroying them. The Cobra Lilies are easy to spot as they are 10-20 inch hollow stalks topped with rounded hoods of yellowish green with burgundy veins. At the lip of the hood, there are 2 long, leaf-like appendages guarding the entrance to the hollow stem. Insects are attracted to the scented nectar inside the hood. They crawl in to collect the nectar and fall into a small amount of water in the bottom of the stalk. Downward facing hairs prevent the insects from crawling out. The water is laced with a bacteria that dissolves the insects into nitrogen which the plant can absorb for nutrients.

The Cobra Lily plants grow in moist, sphagnum rich, sandy soils. Ferns are their companion plants, with rhodies, spruce, cedars and shore pines rounding out the scenery.

Plan a late spring to early summer drive to see the Cobra Lilies in bloom. The nodding shaped flowers have 5 purple petals surrounded by yellow sepals. It is illegal to collect Darlingtonia from the wild. To take home a souvenir of your visit, bring your camera or sketch pad to capture this very unusual native plant.

**Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area/  
Wild and Scenic Illinois River Corridor**

I love the name of this site, Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area/Wild and Scenic Illinois River Corridor. This "Botanical Area" is located in Southern Josephine County, near Selma, Oregon, near the western border of the Rogue Siskiyou National Forest. The legend of the name may have originated during the gold mining days when an \$8 gold nugget was discovered on the site. As stated on the website, "Eight Dollar Mountain is one of the most significant botanical sites in Oregon, representing a major area of species endemic in the state. Since the 1880's botanists have noted the area as being an important focal point for uncommon

# Where Will a Capitol Subaru Take You?



## Local Events March 2017

**What to Do in the March Vegetable Garden**  
Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm  
Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR

With Robyn Streefer of Your Backyard Farmer. Get the dirt on year-round vegetable growing in this monthly talk about vegetable gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Robyn will cover soils & early season plantings in this class plus talk about what you can plant this month.

• [www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

**Ladies Night Out: Spring Showcase**  
Thursday, March 16, 2017 • 5:00pm  
Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR

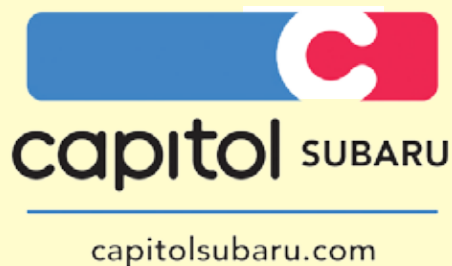
Join your girlfriends for a fun-filled evening and catch our annual Spring Fashion Show. Refresh your garden, home and closet, while enjoying a cold beer, or glass of local wine. Plus - Live music, great food, and friends - what more could you want!

• [www.als-gardencenter.com.com](http://www.als-gardencenter.com.com)

**Ladies Only! Spring Plant Show & Tell**  
Thursday, March 30, 2017 • Doors Open at 3:00pm  
French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR

Ladies, get ready for a delightful evening planned just for you! Come prepared to engage your inner green-thumb as you create your own gorgeous, hanging, flower baskets under the expert guidance of favorite garden show hosts, **William and Judy of Garden Time.**

• [www.fpgardens.com](http://www.fpgardens.com)



**Elk Rock Garden, the Garden of The Bishop's Close**

Tucked away, in the heart of Portland, a very special garden may be a well kept secret to the general public. Garden visitors enjoy the peaceful, sanctuary of the Elk Rock Garden at The Bishops Close. In 1994, the Friends of Elk Rock Garden and The Elk Rock Garden Foundation joined forces to keep this garden well tended and taken care of for future generations.

This is their Mission Statement:

- To preserve historic Elk Rock Garden, the Garden of the Bish-



**Eight Dollar**

plants. Many of the serpentine endemics found in southwest Oregon and northwest California are abundant at Eight Dollar Mountain. Many large Darlingtonia fens are presently lining the base of the conical shaped mountain and unusual plants on dry serpentine sites are also well represented."

Eight Dollar Mountain is a distinct cone-shaped mountain that rises in altitude to 4000ft. It is made up of a high percentage of the mineral, peridotite. The website states, that peridotite contributes to the area being considered a "botanical 'Hot Spot' because of an abundant diversity of rare plants. Eight plant species were first discovered

there, and it is listed in Oregon's Register of Natural Heritage Resources."

The Eight Dollar Mountain Area is managed jointly between Oregon State Parks and Recreation, Medford District of BLM National Forest, The Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest and private land owners (The Nature Conservancy). The BLM has constructed a wheelchair access boardwalk so all can view Darlingtonia californica, Cobra Lily, in its natural habitat.

All these groups help to make sure this diverse land, plants and wildlife is protected for all to enjoy.

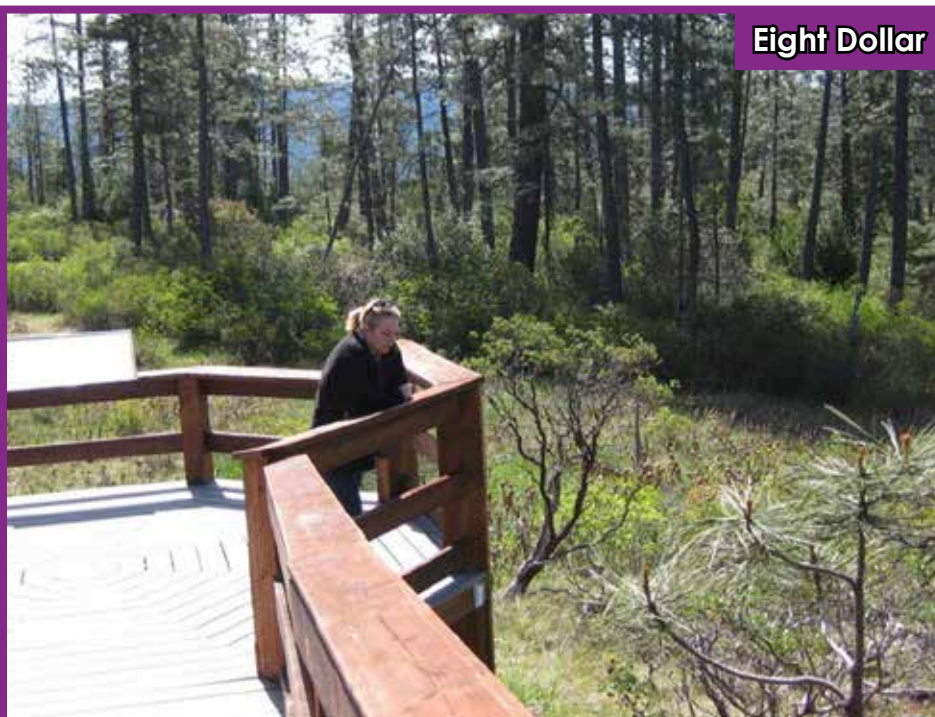
**Eight Dollar**



op's Close as a private English landscape open to the public

- To protect its rare and unusual collection of plants and its tranquil character
- To perpetuate the garden created by Peter Kerr for the enjoyment of future generations

Original home and garden owner, Peter Kerr, emigrated from Scotland with his 2 brothers in the late 1800's. They all lived at Bishop's Close with each brother moving away when he married. Peter stayed on and enlarged the house when he married Laurie King.



**Eight Dollar**

PHOTO CREDIT: BARBARA ULLIAN



Mrs. Kerr was not as avid a gardener as her husband but as with many couples, supported his creation of these 13 acres of beautiful gardens.

Kerr consulted with world renowned landscape designer, John C. Olmsted and Portland's first superintendent of parks, Emanuel T. Mische, for their ideas and concepts for his landscape.

He took their views into consideration but went beyond their ideas and made Elk Rock his own creation. Kerr combined plants from his native Scotland and his new home in the Pacific Northwest.

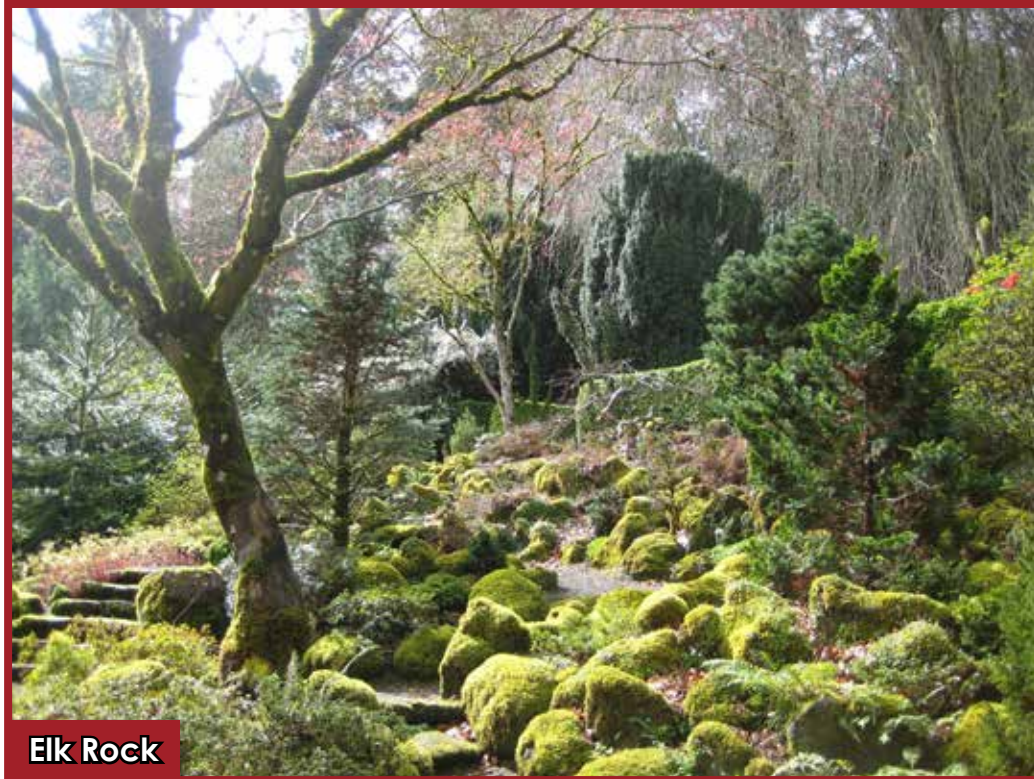
The basalt rock garden and other rock work through the garden was designed by Swiss trained landscape architect, Adolph Meyer.

In 1957, Kerr's daughters gave house, garden and land to the Episcopal Bishop of Portland with a monetary legacy to maintain and preserve it for all to enjoy. Portland plantswoman, Jane Kerr Platt, is the daughter of Elk Rock creator, Peter Kerr. She is a garden creator in her own right.

Jane and her husband John Platt, designed a stunning Portland West Hills garden that is sometimes on Hardy Plant Society of Oregon garden tours.

The Elk Rock Gardens are a place to take a quiet stroll to absorb the whole environment. This sanctuary of a garden is viewed from winding pathways past stately mature trees, shrubs and moss covered rock gardens. A spring time visit shows off Hellebores and flowering trees with early blooming bulbs as groundcover. Visiting this garden, you can almost forget that this is the 21st century. Its structure is a creative lesson in landscape style history. We are lucky it has been so well cared for all these years.

PHOTO CREDIT: CHICKADEE GARDENS BLOG



Elk Rock

PHOTO CREDIT: OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



Elk Rock



Elk Rock

PHOTO CREDIT: BLOGSPOT



Elk Rock

## Deepwood Museum and Gardens

Deepwood Museum and Gardens are a five acre garden, historic home and park found right in SE Salem. The home and gardens began development in the late 1800's. In 1971, the property became part of the Salem park system. Deepwood has a long history through the 3 families that own it over the 70 years it was a private residence. The last owner is most responsible as how we see the gardens today. Alice Bretherton Brown Powell owned Deepwood from the mid 1920's to the late 60's. The most notable changes in the gardens were made under her supervision and from the talents of Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver. In 1930, Lord and Schryver were the first in the Pacific Northwest women owned landscape design firm. Deepwood's formal gardens are the only Lord and Schryver residential gardens open to the public. Their specialty of designing rooms of gardens enclosed by paths and hedges was inspired by English Estates.

As noted from the website, "The central Great Room is a broad lawn with its long axis defined by symmetric hedges focused on the 1905 metal gazebo from the Lewis & Clark Exposition. The Tea House Garden is an enclosed flower garden with geometric walks and flower beds." The Scroll Garden contains a scrolled iron fence and scroll-shaped boxwood hedges.



Deepwood



Deepwood

From the Formal Gardens, you can walk over to Yew Park to the north of the Deepwood parking lot. This is a large open area available to the whole community complete with picnic tables. The adjacent Border Garden is maintained by the nonprofit group, the 'Deepwood Gardeners'. They purchase the plants and maintain the



Deepwood



Deepwood

beautiful flowering border. This volunteer group also keeps the nearby greenhouse stocked with interesting plants for visitors to enjoy. You can find it usually open daily 9-4:30pm.

## Shore Acres State Park

Shore Acres State Park has a long history dating back to the early 1900's. Louis J. Simpson was a lumberman and ship builder. He built a spectacular home

### Darlingtonia State Natural Site

Near Florence, OR  
[http://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp\\_parkPage&parkId=81](http://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkPage&parkId=81)

### Eight Dollar Mountain Botanical Area/Wild and Scenic Illinois River Corridor

Near Selma, OR  
[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/Pacific\\_Northwest/EightDollar/index.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/Pacific_Northwest/EightDollar/index.shtml)

### Elk Rock Garden, the Garden of The Bishop's Close

11800 SW Military Lane  
Portland, Oregon  
Garden Hours, Daily 8am-5pm  
[www.elkrockgarden.org](http://www.elkrockgarden.org)

### Deepwood Museum and Gardens

1116 Mission St SE  
Salem, Oregon  
Park Hours 5am to Midnight  
[www.historicdeepwoodestate.org](http://www.historicdeepwoodestate.org)

### Shore Acres State Park

Located on Cape Arago Hwy, 13 miles SW of Coos Bay/North Bend and US Hwy 101  
Open Every day 8am to Dusk  
<http://shoreacres.net>

and garden near Coos Bay on a bluff overlooking the ocean. His three story summer mansion and grounds held amenities ahead of its time. They included a heated indoor pool, ballroom and 5 acres of formal gardens, including a formal Japanese garden. Plants for the gardens were brought from all parts of the world on his company's sailing ships. It was a magnificent estate.

In 1921, a tremendous fire destroyed the mansion. Mr. Simpson decided to rebuild it even grander than the original. Unfortunately, money troubles stopped the endeavor and the estate fell into disrepair. In 1942, the state of Oregon bought Shore Acres and it became a public park. Eventually, the mansion was torn down but the extensive gardens remain today.

Shore Acres garden displays is a destination for anyone that en-



Shore Acres



Shore Acres

joys seasonal garden displays that highlight flowers and plants throughout the year. The highlight of the spring garden is 100's of blooming daffodils followed by 8000 blooming tulips. The next garden plants to bloom are the rhododendrons and azaleas. Perennials and annuals perform throughout the summer months. Roses and dahlias bloom for the midsummer to early fall displays.

The annual "Holiday Lights at Shore Acres" is the final spectacular display of the year. The Friends of Shore Acres started the Holiday Lights tradition in the late 1980's.

Last year over 300,000 LED lights were creatively woven through the gardens of Shore Acres.

An added bonus to the gardens are the views of the Pacific Ocean from the Observation Tower. Make sure to take the time to catch sight of migrating whales from December through June.

Shore Acres is a gem of a garden any season of the year.

These public gardens and wild areas are a small sample of the many places in Oregon and Washington to enjoy the beauty of springtime in the Pacific Northwest. Our daylight hours are getting longer and temperatures are getting a little warmer, a perfect combination for getting out of the house and discovering a new favorite place right down the road.



# The Lawn-Guest Yard

Helping your new grass seed feel right at home requires a little education.

by Judy Alleruzzo

## Sprouting grass seeds

Did you know that the Willamette Valley is the world's largest producer of cool season forage grass seed and turf grass seed? According to the Oregon Seed Council, about 1,500 farms employ about 10,000 people in this one-billion-dollar industry. Grass seed is Oregon's fifth largest agriculture crop, grown on over 400,000 acres statewide with 360,000 of that acreage in the Willamette Valley.

After the crazy winter in the Pacific Northwest, it is time to think about grass seed and our lawns and not just in agriculture statistics. I wanted to showcase the stats on grass seed as we all love to buy locally grown products. Even when looking for grass seed, you can support a huge Oregon business.

Here are other helpful tips when choosing grass seed for your lawn.

- Check grass seed package contents for 0% weed seeds. There

are enough weed seeds flying around in the air, don't actually plant them in your new lawn.

- "Right Plant, Right Place". That phrase is not just for choosing trees and shrubs but can also be applied to grass seed for your lawn. You may not think about it, but many lawns do not receive sun all day long. Some lawns may be in a sunny location in the morning but get afternoon shade, and sometimes the reverse is true. Lawns may struggle to grow if they are in the shade for too many hours. Knowing the amount of sunlight on your lawn is important before purchasing grass seed.

- Summer care for your lawn. Are you adamant about a green lawn in summer or are you water-conscious and willing to let the lawn go dormant in the heat and drought of the season? There are grass seed blends available for both lawn care strategies.

You can find many types of grass

seed blends online or at your favorite independent garden center. March is a great time to assess your lawn after the winter snow and ice. Get all the supplies you need to be ready once the warm weather is here!

These are a sample of grass seed blends found online or at local garden centers:

### Fleur de Lawn

If you're looking for a different kind of lawn, one with little flowers and a more holistic seed mix, look at Fleur de Lawn® seed. This seed was developed in a partnership between Oregon State University and Prottime Lawn Seed Company. This quote is from Prottime's website, "Inspired by the natural lawns of the New England countryside, we collaborated with Oregon State University to develop this earth-friendly, time and water-saving lawn alternative." The lawn seeds are self sufficient in fertilizing through the clovers in the mix, plus the white daisies

are cute. Fleur de Lawn® can be mown at three inches for a more traditional lawn look or at five inches for a 'meadow' style.

This is a list of the mix of seeds in Fleur de Lawn®:

- Rye Grass
- Hard Fescuca
- White Yarrow
- Micro Clover
- Baby Blue Eyes
- Sweet Alyssum
- Strawberry Clover
- English Daisies

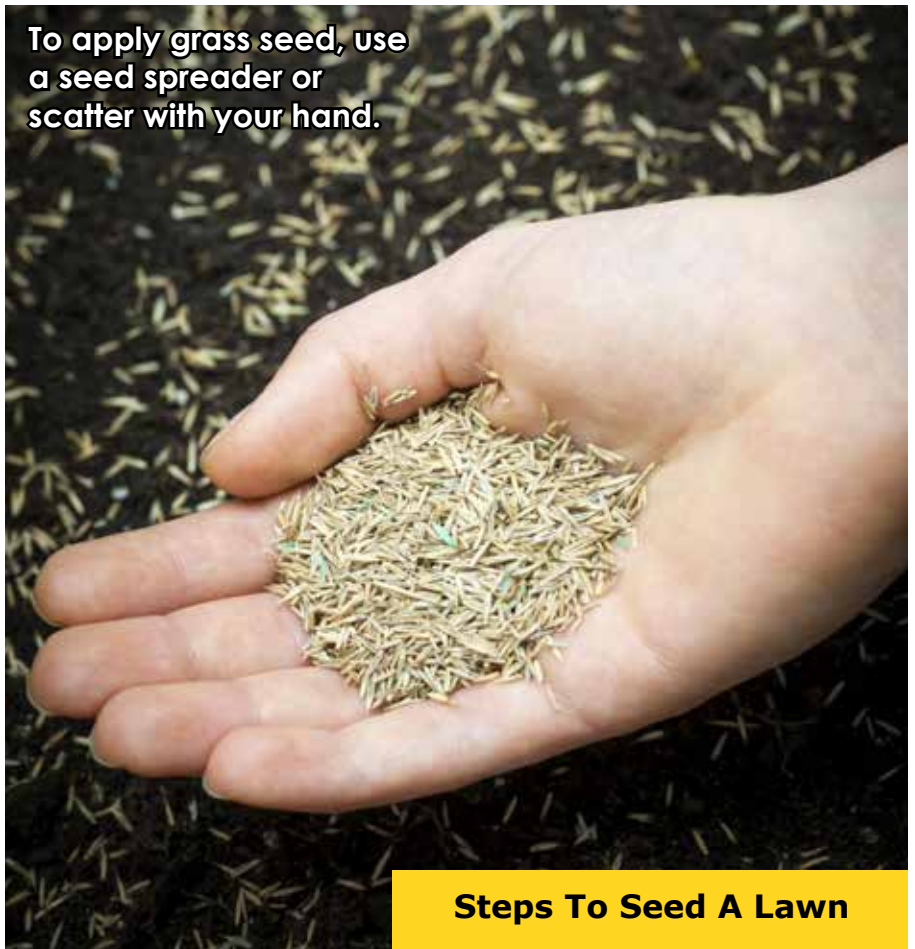
### **Water Warden™**

A four-way Tall Fescue grass seed blend, Water Warden™ comes from Bailey Seed Company.

Bailey's website states, this blend contains "a medium-textured bunchgrass developed from the more coarse forage types."

Adaptation is more widespread because of greater heat and drought tolerance than other species of turf grasses.

**To apply grass seed, use a seed spreader or scatter with your hand.**



### **Steps To Seed A Lawn**

- Important to sow seed when the soil temperature is about 50°-65°F. The air temperature will be about 60°-75°F. Use a soil thermometer to determine the temperature.
- Loosen up the soil to create a good planting area.
- Rake out any old grass or weeds.
- Spread about 1-2 inches of compost and mix with the native soil. Rake level.
- Apply seed using a seed spreader or scatter with your hand
- Spread at rate indicated on the seed package. Tamp soil down a bit
- Add Starter Fertilizer
- Cover seed with a little compost/mulch
- Water lightly, at least once a day, don't let seed dry out
- Mow the new lawn once the grass blades are about 3 to 3.5 inches tall.

**Fleur de Lawn**

Spring's premiere gardening event!

15TH ANNUAL SPRING  
**GardenPalooza**  
PRESENTED BY **DRAMM**



**SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017**  
**8:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Fir Point Farms, Aurora, OR**



**Over 40 local nurseries and garden vendors to get you excited about gardening. See hundreds of plants, tools and garden art.**

**FREE ADMISSION!**  
**FREE PARKING!**



Meet William & Judy from *Garden Time*

Sponsored by **FIR POINT FARMS & GARDEN TIME**  
DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS AT [WWW.GARDENPALOOZA.COM](http://WWW.GARDENPALOOZA.COM)

- Deeper root system
- Does well on heavy soils
- Adapts to wide range of soil pH levels
- Accepts poor drainage
- General purpose turfgrass

"Will develop a good, tough play lawn, excellent for erosion control and athletic fields. Has moderate shade tolerance; good wearability in spring and fall."

**Major League Grass Seed for Sun**

- 3 Varieties of Perennial Rye

**Major League Grass Seed for Sun and Shade**

- 3 Varieties of Perennial Rye
- Creeping Red Fescue
- Chewings Fescue

**Major League Grass Seed for Shade**

- 3 varieties of Perennial Rye
- 10% Blue Grass
- Creeping Red Fescue
- Chewings Fescue

**Grand Stand Lawn Repair Kit**

Sometimes you just need to reseed small areas and that's where this "repair kit" is most efficient. You'll find good directions on the package which include:

- Mulch to protect seed
- 1-1-1 Fertilizer
- Sun and Shade Seed Varieties
- 2 varieties of Perennial Rye
- Creeping Red Fescue
- Chewings Fescue



**More Seed and Lawn Care Information**

**Bailey Seed & Grain, LLC**  
[www.baileyseed.com](http://www.baileyseed.com)

**Pro Time Lawn Seed - Fleur de Lawn**  
[protimelawnseed.com/products/fleur-de-lawn](http://protimelawnseed.com/products/fleur-de-lawn)

**Practical Lawn Care for Western Oregon**  
[catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1521](http://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1521)

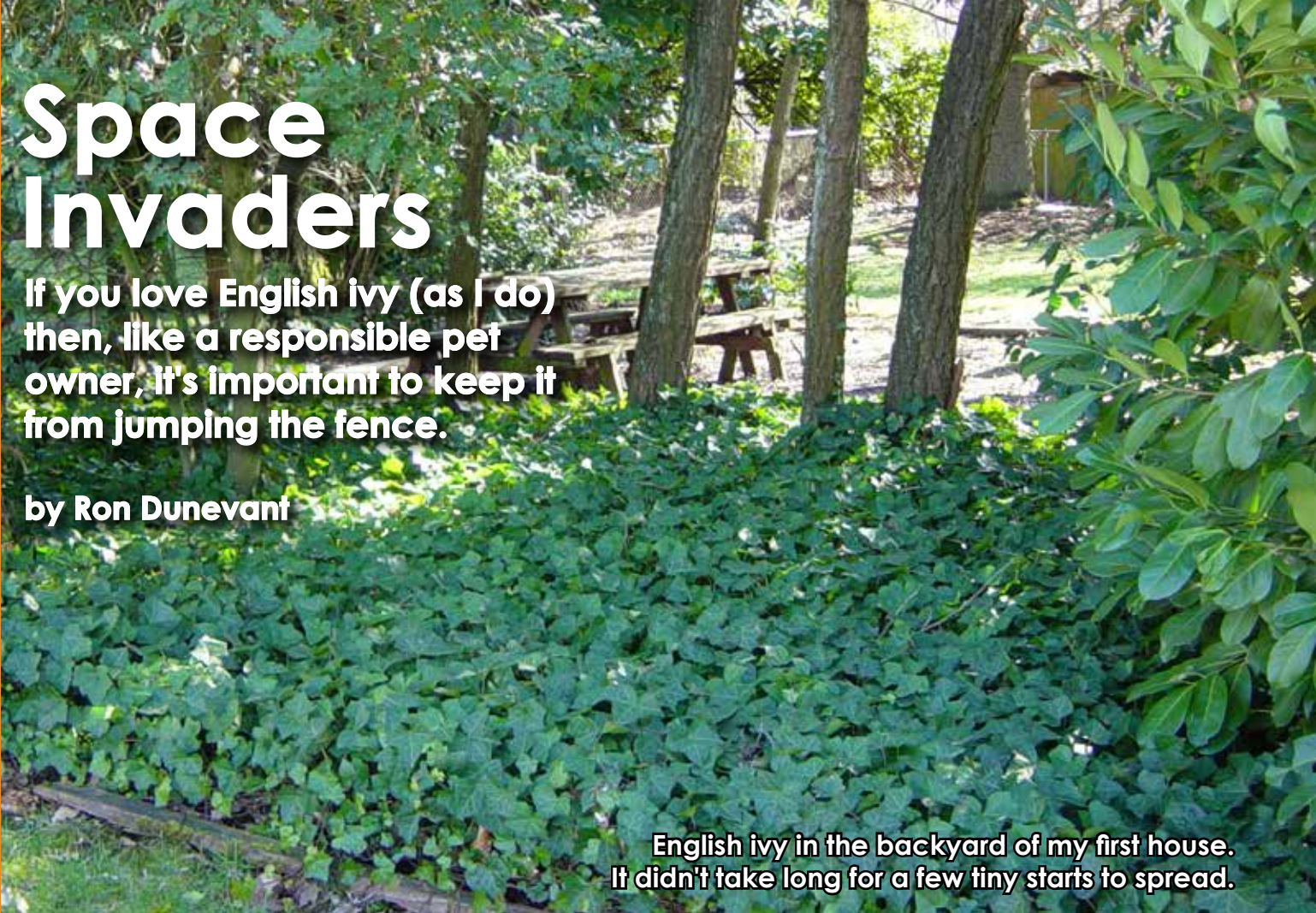
**Sources for Grass Seed**

- Al's Garden & Home
- Tsugawa Nursery
- Portland Nursery
- Garland Nursery

# Space Invaders

If you love English ivy (as I do) then, like a responsible pet owner, it's important to keep it from jumping the fence.

by Ron Dunevant



English ivy in the backyard of my first house. It didn't take long for a few tiny starts to spread.

Spending much of my youth at my grandparents' house, adjacent to the outer fringes of Portland's iconic Forest Park, I fell in love with tall trees, wild plants and the lush green carpet that covered the forest floor. A sea of

green in various shades, consisting of blackberry vines, nettles, ferns, various low-growing plants and English ivy. To me and my friends, this was like being on the open frontier, lost in the unexplored wilderness, and yet,

within view of the Guild's Lake Industrial Area and civilization.

When I moved into a house of my own, those happy memories prompted me to recreate those idyllic days and plant ferns and



Today, I keep my English ivy in a bed with some ferns, and carefully controlled to prevent spreading.





**1982: English ivy climbs the trees in an area just outside of Portland's Forest Park. In the 35 years since, the problem, like the ivy, has grown.**

English Ivy in my own yard. Along with some existing evergreen trees, it would be my own little mini-forest. In the early 1990s, it was easy to do: My local garden center carried trays of ivy starts, inexpensive and easy-to-plant. And so I planted, and within a few short years I had a thriving carpet of "the perfect groundcover" (which is just what the signs at the store promised.)

Fifteen years later, when I moved, I was determined to take some of my mini-forest with me. So I dug up some of the ferns and a few long ivy vines and took them with me. Transplanted into my new yard, the ferns thrived. The ivy did not. It withered away

and died. Luckily the yard had a few ivy vines growing by the fence. Eureka! I would just nurture the existing vines and augment them with some new starts like I had done before. There was only one problem: My local garden store no longer carried ivy. In fact, I couldn't find it anywhere. What happened?

No matter. Within months, the little bit of ivy that was present stretched out and started moving along the fenceline. Every few months, I would redirect the clumps and aim them toward the middle of my fern bed. Over the next few years, it quickly filled in the allotted space and then begged for more, pour-



**Ivy growing along the walls of Portland's I-405 freeway.**



Ivy grows up the walls of The Empress Hotel in Victoria, Canada.

ing over stone-block walls and shimmying up my cedar fence. It also wound its way around some small trees that resided in the middle of the bed. Success!

Too much success, it would seem. Apparently, I am not the only person who can grow ivy. Around the same time, in 2010, the Oregon Department of Agriculture banned the transport, sale or propagation of English ivy and butterfly bushes, calling them "invasive, noxious weeds that are a threat in Oregon because they out-compete native plants." After June 1 of that year, stores were no longer allowed to sell English ivy and the ban extended to potted plants and use in floral arrangements.

At the same time, volunteer groups like the *No Ivy League* were also running around Forest Park, but for a different reason. They, too, were enjoying the beauty of the trees and plants, but what they weren't enjoy-

ing was the English ivy. What I thought was cool as a kid, they saw for what it really was: a bully that was taking over the forest by leaps and bounds, with no controls and no end in sight. For over two decades now, this dedicated group has been fighting to keep ivy from taking over Portland's crown jewel of parks. *[You can read more about the great work the No Ivy League does in our Garden Time Magazine issue from October, 2015. Check the magazine archive links on our website.]*

They have their job cut out for them, though, because I see ivy everywhere. In yards, covering fences, running up trees, even along the freeway. Sometimes it is well-kept, but often it is growing out of control. The ivy-covered buildings and houses that always looked so cool to me now seem a little ominous, like a monster, lurking in the shadows, ready to strike.

So how did English ivy become such a problem? Through a "perfect storm" of circumstances. Traveling from Europe to America in Colonial times, English ivy, as well as its cousin Irish or Atlantic ivy, are European vines that have been used for years in North American landscapes. Easy to plant and inexpensive, landscapers by the thousands added them to yards, along fences and next to foundations as a groundcover. Because the vine is an evergreen, tolerates shade and likes our mild Pacific Northwest climate, it is able to grow year-round and stake out more territory while other plants are dormant.

When it climbs up trees, it can cause disease and rot problems in the bark and hurt the overall health of the tree by robbing it of sunlight and air. In addition, the added weight and mass can make the tree more vulnerable to falling over, especially in windy conditions.

# Got to Have It!

## Steps for containing English ivy

If you have English ivy, and you want to keep it, maintenance is the key.

- Establish a border for your patch of ivy. That way, you can clearly tell when your ivy has grown beyond its designated area.
- Trim back any growth with a weed eater, edger, mower or pruning tool. Periodic trimming, about once a month from spring through fall, will keep your ivy confined.
- Pull and trim any vines that start to grow up fences, siding, walls or trees. Trimming ivy back from the fence by several inches or more will reduce the number of times you have to trim it. But, ivy grows quickly, especially in the spring, so keep an eye out for new vines.
- Ivy can take many years to mature, but when it does, it will produce blooms and berries. Remove any blooms or berries you see. This is the real enemy. Birds eat the seeds and spread the ivy to new locations.
- Thinning out older ivy will encourage new growth that does not flower.



# Got to Get Rid of It!

## Steps for removing English ivy

If you have English ivy, but you don't want any at all, there are some steps you can take to remove it.

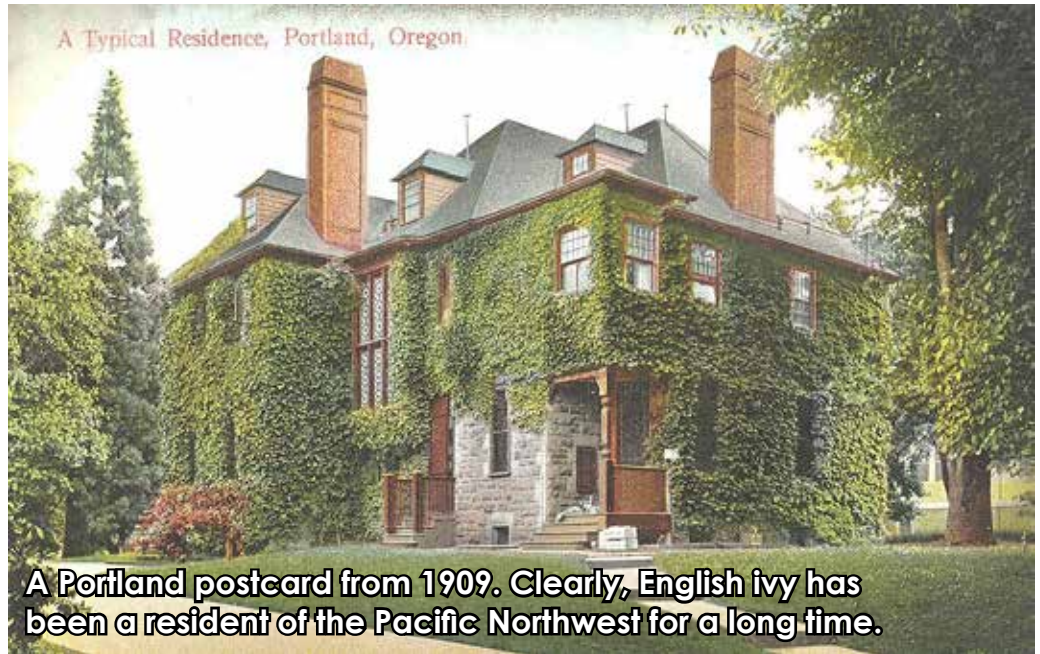
### On trees:

- Beginning at eye level of the tree trunk, cut ivy with clippers and gently remove from the trunk, moving downward. A screwdriver can be used to carefully pry vines from the bark. Cut vines all the way around the tree, and remove them all the way to the ground. The ivy above eye level will eventually die off. Remove ivy all the way to the ground. Creating an ivy-free ring of three to five feet around the tree will keep the ivy from growing up the tree again, at least for a while. Be sure to monitor the area for new growth.

### On the ground:

- Use a lawn mower on ivy groundcover several times a year to slowly kill the spreading vine.
- Wearing gardening gloves, pull out ivy vines, making sure to remove all of the roots. Use a trowel on stubborn roots. Check the area often and pull out new growth or plants that may have survived. If you can do this when the soil is moist, it will be easier. Sometimes, you can "roll" the ivy like a log and remove a large patch of it. Mulch the ivy or put it in your yard debris bin to keep it from taking root again.
- Herbicides can be used, but the plant's leaves contain a waxy barrier that is difficult for products to penetrate. For a more organic and environmentally friendly solution, the internet recommends white vinegar for English ivy removal. Use a spray bottle and coat the vine thoroughly, avoiding any nearby vegetation. Check treated areas weekly for dead or dying ivy. Remove and repeat treatment until all ivy is gone. Also recommended on the internet: a solution of salt, liquid soap and water as a natural herbicide. *Be especially careful in using these solutions as vinegar and salt will be detrimental to desirable plants and make it difficult for new plants to germinate or take root if planted in the same soil.*

On human-made structures, like fences and buildings, ivy can contribute to wood rot and decay by preventing the wood from drying. Those brick buildings we see that are covered in ivy, while looking stately and venerable, may suffer structural damage, depending on the composition of the mortar. Some older mortars, from the early 20th century and before, are especially vulnerable. In loose bricks and cracked mortar, ivy roots can widen existing fissures, allowing moisture to penetrate.



**A Portland postcard from 1909. Clearly, English ivy has been a resident of the Pacific Northwest for a long time.**

Young, new ivy, with its distinctive three-lobed leaf, is more invasive in the immediate area, but does not flower or create seeds. Mature ivy *will* flower, especially if it is allowed to grow vertically up fences, trees and walls. In this stage, the ivy begins to produce rounded leaves

without lobes. Then small, greenish flowers appear followed by clusters of black, round berries. Birds then eat them, but since the berries are poisonous in large amounts, our feathered friends often leave behind much of the seed (or pass it after digestion).

This is how ivy can spread beyond its borders.

There is an old saying, "knowledge is power," and learning about the threat that uncontrolled ivy poses, I am determined to keep mine "in check." That re-



**Roots excrete a glue-like substance enabling them to climb trees and fences.**



**Clearing ivy from the base of trees, if done regularly, is quick and effective.**

quires regularly pulling the ivy off of fences and trees and trimming any vines that go past my designated borders. I also pull back any vines that grow through the fence, in case my neighbors are not as diligent. (I think it also makes for good relations: keep what is yours in your own yard, be it noise, odors, pets or plants.)

While ivy is considered a scourge to many, not everyone hates it. The American Ivy Society ([www.ivy.org](http://www.ivy.org)) maintains a website "dedicated to preserving the genus Hedera through education and promotion." Here you will find a list of ivy varieties, care tips and resources for ivy lovers.

If English ivy is a plant you have "got to have," then with it comes the responsibility to regulate its growth. Perhaps if we all work to control our ivy and prevent it from encroaching on other plants, we can make ivy what it should be: just one of the many plants that grow and thrive in our beautiful Pacific Northwest.



When ivy matures, it forms flowers and then seeds which are quickly spread by birds.

PHOTO CREDIT: [WWW.KINGCOUNTY.GOV](http://WWW.KINGCOUNTY.GOV)

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# Irish Ayes

Corned beef and cabbage

PHOTO CREDIT: FLAMINGO331 VIA FLICKR.COM

**On St. Patrick's Day (or any day, for that matter), say "yes" to the delicious taste of cabbage.**

**by Therese Gustin**

If ever there was a vegetable associated with a month of the year, cabbage would win hands down for the month of March! After all, it's hard to celebrate St. Patrick's Day without the traditional corned beef and cabbage meal. So how did this combination become attributed to the Irish?

Actually corned beef and cabbage was not a typical meal in Ireland. Beef was a rarity and consumed mostly by the wealthy. Pork, however, was much more common and frequently consumed in the form of Irish bacon, similar to Canadian bacon and it was eaten with potatoes. When

the Irish immigrated to the United States in massive numbers between the mid-1700s and mid-1800s they brought with them their traditional recipes.

Unfortunately, in the United States, pork was very expensive, so they switched to beef, which was readily available and less expensive than pork.

The transition from 'pork and potatoes' to 'corned beef and cabbage' came about in New York where poor immigrants lived side by side. The Irish started visiting Jewish delis where it is thought

that they first experienced corned beef. It was cured and cooked in a similar way to Irish bacon and was certainly less expensive. Having little money, they substituted less expensive cabbage for the potatoes. Cooking them together in the same pot created an easy and flavorful dish. Hence corned beef and cabbage came to be synonymous with the Irish.

The history of cabbage goes even further back in the British Isles, than just Ireland. The wild ancestors of today's varieties were originally found in Britain. The cooler conditions of their weather

were perfect for this plant. It handled the damp conditions; retaining water and nutrients in its thick leaves. The old British dish of 'bubble and squeak' was a way of using leftover potatoes, meat and boiled cabbage in the traditional, hearty English breakfast.

The health benefits of cabbage are vast. As with other members of the cruciferous family, cabbage is chock-full of beneficial nutrients. A study from Georgetown University showed that a compound called DIM (3,3'-diindolylmethane), found in cabbage, can protect against the harmful effects of radiation therapy. Eating cabbage and other cruciferous vegetables is thought to lower the risk of cancer. Red cabbage contains the antioxidant anthocyanin, another powerful anti-cancer substance. Cabbage also contains anti-inflammatory substances which can protect against heart disease. The fermented form of cabbage, whether it be sauerkraut or kimchi, provides probiotics which helps aid digestion and improves the immune system.

Cabbage grows best in a sunny location in well-drained soil amended with compost. It needs consistent watering during the growing season. Cabbage can be started from seed or you can purchase starts from your local garden center. Transplants should be set outside in a protected area for about a week before planting so they have time to acclimate to the



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**Garden Time**

weather. Cabbage plants do grow large so they require adequate spacing; 15-18 inches apart for small varieties and 18-24 inches apart for larger varieties. There are early, mid season and late season varieties of cabbage. The early season varieties are generally fast-growing but stay smaller than the later season varieties. The seeds can be started in late winter and the transplants can be planted outside after all danger of frost has passed. Mid season cabbag-



PHOTO CREDIT: SEPH SWAIN VIA FLICKR.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: NIKKI L. VIA FLICKR.COM

es should be planted in mid-spring. They grow a bit larger than the early season varieties and are harvested in the summer. The late season varieties should be planted from late spring to mid-summer. They can be harvested all the way from late fall through early spring. These varieties also store well.

Even with such a long history, today's chefs are finding many different ways of using this early season vegetable in recipes. In fact, it was just



PHOTO CREDIT: NIKKI L. VIA FLICKR.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: SUSANA SECRETARIAT VIA FLICKR.COM

a few years ago that we had a local author, Linda B. Russell, introduce a cabbage and other members of the Brassica family in the cookbook *Brassicas*. We featured her on the program, and her book became very popular with all the wonderfully tasty recipes it contained!

So if you want a vegetable that is easy to grow, a delicious addition to a meal and packed full of nutrients, give cabbage a try.



# My Favorite Cole Slaw Recipe

Adapted from the Better Homes and Garden Cook Book

4 cups shredded cabbage  
(I use 2 cups of green and 2 cups of red cabbage for a more colorful salad)  
½ cup shredded carrot  
¼ cup finely chopped green pepper (I often substitute red bell pepper)  
2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion  
½ cup of mayonnaise or salad dressing  
1 Tbsp. vinegar  
(I use apple cider vinegar)  
2 teas. Sugar  
1 teas. Celery seed  
¼ teas. Salt (I use Kosher salt)



In a large bowl combine the cabbage, carrot, green pepper and onion. To prepare dressing, stir together mayonnaise or salad dressing, vinegar, sugar, celery seed and salt.

Pour the dressing over the mixture; toss lightly to coat vegetables. Cover and chill.

Makes 8 servings.

(119 calories per ½ cup serving)

# A Breed Apart

**For the best plant breeders, like Kevin Vaughn, art and success is in the DNA.**

**by William McClenathan**



**Kevin Vaughn**

This month's Hortie is a delightful and amazing horticulturist named Kevin Vaughn.

Kevin moved to Oregon in 2010 to better pursue his passion for plant breeding, as the climate here best suited his needs.

*Garden Time* met him while filming about his breeding work with the Sempervivum family of plants.

We have since filmed with him several times about his work on breeding. And although he is intensely invested with the breeding of Semps (a truncated name which many used instead of always having to say sempervivums), his passion for the art of breeding plants extends to many other families as well.

These families include Iris, Daf-

fodils, Hostas and Heleniums. *Helenium puberulum* 'Autumn Lollipop,' one I had not heard of before filming with him, is a new favorite of mine because it is great for floral arrangements, but is not one he created.

Some of his named varieties of sempervivums may now be found at Home Depot and are sold on line. He tells me that this inclusion of retail has allowed him to see and understand the commercial aspects of horticulture.

And with that understanding, came Kevin's new interest in Cyclamens and Asters as well. I adore cyclamen, so you can only guess how excited I am to see what new beauties may come from his brilliant and patient mind.

Patience... there in is a major key for plant breeders. Nature, on its own, comes up with new plants through cross breeding when it can. But humans have been able to speed up this process by using science and intelligent design. But one must require patience to be a part of the process.

The best breeders must also use an artistic approach to breeding plants. They need to comprehend what outcome they desire from the parent plants they are choosing to breed with. This is never a 100-percent success, as science has not yet defined the DNA of every single plant. But knowledge of what we do know can certainly assist. And that co-mingling of DNA is where the artistic part comes in.

Kevin described himself as a bit of



Watch an interview with Kevin Vaughn in our April 2016 segment from Garden Time.

[youtu.be/FvVHjM5u5eM](https://youtu.be/FvVHjM5u5eM)

a dreamer...to dream of what the new plant could be.

It is a glorious blending of curiosity and artistic vision. He laughingly said, "The best friend of a breeder is the compost pile."

This brings us back to patience. Can you imagine investing years into something, only having to toss it out? Perhaps resilience is also a term which should be used to describe those who are amazing breeders.

I also admire that he tests his new productions in his own gardens. To see these new plants growing, their strengths, their weaknesses and how they survive through each season, is laudable. Because he desires his plants to have long and vigorous lives in the many different gardens they will eventually be planted in.

In addition to being a plant breeder, Kevin is also an author. His latest book is entitled, *Sempervivums*. It is due to be out in October, 2017.

Having been given his permission, I would love to share a small part of the preface of his new book with you.

### **Preface**

"In 1964, my parents were beginning to landscape their property in Athol, MA, putting in brick walls on one side of the property and more rustic stone walls in an area that ran through a more wooded area. Polly Bishop, who lived about a mile away, saw these efforts and offered to share plants from her garden to under-plant and over-plant these walls. When my mom went to Polly's garden to choose some irises and poppies, I

tagged along and was just in awe. Polly had a large garden and the centerpiece was a 200-by-40-foot ovular garden in which the paths were bordered in stones and the paths sunken.

"The irises and poppies were magnificent, but what fascinated me were the hundreds of *Sempervivum* hybrids that were growing along the paths and among the rocks. I had seen the 'green one' that everyone grew but here were reds, purples, velvety ones and cobwebbed types. Just amazing!



"At that time Polly had about 300 different cultivars, almost all that were available in the US at that time. Besides the main garden, Polly had an area that was planted in rows that included her iris seedlings. When she described how these iris seedlings were created I became really excited. I never had met anyone that actually created new plants. How cool was that?



"Sensing my interest in the 'semps,' Polly brought a bunch of her best varieties to plant along the walls at my folks' property. I was really hooked then."

I am certain that, like his other books, this too will be an exhilarating read, especially for those of us who love *sempervivums*. The common name is Hens and Chicks, which could not be, more common.



Although Kevin is not a grower of retail plants, if you do some searching, you can find them. Or, you might contact your favorite Garden Center to see if their buyer could bring some in from a wholesaler. But find them you should, my friends.



Here are a few of the places to find some of Kevin's plants currently to assist you in your search.

**Young's Garden Center**  
(Roseberg, OR)

Sempervivum: 'Patent Leather Shoes', 'Roasted Chestnuts', and 'Borscht'.

**Aitken's Salmon Creek Nursery**  
(Vancouver, WA)

Spuria Iris: 'Banned in Boston', 'Angel's Smile' and 'Adriatic Memories'.

**Louisiana Iris Farm** (Lafayette LA)

Iris: 'In the Navy', 'Lemon Zest', and 'Aqua Velva'.

**Plant Delight's Nursery** (NC)

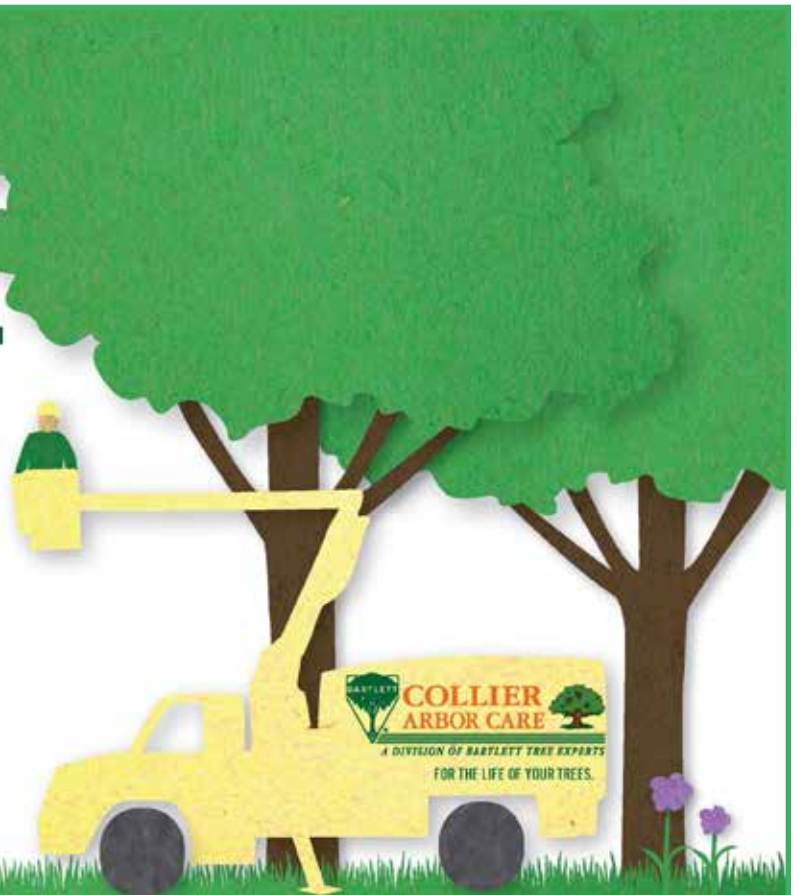
Iris: 'Red Velvet Elvis'. Authors note; this Iris has been the top selling item in their catalog for two years and has won countless award!

**Schreiner's Iris** is currently propagating the Iris 'Red Velvet Elvis' but does not have it ready quite yet. You are encouraged to contact them and check on a pre-order.

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# Coming Out of the Closet

Organizing your pantry will minimize wasted food and help save you money.

by Robin Burke

Don't let your pantry become the "dead zone" where perfectly good food items go to expire and rot. It happens far too easily. Those deep, cavernous cupboards are the graveyard of many kitchens. Boxes, bags, bottles and cans get shoved to the back where they can't be seen and are soon forgotten. Then, the embarrassing moment when

the neighbor kid comes over to collect for the school food drive and every item you try to donate is literally years past its shelf life.

Follow these six ways to make the most of your pantry space and, soon, you will be using what you buy, instead of throwing the soup out with the soup can.



### Blank Slate

First, start with a blank slate. Take everything out of your pantry and cupboards. Clear out any storage space with food other than the refrigerator. Clean the shelves or drawers, and if they tend to get stained or nicked up from heavy cans, put down contact paper. Every couple of years, replace it with fresh contact paper and you will feel like a new person. Well, at least your pantry will look fresh and clean.

### Store Up

Second, really scrutinize how you are using the existing space. We tend to visualize horizontally, so specifically look at the vertical space and whether or not you are using it to the full capacity. Shelf organizers such as wire shelves and expanding risers help use vertical space while increasing the visibility of everything on the pantry shelves.

Don't overlook the inside of doors and space on the walls. You may be able to store small cans or bottles, or even non-food items like plastic wrap and aluminum foil.

Bob Vila of This Old House says, "If you have an area where shelves are not feasible, put the walls to good use. Consider installing a pegboard to hang pans and utensils, or attaching a sheet of stainless steel for a magnetized spice rack."

### For Food Only

If you are storing things in your

pantry that are not food items, look around the kitchen and get creative. Put platters on picture frame stands and use them as decor above cupboards or in the dining room. Put plastic containers in their own space such as a bin, basket or lower drawer.

If a shelf has become the "junk drawer", or you have multiple junk drawers, really edit what



**A Shelf Genie creates easy access to closet shelves.**

you're holding on to. Get rid of what you don't use regularly and pare it down to one small drawer. You will be surprised how this one thing can change the function of your kitchen.

Under-shelf baskets can be a surprising bonus, instantly doubling your cabinet's capacity. Many people only think of them for extra dishes, but they can be specifically designated for things like tea or small containers of spices.

### See it Clearly

Canister sets have been around for decades, and their usefulness is not outdated, but think about them more as hard-working containers than cutesy countertop décor.

Get all Martha Stewart and store your dry goods such as flour, sugar, oats, rice, and beans in uniform containers. Round containers seem like a logical choice, but square containers use space more efficiently. Stackable sets

will make better use of vertical-shelf storage, and clear containers allow for spotting what needs to be replenished at a glance. Everything from inexpensive mason jars to large plastic assortments are readily available in most stores and online.

### Pull-out Drawers

If you do have the luxury of renovating your kitchen or just a pantry re-do, consider the beauty of pull out drawers or shelves. In your main pantry space, the pull out shelves keep things from getting buried in the back of the cupboard. Not only is it easier to spot what you're looking for, it's also much easier to rotate the older items to the front and put new

purchases in the back to avoid waste.

A pull out cabinet can be a narrow nook between the oven and cupboard, or between the refrigerator and wall that would otherwise go unused. These narrow spaces are perfect for spices, canned goods, or cooking oils.

### Shop Your Pantry

Good advice is worth sharing and a few years ago the slogan, "Shop Your Pantry", became trendy. However, this slogan is truly motivational if you practice it. Before you sit down and write out your grocery list for the week, look through your pantry and really think about recipes that include



PHOTO CREDIT: HGTV.COM



Before: a mélange of bags and boxes make for a mixed-up mess.



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMPLYSPACED.COM

what you already have on the shelf. It may take the impromptu menu out of the dinner equation, but it certainly makes sense if you don't like wasting money or wasting perfectly good food.

After: organized, easy to see, easy to find and protected from getting stale.



PHOTO CREDIT: SIMPLYSPACED.COM

# Got a Gardening Question? Ask Mortimer!



Garden Time's iconic spokesflower has his own column! Send us your comments and questions about the stories you read in *Garden Time Magazine* and Mortimer will answer the best ones every month.

# Ask Mortimer

E-mail your questions and comments to [AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv](mailto:AskMortimer@GardenTime.tv)

Every month in  
garden time magazine

# 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.

trogen 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

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### **Portland Japanese Garden Reopens**

**March 1–31, 2017**

#### **Portland Japanese Garden, Portland, OR**

The Garden will reopen to visitors while construction continues outside the gates. Call 503.649.4568 or email [events@farmingtongardens.com](mailto:events@farmingtongardens.com) to register for one or all of our classes this month.

### **Honeybee Hike**

**Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2017 • 10:00am**

#### **Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

This is a February through mid-December weekly occurring event - every Wednesday 10:00am-11:00am. Please dress for the weather. We will be outside exploring the garden, looking for wildlife, and possibly visiting the bees, working in the Children's Discovery Garden, listening to a story or making a craft item. Each week is different with seasonal themes. We start promptly and split into smaller groups as needed. For possible cancellations, please call or check main website page.

Note: Hikes begin Wednesday February 1, 2017 and end December 13, 2017. Location: Meet at Leach Botanical Garden Manor House. Cost: \$3.00 per child, non-walkers and adults free. Punch cards now available: buy 5 hikes and get 6th one FREE!

Exact change please, no bills over \$20.00, credit/debit card must pay in Gift Shop with \$10.00 minimum. Registration: Not required, but groups of 10+ children/adults must preregister 2 weeks in advance. Ages: 2-5 years accompanied by an adult.

Please note: 122nd St. bridge south of Foster Rd. is closed, but the Garden is open. The Honeybee Hike meets and starts in the upper Garden. Please park in the upper parking lot near the office - look for parking signage at corner of 122nd/Claybourne St. just south of Foster Rd.

### **Saturday Guided Tours**

**Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2017 • 11:00am**

#### **Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Join Gardener/Curator on the 1st Saturday of each month 11:00am-12:00pm for a seasonal exploration of the garden. All other Saturdays 11:00am - noon (March through October) join a Volunteer Tour Guide for an informative guided tour of the garden with weekly theme (see schedule below). Location: In front of Manor House. Cost: Free. Registration: No registration required. First-come, first-served. Maximum tour size is 15 visitors. Arrive early to sign-

**continued next column**

in and save your place for the tour.

2017 Saturday Guided Tour Schedule, March through May:

- 1st Saturday – Gardener/Curator walk
- 2nd Saturday – Manor House & What's in Bloom tour
- 3rd Saturday – History & Stone Cabin visit
- 4th Saturday – Lilla Leach Tour
- 5th Saturday – open subject tour

### **New Dwarf and Compact Conifers**

**Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 11:00am**

#### **Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Join Jenni Burkhead from J Farms to hear about the new dwarf and compact conifers we are carrying this year. Not only are they able to fit into smaller gardens by being more slender, more compact and slower growing, these new conifers have been chosen for their color, interesting textures and unique cones. Whether you want to create a combination of conifers for winter interest, have a container that needs an evergreen thriller or have a problem area to fill, Jenni will have some great new recommendations. Cost: Free, but please register.

### **Growing Strawberries**

**Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 11:00am(W)**

**Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 11:00am(S)**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 • 11:00am(G)**

#### **AI's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR**

Kick off the gardening season by planting strawberries. Learn a fun lesson about this delicious fruit and then plant a mini patch in our unique colander container! Kids will love eating the fruits of their labor when summer comes around. Cost: \$7.50.

### **What to Do in the March Vegetable Garden**

**Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

#### **Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Robyn Streefer of Your Backyard Farmer. Get the dirt on year-round vegetable growing in this monthly talk about vegetable gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Robyn will cover soils & early season plantings in this class plus talk about what you can plant this month.

### **Botany: Winter Twig ID, Early Spring Plants and May Blooms**

**Sunday, March 5, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:00pm**

#### **Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Series class - three Sundays: March 5, April 9, May 21. Find out how botanists identify characteristics of related plants. Learn to recognize patterns to help you more eas-

**continued next page**



ily identify both native and ornamental plants by learning to group plants into families. First class will start with twig identification and early spring sprouts, then we'll proceed with parts of a flower and leaf characteristics. Each class will include botanic terminology and common plant families and their characteristics as different plants bloom seasonally in the garden. Beginners and those with prior plant recognition skills will benefit from the class. Registration: Preregistration required. \$75 nonmember/\$70 member for whole series (12 student max.). Receive a Free Leach Garden Friends membership with this series. Sign-up for the first class March 5 and you'll be signed-up for the whole series. Instructor: Teri Lysak has been teaching for Cascadia Wild and various primitive skills gatherings for over 5 years. She holds a MS in Forest Science, and previous to joining Cascadia Wild worked for the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources providing forestry assistance to small private landowners and as a field forester, and seasonally for the Forest Service doing forest surveying, firefighting, and as a wildlife technician.

**We Love Insects!...at Least Some of Them**  
**Sunday, March 5, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Marc Scheidecker. Every vegetable gardener knows that bugs, pests, and insects will always be around to some extent. That being said, we need to know how to keep their populations under control, like maybe just one or two of them each? This class will look at integrated pest management (IPM), the critical importance of prevention, and using covers. We will also focus on good monitoring methods.

**Garden Buddies: Strawberries**  
**Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 10:00am**  
**Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Jenny will teach all about strawberries and why they have their seeds on the outside. The Children will get to pot up their own strawberry plant to take home and get to see the process all the way from planting to harvest! What better way to learn? Supply Cost \$5.00. Containers, soil, and plants supplied. Registration is required. Lessons are geared toward children aged 5-10 but all ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We encourage our Garden Buddies to dress appropriately for hands-on activities.

**What To Do in Your Garden Now: March**  
**Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 10:00am(W,S)**  
**Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 1:00pm(G)**

**continued next column**

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

This is the March installment of our What To Do in Your Garden Now series. We will walk you through all the steps to take when preparing your garden for spring planting. From planning to fertilizing, our Al's Experts will help you get your garden ready for the biggest planting season. In order for us to prepare, registration is appreciated but not required.

**Flower to Fruit: A Botanical Understanding of the World**  
**Saturday, March 11, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Grady Proctor from The Arctos School of Herbal & Botanical Studies. Join Grady as he teaches basic concepts of botany. Take some time to appreciate the beauty of the flower and its importance to the natural world. In this hands-on class, we will be dissecting flowers to learn their basic anatomy, their role in producing the food we eat, and a greater appreciation of the intricacies and interconnectedness of life.

**Raising and Caring for Mason Bees**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Brenda Calvert of Half Moon Farm. Do you want to increase your fruit tree production? Of course you do! Introducing mason bees into your landscape can dramatically increase your pollination, especially during our soggy spring when honey bees aren't very active. Bee expert, Brenda Calvert, will walk you through setting up nesting boxes and blocks, discuss the benefits of mason bees, and discuss the minimal yearly maintenance & supplies involved in keeping your hard-working friends happy. Bring cash or checkbook if you'd like to shop Half Moon Farm's honey and candle selection.

**Intro to Basic Beekeeping**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Brenda Calvert of Half Moon Farm. Are you a honey fan? Interested in "growing" your own? Join bee keeping expert, Brenda, as she explores the fundamentals of backyard beekeeping. She will discuss the different styles and supplies needed to start your own colony, organic techniques, and how to get the most out of your honey production. Plus: get a chance to taste honey from Half Moon Farm! Bring cash or checkbook if you'd like to shop Half Moon Farm's honey and candle selection.

**Wine & Workshop Wednesday: Kokedama Orchid**

**continued next page**



# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (CONTINUED)

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**Wednesday, March 15, 2017 • 4:30pm**

**Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR**

Think outside the box, or container in this case, and create a unique orchid presentation using the kokedama style. Kokedama, which means moss ball, is a style of Japanese bonsai that transfers your plant outside of its pot into a ball of soil held together with moss and string. The sculptural and minimalist aesthetic will create a wonderful conversation piece and look great in any home. In this workshop we will instruct you on creating your own kokedama orchid. This is a Wine & Workshop Wednesday so we will have wonderful local wines available to sip, and a light dinner. Price includes Phalaenopsis orchid, soil, moss, string, expert instruction and local wine. Cost: \$35.00. Registration is required. 21 and over only, please.

**Ecology Guided Walk: Mosses**

**Thursday, March 16, 2017 • 11:00am-12:00pm**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

A new series of monthly ecology walks are being introduced this spring at Leach Botanical Garden. This first one is focused on moss. Venture out with a volunteer guide for an opportunity to explore microclimates at the Garden and the wonders that inhabit these areas. A different topic each month. Appropriate for ages 14-adult (15 students max.) Pre-registration required. \$5 nonmember/Free LGF members per walk. To register: [www.leachgarden.org](http://www.leachgarden.org) or 503-804-6958.

**Ladies Night Out: Spring Showcase**

**Thursday, March 16, 2017 • 5:00pm**

**Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, OR**

Join your girlfriends for a fun-filled evening and catch our annual Spring Fashion Show. Refresh your garden, home and closet, while enjoying a cold beer, or glass of local wine. Plus - Live music, great food, and friends - what more could you want!

**Precious Pollinators: Mason Bees**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 • 10:00am(W,S)**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 • 1:00pm(G)**

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

Pollinators are extremely important. They sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce. One of the most efficient pollinators is the mason bee. Come learn how mason bees are the major pollinator of fruit trees and berries, why they are called the "gentle bee", and how to help welcome mason bees to your yard and garden. In order for us to prepare, registration is appreciated but not required.

**continued next column**

**Early Spring Gardening with Jenny**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 • 11:00am**

**Monday, March 20, 2017 • 11:00am**

**Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Jenny has lists and ideas to help you work around anything Spring and Mother Nature has to challenge you with. Whether you are new to gardening or not, learning what to think about in the planning and soil prep and choosing the right cool weather plants will help you succeed this year. Starting from seed or starts, growing annuals or perennials, including edible flowers and herbs, you can win this seasonal challenge. Your garden will be growing and ready to burst forth once any warm weather arrives. Call 503.649.4568 or email [events@farmingtongardens.com](mailto:events@farmingtongardens.com) to register for one or all of our classes this month.

**Raising Mason Bees**

**Saturday, March 18, 2017 • 1:00pm**

**Farmington Gardens, Beaverton, OR**

Mason bee nesting needs and options will be discussed as will the care of the bees during their life cycle. Following some simple guidelines, you will be able to start, grow and maintain a mason bee population for pollinating your garden and landscape. Master Gardener and Native Pollinator Specialist Ron Spental is returning this year with a comprehensive set of one hour classes about pollinators, their care, and how to attract them. The second of the series will be about the care of mason bees. Call 503.649.4568 or email [events@farmingtongardens.com](mailto:events@farmingtongardens.com) to register for one or all of our classes this month.

**Kokedama Orchid**

**Sunday, March 19, 2017 • 1:00 pm**

**Al's Garden Center, Woodburn & Gresham, OR**

Think outside the box, or container in this case, and create a unique orchid presentation using the kokedama style. Kokedama, which means moss ball, is a style of Japanese bonsai that transfers your plant outside of its pot into a ball of soil held together with moss and string. The sculptural and minimalist aesthetic will create a wonderful conversation piece and look great in any home. In this workshop we will instruct you on creating your own kokedama orchid. Price includes Phalaenopsis orchid, soil, moss, string, and expert instruction. Cost: \$30.00.

**Celebrate the Spring Equinox**

**Sunday • March 19 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

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# PLAY TIME

## Gardening Events Around Town (CONTINUED)

With Holly Pruett, Life-Cycle Celebrant & Terrie Burdette, Portland Nursery, Landscape Designer. During this season of resurrection, Holly Pruett will teach you about Spring Equinox traditions around the world. She'll then help you to set your intentions for the life you wish to nurture as we walk the nursery for foraged plant material to use in our own hand built springtime altar swag. Swag construction will be led by Portland Nursery landscape designer Terrie Burdette. Join us in welcoming Spring! Class limited to 12 students. Please dress for weather, bring hand pruners, gloves and any elements you'd like to incorporate into your altar swag. \$10 materials fee.

### **The Disease Triangle! (no, it is not in Bermuda)**

**Sunday, March 19, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Marc Scheidecker. Gardeners and agriculturists know that three elements (like a triangle) need to be present for pests and pathogens to ruin our crops. If only two elements are present our veggies will be ok. But, they won't be if all the elements are there. The month of March usually is the start of problems with disease and pathogens so come on in and learn how to avoid the Bermuda, uh, I meant the Disease Triangle! And go home better prepared to increase the health of your vegetable garden.

### **Sweet & Tart: Small Fruits & Berries**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 10:00am(W,S)**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 1:00pm(G)**

Al's Garden Center, Woodburn, Sherwood, Gresham, OR Love jam? Can't pass a blackberry bush without grabbing a few ripe berries and popping them into your mouth? Always wanted to grow grapes? Small fruits and berries are easy to grow, fit in any size yard, and are a delicious addition to your garden. Come learn from an expert how you can enjoy these simple 'grow your own' food plants in your yard. In order for us to prepare, registration is appreciated but not required.

### **Touting Trillium-Facts & Fallacies**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 10:00am-11:30am**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Russell Graham, from Purveyor of Plants, will separate facts from fallacies concerning Trillium, one of our favorite NW native early bloomers! He'll address the nomenclature, identification, culture, and propagation of trilliums while exploring some of the myths, lore and reality surrounding the genus, with most of the emphasis on our western species. Russell will have slides, handouts, references, a few plants to display (and possibly sell), and will tour the Gar-

**continued next column**

den's own blooming trilliums after the talk. Location: Manor House. Registration: Pre-registration required. \$15.00 nonmember / \$10.00 LGF member.

### **Hands On Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening Series**

**Saturday, March 25, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Tiffany Gardner of Portland Nursery. Join Portland Nursery's Tiffany Garner in a monthly series held right outside at our own raised vegetable beds. Dress for the weather & learn what to do with your own raised beds, when you should be doing it & the proper techniques so you can work smarter, not harder. From cold frames to compost & seeds to starts you will learn and grow alongside our fabulous vegetable gardener, Tiffany.

### **Organic Vegetable Gardening 101**

**Saturday, March 26, 2017 • 11:00am-12:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Jolie Donohue, Gardening Goddess. If you are excited to grow your own food but have little to no experience or you are new to gardening in the Portland area, this is the class for you! Jolie will discuss the basics of organic edible gardening including site preparation, crop selection based on site elements, planting and care techniques. With her two decades of gardening experience, Jolie will demystify growing your own food and share her tips and techniques for beginner success!

### **Organic Vegetable Gardening 102**

**Saturday, March 26, 2017 • 1:00pm-2:30pm**

**Portland Nursery (Division), Portland, OR**

With Jolie Donohue, Gardening Goddess. Take your vegetable garden to the next level. This is a great class for gardeners with a little experience under their belt now wanting to dig deeper! Join Jolie Donohue, The Gardening Goddess and learn the benefits of practicing crop rotation and companion planting for the healthiest, happiest plants possible. Drawing from two decades of gardening experience, Jolie will discuss tips and techniques for crop rotation, great crop combinations and methods for inter-planting, and strategize about how to rotate crops in small urban plots.

### **Beginning Manga Drawing**

**Monday-Friday, March 27-31, 2017 • 9:30am-12:00pm**

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Manga, Japanese comic strips and animation, have gained international popularity and have introduced young people the world over to a new genre of graphic

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design. This style of art is beautiful and entertaining; these classes are a simple introduction to making manga on your own. This class is suitable for all art skill levels. Materials provided and/or bring your own. Cost: Pre-registration required. \$85 nonmember/\$75 LGF member, for the whole series.

Age: Appropriate for children ages 9-14 years (four students min. /10 students max.) Instructor: As a teacher and artist, Jane Nash has done many things over the years, always returning to teaching and creating art. She's a muralist, painting mostly residentially but also commercially, an acrylic painter of landscapes and interiors but also portraits, nature illustration, pet portraits, anime and anything else inspiring. Jane is also a thangka painter and has been learning how to paint these sacred Tibetan images with Frank Sanje Elliott, her teacher for the last thirteen years. She loves teaching both adults and children and is a partner in Fun with Tom and Jane, a business which goes into Assisted Living Facilities and provides arts and crafts projects for seniors.

**Children's Nature Illustration**  
**Monday-Friday, March 27-31, 2017 • 1:00pm-3:30pm**  
**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

We will learn to look and really SEE how flowers, leaves, branches, and other parts of Mother Nature are constructed. We'll create a detailed botanical drawing on paper using pencil, fine-point drawing pens and any other preferred media. This class is suitable for all art skill levels. Supplies included. Cost: Pre-registration required. \$85 non-member/\$75 LGF member for the whole series.

Age: Appropriate for children ages 9-14 years (four students min. /10 students max.) Instructor: As a teacher and artist, Jane Nash has done many things over the years, always returning to teaching and creating art. She's a muralist, painting mostly residentially but also commercially, an acrylic painter of landscapes and interiors but also portraits, nature illustration, pet portraits, anime and anything else inspiring. Jane is also a thangka painter and has been learning how to paint these sacred Tibetan images with Frank Sanje Elliott, her teacher for the last thirteen years. She loves teaching both adults and children and is a partner in Fun with Tom and Jane, a business which goes into Assisted Living Facilities and provides arts and crafts projects for seniors.

**Fun Folding—Origami!**  
**Tuesday & Thursday, March 28 & 30, 2017 • 1:30pm-3:00pm**  
 continued next column

**Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR**

Two-day class. Remember the fun of creating something out of an ordinary sheet of paper? Students will begin to understand one of the greatest values of origami—the sense of wonder and accomplishment one gets from creating something from nothing! Origami can be so much fun; discover how to fold a simple piece of paper into a bird, a flower, a box or a dinosaur. We will begin with simple models and on our last session children can have a jumping frog contest and take home a box of origami birds and their other creations. Materials provided. Cost: Pre-registration required. \$30.00 per child/adult pair for both days (one child per adult cost; call for 2 children/adult pair cost).

Age: 6-adult (children ages 6-8 must be accompanied by an adult). Instructor: Eileen Holman, a retired art educator has enjoyed teaching art and has incorporated origami into her classroom since it has the potential for helping young children learn math and reading skills. Visit her website for origami examples: [www.Eileenholzman.com](http://www.Eileenholzman.com).

**Ladies Only! Spring Plant Show & Tell**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017 • Doors Open at 3:00pm**  
**French Prairie Gardens, St. Paul, OR**

Ladies, get ready for a delightful evening planned just for you! Come prepared to engage your inner green-thumb as you create your own gorgeous, hanging, flower baskets under the expert guidance of favorite garden show hosts, William and Judy of Garden Time.

Our Main Event will always include: Creating Gorgeous Flower Baskets and our Spring Plant Show & Tell! And new this year: Enjoy a class on Gardening in the Shade by Mark from Little Prince of Oregon! Scavenger Hunt for Goodie Bags begins after check-in at 3pm. Tasty bites and drinks, including local Oregon Craft Brews & Cider, will be available for purchase throughout the evening and guests can participate in a special raffle with gifts. All ladies are welcome (21+) and admission is free. The first fifty ladies that successfully complete our Scavenger Hunt will receive Goodie Bags!

LOOKING FOR MORE?  
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[www.gardentime.tv/events.htm](http://www.gardentime.tv/events.htm)

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