



# The Common Sense Gardener

WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Newsletter

Volume 6

Issue 3

June 2006

## Plant Sale a Record Setting Success! by Lynda Bauer

### HIP, HIP, HOORAH! WE DID IT !!

**TEAM WORK** created an incredibly successful spring plant sale !

**SINCERE THANKS GO OUT TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED !**

**2,565 plants sold in one day, for a value of \$10,600...**

**...And did we have fun!**

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## Garden Rhapsodies is NEXT! by Jennifer Johnson

# Garden Rhapsodies Tour 2006

The eleventh annual Garden Rhapsodies Tour takes place **July 29, 2006 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm**. The Garden Rhapsodies Tour is a unique partnership between the Thurston County Environmental Health Department, City of Olympia, Washington State University Master Gardeners, Native Plant Salvage Project, and the Olympia Symphony Guild. Thurston County and the City of Olympia provide educational materials to take home from the tour. Master Gardeners, Master Recyclers, and Native Plant Salvage volunteers offer answers to individual questions, highlights through the gardens, and a rich knowledge of gardening with the environment in mind. The Olympia Symphony Guild offers musicians to add rhapsody to the event. In addition, local groups provide garden-related demonstrations and displays, while artists add to the ambience, capturing moments in the gardens.

**W**hy does the local health department care about gardening? In Thurston County, our water supply comes from ground water. What happens to the ground (the soil) affects the water below it, so we take a proactive approach to protecting soil quality, in turn, protecting water quality. Local cities are con-

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### Next Newsletter Feature:



Please address any comments to Cliff Moore, Extension Director

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cerned with the quality of our water supply in addition to, the quantity of our water supply. Education in the gardens comes in the form of water conservation messages, common sense gardening guides, displays, demonstrations, and interpretive signs highlighting common sense gardening methods. All of this, in addition to the direct one-on-one education from volunteers in the gardens on hand to answer questions throughout the day and discuss common sense gardening with an integrative pest management strategy, leads to a well-informed gardener!

**G**ardens this year vary from native plantings to Asian-styles. There are gardeners who have been gardening for years as well as gardeners who have just started with help from a designer. Shade gardens, sun gardens, kid-friendly gardens, and water features offer ideas for every gardener. Composting techniques, watering strategies, natural slug and weed control are all highlighted to assist the private gardener in caring for their own gardens in an Earth-friendly way.

**J**oin us for a day enjoying gardens of Thurston County. All six gardens are located within a few miles of each other, giving you more time to visit the gardens and less time hassling with driving. A free shuttle bus is available to make the day even easier. Come to get ideas, be inspired, or simply enjoy these private sanctuaries that are open for this one day only!

**T**ickets go on sale July 1<sup>st</sup> at local nurseries and Olympia Savings and Loan branches. We need volunteers to help with set-up, take-down, the week of the tour, and to assist in the gardens the day of the tour. **Volunteers** who donate four hours or more, receive a **free ticket** to the event. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please contact, Jennifer Johnson at (360) 754-4111 ext. 7631. To get more information on Garden Rhapsodies and see pictures from previous tours, visit us online at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/index.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/index.html). Hope to see you on July 29!

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**C**ustomers arrived early and made a bee-line for the plants sale site. Our new holding area proved a huge success, with those volunteers quickly overwhelmed by customers wanting to drop off plants while they foraged for more. YEAH!! for Deb Welt and her marketing campaign that got more patrons out.

**T**he new lay-out design included having Vendors in the plant sale area -- for a first-time effort, sales were moderately successful. Unfortunately, most people continued to by-pass the information booths located in the DW Children's Garden throughout the day. And they had so much to offer! Thanks to Joyce Hawkins and Lois Willman for securing community involvement on such a large scale for the first time at one of our Plant Sales. **A personal mention to any of those groups that they were seen and enjoyed at our sale would be a terrific way to say Thanks for Coming and encourage continuing participation!**

**T**he Tally Tables and Cashiers were located on the Exit Road which greatly reduced 'traffic jams' in the sale area and helped keep everyone relatively sane. Several 2006 Master Gar-

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dener Trainees got their baptism by fire here and they really earned their Foundation Hours! These people really are the unsung heroes of the sale – and that's why the cashiers get the privilege of being seated!

**P**arking was a challenge as usual, but our veteran crew kept cars moving and customers happy. Providing a holding area for plants while cars were driven from the lower parking lot was really appreciated by our customers and will be offered as a regular service from now on. And look for the new signage which will retrain everyone to enter Dirt Works Garden from the new Nature Trail through the new Main Gate. Less need for 'Plant Sale Police' shepherding customers to go the 'right way' in and out!



**T**he Master Composters ran several well-attended demonstrations; Thurston County Waste Management was on site selling bins; Scott Nelson provided Tool Sharpening Demonstrations at our own Foundation Booth while Mary Moore sold books; and Bagel Brothers provided wonderful food in the gazebo.

**M**GFTC ran a successful Raffle and several people got caught up in the excitement of our FREE hourly door prizes. ***We will be looking for a DJ-type personality at future Sales to really broadcast these events!***

**B**ut the backbone of any PLANT Sale is the PLANTS. The crew of Intern and Veteran MG 'Plant Police' fostered healthy plants and displayed them beautifully. There were purchased plants, donated plants, a large offering from the reconstruction of the DW garden, and vegetables grown by MG volunteers. The Spice Island stand complimented our Vegetable table, and folks loved walking through the Hoop House to find Shade Plants especially with the warm afternoon sunshine. Great Plant Picks, Natives and Roses were Specialty Areas that sold very well, and Berries, Grasses, and Perennials look depleted now compared to May 19<sup>th</sup>! Sales Training helped our volunteers, and then we got a **Super Sales** Demonstration on Sale Day just before we let the crowd in.

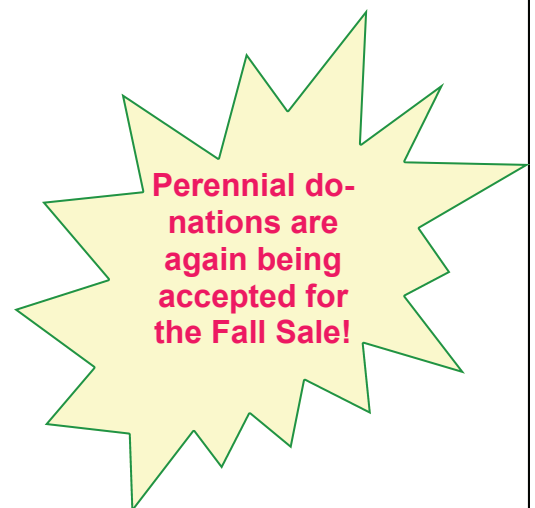
**A**ll in all, it was a busy, fun, active day. Thanks to the new spools used to display our plants we had very little work 'taking down' the sale afterwards.

While we're basking in the glow of a job well done, we do have to look to the **future** and the care of our unsold plants until our **Fall Sale**.

**WE ARE REQUESTING 2 VOLUNTEERS EVERY TUESDAY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER TO PROVIDE PLANT POLICING. Sign up with a friend!**

We want to ensure that our Fall Plants look as good as our Spring Plants did! It should not be taxing work, nor take too long on any given day.

**PLEASE choose your Tuesday and let Marion McIntosh know in advance!**



**Please send any comments, opinions, suggestions to Lynda [bauerjblb@peoplepc.com](mailto:bauerjblb@peoplepc.com)**

## Closed Loop Garden Park by Tam Crocker

It's late spring and the Peonies are in bloom; looking good for their third year in plant. The spring weeds are keeping us busy, much to our dismay. The Heuchera trial plants have been delivered to us and will be planted during June.

Somewhere in all the business of gardening, it is time to do something fun. How about no work, just Hypertufa (see below) fun for a day? Saturday, August 5th, beginning at 10AM, we will have a class for all MG's, MC's and Foundation members. Your cost will be just \$25 for the entire class! Chris Eberle will teach us the art of making Hypertufa pots. During the morning you will learn the basics, then at 1PM there will be an advanced session where you will make a second pot - with color if you like. When you sign up you will need to let us know if you wish blue, green, brown, red, or yellow. This last session should be finished by 3PM. All materials will be provided. Just come and have fun. Be sure to bring food and drink for yourself.

This class is being used as a trial, to see if it might be a viable fundraiser for the Foundation in 2007. If offered to the public, experienced people will be needed to help them. Hopefully you'll be willing to volunteer to help out!

Mail a check to Judy Wagner made out to Tam Crocker for \$25 **no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Judy's address is PO Box 1262, McKenna, WA 98559. Don't forget to mention the color you want for your second pot. Then Chris will have enough time to purchase adequate materials.

Later in August, Dorothy Taylor will teach leaf casting, and we will have all the facts in the next newsletter regarding this class.

Happy Gardening!

## What Is Hypertufa?

Hypertufa is an artificial stone made from various aggregates bonded together using Portland cement. It is popular for making garden ornaments, pots and land forms. This material breathes, leaches moisture and is easy to carve. Hypertufa is relatively light compared with terra cotta or concrete and can withstand harsh winters, at least down to -20 °F.

Some of the additives that can be used for different textures include peat moss, perlite, pine needles, chaff, fine bark mulch, vermiculite and the fine debris washed up on the beach containing twigs, seaweed, shells and bones etc. Salty materials should be washed prior to use.

A good website with more information is <http://www.taunton.com/finegardening/pages/g00117.asp>



The plants have been divided and deadheaded, the beds have been weeded (more than once) and the compost has been put on. Now we are awaiting school to be out and the kids to come.



On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the beds for vegetables were planted by the group of home school children who met with me at the extension office in April and helped to plan what and where to plant. Having children actually plan the beds was new for us and was a very successful project. Many of the children and their mom's were interested in learning how to build a raised bed, what materials to use, and how to use the square foot gardening method so they could start gardens at their own homes.

There will be a group of Cub Scouts visiting and working with us in the garden on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have hosted Girl Scouts and 4-H Groups, but this is the first time the Cub Scouts have come. We are beginning to reach more in the community, mostly through word of mouth rather than other types of advertising. I was also invited to speak about "Gardening with Children" at a moms group at St. Mikes. There was a small group of very enthusiastic young moms. They appreciated that we offered the garden for free. Please look for our donor list as you come visit the Children's Garden.

We have begun to get kits put together for subjects we teach so that if I am not able to be there in the garden, someone else will be able to carry on. We had two new members from last years class make up two kits and one of our new Master Gardeners from this years class is working on more. I have made a couple of the kits myself.

For those interested in working with children in the garden, we will be having a training session in early June. It is not all worked out yet, but I will have Mary send out an email on the listserve so everyone is notified of the time and date.

### **Tuesday Schedule at the Children's Garden**

**9:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**9:30 am – 11:00 am – Taking Care of the Garden**

**11:00 am – 11:30 am - Story Time**

**11:30 am – 12:30 am – Games or Craft Activity**

*See the next page for a complete schedule of events!*

# Children's Garden Events by Week



<b>June 27</b>	<b>Dig a Hole, Plant a Seed</b>
<b>July 5</b>	<b>Flower Power and Butterflies</b>
<b>July 11</b>	<b>Wiggly Worms and Garbage</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>What's Inside That Flower?</b>
<b>July 25</b>	<b>Beezzzz Please!</b>
<b>August 1</b>	<b>Composting our Yard Waste</b>
<b>August 8</b>	<b>Creating with Flowers</b>
<b>August 15</b>	<b>Good Bug/Bad Bug</b>
<b>August 22</b>	<b>Roots and Shoots</b>
<b>August 29</b>	<b>Growing Plants Indoors</b>



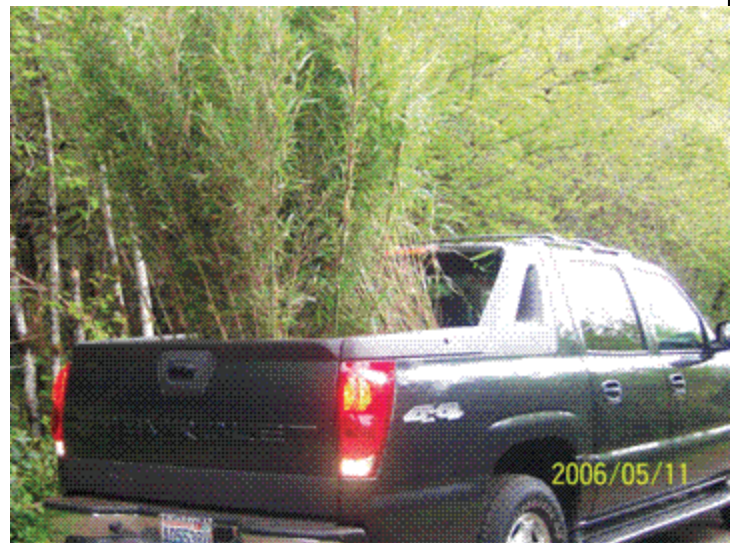
## DirtWorks Garden News by Karen Walters

**W**e have all been plenty busy at the garden this Spring. We always feel a bit of pressure to get the garden looking in good shape for the plant sale. We have not had large numbers of Gardeners getting their hours in, but we have had some really hard workers. All I can say is hang in there, fun is on the way!

**F**irst of all we got the Children's Garden in shape and divided plants for the plant sale. Tony made us a beautiful sign for the Children's Garden this year. We seem to have conquered the rabbit problem we had last year, but now we have a mole population enjoying the soft soil in the raised beds.

**F**inally we were able to start the renovation in May. Keith came with the tractor and cleared out the weeds and old paths. Then I went in and did the plumbing, and Keith came back and began to put soil in and the new pathways. We had to get the bamboo out of the garden and back to its owner. Thank goodness for two wonderful Master Gardeners who stepped forward and as Keith dug it out, they divided it, loaded it on their trucks and delivered it quite a distance to its new home.

**T**hen there was the issue of rocks. If there were prizes for picking up little rocks, the gardeners at DirtWorks would win hands down! But in the long run, they do make a nice border for the gazebo and the area for the rain garden. We found out that 124 yds. of soil and 44



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yds. of gravel take a bit longer to lay than anticipated. So we didn't get done in time for plant sale, but the new entrance was put into place and looked good. By the next newsletter, we hope to be able to show pictures of the mixed border all planted.

Speaking of plants, the City of Olympia, Solid Waste Department did give us money for plants. So we were able to go to Briggs Nursery and get many of the larger plants needed for the bed. Judy Wilson arranged for us to be able to buy other plants from Puget Sound Plants. Anything else that comes up, we will be helped with acquisition by Phil and Joyce Butlin. We really acquired

some nice plants from these sources. Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who donated money and plants for the garden.

In June, DirtWorks volunteers will close on a Saturday and take our first field trip. We all really deserve it for many hours of hard work. The field trip is to Heronswood, and I understand many of our volunteers have not been there. For those of you who have never been, you are in for a treat!

We still have many things to do at the garden to prepare for the next phase of renovation, but the pace should be a bit slower. The best part of the work for me is getting to know the new Master Gardeners and getting to know some of the 'old' Master Gardeners better!

## Master Gardeners at the Olympia Farmers Market by Bob Findlay

There may be no better reason to visit the garden these days than to see the spectacular salmon colored poppy in the water-wise bed. But then again, the iris border has never looked better. The combination and timing of spring moisture and sunlight (as well as a year of removing infected foliage) has resulted in the most abundant display. Most of the iris have been in the ground for three seasons, increases on most have been plentiful, and the casually invasive California poppies and columbines have resulting in great color contrasts and harmonies. See for yourself, as are the two long-time volunteers Kris Mansfield and Catherine Eddington who are pictured among the iris border with the results of one of the other advantages of working in the market garden - the rich selection of plant materials and edibles in the market itself.

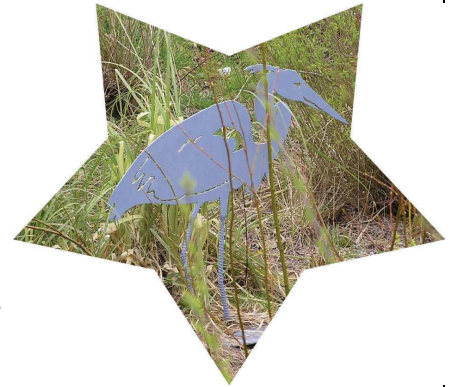


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**S**andy Atkinson has made a commendable effort to enhance our clinic coverage during market hours. Thanks to the many Master Gardeners and interns who are teaming up to provide this much appreciated resource for the community. We have our 'new' computer, thanks to a donation by John Geppert, and are working on a wireless connection to the Internet.

**T**he market garden, as you are well aware, is a 24/7 garden that is visited and enjoyed by many people throughout the season. As I was deadheading the iris border, post major rainfall on a non-market day last week, I noticed a whole group of young people across the pond. They identified themselves as a local girl scout troop that was on a field trip comparing public gardens in Olympia. It was one more serendipitous opportunity to explain the mission of the garden to the public.



**N**ow that the necessary and rewarding distraction of the Spring plant sale is in the past, we will resume development work at the garden including the new bench, clearing out our excess materials near the compost area, and maybe the iron trellises at the entrances to the north border. Your assistance in the clinic and garden are appreciated by our many visitors, thanks for being there.....

## Extension Director Update by Cliff Moore

**A**s I look outside my office window, I see it is overcast, a bit cloudy, mild and not raining. Perfect gardening weather!

**A**s you know by now, the Spring Plant Sale was a huge success. The Foundation had a "10K Day". I believe this is the most profitable single day activity in the history of the WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Foundation. WOW!! So many people put in so much time to make this event successful. My sincere thanks to you all and especially to Lynda Bauer and Evelyn Stewart for their outstanding overall leadership of the event. Now I am getting excited for the Fall Plant Sale!!

**A**s I write this communiqué, we are still moving through all the required "administrivia" to hire a new temporary Master Gardener Program Manager. I won't bore with all the details as to why it has taken so much time and work, but I will say that I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I expect that shortly after the newsletter comes out, we will be able to make an announcement. I know you are all anxiously waiting for this support and trust me, so am I. I do really appreciate all your support and patience during this, the second period of transition. I will say that the opportunity I have had to be more involved with the day to day operation of the program has been terrific for me. I have learned so much about all that you do, I have been able to get to know more of you and I feel like I can be a better advocate for the program as we move to the future.

**A**nd speaking of the future, I have shared with many of you the plan we have to undertake a program review this summer. Thurston County, as you know, provides the funding for the ½ time Program Manager. They do this so that we can provide education that supports county goals

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and objectives. Over time these goals change and as the County has a new program supervisor responsible for our funding, we feel it is time to take stock of the Master Gardener program objectives. In particular we know that the County is increasingly interested in composting education and we want to be sure that interest is reflected in our memorandum of understanding, as well as in our on the ground programming. Also, they would like to see us more engaged with school garden and composting projects so we need to think about how we do that while maintaining the core activities that make up our program.

**W**e have not set a date for this program review but will do so when we have the new Program Manager on board. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to participate, but we will certainly want representation from each demonstration garden and the Lacey office clinic and the Foundation. Stay tuned for announcements about this activity. Once we have completed this program review, we will be able to begin thinking about a permanent Program Manager. I expect we will undertake that search late this year.

**A**gain, I want to express my thanks to you all for all you have taught me during these past few months. Congrats to the Foundation for a wonderfully successful plant sale and thanks to each of you who represents WSU and Thurston County Extension so professionally in the community. You are an amazing asset for our county.

## Foundation President's Column by Mary Moore

**W**hat an incredible Plant Sale we had! According to statistics, it is the most that we have been able to gross in the last five years. Our resounding success is going to make it possible for us to achieve the Foundation's goal of raising over \$12,500 this year if we are equally successful with the Garden Tour and the Fall Plant Sale. And what that means is that we can better fund our three demonstration gardens and the clinics. Hurrah!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**T**here are so many people who deserve accolades for our great success. It goes without saying that we couldn't have done this without the organizational and communication skills of Lynda Bauer. And we would not have had the wonderful stock of plants were it not for the wisdom of Evelyn Stewart. But these two couldn't have done it alone, and there are several who worked diligently for three months to make sure that this happened.

**W**henever I would go over to Dirtworks, I would always see Marion McIntosh who would greet me and make sure that I was not only welcomed, but offered something cool to drink as well as something on which to nibble. Nancy Mills could always be found assuring that every plant was labeled and priced. Others that I could count on seeing were Judy Smith, Mary Snyder, Connie Roth ( our own "Shady Lady"), Dorrie Carr, Pam Thayer, Karan Kinch, Linda Bennett, and

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### Master Gardener Foundation Board Members

<i>President</i> .....	Mary Moore
<i>Vice President</i> .....	Sandy Atkinson
<i>Secretary</i> .....	Frankie Rasmussen
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Sharon Brown
<i>State Rep.</i> .....	Bill Longnecker
<i>Member Rep.</i> .....	Connie Roth
<i>Marketing Director</i> .....	Deborah Welt
<i>Membership Director</i> .....	Lynden Baum
<i>Plant Sales Director</i> .....	Lynda Bauer
<i>Policies &amp; Procedures Director</i> .....	Paula Nelson


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Kathryn Baker. Several of our interns were also working diligently: Pat Creighton and Pauline Fuling come to mind. If I have left anyone else out of my list, know that I am not getting any younger and my memory is not what it used to be. But a HUGE THANKS to you all.

**A**nd then there was the day itself. Wow! What teamwork. Kudos go to both Deb Welt and Frankie Rasmussen for the marketing and the Raffle. Great work! And what would we have done without Bill Longnecker and his mechanical genius. There are simply too many to list here whose presence was critical to our success – our cashiers, our talliers, our loaders, our parking police, our holding table assistants, etc. This is what teamwork is all about and this is what teamwork can accomplish. THANK YOU!




## Ask the Expert by Don Tapio (Edited for space - for complete articles contact Don at [tapiod@wsu.edu](mailto:tapiod@wsu.edu))


 Obesity is now the greatest health hazard in the United States. More than half of all Washington State residents are overweight. Gardening is great exercise, burning anywhere from 250 to 400 calories per hour depending on your intensity while doing your garden chores. A daily visit to your garden can be part of your exercise program and eating the bounty from your garden can be part of your healthy eating plan. While the USDA recommends that all Americans eat 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day for good health, many do not meet the daily vegetable recommendations and even fewer meet the fruit recommendations. (May 29)

Gardening relieves stress and provides mental relaxation while also satisfying the human instinct to nurture. With the rewards of fruits, vegetables and flowers, gardening provides tremendous enjoyment and brings beauty to you and the world.

Involving children in gardening is a great way to spend time with them as well as teach them invaluable lessons of life. The knowledge of where plants come from, how fruits and vegetables grow and the requirements for the plants to live and survive is something children will enjoy learning. It teaches them responsibility and respect for living things and nature. Working in the dirt and getting their hands dirty while producing vegetables and fruits is a lesson that will stay with them for a lifetime. No matter what kind of space you have, you can grow a vegetable garden. An area as small as 25 square feet will feed a family. You can grow a garden even if you live in a condo or an apartment by using containers on your patio or deck. Containers can be half barrels, bushel baskets, five-gallon tubs, window boxes and other creative containers. Creative gardeners grow vegetables, fruits and herbs along flower beds and mixed in with ornamentals. For those with disabilities, raised beds help make gardening possible. Any type of garden space will grow a productive vegetable garden when you plan and use good cultural practices.

 **Question:** Our neighbor told us that we should bury the stem of our tomato plant when we transplant them into the garden. Is there any advantage to doing this? (May 29)

**A**nsWER: Tomatoes, unlike other vegetables, do better when the stem is slightly buried. Roots will form along the stem, establishing a stronger root system. Plants should be set so the soil level is just below the lowest leaves. Tomatoes grown on stakes or cages can be placed one and a half to two feet apart. If plants are allowed to sprawl on the ground, allow three feet between plants.

 **Question:** We have a small creeping weed in our lawn that is in full bloom with tiny blue flowers. Our neighbor told us that it is called veronica or speedwell. How do we get rid of it? (April 24)

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**A**nswer: Creeping speedwell is a fairly common weed all over Western Washington. Home gardeners have been known to actually plant this weed for its beautiful pale, blue flowers which occur each spring. Unfortunately, it has a fairly aggressive growth habit and can become a nuisance weed in home lawns. Creeping speedwell is not controlled by most of the herbicides commonly used on turfgrass such as 2,4-D and MCPA. WSU currently lists DCPA (Dacthal), Dthiopyr (Dimension) and isoxaben (Gallery) as providing effective control when used according to labeled directions. If the infestation is small enough, hand digging may provide the best control option.

**Q**uestion: We really enjoy planting a large vegetable garden each year. Unfortunately, we not only grow a good crop of vegetables, but also a good crop of weeds. Where do all of these weeds come from? We have had the garden in the same place for years and never allowed any weeds to go to seed. (Apr 24)

**A**nswer: It's easy to understand how weeds continue to appear, despite your control efforts, by looking at weed seed production and survival rates. Each pigweed plant that goes to seed for example, produces just short of 118,000 seeds which on the average will survive in the soil at least 10 years! A single lambsquarter plant will produce 72,000 seeds that will remain viable for an average of 40 years. Common dandelions are not nearly as prolific with each plant producing a mere 15,000 seeds which remain viable for just 6 years. Weed scientists frequently refer to existing weeds seeds in soil as the "Weed Bank". Virtually every garden soil has a weed bank with varying weed species and seed numbers. With every tilling of the soil, a percentage of the dormant weed seeds are exposed to the soil surface where they promptly germinate and grow. For now, keep hoeing!

**Q**uestion: Our neighbor told us he always plants his garden according to the stage of development of his lilac leaves and blossoms. Have you ever heard of such a thing?

**A**nswer: Years of research at the University of Vermont have shown that lilacs are highly accurate weather indicators. Unlike thermometers, barometers and other weather instruments, lilacs reflect the combined effects of all weather factors—temperature, rainfall, humidity wind, and sunshine.

**Q**uestion: What is the plant that is so commonly seen this time of the year with the brilliant red foliage? (April 17)

**A**nswer: More than likely the plant you are referring to is *Photinia fraseri*. These broadleaved, evergreen shrubs are known for their attractive foliage. New growth is a showy reddish or coppery color. Although the new growth adds striking color and visual interest to the ornamental landscape, the foliage is susceptible to Entomosporium leaf spot. This disease is characterized by circular dark red to dark brown or black spots. The lesions are generally 1/16 inch or less in diameter, though spots may be larger. Borders of the spots become reddish or purplish. Spots may merge to form larger dead ones. Small, black, blister like dots develop in the centers of the spots. These dots are the fruiting bodies or spore-containing structures of the fungus. Cool, moist weather is ideal for disease development. Brilliant sunlight kills the spores when the weather is dry. Providing good air circulation around plants and raking up fallen infected leaves will help reduce the potential for disease. Applications of the fungicide Daconil Weather Stik or Funginex used according to labeled directions will also help to prevent infection. In addition, Photinia foliage is also susceptible to a physiological leaf spot which produces round, reddish purple spots on the leaves—usually during the winter season. These leaf spots look like those caused by the fungus Entomosporim, except that the centers of the physiological leaf spots are not grayish, and there are no black dots (fruiting bodies) present in the physiological spots. The cause of this leaf spot is not known. About the only thing home gardeners can do is to provide good cultural care for the plants in hopes it will help minimize the problem. Although photinia foliage is beautiful this time of the year, it comes at the price of usually having unattractive plant foliage during the rest of the growing season.

**Q**uestion: We have been told to leave the foliage on our daffodils until it has naturally dried up. Would it be okay to braid or tie the leaves to make them more attractive? (April 10)

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**A**nswer: Spring-flowering bulbs bring a dazzling display of blossoms that help chase away the winter doldrums. But as the flowers fade, the foliage that remains is not very attractive - and in some cases it's downright unsightly! Resist the urge to cut those green leaves off the plants. The health of this year's foliage will determine the amount of carbohydrates that will be stored in the bulb below ground this fall. These stored reserves, in turn, determine the strength of the blooms for next spring. Some gardeners attempt to "tidy up" the foliage by gathering the leaves into bundles and either braiding or tying them in a knot. Although it is better than removing the foliage, the leaves that are inside the bundle will not be exposed to light, reducing photosynthesis and future blooming potential.

**Q**uestion: We have a number of landscape plants that seem to be in a stage of decline. Even though we have applied fertilizer, the leaves do not grow to a full size and they have a yellow color. What could be causing this? (April 3)

**A**nswer: Assuming there are no highly visible signs of insect or disease damage the problem may be caused by over-mulching. Heavy and repeated applications of mulch around shallow rooted plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel, leucothoe, andromeda, boxwoods, hollies, yews and camellias can suffocate their roots. If the plant has the ability to root easily, it will often initiate new roots from the stems into the mulch layer, but produce very little top growth. Death to plants from over-mulching is most often a slow process. Plants begin to lose vigor with the annual rate of growth becoming less each year. The leaves do not grow to mature size and symptoms of iron chlorosis begin to appear. These symptoms generally begin to appear within 2 to 4 years after routine annual mulching begins. Approximately a year before the plant dies, the spring growth exhibits a severe iron chlorosis with considerable die-back of branches. The plants generally show little response to foliar applications of chelated iron or fertilizers. Simply removing the mulch from around plants exhibiting early symptoms of decline usually results in full recovery.

## Dates to Keep In Mind

### Plant Sales

#### **HARDY FERN FOUNDATION FERN FESTIVAL AND SALE**

Friday, June 2 1pm - 6 pm  
Saturday, June 3 10 am- 2pm  
Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE  
41st St, Seattle. For information call 425-  
747-2998 or visit [www.hardyferns.org/](http://www.hardyferns.org/)

#### **SEATTLE BAMBOO FESTIVAL AND SALE**

Saturday, June 3 10am – 3pm  
Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Ameri-  
can Bamboo Society  
Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE  
41st St., Seattle. For information:  
[www.americanbamboo.org/ChapterPages/  
/PNWChapterInfo.html](http://www.americanbamboo.org/ChapterPages/PNWChapterInfo.html)

#### **HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON FALL PLANT SALE**

Saturday/Sunday, September 9-10  
Washington County Fairplex, Hillsboro, OR  
For information call 503-224-5718 or  
[www.hardyplantsociety.org/](http://www.hardyplantsociety.org/)

#### **MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF THURSTON COUNTY 2ND ANNUAL**

#### **FALL PLANT SALE**

Saturday, September 16 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Dirtworks Demonstration Garden

#### **NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FALL PLANT SALE**

Friday, September 22 1pm – 6:30pm  
Saturday, September 23 9am – 3pm  
Sand Point Magnuson Park, 7400 Sand  
Point Way NE, Seattle  
For information call 206-527-1794 or  
[nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)

#### **ARBORETUM FOUNDATION FALL BULB SALE**

Sunday, October 1 10 am – 3 pm  
Graham Visitors Center, 2300 Arboretum  
Drive East, Seattle. For information call  
206-325-4510 or  
[http://www.arboretumfoundation.org/plant\\_  
\\_sales/plant\\_sales.cfm](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org/plant_sales/plant_sales.cfm)

### Classes, Tours and Other Activities

**MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION  
OF THURSTON COUNTY TOUR OF NO.  
SEATTLE – DUNN GARDEN, KRUCKE-  
BERG GARDEN, SWANSON'S NURS-  
ERY**

Thursday, June 1, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Depart from Lacey Clinic Parking Lot  
Donation of \$50 to benefit the Master  
Gardener Foundation of Thurston County  
For information contact Mary Moore at  
[mymtrain@comcast.net](mailto:mymtrain@comcast.net) or 360-357-3712

#### **POINT DEFIANCE FLOWER AND GAR- DEN SHOW**

Friday – Sunday, June 2 – 4, 10 a.m. – 6  
p.m. 6/2 and 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 6/4  
Location: Garden and bowl area of Point  
Defiance Park  
No. 54<sup>th</sup> and Pearl Streets, Tacoma  
Advance tickets \$12, tickets at event \$15.  
For information: 253-305-1008 or  
[www.ptdefianceflowershow.com](http://www.ptdefianceflowershow.com)

#### **FERNS WITH SUE OLSEN, RICHIE STEFFEN & HARDY FERN FOUNDA- TION**

Thursday, June 8, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Location: RHODODENDRON SPECIES  
BOTANICAL GARDEN/FEDERAL WAY  
Fee: NHS Members: \$55.00 Non-  
members: \$75.00 Lunch included. For  
information contact [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)

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**SOUTH PUGET SOUND TOUR (DRIVE YOURSELF TOUR)**

Lakewold Gardens, Closed Loop Park, private gardens and nursery shopping  
Tuesday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. □  
Location: LAKEWOLD GARDENS/LAKEWOOD  
Fee: NHS Members: \$45.00 Non-members: \$65.00 Lunch included  
For information contact [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)

**MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF THURSTON COUNTY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Friday, June 23, 6 p.m.  
Pot Luck, Continuing Education and Foundation membership meeting  
St. Benedict's Church  
910 Bowker Street SE, Lacey

**BAINBRIDGE IN BLOOM GARDEN TOUR**

Friday, July 14: private preview tour  
Saturday and Sunday, July 15-16: 10am-5pm  
Fee: Adults \$30, Tour by bicycle: Ticket \$20  
Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council  
Tickets required: online or at retail stores.  
For information contact 206-219-3182  
[www.gardentour.org](http://www.gardentour.org)

**SEQUIM LAVENDER FESTIVAL**

Friday-Sunday July 14, 15, 16  
Street fair and tour of lavender farms.  
<http://www.lavenderfestival.com/>  
[info@lavenderfestival.com](mailto:info@lavenderfestival.com)  
For information contact 877-681-3035 (toll free)

**CEMENT LEAF-CASTING USING VEGETABLE LEAVES WITH LOIS WILLMAN AND JOYCE HAWKINS**

Tuesday, July 25, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Willman Garden, Tenino  
Fee: NHS Members: \$45.00 Non-members: \$65.00 Limit: 10, all materials including a selection of leaves, will be provided and you can take home your creation at the end of the class. □  
For information contact [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)

**GARDEN RHAPSODIES TOUR**

Saturday, July 29 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Master Gardener Foundation of Thurston County, Native Plant Salvage and Olympia Symphony Guild. Shuttle Area: Olympia Christian Reformed Church, 2121 Log Cabin Road SE, Olympia. For information contact Jennifer Johnson 360-754-4111

**CREATING HYPERTUFA POTS WITH CHRIS EBERLY**

Saturday, August 5 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Location: Closed Loop Park  
Fee: \$25. Includes materials for two pots you will take home. Registration limited to Master Gardeners/Master Composters  
For information contact Tam Crocker [crockergs@aol.com](mailto:crockergs@aol.com)

**IF YOU GROW ORNAMENTALS YOU CAN GROW VEGETABLES**

Tuesday, August 8, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Lois Willman's Garden, Tenino  
Fee: NHS Members: \$35.00 Non-members: \$55. For information contact [nwhort@aol.com](mailto:nwhort@aol.com)

**MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION OF THURSTON COUNTY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Friday, August 25, 6 p.m.  
Pot Luck, Continuing Education and Foundation membership meeting  
St. Benedict's Church  
910 Bowker Street SE, Lacey

**LEAF CASTING WITH DOROTHY TAYLOR**

Saturday August 26  
Location: Closed Loop Park  
Fee: TBA, to cover cost of materials  
Registration limited to Master Gardeners/Master Composters  
For information contact Tam Crocker [crockergs@aol.com](mailto:crockergs@aol.com)

**WSU MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Thursday/Friday September 7-8  
Location: South Seattle Community College. Watch your mail for the brochure



Were you wondering how that heavy entryway got moved? This is teamwork too!