



The American GARDENER[®]

The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

January / February 2012

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Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'.

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dark, and
handsome
has a
whole other
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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

HERE IN THE Mid-Atlantic, the turn of the year brings simplicity to the landscape. We can see nature's ribs, and the potential of empty space in our landscapes. It is a time to assess and plan. At River Farm, our national headquarters, our focus in the new year is completing major infrastructure projects that are critical to the future of the American Horticultural Society. As we write this, we are upgrading our communications systems and preparing to break ground on the long planned renovation of our water and sewer systems. These strategic investments will enhance outreach with our members nationwide and allow us to increase visitation and program opportunities at River Farm.



In simple terms, our goal is to expand our efforts to engage gardeners and promote the value of gardening throughout North America. We already do this in many ways, ranging from publications such as this magazine and our popular series of horticultural reference books, to programs such as our annual Seed Exchange and Reciprocal Admissions Program, and by promoting best practices in youth gardening through our National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.

The AHS is turning 90 this year, and as we begin the countdown to our centenary in 2022, we plan to build on these strengths and use new media and technology to extend our outreach and educational programs to a much broader audience. With your support it will be a decade of growth and innovation.

A Word About Volunteers

River Farm is much more than just our administrative headquarters, it provides a dynamic setting to showcase horticultural excellence, and a hands-on opportunity for people to support the AHS and its mission. Our dedicated volunteers are an indispensable part of the AHS family, helping staff weed and plant outdoors, do research for the magazine, stuff envelopes, operate the Garden Shop, and run our events.

One program that relies heavily on our volunteers is our annual members-only Seed Exchange (see page 53 for this year's list of seeds). As we receive packages of seeds from AHS members and others, volunteers sort, organize, and inventory them. Then, as orders come in from all over the country, volunteers help staff to fill them. We hope you will participate in this special program this year to enjoy the many terrific seeds we have to offer!

Winter Inspiration

In this issue of the magazine, Art Director and Managing Editor Mary Yee has assembled a preview of intriguing new plants for 2012, based on recommendations from gardening experts around the country. Rand Lee profiles the genus *Jasminum*, which offers gardeners a wealth of fragrant flowering vines suitable for indoor and outdoor cultivation. And Contributing Editor Rita Pelczar offers suggestions for selecting and installing edging for your beds and borders.

Happy gardening!
Harry Risetto, Chair, AHS Board of Directors
Tom Underwood, Executive Director



CONTACTS FOR AHS PROGRAMS, MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & DEPARTMENTS

For general information about your membership, call (800) 777-7931. Send change of address notifications to our membership department at 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. If your magazine is lost or damaged in the mail, call the number above for a replacement. Requests for membership information and change of address notification can also be e-mailed to membership@ahs.org.

THE AMERICAN GARDENER To submit a letter to the editor of *The American Gardener*, write to The American Gardener, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308, or send an e-mail to editor@ahs.org.

DEVELOPMENT To make a gift to the American Horticultural Society, or for information about a donation you have already made, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 132 or send an e-mail to development@ahs.org.

E-NEWSLETTER To sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, visit www.ahs.org.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM The AHS offers internships in communications, horticulture, and youth programs. For information, send an e-mail to education@ahs.org. Information and application forms can also be found in the River Farm area of www.ahs.org.

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM For information about the Society's annual National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 132 or visit the Youth Gardening section of www.ahs.org.

RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM The AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program offers members free admission and other discounts to more than 250 botanical gardens and other horticultural destinations throughout North America. A list of participating gardens can be found in the Membership area of www.ahs.org. For more information, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 119.

RIVER FARM The AHS headquarters at River Farm is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays year-round (except Federal holidays), and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from April through September. Admission is free. For information about events, rentals, and directions, visit the River Farm section of www.ahs.org.

TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM Visit spectacular private and public gardens around the world through the Society's acclaimed Travel Study Program. For information about upcoming trips, call (866) 627-6621, send an e-mail to ahs@macnairtravel.com, or visit the Travel Study section of www.ahs.org.

WEBSITE: www.ahs.org The AHS website is a valuable source of information about the Society's programs and activities. To access the members-only section of the website, the user name is **garden** and the password is **ahs2011**, until February 1, when it becomes **2012ahs**.

MEMBERS' FORUM

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA CULTIVAR

You published a photo of a variegated climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*) on page 34 of the September/October issue of *The American Gardener*. Is it a named cultivar and where would I be able to locate it?

Carol Spitzer
Boston, Massachusetts

Editor's response: According to the article's author, Graham Rice, the selection pictured is 'Firefly' (Mirranda™). It's available from Rare Find Nursery (www.rarefindnursery.com).

CONTRADICTION PRUNING ADVICE

In the September/October issue, I found what appears to be conflicting information regarding trimming lower branches from spruce trees. In his article "Planting in Dry Shade," Graham Rice states that "removing the lower branches will not ruin the [spruces'] appearance." Yet in the "Garden Solutions" section, columnist Scott Aker responds to a question by advising that "Removal of lower branches on spruces disfigures them and may stress them by al-

lowing sun and wind to dry out the soil around the trunk of a tree."

Can you resolve this discrepancy? My husband and I have a blue spruce that we want to keep beautiful!

Celia De Frank
Big Bear City, California

Editor's response: We're glad to get further evidence that readers are paying close attention! In most cases we would advise against trimming lower branches on a spruce, unless they were already dead. From an aesthetic standpoint, clearly opinions may differ. Graham Rice offered his suggestion as one of several options for gardeners facing a difficult landscaping situation.

UNDERSTATED HARDINESS

I've noticed that when you cover plants such as delphiniums, peonies, Asiatic lilies and daylilies, you tend to list their hardiness range as starting at USDA Zone 3. I understand that is the accepted zone range in many references, but based on my experience in Fairbanks, Alaska (USDA Zone 2), it is too conservative.

When I first moved to Alaska, I restricted myself to a very small group of plants listed as hardy to USDA Zone 2. After a while, I noticed delphiniums and yarrow (*Achillea* spp.) growing wild along roads, so I began to expand my choices. Now I have chives, garlic chives, French tarragon, and lemon thyme that winter over. I hope your publication will lead the way in refining the hardiness zones applied to plants.

Virginia L. Damron
Fairbanks, Alaska

ALTERNATIVES TO HERBICIDES

Overall I enjoyed the articles in the November/December issue of *The American Gardener*, but I was dismayed to read "Garden Solutions" columnist Scott Aker's suggestion to use a non-selective herbicide to rid a drainage ditch of weeds. In the western United States, we are discouraging the use of herbicides, especially in areas that are part of watersheds. Our planet is being polluted at an alarming rate and herbicides are a major contributor. Wouldn't a better solution be simply to dig the weeds out?

Joan Hasselgren
San Francisco, California

Editor's response: You make a very good point, and in general we try to suggest alternatives to herbicides. In this case, the weeds in question were ones that are so pernicious that digging them up would only be a temporary solution.

CORRECTION

In the news item about Ben Franklin's involvement in introducing Chinese tallow tree to the United States (September/October "Gardener's Notebook"), the year Franklin is cited as sending seeds to a friend was erroneous. It should have been 1772.

PLEASE WRITE US! Address letters to Editor, *The American Gardener*, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308. Send e-mails to editor@ahs.org (note Letter to Editor in subject line). Letters we print may be edited for length and clarity.

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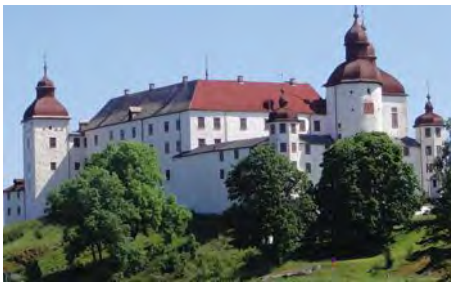
Evelyn Alemanni



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Bold Colors and Exuberant Flowers: San Diego County March 21–25, 2012 with AHS Hosts Evelyn Alemanni and Katy Moss Warner

■ Join us on this tour of exciting public landscapes and spectacular private gardens during one of the most colorful months in southern coastal California. We will be staying at the historic Inn at Rancho Santa Fe in the foothills of Northern San Diego County. Trip highlights include a sneak preview of new plants being introduced to the horticultural trade at the California Spring Trials; a stop at the world-famous Flower Fields to view a stunning display of ranunculus; and a private tour of both the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and the San Diego Botanic Garden.



Midsummer Gardens and Castles in Sweden June 25–July 6, 2012

with AHS Host John Floyd and Tour Escort Antonia Lloyd Owen of Specialtours

■ The long, warm days of midsummer are perfect for enjoying the dramatic natural landscapes and gardens of Sweden in their full glory. We will journey from Uppsala—home of botanist Carl Linnaeus—to Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Lund, taking in the formal gardens of historic castles as well as a variety of contemporary gardens.



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The Heritage and Gardens of Andalusia October 26–November 5, 2012

with AHS Host Katy Moss Warner and Tour Escort Susie Orso of Specialtours

■ While the great Alhambra gardens of Granada and the Alcazar gardens of Seville are justly famous, there are many special, lesser-known gardens also worth visiting. From Belle-Epoque fantasy to cliff-top modernist, you will discover a diversity of styles in this memorable tour of southern Spain.

For more information about upcoming tours in the AHS Travel Study Program, please contact our travel partner, MacNair Travel: • E-mail: ahs@macnairtravel.com • Call: (866) 627-6621



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News from the AHS

January / February 2012

PROGRAMS • EVENTS • ANNOUNCEMENTS

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY

THIS YEAR the American Horticultural Society turns 90! As our organization has evolved over the decades, one thing has remained constant: our mission to promote gardening in all its guises. “As we celebrate this significant milestone in our long history,” says AHS Executive Director **Tom Underwood**, “we are so grateful to all our cherished members and other supporters for helping us to accomplish many great things over the years.”

Counting down to the AHS’s 100th anniversary in 2022, “we will be planning some special initiatives as part of the Centennial celebration,” says Underwood. In the interim, looking back on the last 90 years, here are a few highlights of the Society’s varied programs and outreach initiatives:

- 1922** American Horticultural Society founded in Washington, D.C.
- 1938** The Society institutes a Silver Medal, presented at flower shows.
- 1946** The first American Horticultural Congress—a precursor to the AHS’s annual conference—was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The keynote address was delivered by legendary Cornell horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey.
- 1953** The first International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, the rules by which plants are named and organized, is published through the efforts of an AHS working group.
- 1958** Debut of the AHS’s national awards program, with the first Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal, the AHS’s highest honor, awarded to John Wister, a plant breeder and the designer of Scott Arboretum in Pennsylvania.
- 1960** AHS cooperates in the development of the first version of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map.
- 1973** AHS purchases River Farm through the generosity of philanthropist Enid A. Haupt. The official opening ceremonies for the new headquarters are held on May 1, 1974, with First Lady Patricia Nixon and Haupt in attendance (shown, right).
- 1993** AHS hosts the first National Children & Youth Garden Symposium, held in Chevy Chase, Maryland. A series of children’s gardens is installed at River Farm.
- 1997** Introduction of the AHS Plant Heat Zone Map, coordinated by AHS President H. Marc Cathey.
- 2004** River Farm is designated a Horticultural Landmark by the American Society for Horticultural Science.
- 2006** Launch of the AHS’s Green Garage® educational program, designed to encourage environmental stewardship through use of earth-friendly gardening techniques and products. The Green Garage traveling exhibit has made appearances at the Philadelphia Flower Show, Northwest Flower & Garden Show, and other major national events around the country.



Patricia Nixon, left, with Enid Haupt, right

GRANT TO FUND DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF AHS PERIODICALS

THE AHS has received a \$30,000 grant from the **Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust** to help fund the digitization of the Society's historic archive of periodicals, which spans nearly 90 years. This project will enable the AHS to make the full contents of every issue available online, and best of all, searchable.

"We are very pleased that the trustees of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust have recognized the significance of the Society's publications over the decades as a resource for gardeners, horticultural researchers, historians, and students," says **David J. Ellis**, AHS director of communications. "The list of writers who have contributed articles to AHS publications since 1922 reads like a who's who of American horticulture," says Ellis. "They include Liberty Hyde Bailey, Lester Rowntree, Donald Wyman, Frederick G. Meyer, Elizabeth Lawrence, B.Y. Morrison, Dan Hinkley, Mike Dirr, Rick Darke, and Allan Armitage, just to name a few."

The title of the Society's official publication has changed several times since AHS's founding in 1922, so the archive will include the *National Horticultural Magazine* (1922–1959), *American Horticultural Magazine* (1960–1971), *American Horticulturist* (1972–1996), and *The American Gardener* (1996–present). The archive of back issues will complement the existing online archive of recent digital issues of *The American Gardener*, which debuted in 2010.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust supports education and research in ornamental horticulture in North and South America through annual grants to botanical gardens, arboreta, organizations, and universities.

2012 SEED EXCHANGE CATALOG AVAILABLE FOR AHS MEMBERS

THANKS TO seed donations from members and seed companies around the country, the 2012 AHS Seed Exchange catalog includes 200 different varieties of seed. And through a special arrangement with **All-America Selections (AAS)**, a nonprofit organization that coordinates seed trials and promotes superior new bedding and edible plant varieties, four recent AAS winners—three for 2012 and one 2011 winner—are also available.



2012 AAS winner 'Cayennetta' pepper

The Seed Exchange is a unique benefit of AHS membership, so only members may order from the catalog. Those who donated seeds receive priority on orders submitted by February 10. The deadline to submit all orders is March 15. A list of seeds available this year and an order form are on pages 53 and 54 of this issue. The full catalog will be available on the AHS website, www.ahs.org, by mid-January, or you may send a request to seeds@ahs.org to receive the catalog by e-mail.

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG'S 66TH ANNUAL GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS: BOUNTIFUL OPTIONS



APRIL 15-16, 2012

Whether you garden for beauty or for food production, there will be plenty of "food for thought" at Colonial Williamsburg's 66th Garden Symposium. Guest speakers and Colonial Williamsburg landscape staff will offer a bounty of tips and ideas to make the best use of your time and space. Join us and discover alternative plant choices and techniques that will help you grow gardens that are beautiful and productive.

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UPCOMING AHS TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM DESTINATIONS

THE AHS Travel Study Program is offering three new exciting destinations this year. To begin with, the trip to San Diego County in California from March 21 to 25 will highlight the area's colorful springtime landscapes, and will include a special sneak peek at new plant introductions at the California Spring Trials. From June 25 to July 6, enjoy the midsummer gardens and castles of Sweden, some of which are not open to the general public. The final trip of 2012 will be to southern Spain from October 26 to November 5,



The Flower Fields in California

to experience the heritage and gardens of Andalusia. For more details, visit www.ahs.org and click on "Travel Study."

Save the Date for the AHS Spring Garden Market at River Farm in April

Plant sales are not only an excellent way to find some great new plants for your garden, they are also a means to support organizations that host them. Each year, the AHS holds a **Spring Garden Market** at its River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, as one of its main fundraisers. This year, from April 12 to 14, vendors from around the mid-Atlantic region will offer all sorts of garden-related products and, of course, plants from favorite annuals and perennials to vegetables and other edibles to native wildflowers. AHS members showing a current membership card are invited to attend the members-only preview sale on April 12 before the event opens to the public on April 13 and 14.

For more information, call (703) 768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org/riverfarm.

AHS 2012 NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events that are sponsored or co-sponsored by the AHS. Visit www.ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 for more information.

- MAR. 21–25. **Bold Colors and Exuberant Flowers: San Diego County.** AHS Travel Study Program. California.
- APR. 12–14. **Spring Garden Market.** (12th is AHS members-only preview sale.) River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- APR. 13 & 14. **Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium.** Manchester, Vermont.
- APR. 15 & 16. **Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium.** Williamsburg, Virginia.
- APR. 18–22. **AHS President's Council Trip.** Crystal Bridges and Gardens of Northwest Arkansas.
- APR. 21–28. **Historic Garden Week in Virginia.**
- MAY 11. **Smithsonian Garden Fest/National Public Gardens Day.** Washington, D.C.
- JUNE 7. **Great American Gardeners Awards Ceremony and Banquet.** River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- JUNE 14–16. **The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America Convention.** Boardman, Ohio.
- JUNE 25–JULY 6. **Midsummer Gardens and Castles of Sweden.** AHS Travel Study Program. Sweden.
- JULY 19–21. **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.** Washington, D.C.
- AUG. 17–19. **The Homestead's "In the Garden with the Experts" Symposium.** Hot Springs, Virginia.
- SEPT. 22. **AHS Annual Gala.** River Farm, Alexandria, Virginia.
- OCT. 26–NOV. 5. **Heritage and Gardens of Andalusia.** AHS Travel Study Program. Spain.

Gifts of Note

In addition to vital support through membership dues, the American Horticultural Society relies on grants, bequests, and other gifts to support its programs. We would like to thank the following donors for gifts received between October 1 and November 30, 2011.

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If you would like to support the American Horticultural Society as part of your estate planning, as a tribute to a loved one, or as part of your annual charitable giving plan, please contact development@ahs.org or call (703) 768-5700 ext. 123.

EAST COAST GARDENING SYMPOSIUMS OFFER SPRING INSPIRATION

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, the AHS is pleased to partner with **Perennially Yours** for its 9th annual Great Gardens and Landscaping Symposium on April 13 and 14 in Manchester, Vermont. In addition to inspiring lectures by experts such as **William Cullina**, award-winning author, recognized expert on North American native plants, and executive director of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, there will also be a “Gardener’s Marketplace” featuring plants, garden products, landscaping services, and more.



William Cullina

“The symposium is a great chance for gardeners to get ready for spring and to energize their approach to gardening,” says **Kerry Mendez**, who is the founder and organizer of the event. “The topics are diverse and interesting, and people come away with tons of useful ideas.” For more on the agenda, speakers, and registration, visit www.pyours.com/symposium or call (518) 885-3471.

The AHS is also a sponsor of Colonial Williamsburg’s 66th annual Garden Symposium, taking place April 15 and 16 in Williamsburg, Virginia. With the theme, “Beautiful Gardens: Bountiful Options,” there will be plenty of “food for thought” as guest speakers and Colonial Williamsburg landscape staff members offer tips and ideas for growing gardens that are both attractive and productive. AHS members receive a \$25 discount on registration. For more details, visit www.history.org/conted or call (800) 603-0948.

New Member Password for AHS Website

Each year, the password to access the members-only content on the AHS website changes on February 1. The username is **garden** and this year’s password is **2012ahs**. To log in, click on the members-only link on www.ahs.org and type both the username and password in lowercase letters. This will connect you to a menu of member benefits such as the list of public gardens offering free admission and discounts through the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program and *The American Gardener* archives back to the January/February 2001 issue.

REGISTER YOUR COMMUNITY FOR AMERICA IN BLOOM

GET SOME recognition for the green spaces in your town or city by entering the America in Bloom (AIB) 2012 competition. This contest is designed to inspire communities of all sizes to make improvements through beautification efforts. The prizes include bragging rights as the best city based on population and earning one of eight awards for criteria such as tidiness and heritage preservation. As a horticultural partner with AIB, the AHS sponsors the Community Involvement Award, bestowed upon the community whose citizens’ efforts to work together are most exemplary. The deadline to enter the 2012 contest is February 28, 2012. For full details, visit www.americainbloom.org or call (614) 487-1117.

News written by AHS editorial staff.

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNUAL

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

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AHS MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

Samuel Salsbury and Sabrena Schweyer

by Helen Thompson

SINCE SAMUEL SALSBUURY and Sabrena Schweyer first met 19 years ago, they have felt that they complemented each other. At the time, she was a garden designer, and he was a violinist turned builder. Today, they helm Salsbury–Schweyer, Inc., an award-winning landscape design firm in Akron, Ohio.



Sabrena Schweyer and Samuel Salsbury, left, designed this naturalistic backyard escape, above, at the home of a Cleveland-based doctor and his wife.

AHS members since 1993, the husband-and-wife team shared a common vision of what a garden should be—not just an object of beauty, but also a retreat to help people feel part of the natural world. The advent of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building rating systems in 1998 meshed well with their penchant for creating gardens that people could connect with.

“It forced us to rethink the way we designed,” says Schweyer. “We needed to bring the idea of creating beautiful landscapes together with the very practical aspects of storm water management and ecological needs.”

Salsbury and Schweyer are now Certified Permaculture Consultants, and Schweyer represents the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) with the Sustainable Sites Initiative, which rates landscape sustainability using guidelines similar to LEED’s building standards.

Although they started out working primarily on residential gardens, in the last decade Salsbury and Schweyer have taken on more community projects. The first community garden the couple designed

was in their own neighborhood of Highland Square, a quirky and diverse historic community in Akron. In the mid-1990s, a chain restaurant purchased a vacant lot that had once been the site of a “portage path” Native Americans used to carry their canoes from one river to another. But the community objected to the way the restaurant might change the district’s character. The city listened and finally purchased the land back, with plans to turn the lot into a community garden.

Schweyer and Salsbury donated their expertise to the garden. “It became a true community project,” says Schweyer. “More than 90 people showed up on planting day—in the rain!” In tribute to the site’s Native American connections, they chose many indigenous species, including “big, bold prairie plants” such as Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium* spp.), goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa* ‘Fireworks’), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*).

“Since its construction in 2000,” says Schweyer, “the garden has become a space where the community can gather and schools can come for special classes.” In 2004 the project won first place in the

APLD’s international awards program category for non-residential projects under \$40,000.

The design firm continues to work with community groups and businesses, so branching into educational endeavors was a logical extension of those efforts. Both Salsbury and Schweyer lecture and teach workshops to audiences ranging from continuing education classes to gardening clubs, cities, and professional associations.

Over the years, they’ve found their AHS memberships “inspirational and educational” as their business and design philosophy have evolved. “It really helped me develop as a professional and always keeps me up to date on what’s going on in the horticultural community with research on invasives and organic methods,” says Schweyer.

Salsbury and Schweyer hope to continue educating everyone from homeowners to professional gardeners and mayors about sustainable design and to bring out the natural beauty in every landscape. 🌿

Helen Thompson is an editorial assistant for The American Gardener.



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE, FOOT BY FOOT

ANNOUNCING THE
AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S

“BY THE FOOT”

CAMPAIGN

THE CHALLENGE AT HAND

Thanks to the vision and generosity of philanthropist Enid A. Haupt, the American Horticultural Society has been headquartered for nearly 40 years at River Farm – 25 picturesque and historic acres on the Potomac River just a few miles from our nation’s capital. River Farm has brought tremendous pride to the AHS and enhanced our national outreach capabilities. It has also entailed significant repairs and maintenance that are inevitable with an aging and much used property like River Farm. And we need your help.

AN INVESTMENT IN TODAY AND TOMORROW

While the AHS annually dedicates resources to the day-to-day operation and maintenance of River Farm, we are currently facing the urgent need to modernize the property’s water and sewer system and upgrade the technological platform. These projects will require an investment of one million dollars, which is far outside the scope of our routine annual operating budget, and we need everyone’s help to reach that goal. When this project is completed, River Farm will have better fire protection, our environmental footprint will be reduced, and we will be better equipped to carry out our mission.

Inch by inch, foot by foot, you can help make a difference for the AHS, River Farm, and our community of gardeners across the country. We need 4,000 feet of pipe and cabling to complete our project. For \$250, you can underwrite a foot of progress and help us in our efforts to maintain and improve the Society’s River Farm headquarters for future generations. **With a contribution of \$250 or more, you will receive a special certificate recognizing your support of the AHS’s By the Foot Campaign.**



*Inch by inch,
foot by foot...You
can help gardening grow!*

To underwrite a foot (or feet!), please contact the AHS by phone at (703) 768-5700 ext. 119 or e-mail at development@ahs.org. Special recognition is available for gifts of 20 feet or more.

New for 2012

BY MARY YEE

EACH NEW YEAR brings a wealth of new choices for gardeners. Which of the “new and improved” offerings are worth trying? The colorful photos in the seed and plant catalogs are always enticing, as are the promises made in their descriptions, but you just don’t know if they will live up to the hype.

Seed and plant companies regularly supply samples to horticulturists, garden writers, and designers to test out before the plants hit the mainstream marketplace, so we asked a number of gardening professionals across the country for their feedback on the plants that fared best in their gardens. Among the experts we tapped for their suggestions are: **Rita Pelczar**, contributing editor for *The American Gar-*

dener, who gardens in the mountains of North Carolina; **Jeff Cox**, author and garden designer in Kenwood, California; **Pat Munts**, a garden writer in Spokane, Washington; **Scott Calhoun**, a garden designer in Tucson, Arizona; **Kelly D. Norris**, a horticulturist and plant breeder in Des Moines, Iowa; **Jimmy Turner**, senior director of gardens at Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Texas; and **Jane Berger**, a landscape designer in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. We’ve included some of their recommendations here, together with other plants that piqued our interest because they featured notable attributes such as unusual color, disease resistance, compact growth, or high fruit yield.

Among the ornamental plants that got enthusiastic reviews from our experts is floriferous ‘Moxie’ blanket flower (see below, left), Brakelights® red yucca (page 15), and Supertunia® White Russian petunia (page 16). Fruit growers might want to check out ‘San Andreas’ strawberry (page 17). And if you’re looking for a tree or shrub that won’t take up a lot of garden space, consider ‘North Pole’ arborvitae and Snow Day™ pearlbrush (page 18).

With all the new choices that will be emerging on the market this spring, you’re sure to find one that will become a favorite in your garden.

Mary Yee is managing editor and art director of The American Gardener.

PERENNIALS



SKAGIT GARDENS

Gaillardia × *grandiflora* **Commotion® ‘Moxie’** features fluted flower petals and grows two feet high and wide in full sun. Like other blanket flowers, native to the American west, this hybrid is drought tolerant. “A real charmer,” is how Rita Pelczar describes it. “Its sunshine-yellow flowers with bright orange centers look great against its deep green leaves,” says Pelczar. “And they appeared continuously from midsummer well into fall.” Pat Munts, who grew ‘Moxie’ in containers on a deck, had a similar experience. “We had a cool, wet spring and early summer,” she says. “The plants thrived, blooming from early July until frost in late October.” Kelly D. Norris calls it, “Possibly the most exciting *Gaillardia* since ‘Fanfare’.” USDA Hardiness Zones 3–9, AHS Heat Zones 10–1. Skagit Gardens.



TERRA NOVA NURSERIES

× *Heucherella* **‘Sunrise Falls’** is a trailing plant with large, deeply cut, yellow leaves with red veining. Stems can grow to three feet and clusters of small white flowers bloom on spikes in late spring or summer. Tolerates heat and humidity. “I’m in love with these cascading heucherellas,” says Kelly D. Norris. “In a moist, shady spot, ‘Sunrise Falls’ glows like a flash of light.” Zones 4–9, 9–4. Terra Nova Nurseries.



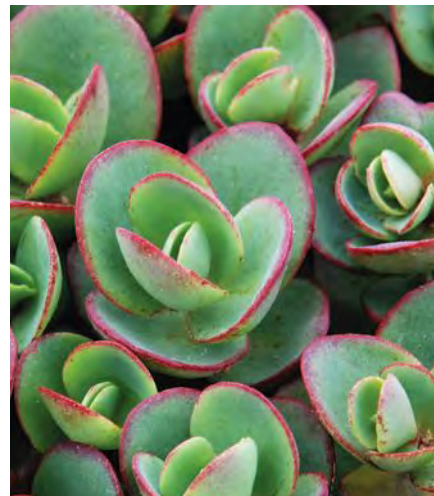
BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM

Add summer color to the fall garden with **Anemone hupehensis 'Pretty Lady Diana'**, the latest in the Pretty Lady Series of compact Japanese windflowers from Blooms of Bressingham. Single, dark pink, two-inch-wide flowers bloom on 16-inch-tall plants. Zones 5–7, 7–5.



JELITTO

Most lewisias are pink- or white-flowered. **'Little Mango' (Lewisia longipetala)** from Jelitto is bright orange-yellow. "It's one of the most talked-about plants in my garden," says Jeff Cox. Growing six inches tall, this California native flowers in spring and in fall above a rosette of lance-shaped foliage. Needs well-drained soil. Zones 4–8, 8–1.



WWW.GREATGARDENPLANTS.COM

Growing just six inches tall with a spread of 18 inches, **'Lime Zinger' sedum** is new in the SUNSPARKLER™ line of groundcover sedums from Great Garden Plants. Its half-inch green leaves are delicately edged in red. Pink flowers bloom in fall. Zones 4–9, 9–4.



WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYGARDENS.COM

Brakelights® red yucca (Hesperaloe parviflora 'Perpa') was bred by Ron Gass of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. This Southwest native succulent grows two feet tall and wide with clumps of grasslike foliage. Scott Calhoun says, "An instant accent classic, this plant boasts ruby-red flowers and a useful dwarf size. Expect to see millions of these planted throughout the Southwest." Zones 6–11, 12–6. High Country Gardens and Monrovia.



WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYGARDENS.COM

Fire Spinner™ ice plant (Delosperma 'P001S') is a succulent groundcover growing two to three inches high. Multi-colored flowers open in spring. "A dynamite new plant and perhaps one of the best of the year," says Kelly D. Norris. "Head-turning and gaudy in the best way possible!" Zones 5–9, 9–1. Plant Select.



JELITTO

'Las Vegas' fig leaf hollyhock (Alcea ficifolia) features saucer-shaped single flowers that bloom in assorted colors, contrasting nicely with the lobed green foliage. Grows about five feet tall. Zones 3–9, 9–1. Jelitto.

Additional new perennials:

- **Gaillardia × grandiflora Arizona Apricot** is a 2011 AAS winner. "It has proved heat hardy in the Tucson sun, and the flowers are a rich yellow with an orange eye—an arresting and unusual color combination," Scott Calhoun says. Plants grow 12 inches tall and wide. Zones 3–9, 10–1. Benary.
- **Heuchera 'Delta Dawn'** has yellow-green leaves with red veining in the centers. Mounding plants grow eight inches tall and 12 inches wide, bearing white flowers in midsummer. Tolerates heat and humidity. Zones 4–9, 9–1. Terra Nova Nurseries.
- **Coreopsis verticillata 'Sweet Marmalade'** has flowers that open bright orange and mature to a creamy orange-yellow. Grows 12 inches tall. Zones 4–9, 9–1. Blooms of Bressingham.

ANNUALS



BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY

Serena® Blue summer snapdragon (*Angelonia angustifolia*) handles hot, dry conditions, producing spikes of dark blue flowers throughout the growing season. “This is a lovely new color addition to the best-performing *Angelonia* series at the Dallas Arboretum,” says Jimmy Turner. Plants grow 10 to 14 inches high and don’t need pinching to maintain their upright habit. PanAmerican Seed/Ball Horticultural.



PROVEN WINNERS

Superbena® Royale Peachy Keen is a fragrant, peach-colored verbena. “A super-floriferous verbena that flowers and thrives through even the toughest Midwestern summers,” says Kelly D. Norris. Plants grow six to 10 inches high, tolerate heat, and are resistant to powdery mildew. Proven Winners.



PROVEN WINNERS

Supertunia® White Russian petunia from Proven Winners “pumps out scads of flowers all season,” says Jeff Cox. Its antique-white blooms with chocolate veining make them visually stand out from other petunias. “The new color is a must-have for unique color combinations,” adds Jimmy Turner. Plants grow to 10 inches high and three feet wide.



BURPEE

‘First Yellow’ from Burpee is a breakthrough in color for annual geraniums (*Pelargonium zonale*). One-inch pale yellow flowers open in summer on four- to eight-inch-tall plants.



BURPEE

‘Pop Art’ zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*) can’t be missed. Two-inch-wide, fully double, orange-yellow flowers are streaked and speckled with red. Disease-resistant plants grow two to three feet tall. Burpee.



JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS

‘Pro Cut Red’ is a single-stemmed early sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*). Deep red, pollenless flowers with brown centers are three to five inches across. Plants grow up to six feet tall. Johnny’s Selected Seeds.

Additional new annuals:

- **Million Kisses® Amour** (‘Yamour’) begonia. Trailing begonia with red flowers and dark green foliage. Grows to one foot high and three feet wide. Ball Horticultural.
- **‘Wasabi’ coleus** (*Solenostemon* sp.). “This coleus survived the hottest summer on record in Texas in full sun,” says Jimmy Turner, “and did it looking fabulous and cool with lush light green foliage tinted chartreuse yellow.” Leaves have serrated edges; plants grow 18 to 28 inches tall and wide. Simply Beautiful/Ball Horticultural.
- **‘Peach Sorbet’ California poppy** (*Eschscholzia californica*). Double to semi-double peach-colored flowers bloom all summer. Grows 10 inches tall. Thompson & Morgan.

EDIBLES



JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS

'Crispino' lettuce is an iceberg variety that tolerates heat and humidity, producing medium-sized heads with mild-flavored green leaves and a white interior. Johnny's Selected Seeds.

Additional new edibles:

- **'Cute Stuff Red'** is a high-yielding, mini bell pepper that produces up to three times more than other varieties. Fruits are about three inches long and two-and-a-half inches wide. PanAmerican Seed/Ball Horticultural.
- **'Big Kahuna' bush bean** grows only two feet tall but produces an abundance of 11-inch-long pods. Good for growing in containers. Burpee.
- **'Paisano'** from Johnny's Selected Seeds is a mid-season paste tomato. Determinate plants produce a high yield of thick-walled, meaty fruits with good flavor suited for canning and making sauces.
- **Eclipse zucchini** is a hybrid summer squash that produces bushy plants and round, green fruits with light green stripes. Foliage and stems are not covered with sharp spines, which makes for easier harvesting. Thompson & Morgan.
- **'Gold Standard' cucumber** is part of Burpee's BOOST line, which is billed as having more beta carotene than other cucumber varieties. Seven- to eight-inch fruits have a yellowish interior.



MONROVIA

Prime-Jim® blackberry (*Rubus* 'APF-12') bears fruit from first-year canes. Plants grow to five feet tall and wide and produce white flowers in spring, followed by medium-size berries that can be harvested beginning in early summer. Zones 4-8, 8-4. Monrovia.



BURPEE

'Big Daddy' is an indeterminate hybrid tomato from Burpee that produces red fruits up to three-and-a-quarter inches in diameter and weighing up to 14 ounces each. "This is a great big, paste-type tomato good for slicing or sauce," says Jeff Cox.



MONROVIA

'San Andreas' strawberry, bred at the University of California and introduced by Monrovia, is a vigorous everbearer that produces fruit all summer. Jeff Cox praises it for its "deep, focused strawberry flavor and rot resistance." Zones 3-9, 9-1.



JOHNNY'S SELECTED SEEDS

'Laguna' carrot is bred for good flavor even in warm conditions. Carrots are about six inches long with bright orange skin and have medium resistance to foliar diseases. Johnny's Selected Seeds.

TREES, SHRUBS, & VINES



GARDENER'S CONFIDENCE

Red Rooster® crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* 'PIILAG III') produces a profusion of brilliant red flowers from summer to fall. This mid-size shrub grows eight to 10 feet tall and about five feet wide. Spring foliage is red, maturing to dark green. Zones 6–9, 9–6. Gardener's Confidence.



PROVEN WINNERS

Snow Day™ pearlshrub (*Exochorda* 'Blizzard') is a keeper for Jane Berger. "This is a takeoff on an old-fashioned shrub that's covered in white flowers in early spring," she says. "It'll do well in most garden borders, as it will take full sun to part shade and reaches a height and width of just five to six feet." Zones 4–8, 8–4. Proven Winners.



SOUTHERN LIVING PLANT COLLECTION

Shining Sensation™ weigela (*Weigela* 'Bokrashine') stands out with its shiny maroon foliage, complemented by dark pink trumpet-shaped flowers from late spring through summer. A fast grower that reaches about six feet tall and five feet wide. Zones 5–8, 8–4. Southern Living Plant Collection.



BAILEY NURSERIES

First Editions® Sapphire Surf™ bluebeard (*Caryopteris scandinavica* 'Bluer Splat') is a low, mounded shrub that grows about two feet high and three feet wide. In late summer, masses of small, dark blue flowers nearly obscure its dark green foliage. Zones 5–9, 9–1. Bailey Nurseries.



MONROVIA

Emerald Colonnade (*Ilex* 'RutHol1') from Monrovia is a hybrid evergreen male holly with a rounded to pyramidal habit. A cross between *Ilex crenata* 'Sky Pencil' and *Ilex maximowicziana*, it grows 10 to 12 feet tall and six to eight feet wide. Zones 7–9, 9–7.



GARDENER'S CONFIDENCE

Hot Lips® trumpet vine (*Campsis x tagliabuana* 'Rutcam') is a hybrid of a native climber. Bears large, red-orange, hummingbird-attracting flowers in late spring, with repeat blooming through summer. Grows 10 to 15 feet tall. Zones 6–9, 9–6. Gardener's Confidence.

Additional new trees and shrubs:

- **North Pole™ arborvitae** (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Art Boe') grows 10 to 15 feet tall and two to three feet wide. "It's hard to find evergreens this narrow," says Jane Berger, "and this one has a beautiful texture as well." Zones 3–7, 7–1. Proven Winners.
- **Lindsey's Skyward™ dwarf bald cypress** (*Taxodium distichum* 'Skyward'), grows to 25 feet tall with a very narrow habit. Does not form "knees" like other bald cypresses. Well suited for smaller gardens. Zones 5–11, 11–5. Garden Debut.
- **Pewter Pillar™ winter's bark** (*Drimys winteri* var. *chiloense*) grows up to 20 feet with a columnar habit. Leaves are green with whitish undersides. Clusters of white flowers appear in late winter. Zones 7–10, 10–7. Dan Hinkley Collection / Monrovia.

ROSES



WEEKS ROSES

Weeks Roses is introducing **Koko Loco™** ('WEKbijou'), a floribunda rose with mildly fragrant, milk-chocolate-lavender-colored flowers that are up to four-and-a-half inches in diameter. Medium-size shrubs have a rounded, bushy habit. Zones 6–9, 9–6.



DAVID AUSTIN ROSES

Princess Anne ('Auskitchen') rose is a compact, disease-resistant shrub that grows to three feet tall and two feet wide. The double flowers, which have a medium tea rose fragrance, mature from cerise-pink to purplish pink. Zones 5–9, 9–5. David Austin Roses.



BAILEY NURSERIES

Champagne Wishes ('BAICham') from Bailey Nurseries' Easy Elegance® collection features apricot-colored flower buds that open into ivory blooms with apricot tones. Disease-resistant plants grow about three feet tall and four feet wide. Zones 4–7, 8–4.



SOUTHERN LIVING PLANT COLLECTION

All A-Flutter™ ('Radsouth') shrub rose bears fuchsia-pink, semi-double flowers from spring to fall. A moderately fast grower to about three feet tall and wide. Disease resistant. Zones 5–11, 11–5. Southern Living Plant Collection.

Additional new roses:

- **Skylark** ('Ausimple') produces semi-double, lilac-pink flowers and grows three feet tall and two feet wide. Zones 5–9, 9–5. David Austin Roses.
- **Music Box** ('BAIbox') features everblooming yellow-and-pink flowers and grows three to four feet tall and wide. Zones 4–9, 9–4. Bailey Nurseries.
- **Stormy Weather™** (ORAfantantov) is a climbing rose growing to six to eight feet with double, deep purple-red flowers with a spicy fragrance. Zones 5–9, 9–5. Weeks Roses.

Wholesale Nurseries/Marketing Consortia

Visit these companies' websites to locate retail sources for their plants.

- Bailey Nurseries,**
www.baileynurseries.com.
- Ball Horticultural Co.,**
www.ballhort.com.
- Benary,** *www.benary.com.*
- Blooms of Bressingham,**
www.bloomsofbressingham.com.
- Garden Debut,**
www.gardendebut.com.
- Gardener's Confidence Collection,**
www.gardenersconfidence.com.
- Great Garden Plants,**
www.greatgardenplants.com.
- Monrovia,** *www.monrovia.com.*
- Mountain States Wholesale Nursery,**
www.msw.com.
- Plant Select,** *http://plantselect.org.*
- Proven Winners,**
www.provenwinners.com.
- Skagit Gardens,**
www.skagitgardens.com.
- Southern Living Plant Collection,**
www.southernlivingplants.com.
- Terra Nova Nurseries,**
www.terravanurseries.com.
- Weeks Roses,** *www.weeksroses.com.*

Retail Sources

- David Austin Roses,** Tyler, TX.
(800) 328-8893.
www.davidaustinroses.com.
- High Country Gardens,** Santa Fe, NM.
(800) 925-9387.
www.highcountrygardens.com.
- Jelitto Perennial Seeds,** Louisville, KY.
(502) 895-0807.
www.jelitto.com.
- Johnny's Selected Seeds,** Winslow, ME.
(877) 564-6697.
www.johnnyseeds.com.
- Thompson & Morgan,** Jackson, NJ.
(800) 274-7333.
www.tmseeds.com.
- W. Atlee Burpee & Co.,** Warminster, PA.
(800) 333-5808.
www.burpee.com.

Maintaining an Edge

Edgings physically separate and define spaces in the landscape; beyond function, they can contribute significant style to a garden.

BY RITA PELCZAR



NO MATTER the size of your landscape, it consists of distinct areas—lawn, beds, and paths. Marking the boundaries of these areas with an effective edging helps keep your landscape looking neat and well-tended.

UTILITY AND VISUAL APPEAL

On the practical side, edging can help reduce weeds by preventing grass from encroaching into areas where it's not desired. Loose pathway materials such as gravel, shredded bark, or pine needles tend to stray into beds or lawn if not confined by an edging. The outer edge of a paved walkway—particularly one set in sand—is protected and given integrity by a solidly constructed edging.

Aesthetically, edgings can highlight the spaces they enclose, and by framing individual beds and paths, they contribute style to the overall landscape. Whether a bed or path is curved or

straight, an attractive edging can accentuate its lines.

Edgings can help unify a design by echoing colors, lines, or materials used elsewhere. Or they can add a splash of color or texture to contrast with lawn, mulch, or groundcover. They can be subtle or bold; formal or informal; even whimsical, depending on the material you choose and how you use it.

The style you select has a significant impact on the level of maintenance. Some edgings require occasional primping; others, once installed, rarely need further attention. Some edgings, though attractive, require frequent hand trimming of the adjacent lawn, actually increasing maintenance chores. Ideally, your edging should complement the rest of your landscape, suit your budget, and once installed, help reduce landscape maintenance.

There are two primary approaches to edging. The first is an installed barrier that

prevents the mingling of material in adjacent areas, with numerous options for style and material. The second, which requires no installation of hardscaping material, is to cut a narrow trench along the periphery of a bed, surgically ensuring separation of lawn and garden. Each has advantages and limitations.

EDGING MATERIALS

Barrier edgings can be made of a variety of constructed and natural materials such as rock, concrete, brick, railroad ties, cedar shakes, plastic, metal, and bamboo. Selecting material that is used in other areas of the yard, such as the brick of the house or the flagstone of a path, can promote a sense of continuity with the overall landscape. Unusual materials—recycled wine bottles, old ceramic tiles, even colorful bowling balls—can be used to create a playful edging that doubles as garden art. Edgings for walkways, however, should



EDGING STYLES. Opposite page: Straight lines of brick provide a formal edging that separates lawn and bed from a stone and gravel patio in this garden created by Piedmont Designs. This page, above: The sinuous pattern of roofing tiles adds a whimsical touch as an edging for this moss garden. Right: Small rocks provide an informal edging along a curving gravel walkway in the Bellingham, Washington, garden of Antje Coté.



be sturdy enough to handle getting stepped on and bumped up against.

Plastic and steel edging strips are relatively inexpensive but are not visual assets, so they should be installed with only the top of the barrier exposed. Plastic edging is available in short, vertical sections that are hammered into place with a rubber mallet. These edgings easily conform to the curves of a bed or walk. Frost may heave them up out of the soil, however, and cause plastic edgings to crack over time. And given the minimal separation that these strips provide, groundcovers and grass often spread over them, defeating their purpose.



Above: Brick set flush with the adjacent turf provides an effective mowing strip in the New Hampshire garden of Mike and Betsy Gordon. **Right:** Clean cut edges, like these at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, focus attention on the plants rather than the edging material.

Once you decide on a material, determine the width of your edge since that will influence the amount of material needed. Bricks, for example, can be placed end to end for a narrow edge or side by side lengthwise for a somewhat wider edge that will require more bricks. An even wider, more prominent edging can be constructed using two or more

rows of bricks, in a variety of patterns.

To install a barrier edging, excavate a channel slightly wider than the width of the edging you have planned. The channel's depth should equal the depth that you plan to set the edging material, plus an extra inch for a layer of stone dust or sand in the bottom of the channel to prevent settling. Once level, set the edging material on top of this layer as desired. Use a rubber mallet to tap each piece of edging in

a raised edge effectively prevents erosion and contains the mulch. If the walkway is constructed of flagstone, pavers, or brick set in sand, the raised edging also provides support for its perimeter.

Raised edgings often contribute attractive detail to the landscape, depending on the type of material and how it is arranged. Straight lines created with cut stone, brick, or preformed pavers are good choices for formal gardens, partic-



place. Spread a thin layer of stone dust or sand on top of the edging material and sweep across to fill in any cracks or gaps.

Barrier edgings can either be raised or set in the ground so that the upper surface is approximately level with the soil. The best style for any particular edging depends on its intended use. To separate a path or walkway from a mulched bed,

ularly when setting off a neat swath of lawn or a paved walkway.

For an informal look, short round logs or bamboo sections can be set on end at equal or varying heights. Landscaping timbers or railroad ties work well for straight edges on level ground, while stone more easily accommodates grade changes and curves. A minimal edging

HOW TO CONSTRUCT AN EDGING TRENCH

Follow these steps to create a clean, no-nonsense edge that will help keep the mulch out of your lawn and turf out of your bed.

1. To ensure a clean line, mark exactly where you want your edging, using stakes and string for straight lines, rope, a garden hose, or limestone dust for curves.
2. Following the outline, make a vertical cut, three to four inches deep with a half-moon edger or flat-bladed spade, shown at right, to create the lawn edge (be sure your tool is sharp and take care to align each cut with the preceding one). Continue to the end of the edging.
3. On the bed side of the edging, make an angled cut, starting four to six inches inside the first cut and angling it so that it meets the bottom of the vertical cut.
4. As you work, remove the clumps of soil (you may need to make perpendicular cuts to aid removal). Shake excess soil into the bed and put the remaining soil, turf, and weeds into a wheelbarrow for adding to your compost later. Continue to the end of the section you are edging.
5. Use a garden rake to pull excess soil from the trench back into the bed.
6. Refresh the edging trench a couple of times each growing season by removing soil, mulch, and weeds as needed.

—R.P.



for keeping mulch in a bed and out of your lawn can be installed using metal or plastic edging strips.

For segregating a sweep of lawn from a bed or other area on the same grade, opt for an edging that is flush with, or only slightly above, the soil level. The critical height is one that is below the cutting blade of your mower. This type of edging, often referred to as a mowing strip, is usually constructed of railroad ties, flagstone, brick, or a band of concrete. Some excavation and precision is needed for installation, but once in place, maintenance is a snap. By riding one wheel of the mower along the edging surface, you can have a neatly mowed lawn that requires no additional trimming.

Where your lawn meets a sloping or raised bed, a stepped edging—with at least two rows of edging material at different heights—is the ticket. A raised row of edging material keeps mulch in the bed, while a second row is set flush with the lawn to serve as a mowing strip.

A CUTTING-EDGE APPROACH

You can create an edge for a garden without installing any hardscaping material simply by cutting a shallow trench around the periphery of the bed. The result is an elegant edge that suits any landscaping style. With trench edging, the focus is on the plants, not the hardscaping material. Trench edging, however, is not suitable for paths and walkways, because it would quickly fill with soil, gravel, mulch, and other debris disturbed by foot traffic.

Your trench should be at least three to four inches deep—deep enough to prevent roots from easily spreading—and angled so that the outside edge of the trench (next to the turf) is vertical and the inside slopes toward the bed. The best tools for digging a trench are a half-moon edger or a flat-bladed spade; whichever you use, sharpen the tool before you begin to ensure a clean cut; the crisper the cut, the better your edging will look. (For more on constructing trench edging, see the sidebar at left.) Although less expensive to create than a barrier, trench edging needs to be renewed a few times each growing season to keep it looking good.

Rita Pelczar is a contributing editor for The American Gardener.



A two-tiered brick edging like this one contains mulch and soil, sets off plants in the bed, and provides a narrow mowing strip to make lawn maintenance easier.

THE FIRST JASMINE I ever grew was *Jasminum sambac* 'Grand Duke of Tuscany'. I was living in Key West, Florida, at the time and sent away for the plant, impressed by its regal name and the evocative description of its sweet-smelling flowers.

It arrived in due course, a barely rooted stub of a thing. I planted it against the north wall of our house, across from a papaya tree, and it thrived in the humidity and night coolness.

It grew into a rangy, graceless shrub that eventually covered the wall and broke out into flowers so fragrant I could scarcely believe my nose. They did not look like the jasmine flowers you see in books; they looked like little gardenias, only of a purer white. They were not par-

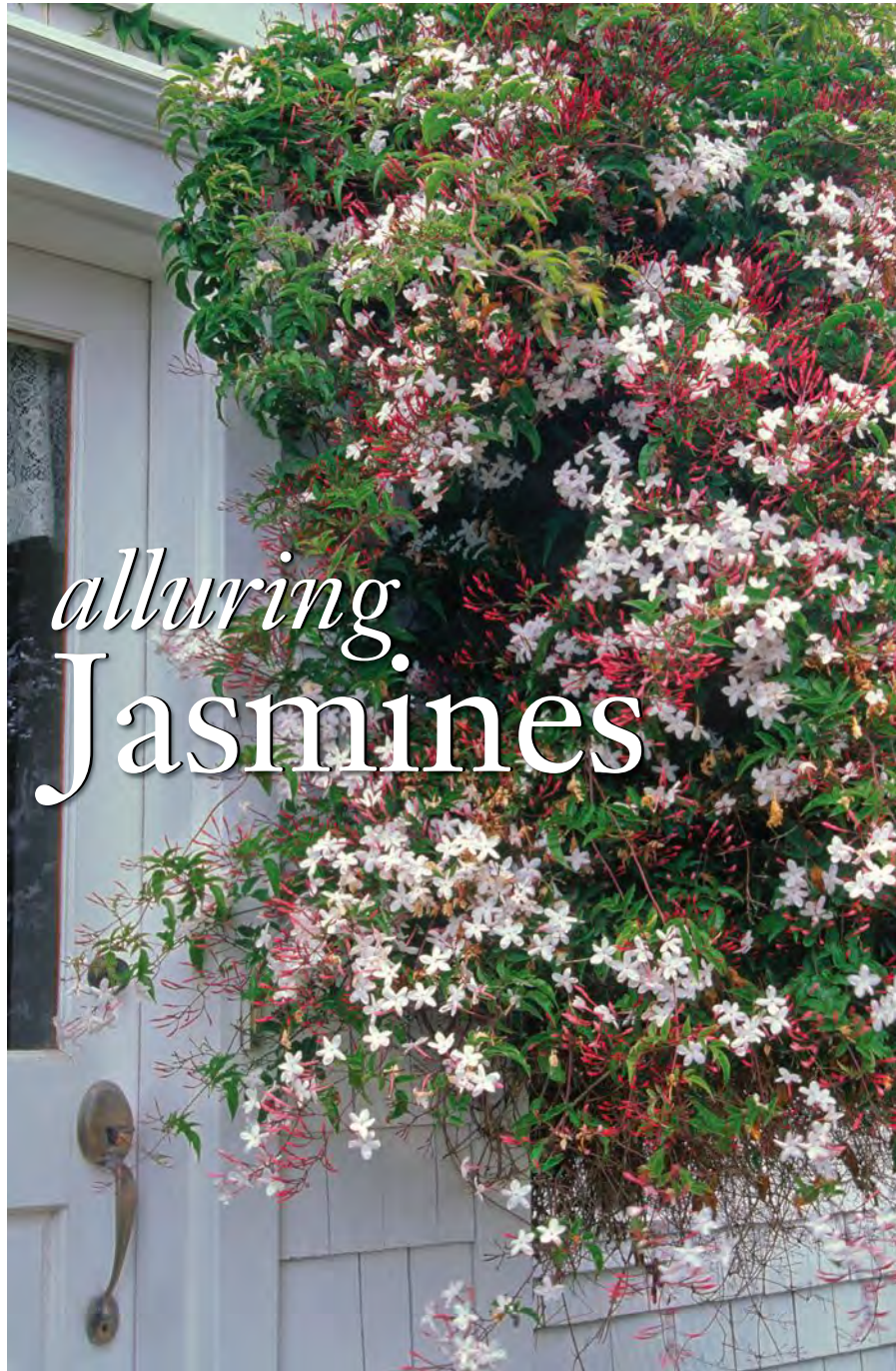


Above: 'Grand Duke of Tuscany', a selection of Arabian jasmine, is prized for its deliciously scented double flowers. Right: Planted strategically beside the front door, this Chinese jasmine offers a colorful, fragrant welcome to the homeowners and their visitors.

ticularly numerous, but if I picked them, more budded and blossomed. I have been hooked on jasmine ever since.

I speak of "jasmine" as though there is only one, but actually there are some 300 species in the genus *Jasminum*, not to mention the other plants commonly known as jasmines (see box, page 26).

True jasmines are in the olive family (Oleaceae), which makes them relatives of forsythias, lilacs, and fragrant olives (*Osmanthus* spp.). Most cultivated species are native to temperate or subtropical areas of the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Asia. Their diversity makes it hard to generalize about their



alluring Jasmines

Beloved by poets, perfumers, and gardeners, jasmines bring mystery and sensuality to any home or garden. BY RAND B. LEE

form and culture: Some jasmines can take frost, though most cannot; some are evergreen and others are deciduous; some behave like shrubs, others like climbers; some are scented, others are not.

Except for a few double-flowering forms, most bear white, pinkish-white, or yellow tubular blossoms that open out flat into a star-shaped pattern of four to six

petals. The flowers are borne individually or in clusters sprouting from the ends or sides of their stems. Composed of three to nine leaflets, the compound, featherlike leaves of most jasmines are usually oppositely arranged along the leaf stem.

A DELECTABLE FRAGRANCE

The first jasmines arrived in Europe more

than 1,000 years ago, and people have been swooning over them ever since. Thomas Hyll, in his 1577 manual *The Gardener's Labyrinth*, lists "jacemine" as one of those vital plants bearing sweet-smelling flowers "that the City greatly needeth." This antidote to the notorious stench of 16th-century London was probably *Jasminum officinale*, which proved hardy in many parts of Britain. Hyll recommended growing it on an arbor with musk roses, damask roses, and privet, where "it yieldeth a delectable smell, much refreshing the sitters underneath it."

Cultivation of the plant spread quickly throughout England. In 1629, botanist John Parkinson reported that the white jasmine was distributed "ordinarily in our Gardens throughout the whole Land." By the first decade of the 19th century, jasmines had crossed the Atlantic to the United States: Thomas Jefferson grew "star jasmine" (most likely *J. officinale* rather than what we know as star jasmine today) at Monticello, his estate in Charlottesville, Virginia.

THE BEST SCENTED JASMINES

The common white or poet's jasmine (*J. officinale*, USDA Zones 9–10, AHS Zones 10–9) is the one poets and romance writers are usually thinking of when they speak of the genus. Native from Iran east through northern India to central China, poet's jasmine is a vigorous, deciduous, twining vine reaching 10 to 40 feet tall. It produces clusters of single, fragrant, inch-wide, pure white flowers any time from June to October. The fragrance is strongest just as dusk gives way to evening, so it is ideal for a sheltered trellis outfitted with a comfortable bench. It has proven hardy to USDA Zone 7 or 8 as long as it is planted in rich, loamy soil and protected from cold winds.

Poet's jasmine's variants are numerous. The Spanish or Catalanian jasmine (*J. officinale* var. *affine*) has larger flowers than the species and the outer surfaces of the blossoms are tinged pink. A variegated cultivar, 'Argenteovariegatum', sports gray-green leaves with creamy white margins.

Jasminum grandiflorum ssp. *grandiflorum* (Zones 9–10, 10–9) is an extremely vigorous Himalayan type bearing fragrant white flowers tinged reddish pink at their bases. This is the jasmine grown for the perfume trade near Grasse, France. It is a



The highly fragrant Himalayan form of poet's jasmine (*Jasminum grandiflorum* ssp. *grandiflorum*), used in the perfume industry, bears flowers with white petals above a pinkish base.

glossy, semi-evergreen or deciduous vine that grows rapidly to 10 to 15 feet and is lovely covering a fence. Given the right conditions it can bloom all summer, although it is not reputed to be as free-flowering as the species.

Chinese jasmine (*J. polyanthum*, Zones 9–10, 10–9) is closely related to *J. officinale* and shares the throne as the archetypal jasmine. Native to southwestern China, it's a vigorous climber that grows 10 to 20 feet tall, with dark green, leathery leaves and seemingly delicate—but iron-tough—twining stems.

It is extremely free-flowering and ideal for a cool greenhouse or sheltered patio. Anytime from April to July outdoors—November to April under glass—it can bear dense panicles of small, single, fragrant white and pale pink flowers—pinkest in bud—that cast their scent afar at night. For earliest flowering indoors, keep this jasmine in a place where temperatures stay above 50 degrees Fahrenheit (F).

Outdoors, in USDA Zones 9 and warmer, plant Chinese jasmine in a sheltered south or west position, against a wall or trellis or as a groundcover.

Some clones appear to be more floriferous than others, so buy your plant in bloom or take cuttings in March from a proven specimen (see “Growing and Caring for Jasmines” on page 29 for propagation tips).

Royal or angelwing jasmine (*J. laurifolium* forma *nitidum*, Zones 9–11, 11–9) is of unknown origin. It has a rather shrubby habit, growing five feet tall outdoors. In late spring and summer, small clusters of purplish buds open to fragrant, white pinwheel flowers that are purplish beneath. The leathery, glossy green leaves grow to two inches long. Most people seem to like the fragrance, but I find it sweet in just the wrong way—like cheap hand soap.

Royal jasmine is one of the easiest jasmines to grow indoors, although its ungainly habit makes training it a challenge. It responds well to drastic pruning, however, and does not require high humidity. Water moderately, fertilize lightly while the plant is actively growing, and repot twice yearly. Royal jasmine is not reliably hardy below 25 degrees F, so it is best to plant it in a sheltered place if your winter temperatures regularly dip much below 40 degrees F. It also needs a long,



When planted outdoors, royal jasmine needs a long growing season to bloom vigorously.

warm growing season to bloom best outdoors; I certainly had no trouble getting it to flower when I lived in Key West.

Arabian jasmine (*J. sambac*, Zones 10–11, 12–9) is the species whose flowers are used in Hawaiian leis and jasmine tea. A tender, warmth-craving evergreen native to India, Burma, and Sri Lanka, it has undi-

vided glossy leaves and grows to 10 feet tall. In the right site, it continuously bears clusters of powerfully fragrant white flowers about an inch in diameter.

If given sufficient humidity—to help prevent infestations of the spider mites that often plague it in dry climates—it can be easily maintained as a small compact shrub in a container indoors.

There are several delicious cultivars of Arabian jasmine. ‘Belle of India’ bears large, white, starry, loosely double, fragrant flowers year round on a vining shrub that can be kept to two feet tall in a pot. ‘Grand Duke of Tuscany’ yields whorls of waxy, quilted leaves and fully double, gardenialike white blossoms of heady perfume in summer. ‘Maid of Orleans’ bears small, deliciously scented, pristine, single white flowers with rounded petals.

For outdoor planting, Arabian jasmine and its cultivars require full sun and high humidity for best flowering, do not tolerate frost, and thrive where temperatures stay above 60 degrees F year round.

RARE JASMINES

Once you’ve grown some of the most read-

JASMINE IMPOSTORS

If imitation is indeed the sincerest form of flattery, then the appeal of jasmines is reflected in the number of unrelated climbers that are called “jasmines.” These include Carolina jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Chilean jasmine (*Mandevilla laxa*), Italian jasmine (*Solanum seaforthianum*), Madagascar jasmine (*Stephanotis floribunda*), and Confederate or star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*). With the exception of Italian jasmine, all are fragrant. —R.B.L.



Gelsemium sempervirens

Sources

Brushwood Nursery, Athens, GA.
(706) 548-1710.

www.gardenvines.com.

Greer Gardens, Eugene, OR. (800)
548-0111. www.greergardens.com.

Kartuz Greenhouses, Vista, CA. (760)
941-3613. www.kartuz.com.

Lazy S's Farm Nursery, Barboursville,
VA. www.lazysfarm.com.

Logee's Greenhouses, Danielson, CT.
(888) 330-8038. www.logees.com.

Woodlanders Inc., Aiken, SC. (803)
648-7522. www.woodlanders.net.

Resources

The Genus *Jasminum* in Cultivation by
Peter Green and Diana Miller. Kew
Publishing, Richmond, Surrey, Unit-
ed Kingdom, 2009.

ily available jasmines, you may be tempt-
ed to try one of the rarer and harder-to-
find species. One worth finding is *J.*
×stephanense (Zones 7–II, 12–8) a vigorous,
twining, 15-foot-tall hybrid between *J.*
officinale and *J. beesianum*. Around mid-
summer, it bears single, fragrant, pale pink
flowers and distinctive leaves: dull green
above, light green below, some narrow and
oval, others compound and possessing five
leaflets. It has been known to withstand
some USDA Zone 7 winters if planted in
a warm, sheltered position.

Dwarf jasmine (*J. parkeri*, Zones
8–10, 12–8) makes a cute, twiggy, dense-
ly leaved hummock or dome eight to 12
inches wide by two feet tall. From May
or June on, it bears one small, half-inch,
single, bright yellow, scented flower per
stem tip. A native of northwestern India,
dwarf jasmine is perfect for small spaces,
rock gardens, and containers.

Yellow jasmine (*J. humile*, Zones 7–9,
9–7) is an erect shrub that is evergreen or
nearly so and forms a mound up to eight
feet tall and 10 feet wide. The shoots are
willowy, bearing light green, undivided
leaves and nickel-size, bright yellow,
slightly scented flowers from June to Sep-
tember. Although it is sometimes referred
to as Italian jasmine, it is not native to
Italy, but, rather, to the Himalayas from
Afghanistan to southwestern China.



Top: A hybrid jasmine with attractive pink flowers, *J. ×stephanense* is one of the hardier fragrant jasmines. **Above:** Suitable as a groundcover for rock gardens and other well-drained small spaces, dwarf jasmine forms hummocky mounds up to two feet tall with scented flowers.

SUPPORTING SHRUBBY JASMINES

Although I have seen vining jasmines confined to hanging baskets and cunningly trained to cover topiary wreaths, any healthy jasmine will outgrow such treatment in a month or so. Trellises, arbors, and pillars make the best outdoor supports for both shrubby and



In containers, jasmines need sturdy support such as a teepee of stakes or a wire cylinder.

vining types, but indoors, few of us have greenhouses or sunrooms spacious enough to provide full-wall jasmine displays. My solution is to grow my jasmines indoors in sturdy pots into which I have sunk, to one-third their depth, cylinders formed of stout wire—chicken wire will do if you double it. In his book *The New Houseplant*, Elvin McDonald suggests using a teepee created from four bamboo stakes to help train shrubby jasmines such as *J. nitidum* indoors. —R.B.L.



The arching stems of winter jasmine are ideal for draping over walls or down slopes. Its yellow, late-winter flowers offer a pleasing contrast here with the red fruits of a cotoneaster.

The blossoms of *J. humile* 'Revolutum' are more than twice as broad, with rolled-back petals in clusters up to six inches long and a stronger perfume than that of the species.

THE SCENTLESS JASMINES

Having had the luxury of living in warm climate regions for most of my life, I have had little reason to grow the scentless jasmines, but for those who live in more temperate climes or are not as slav-

ishly addicted to fragrance, a few species have ornamental value.

The most widely grown scentless jasmine is winter jasmine (*J. nudiflorum*, Zones 6–9, 9–6). Known in its native China as *ying ch'un* ("welcomer of spring"), this glossy, narrow-leaved, scandent shrub reaches four feet tall and up to seven feet wide, or up to 15 feet when trained on a garden structure. It produces small, single, yellow flowers anytime from December to March, depending on climate zone.

GROWING AND CARING FOR JASMINES

Outdoors, all jasmines grow best in full sun or part shade in well-drained, loamy soil. Indoors, provide a soil-based, well-drained potting mix and protection from the full heat of the sun. All require supplemental watering during dry spells in the spring and summer, especially the larger-leaved specimens; water more sparingly in winter.

Outdoors or in, feed monthly during periods of active growth with a low-nitrogen liquid or slow-release fertilizer. Fish emulsion or liquid seaweed are good organic amendments. If you are growing jasmines in containers, bear in mind that generally they flower most profusely when slightly potbound, so transfer them to bigger pots only very gradually.

Most scented jasmines hail from tropical or subtropical regions, so they thrive on humidity. In winter, the dry heat in many homes is hard on them, so mist the foliage regularly or put the plants in a room with a humidifier. Good air circulation will also reduce susceptibility to insect pests such as spider mites. Outdoors, their pests are relatively few. The worst culprits are aphids, mealybugs, and a fungal disease called gray mold. Insecticidal soaps generally dispose of aphids and mealybugs as well as the spider mites.

PRUNING

Pruning jasmines is relatively simple; only a few species need special treatment. Most jasmines are content with an occasional thinning of overcrowded stems after the plants bloom. In addition, remove the flowered-out stems of *Jasminum officinale*, and cut back *J. humile* and *J. nudiflorum* to their strong new buds or lower foliage as often as needed.

PROPAGATION

To propagate tender jasmines, take cuttings in March and root them in a mix of equal volumes peat or coir and sand with bottom heat of about 60 degrees F. In summer, after the cuttings have rooted and grown big enough to transplant from three- to five-inch pots, harden them off outdoors, watering sparingly. Bring them indoors at the end of September, keeping the pots just moist until their flower buds begin to swell; then water more freely. To force new growth, provide a cool or cold greenhouse, restricted roots, plenty of winter sun, regular watering, good air circulation, and severe pruning after flowering.

Hardy jasmines can be layered in fall and usually root within a year. Or take three- to four-inch-long cuttings of actively growing wood that is beginning to harden, making sure to include part of the “heel”—a portion of the junction where the shoot was attached to its parent stem—with each cutting.

If you live in a mild winter climate, you can plant the cuttings in a cold frame and overwinter them at 45 to 50 degrees F. If rooting your cuttings indoors, give them bottom heat of about 60 degrees F. When rooted, move each cutting into its own three-inch pot. Pinch once to encourage branching just before transplanting into five-inch pots; then provide support for the elongating shoots.

—R.B.L.

Winter jasmine's smooth, wiry stems tend to droop and cascade, so it is ideal for planting on a sloping bank or the top of a wall. Plants bloom on the previous season's growth, so cut back stems to a couple of inches from the base after the blooms fade. Where the stems touch the ground, they will often take root, so it's easy to expand your collection or share the new plants with friends.

Though similar to winter jasmine, primrose jasmine (*J. mesnyi*, Zones 8–9, 9–8) flowers from late March through April and features larger leaves and semi-double flowers.

Another unscented jasmine to consider is showy jasmine (*J. floridum*, Zones 8–10, 10–8). Growing to five feet tall and wide, it is a compact, semi-evergreen to evergreen sprawler or half-climber that bears profuse clusters of golden yellow flowers from late spring to early summer with a smaller show into early fall.



Although not as hardy as winter jasmine, primrose jasmine flowers later, has more distinctive leaves, and features nearly double yellow flowers.

There is also a vining tropical species, king jasmine (*J. rex*, Zones 11, 12–10), worth growing for its three-inch-wide white blossoms, which are said to be the largest in the genus. A slow grower native to Thailand, it can be kept to two feet tall in a pot, where it will bloom in fall and winter in full or part sun.

No matter where you live, there's no excuse for not growing at least one jasmine—and if you have a romantic bone in your body, the jasmine will be a fragrant type. As soon as you get a whiff of the first blossom, you will begin to understand why they have been inspiring poets and gardeners alike for centuries. After that, I am confident you will be as hooked as I am.

The author of Pleasures of the Cottage Garden (Friedman/Fairfax, 1998), Rand B. Lee lives in Colorado. This is an updated version of an article published in the January/February 2003 issue of The American Gardener.



Latitude Adjustment

To locate plants adaptable to different areas of North America, plant hunters target “sister regions”—parts of the world with similar climates and soils.

BY FRANK HYMAN

ABOUT A YEAR ago I read about a professional horticulturist in Maine looking for better growing techniques. Being in a cold, northerly region, he had decided to study regions along the same latitude. Tracking his latitude line across the Atlantic, he ended up in southern France.

The funny thing is that when I read that article, I was working on an organic farm in southern France, an hour’s drive from Marseille. And earlier in my life I gardened in Maine, where snow cover lasts all winter, rains come in summer, and the soil is acidic and rich (relatively speaking).

Against a backdrop of wild lavender, acanthus, and rosemary, the French farmer I was working with assured me that it never snowed in southern France (except in the mountains), drought lasts from May to September, and the soil is alkaline and lean. Yet Maine and Provence are the same distance from the equator, so what gives?

I’m sure the horticulturist learned useful things on his trip. But he might have done better if he had followed his line of latitude in the opposite direction. As it turns out, the east coast of Asia and northern Japan have a lot more in common with Maine: There’s winter snow cover, summer rains, and soils are acidic

and rich. Clearly it isn’t just latitudes that matter; a region’s relationship to offshore ocean currents and wind patterns are also important. So with roughly similar climates, day lengths, and soils, temperate eastern Asia and temperate eastern North America are considered “sister regions.”

I like that term because in the same way that human sisters can sometimes borrow each other’s pants, sister regions can often borrow each other’s plants.

EAST MEETS WEST

If you’ve been to the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. (38 degrees N latitude), you’ve witnessed a

Similar climate zones in the eastern United States and eastern Asia mean ornamental cherry trees are in peak bloom nearly simultaneously each year at the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., top left, and at Himeji Castle in south-central Japan, top right.

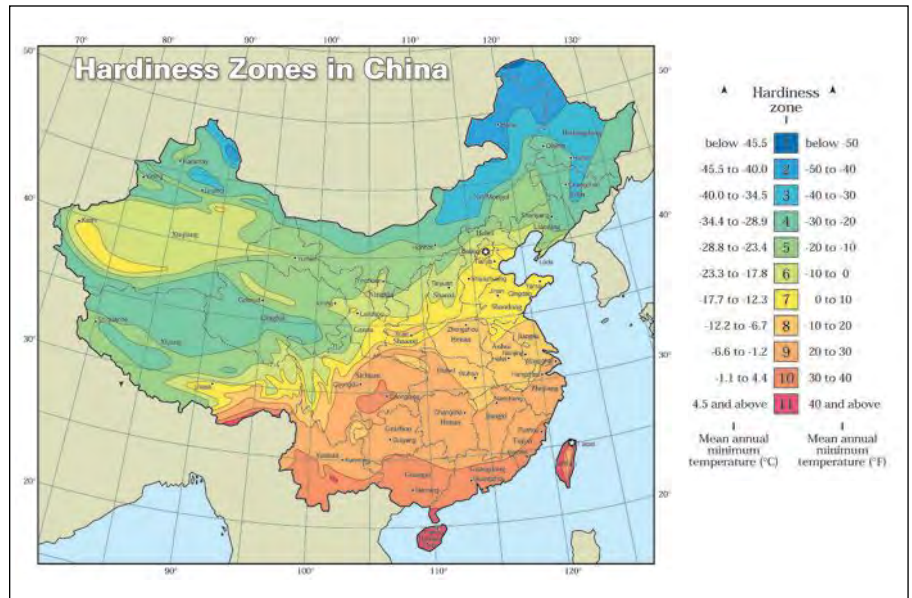
striking example of sister-region plant adaptability. The famous cherry trees planted around D.C.'s Tidal Basin include many of the original 3,000 trees that were a friendship gift from Japan in 1912. Japan's capital, Tokyo (35 degrees N latitude), gets more rainfall than the D.C. region, but conditions in the two areas are similar enough that the non-native cherry trees perform well in our mid-Atlantic region. It turns out that the average peak bloom dates for ornamental cherry trees in Washington and Tokyo are only a day apart.

Why is this the case? Ocean currents have a major influence on regional climates and soils. The Gulf Stream and prevailing winds pull warmth, rainfall, and humidity up along the eastern third of the North American continent. The resulting moderately high rainfall creates soils with an acidic pH and fair organic matter content. On the other side of the world, the Kuroshio Current performs a similar role along the eastern coastline of Asia, bringing warmth, rainfall, and humidity to Taiwan, coastal China, Korea, and Japan.

This may seem like a tenuous connection, but for many plant hunters, arboretum directors, nursery owners, designers, and gardeners, the concept of sister regions can provide another layer of insight—in addition to various climate zone maps (see “Resources,” page 33)—to aid in selecting well-adapted plants and organizing our gardens.

The Culberson Asiatic Arboretum in the Sarah P. Duke Gardens at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, is designed to display the similarities between the plants of southeastern Asia and the southeastern United States. The arboretum's curator, Paul Jones, and plant collecting colleagues have traveled to China to bring back viburnums, camellias, magnolias, lilies, and maples to evaluate for southeastern United States conditions. Two successes so far include *Enkianthus serrulatus*, a floriferous shrub in the heath family, and the six-foot-tall Brown's lily (*Lilium brownii*).

Paul W. Meyer, director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, has also spent time plant hunting in China and South Korea. He and his colleagues have sought and found cold-hardy varieties of *Camellia japonica* as well as Kousa dogwoods (*Cor-*



For plant hunters, this USDA Hardiness Zone map of China is helpful in targeting areas to find plants potentially adaptable to different U.S. regions.

nus kousa) with more genetic variety than those introduced to the U.S. before 1980. Chinese hemlocks (*Tsuga chinensis*), resistant to the woolly adelgids that are decimating our native hemlocks, are also desirable species Meyer seeks for the eastern United States. He is also bringing in seed of Chinese ash trees to find resistance to the emerald ash borers plaguing American ash trees.

The sister regions concept “has been one of the foundations for my work,” says Tom Foley, supply chain manager for Ball Horticultural Company in Chicago, Illinois. “It explains which regions to search for new plants in Asia and, likewise, which United States plants may be suitable to be sold in Asia.” As an example, Foley notes that some of the new panicked hydrangea (*Hydrangea pan-*



Chinese hemlocks, such as these at the Arnold Arboretum near Boston, are being crossed with American native hemlocks in an effort to provide resistance to destructive woolly adelgids.



iculata) cultivars Ball is introducing are becoming popular in the northeastern United States and Canada, where many hydrangeas struggle with winter hardiness. Foley ascribes the cultivars' cold hardiness to the original species, which was introduced from northern Japan.

FLYOVER COUNTRY

I had always mistakenly thought of Denver, Colorado, as being on top of the Rocky Mountains. But on a trip to a wedding years ago, my viewpoint through the plane's window made it clear that Denver

was actually a border town; it rests where the Rockies meet the Great Plains, which cover the central United States, Canada, and Mexico. Being far from either ocean's influence, the plains experience brutal winters and summers. The occasional droughts and average precipitation of less than 20 inches a year mean neutral to alkaline soil, many grasses, and few trees.

Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator and director of outreach at the Denver Botanic Gardens, has found rich sources for successful plant introductions in sister regions on three other continents: grasslands with

continental weather in South Africa (the veldt), Eurasia (the steppes), and South America (Patagonia). One region in South Africa is called Roggeveld; the name comes from the Afrikaans word for "rye field." The Roggeveld could be characterized as having cold winters, low rainfall, alkaline soil, many grasses, and few trees. Here and in similar regions of South Africa such as the Great Karoo and the Drakensberg foothills, Kelaidis has collected more than a thousand species and found hundreds of these to be viable in Colorado and beyond. Kelaidis says these regions, which he terms "semi-arid steppe," have much in common with the interior western United States.



Above: Torch lilies, native to southern Africa, are proving well-adapted to harsh climates such as the Rocky Mountain region. Left: Members of the North American–China Plant Exploration Consortium, which includes scientists from several public gardens, use a pole pruner to collect seeds from *Magnolia biondi* in Gansu, China.

Kelaidis's introductions from South Africa include about a dozen species of torch lily (*Kniphofia* spp.) that are hardy in Colorado. He has also introduced a number of ground-covering ice plants (*Delosperma* spp.), including a recent one called 'Carlile Pink' that produces bright pink flowers, has a compact habit, repeat blooms, and is one of the hardiest ice plants yet discovered.

In his private garden, Kelaidis doesn't limit himself to plants of the steppe regions, but he does say, "Over time there has been a Darwinian selection of plants

in my gardens. I used to struggle to grow maritime plants (and still do) but dry spells quickly put an end to those.”

ENGLISH LESSONS

In 2000 I spent the month of August exploring the islands of the southeastern Alaskan panhandle with a tent, bike, and inflatable kayak. Locals call the panhandle Baja Alaska. One morning as I checked my AM pocket radio (this was back in the primitive 20th century) to hear the usual forecast of a morning sequence of fog, heavy misting, and light drizzle followed by moderate to heavy drizzle for the afternoon, it occurred to me that the August

weather near Ketchikan, Alaska (55 degrees N latitude) was much like what I experienced along the north coast of Wales (53 degrees N latitude) while hitchhiking there nearly 20 years earlier.

The landscapes looked remarkably different: lunging mountains vs. rolling hills; towering evergreen trees vs. open fields. But the gardens in Baja Alaska—and others I've seen on coastal Vancouver Island, the Olympic peninsula, and coastal Oregon—looked so “English,” brimming with primroses, astilbes, English daisies, bellflowers, and delphiniums. These are the kind of English garden flowers we southerners dream of growing but excel at

killing, no matter how many English gardening books we read.

The explanation, as I'm sure you probably know, is that English gardeners, as far north as they are, benefit from the warm water of the Gulf Stream, which crosses the Atlantic and sideswipes Britain's western shore. The Pacific's Kuroshio Current plays a similar role on our continent's northwest coast as it feeds into the Alaskan and Californian currents. These two roughly similar ocean currents allow the British Isles to match our coastal Northwest's hardiness zones of 7, 8, and 9.

The climate of the narrow coastal strip of Alaska, British Columbia, Washing-



Alaskan yellow cedars (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) are adapted in mild, wet maritime regions of both the American Northwest and northwestern Europe.

Resources

AHS Plant Heat Zone Map,
www.ahs.org.

The Dry Garden by Beth Chatto. Orion Publishing Group, London, England, 1998.

Garden Plants of Japan by Ran Levy-Yamamori and Gerard Taaffe. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2004.

The Gardener's Atlas by John Grimshaw. Firefly Books, Buffalo, New York, 1998.

The Natural Geography of Plants by Henry A. Gleason and Arthur Cronquist. Columbia University Press, New York, New York, 1964.

Plant Life in the World's Mediterranean Climates by Peter Dallman. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1998.

Sunset Map, www.sunset.com/garden/climate-zones.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map,
www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone/ushzmap.html.

ton, and Oregon resembles not just the British Isles, but other similarly damp, mild maritime regions of northwestern Europe, including Galicia, Brittany, the Low Countries, and western Scandinavia. If citizens of coastal northwestern Europe wanted to replant their glacier-depleted forests with hardy evergreen trees, they could do worse than to adopt trees from our coastal Northwest. Alaskan yellow cedars (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*), for instance, with a native

range from Alaska to northern California are known to grow well in Wales and Denmark. Conditions in western Denmark are so hospitable in fact, that Alaskan cedars self-seed there.

Plant hunter Dan Hinkley is trialing a selection of *Agapanthus campanulatus* he found in the eastern Cape region of South Africa. Hinkley, who lives in Washington and works as a consultant for Monrovia nursery, describes the flowers as having “the earliest, richest blue in July,” and says the plant thrives with winter rainfall and summer drought and is hardy to USDA Zone 6.

By introducing this mediterranean climate plant, Hinkley is highlighting an important point about the coastal Northwest climate that applies especially to the population centers of Vancouver, Seattle, and Portland. These cities are in the rain shadows of the coastal mountains, so their summers are drier than the surrounding region, somewhat like the Mediterranean. At first blush this might seem like an exception to the concept of sister regions, but it actually reinforces it. Anyone who’s read Beth Chatto’s book, *The Dry Garden* (see “Resources,” page 33), knows that eastern England is also in a rain shadow and generally experiences dry summers. In her book, Chatto laments her inability to grow astilbes and other typical “English” flowers. But after visiting the Mediterranean island of Corsica, she learned to seek out plants that favor dry summers and her garden took off.

WINE COUNTRY

When selecting wine, I used to wonder why I always saw the same five regions represented: California, the Mediterranean, Chile, South Africa, and Australia.

It turns out that all five of these famed wine-growing regions share a mediterranean climate of bright sunshine, dry summers, mild, rainy winters, and lean soils that are mostly neutral to alkaline. Also, they are all on the western or southwestern shores of continents, mostly influenced by cold offshore ocean currents and are between the 30th and 45th parallels.

Under those conditions, spring rains goose the grape vines into putting on lush foliage and flowers. The dry summers, cool nights, and lean soils in these five regions optimize the production of



Soil and weather conditions in mediterranean regions such as northern California favor not only grape vines, above, but many other agricultural and ornamental plants.

premium wine grapes. Grapes are not the only plants that benefit from this benevolent climate—according to Peter Dallman, author of *Plant Life in the World’s Mediterranean Climates*, mediterranean regions make up only two percent of the land area yet account for nearly 20 percent of the species of plants on earth.

It would seem that California plant hunters have a wealth of sister regions to tap for plants, but Kathy Musial, curator and collections manager for the Huntington Botanical Gardens in southern California, says regulations on bringing new

plants from overseas have become so stringent that sometimes picking up new plants in foreign nurseries is now the only realistic option for her plant hunters. Nonetheless, they have recently introduced two plants from mediterranean regions that are well adapted to southern California’s climate. One called *Globularia xindubia*, a small shrub with lavender blue flowers, is a naturally occurring hybrid from the Canary Islands just south of Spain. Another is a rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) cultivar called ‘Huntington Carpet’, a dense groundcover perfect for sunny banks.



The Domaine du Rayol, a public garden in southern France, has a collection containing plants representing all five mediterranean regions of the world.

SCREENING FOR WEEDINESS

The potential downside to seeking plants overseas is finding ones that are a little too well adapted to their new home. If you start looking at the names of many of the non-native plants that do well in the eastern United States, you'll notice that many share specific epithets that reflect their origins (*japonica* for Japan and *sinensis* for China, for instance). Many are terrific landscape plants like



Japanese honeysuckle has proven too well adapted to the United States.

Japanese camellia (*Camellia japonica*), but there are also troublesome weeds such as Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*).

It's logical that if plants from sister regions offer a good chance of thriving as ornamental garden plants, some percentage have the potential to be invasive in the garden or in the wild. So plant explorers, who don't want to become known for introducing the next kudzu, tend to be watchful for invasive characteristics.

Paul Jones, a plant collector at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens, says, "if you're honest about your observations, you'll know whether a plant stands to invade and cause ecological harm, versus simply spread harmlessly around. We've found some plants to be invasive and have eradicated them from our collection."

For example, Paul W. Meyer, director of the Morris Arboretum, says *Lindera obtusiloba* seedlings were spreading on the arboretum's grounds. "So we proactively removed all the females so they wouldn't be setting fruit any longer."

In some regions, concern about invasives is limiting plant introductions from overseas. Kathy Musial, curator for the Huntington Botanical Gardens in California says they are moving away from collecting plants from mediterranean sister regions because those plants form the largest pool of potential invasives in California. —F.H.

With mediterranean climates, one size does not fit all. California features significant climate and ecosystem changes both along its north-south axis and from the coast over the interior mountain ranges. In looking for appropriate sister regions, such variations need to be taken into account. For example, Musial makes the point that central Chile doesn't get as hot as other mediterranean regions and has a climate not unlike the San Francisco area.

Just as some East Coast gardens such as the Morris Arboretum in Pennsylvania and Duke Gardens in North Carolina have focused on collecting plants from their sister regions, one public garden in southern France has focused on collecting plants from all five mediterranean regions. Once a historic estate, the Domaine du Rayol, located on the coast road between St. Tropez and Toulon, has become a pub-

lic garden that features striking plants from the Mediterranean basin and its sister regions in southern California, central Chile, the southwestern cape of South Africa, and southwestern Australia.

CAVEATS TO CONSIDER


I've described these regions with similar climates and flora as sisters, but it would be a mistake to think of them as twins. There's too much variation in wind patterns, topography, soils, and climate history to guarantee that plants swapped between two sister regions will thrive. But it does provide one more tool for optimizing a gardener's finite budget or a plant hunter's limited time.

Although most horticulturists and botanists agree that using the sister regions concept to locate well adapted plants is more efficient than just randomly scour-

ing the globe, there are skeptics. One I spoke with is Tony Avent, a plant hunter and owner of Plants Delight Nursery in Raleigh, North Carolina, who describes sister regions as "an old myth that has some truth mixed with lots of fiction."

And of course this concept doesn't rule out the age-old practice of growing plants from non-sister regions. Just because east Asian plants often do well in the eastern United States doesn't mean that we can't also grow plants from the deserts, prairies, temperate rain forests, tropics, and mediterranean regions and vice versa. In fact, one of my specialties is growing mediterranean gardens in the North Carolina climate. What counts is what Duke University botanist Paul Manos calls the "climate envelope" of a given plant. Rosemary, for instance, not only thrives in its native, dry Mediterranean region, but its climate envelope includes the rainy eastern United States. A plant hunter won't know a newly discovered plant's climate envelope without experimenting. And many of those experiments will be costly failures offset by a minority of successes.

For those of you who prefer to grow plants native to your region of North America, the sister regions concept may hold only intellectual interest. But I would point out that a number of beloved American native plants have close relatives overseas that are worth knowing about even if you don't plan to cultivate them. For more on this phenomenon, known as "vicariance," click on the web special linked to this article on the AHS website (www.ahs.org).

Despite the caveats, I recommend giving the provenance, or original wild habitat, of plants some consideration this winter while you are poring over nursery catalogs or websites in search of plants for this year's garden. The way I look at it, the sister regions concept doesn't give you any fewer guarantees about plant adaptability or survival than the current USDA Hardiness Zone Map, which, based upon minimum average temperature, classifies humid central Florida and part of the Mojave desert region in southern California in the same zone. 

A former organic farmer, Frank Hyman has owned a garden design business in Durham, North Carolina, for 20 years.

Preventive Pruning For Woody Plants

by *Scott Aker*

AT THIS STAGE of winter, when the structure of deciduous trees and shrubs is not camouflaged by foliage, it is the perfect time to do some preventive pruning. Whether you want to tidy up some unruly shrubs, head off damage from storms, or help a young tree develop a good branch structure, a little time and thought spent now will pay great dividends in the future.

I'm not talking about shearing every shrub into a uniform ball and transforming each tree into a green lollipop. Such pruning produces an overly dense canopy of vigorous but weak branches that hinders sunlight and air from reaching into the interior of the plant. Some species can tolerate this, but most become more prone to disease and breakage. The kind of pruning I'm recommending will encourage healthy growth in your deciduous trees and shrubs and help them stand up to even the most treacherous storms.

SYMMETRY AND BALANCE

Before pruning, look critically at deciduous trees and shrubs in your landscape to get an idea where branches are headed as they grow. Ideally, each plant should look something like a roughly symmetrical river and tributary system, regardless of which side you are viewing it from. If there are branches that really throw off the symmetry, they should be removed to keep the canopy balanced. Also, remove any branches that are going to make contact with the wall or roof of your home as they grow. If you have two trees that are growing close together, balance the canopy of each by removing a few of the longest branches on the side of each that is furthest from the other tree.

If branches have begun to shade a shrub or smaller tree that needs more light, strategically remove branches to allow more sunlight to penetrate. Pay



Lilacs are among the shrubs that benefit from regular thinning in midwinter. Before pruning, left, this lilac had densely clustered stems. After pruning, above, many older stems have been removed at ground level to give the shrub a more open habit.

special attention to trees that are growing near the edge of densely shaded wooded sections of your property. These trees are quite likely to be one-sided, and are often the first to fall when weighted with snow or ice. If the branch structure is so unbalanced that pruning won't improve the symmetry of these trees, it may be best to remove them, particularly if they could damage structures or bring down power lines when they fall.

PROMOTING GOOD TREE STRUCTURE

One of the most effective ways to control tree growth and promote good branch structure is subordination pruning. While this may sound highly technical, it is simply a method of pruning that starts with a visualization of the eventual branch structure that you desire and reaches this goal by gradually removing superfluous branches bit by bit, over a period of several years.

Much of the tree damage caused by storms occurs in trees that lack good structure. Typically this happens when



Winter maintenance of small trees includes removal of broken branches or ones that cross over other limbs.

instead of a single dominant leader, there are two or more leaders at the top of the tree. These are often joined together poorly in a narrow crotch that is likely to split when loaded with ice or snow, or when strong winds whip through the branches. If the leaders are about the same diameter, removing one will create a very large wound that will be difficult for the tree to heal. Instead, select the weakest of the two leaders, and remove about half of that leader and its side branches.

In the following year, the leader you left alone will grow more in diameter than the leader you pruned. In subsequent years, you can prune the unwanted leader a bit more. Its growth will be stunted while the leader you intend to keep gets larger. Eventually, you can remove the superfluous leader altogether, since it will now be small in relation to the main leader. This method also works

well for large, low-hanging branches that you'd like to remove at a later date.

SHRUBS TO PRUNE IN WINTER

For most deciduous shrubs, preventive pruning involves removing a few of the oldest or weakest branches from the crown of the shrub close to the soil surface. When spring arrives, this will stimulate vigorous growth from the crown of the shrub to keep it looking its best. This method works well for lilacs, red-osier dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*), blueberries, and nandinas.

However, be aware that some flowering shrubs that bloom on old wood—for sythias, ornamental quinces (*Chaenomeles* spp.), weigelas, and ninebarks (*Physocarpus* spp.), to name a few—should be cut back to a height of six inches or a foot from the ground, but now is *not* the time to do it. Allow these shrubs to bloom first, then do the severe pruning just as the flowers are fading.

Because shrubs can vary so much in their pruning needs, it's a good idea to consult a reference, such as the *American Horticultural Society Pruning & Training* (DK Publishing, 2011) for in-depth instructions to ensure you are giving a particular plant the most appropriate care. That said, most shrubs tend to be fairly forgiving when it comes to pruning.

As you look around your garden with an eye toward preventive pruning of your deciduous woody plants, there are a few exceptions to the guidelines I have given. Leave fruit trees alone, since pruning now can cause earlier flowering and increase the chances that frost will kill tender blossoms. For plants that tend to suffer some winter injury—such as hydrangeas, crape myrtles, and magnolias—wait until the extent of this damage is known.

Of course, optimal pruning time depends on where you live. In warm parts of the country, pruning is best completed just before rain and cooler temperatures stimulate new growth, whereas in the far north, it can be better to wait to prune until very early spring when branches are less brittle. ☺

Scott Aker is a Washington, D.C.-based horticulturist who wrote the "Digging In" gardening column for The Washington Post for a decade.

Gardening Q&A with Scott Aker

VANQUISHING VOLES

I am having a problem with voles eating the roots of hostas, irises, and a rose. How do I get rid of these pests?

Discourage voles by removing their habitat. Scale back the use of mulch and groundcovers, since these give voles great hiding places from predators. If you are willing to use lethal measures, snap traps baited with peanut butter are effective, but you have to take the time to find the runways that the voles use to move from point to point in your garden. These vole highways are subtle and small, consisting of a sort of indentation in the vegetation or mulch that prevails in the surrounding area. Place traps perpendicular to the runways and check them daily. Also, plant things voles do not eat, such as daffodils.

POST-HOLIDAY CYCLAMEN BLUES

I got a cyclamen for the holidays and now some of the leaves are turning yellow and the flowers are fading. Will cutting off the faded flowers and yellow leaves encourage new growth?

All the leaves and flowers of a cyclamen emanate from a corm at the soil surface. If you cut flowers or leaves, you will be leaving stubs attached to the corm. These will eventually dry up and fall off, but simply pulling them off will keep the plant tidier. To encourage new growth, give the cyclamen bright light, such as that found in a south-facing window, and keep it as cool as you can, ideally around 65 degrees Fahrenheit. If you see new leaves or flower stalks forming in the center of the plant, add a half-strength liquid fertilizer next time you water. Keep the soil evenly moist and do not allow it to dry out because this signals dormancy to the plant. When spring arrives, move it to a shady, cool location outdoors, or to a sunny room with good air circulation.

—S.A.

E-mail your gardening questions to Scott Aker at saker@ahs.org.

Shallots: An Allium for the Epicure

by Kris Wetherbee

SHALLOTS WERE once something of a mystery to me. I wondered how their flavor differed from other edible members of the onion family. And why were these refined little onions so prized in French cookery? The answers came quickly after I began growing my own.

Known as the aristocrats of the onion family, shallots (*Allium cepa* var. *aggregatum*) have characteristics of both onions and garlic. Shallots multiply in the ground like garlic, with each compound bulb divided into multiple clusters or bulblets. The clusters are larger and more open than garlic, and cloves are individually wrapped in a papery skin that varies in color from pale brown to pale gray, even subtle shades of yellow, pink, purple, or copper-rose. The bulbs have concentric rings like those of onions, and they produce above-ground clumps of edible, narrow green leaves.

Chefs favor shallots for their silky texture and distinctive flavor, which is sweeter than the mildest onion with just a hint of garlic.

GROWING GUIDELINES

Shallots grow easily almost anywhere, with planting times varying from fall to spring, depending on your climate. Their needs are similar to garlic: full sun and well-drained soil with a pH between 6 and 7. They take minimal space and effort to grow. The soil should be as loose and crumbly as possible. Raised beds are ideal—and a necessity in areas where winters are mild and rainy, such as the Pacific Northwest where I garden.

Amending the soil with plenty of aged manure, compost, or other organic matter several weeks prior to planting will help create these soil conditions so shallots will thrive. Dusting the bulbs, or amending planting holes with bone meal or rock phosphate, will aid in root development.

In addition to pre-planting soil preparation, sidedress plants once they are up



'Ambition' is a delicate-flavored shallot variety suited for long-term storage.

and growing with compost, aged manure, or an organic fertilizer.

Because shallot seedlings have a grass-like appearance, carefully mark your row to avoid confusing emerging foliage with grassy weeds. Shallots need about one inch of water weekly from rainfall or irrigation, soaking deep enough to moisten the top six inches of soil. Water less frequently during cool, spring weather

Sources

The Cook's Garden, Warminster, PA. (800) 457-9703.

www.cooksgarden.com.

John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds, Bantam, CT. (860) 567-6086.

www.kitchengardenseeds.com.

Territorial Seed Company, Cottage Grove, OR. (800) 626-0866.

www.territorialseed.com.

and as they mature. Withhold water once the leaves begin to turn yellow.

I find that a light layer of straw mulch will keep weeds down and reduce moisture loss from evaporation. However, too much mulch—or too much rain—results in excessive moisture near the crown of the plant, which can encourage disease.

PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Shallots suffer from few pests or diseases given optimal growing conditions, particularly well-drained soil. Fungal diseases, onion maggots, and thrips are the most common problems.

The best way to avoid or minimize these issues is by practicing three-year rotations. In other words, do not plant shallots in the same soil where other alliums have grown during the past three years. Other methods include fall cleanup of old plant debris and using floating row covers to prevent pest infestations.

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

Shallots are available as sets or as seeds. Yellow and other lighter-skinned varieties tend to be hardier than purple or red varieties, whereas purple and red varieties keep longer in storage. A few choice varieties available as sets include:

'Dutch Yellow' Tender yet strong-flavored, semi-rounded bulbs with copper-red skins and creamy yellow flesh; high-yielding and stores very well.

'French Gray' or **'Gray'** Considered the gourmet variety among shallots due to their especially rich flavor. Pear-shaped bulbs with thick, gray-blue, wrinkled skins and creamy purple flesh.

'French Red' Chestnut-size cloves with a spicy flavor; stores well, very productive and easy to peel. Coppery-russet skins and purple-pink flesh.

'Sante' Flavorful pinkish-white flesh with brown skin; exceptionally high yields of large, round bulbs that store well.

Choice varieties available as seeds are: **'Ambition'** Delicately-flavored, reddish-copper to purple-skinned bulbs are easy to peel and productive; great for long-term storage.

'Bonilla' Large, strongly flavored bulbs with brightly-colored terra-cotta skin and yellow flesh.

'Camelot' Rich, subtle flavor with dark red skin and creamy white flesh; elongated globe-shaped bulbs store well.

ENJOYING THE HARVEST

You can begin harvesting some of the outer green tops (leaves) to use as you would chives or spring onions in about 30 to 60 days, but leave the new growth coming from the center to feed the bulb.

Fresh bulbs are ready to harvest when leaves begin to yellow; harvest mature bulbs when the majority of leaves have turned yellow/brown and wilted. The timing will depend on when the bulbs were planted: fall plantings are typically ready to harvest in late spring or early summer; bulbs planted in spring are ready to harvest in late summer or fall.

Planting Basics

GETTING STARTED Shallots can be grown from sets (bulbs) or from seeds.

From sets: Divide each set into individual cloves or bulblets before planting; each clove will form a new compound bulb. In USDA Zones 5 or warmer, plant cloves after the first autumn frost or about four to six weeks before the ground freezes (typically late September through October in the North; November through January in the South). Plant cloves with pointed ends up, setting them just deep enough so the tops are covered. In USDA Zones 4 and colder, plant cloves in early spring. Each clove will multiply six to 10 (or more) times to form a new compound bulb.

From seeds: Seeds can be sown indoors in very early spring for transplanting into the garden in mid-spring, or directly in the garden once soil temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Sow seeds a half-inch deep. Each seed will produce a single shallot for harvesting.

SPACING Plant cloves four to six inches apart in rows spaced 12 to 18 inches apart. Sow seeds about one inch apart; thin seedlings to two to four inches apart.

DAYS TO MATURITY 30 to 125 days, depending on variety and whether you want green shoots or bulbs for storing.

—K.W.

Harvest the bulbs by gently lifting the soil around them with a garden fork, taking care not to puncture them. Allow the bulbs to dry for about a month in a cool, dry, airy, and shady location to maximize their storage life. Fresh shallots can be refrigerated for up to a week; store dry

bulbs in a cool, dry, and well-ventilated place. If stored properly, shallot bulbs will keep for three to nine months, depending on the variety.

Freelance writer Kris Wetherbee gardens in Oakland, Oregon.

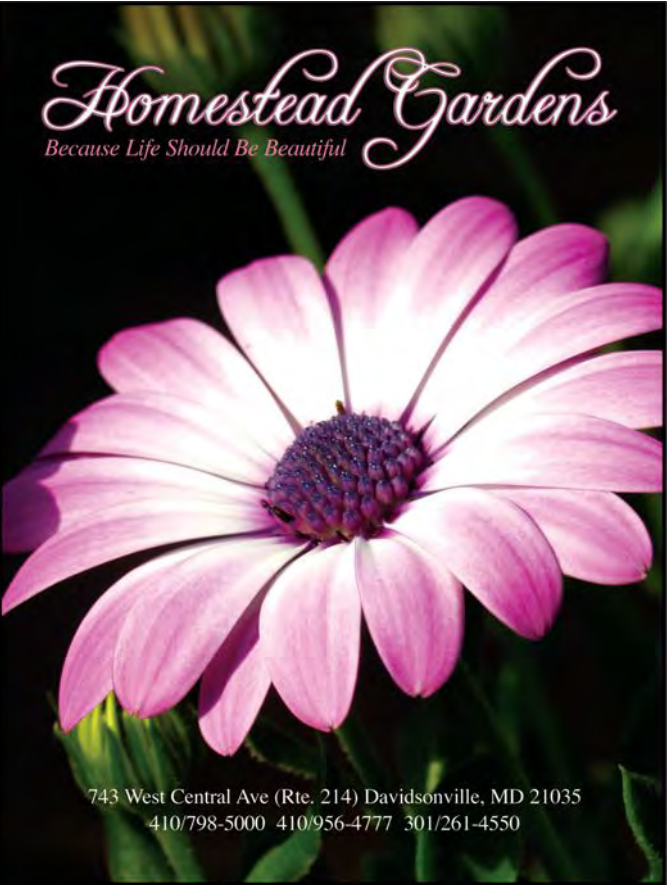


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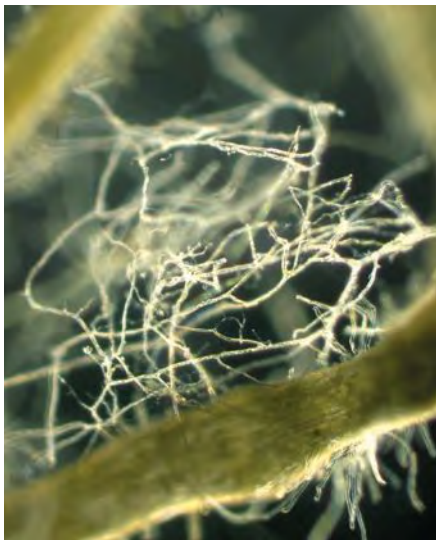
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Horticultural News and Research Important to American Gardeners

WHEELING-AND-DEALING SOIL DENIZENS

From our backyards to tropical rainforests, studies have shown that the microscopic communities found in soil are incredibly diverse no matter what part of the earth they call home. Given this diversity, it stands to reason that competition for resources can be fierce. But rather than being a chaotic free-for-all,



Thin fungal filaments, above, share resources with their much larger plant root partner.

the exchange of resources—at least between plants and fungi—appears to be quite sophisticated and dynamic.

In a recent issue of *Science*, an international team of researchers revealed that both parties can be selective enough to ensure that resource transfers are fair and two-way, unlike many other symbiotic relationships in the biological world where one party usually takes advantage of the other.

“We think that this sort of biological market, reminiscent of a market economy, has arisen because there are so many different individuals either partner could trade with,” says Stuart West, a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Oxford and a co-author of the study. “Rather like with human traders, if they

are given a chance both plants and fungi will go elsewhere to get a better deal.”

In this underground marketplace, the currencies are carbohydrates exuded by plant roots and phosphates fungi harvest from the soil. The researchers used *Medicago truncatula*, a small legume similar to alfalfa, and three different species of fungi from the *Glomus* genus that have each established slightly different cooperative relationships with the root system of host plants. Radioactively tracking the flow of carbon and phosphorus between these organisms showed that fungi that didn’t hoard resources received more carbon from plants, and in exchange, fungi rewarded fair-trading plants with more phosphorus.

STERILE BURNING BUSH DEVELOPED

Since its introduction from Asia to the United States in the 1860s, the vibrant red color of burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) has become a common sight in gardens and landscapes across the country. Unfortunately, burning bush’s aggressive root system and the thousands of seeds it produces has allowed it to outcompete native species. It remains a popular landscaping plant, with millions of the plants sold annually, even though it has been banned as an invasive species in 21 states. Soon, thanks to the work of researchers led by Yi Li at the University of Connecticut, a ster-

ile burning bush selection could provide a less ecologically damaging alternative.

In a study published in the August 2011 issue of *HortScience*, Li and his team hit upon a combination of plant growth hormones that resulted in triploid plants. Because these plants have three copies of chromosomes instead of the usual two, they are unable to reproduce. “In four to five years,” says Li, “UConn’s non-invasive, sterile cultivars of burning bush will be commercially available.”

NIGHT-BLOOMING ORCHID DISCOVERED

Among the specimens Dutch plant researcher Ed de Vogel collected on New Britain, a volcanic island in Papua New Guinea, was an unfamiliar little orchid.

Back in the Netherlands, de Vogel narrowed down the plant’s identification to the genus *Bulbophyllum*, known for its flowers’ bizarre resemblance to insects and other creatures. But he couldn’t get his specimen to bloom. It would produce buds, which then shriveled and died just when they were expected to open. Finally, de Vogel took the plant home one night to puzzle over it, and around 10 p.m. he noticed strange, thin green flowers opened that didn’t match those of any known species. Like clockwork, the flowers then closed about three hours after sunrise, lasting only one night.



In his laboratory, researcher Yi Li cultivates sterile burning bush seedlings, above, that may soon offer an alternative to the invasive variety commonly used in landscaping for its striking fall appearance, left.

Reporting the find in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, researchers at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in Great Britain and the Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis in the Netherlands characterized the specimen as the world's first night-blooming orchid and aptly named it *Bulbophyllum nocturnum*. Some orchid specialists contend that another orchid, *Dendrobium amboinense*, can be classified as nocturnal as well, but reports vary as to whether its blossoms open at midnight or just after sunrise. Why exactly *B. nocturnum* blooms at night remains a mystery, but some scientists suspect that the plant's pollinators are midges that are most active at night. For more information on this exotic new species, visit www.kew.org.



The ephemeral flowers of *Bulbophyllum nocturnum* open only under cover of night.

GRANT SUPPORTS MANUAL TO ASSIST AMERICAN CHESTNUT RESTORATION

Thanks to a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) is one step closer to repairing the devastating loss of an estimated four billion chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*) in the first half of the

20th century to the Asian fungal disease known as chestnut blight. This past November, the grant enabled the organization to publish an easy-to-read best practices manual aimed at everyone from amateur

chestnut enthusiasts to orchard managers and professional growers. The online guide covers site preparation, pest management, disease identification and treatment, and plenty of other helpful information for growing chestnut trees.

"We will need to plant a lot of trees if we are to eventually restore the American chestnut to its former range," says SFI president and CEO Kathy Abusow. "The manual provides advice, so landowners can work with us."

The ACF has also launched an online database where volunteers and partner groups can track the progress of their chestnut saplings. Another aspect of the SFI grant-funded project entailed the first plantings of some of the most advanced blight-resistant chestnut varieties in the southeastern United States. Earlier this year, the ACF planted seedlings on land owned by SFI grant participants, with the hope of one day re-establishing the American chestnut population in the Appalachian forest ecosystem. For more information and to download the new manual, visit www.acf.org.



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In Memoriam: Francis H. Cabot (1925–2011)

by Panayoti Kelaidis

On November 19, 2011, when Frank Cabot passed away peacefully at his home in La Malbaie, Quebec, we lost one of the most eminent gardeners of our era, and arguably the greatest gardener North America has ever produced.

Frank possessed the vision and means to practice horticulture on a near mythic scale. He created not one but two extraordinary private gardens of enormous scope: Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, New York, and Les Quatre Vents in Quebec, Canada.



Frank Cabot

His personal gardens are an incredible achievement, but Frank's greater legacy can be seen in the fruits of his visionary leadership in—and philanthropic commitment to—many regional and national gardening organizations over the years. He served on the boards or the advisory groups of the New York Botanical Garden, the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Toronto, among many others.

There's no doubt Frank will be best remembered for founding, in 1989, and supporting the Garden Conservancy, a non-profit organization devoted to the preservation of exceptional private gardens in North America. Frank served as the guiding spirit of this dynamic organization, which to date has taken a leading role in preserving 16 significant private and public American gardens as varied as the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, and Pearl Fryar's topiary garden in Bishopville, South Carolina. The Conservancy also coordinates an annual listing of outstanding private gardens open to the public from coast to coast. Having a garden included in the Conservancy's annual *Open Days Directory* has become a sought-after honor for American gardeners.

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Spring bulbs bloom at Cabot's Stonecrop Gardens.



Stonecrop Garden's conservatory houses tropicals in winter.

Frank cut a striking figure: tall, handsome, elegant, and erudite—the epitome of a gentleman gardener. Despite his personal wealth and widely recognized accomplishments, he described himself as “a horticultural enthusiast” and could often be found down on his knees weeding in his gardens (on occasion being mistaken for the hired help), and he was an active participant in a wide variety of horticultural groups.

I first met Frank in 1980, when we both spoke at a study weekend of the North American Rock Garden Society. It was quite literally my launch in horticulture, because after my presentation I stumbled in pitch dark off the dais into the audience. Before his speech the next day Frank warned the audience that they'd better stay awake for his talk, lest “I too hurl myself into your arms.” Years later, I reminded Frank of the incident. Characteristically, he told me how much he enjoyed my talk and actually recounted details of what I had said rather than dwelling on my mishap.

Frank had a towering passion for plants, people, and projects. I doubt that many people have visited or relished more gardens, or studied them with as great an eye. He was a connoisseur of plants for their own sake, and crystallized much of his gardening vision in *The Greater Perfection*, a sumptuous book describing his creation of Les Quatres Vents, which earned the American Horticultural Society Book Award in 2002. He also articulated his passion in charming, witty, and above all inspiring presentations over the last few decades from coast to coast. He lived and breathed gardens as few people have, on a heroic scale that few of us can even imagine.

All who encountered him will treasure memories of his graciousness and willingness to freely share his knowledge and passion for gardening. Under Frank's Olympian watch, American horticulture has thrived mightily.

Panayoti Kelaidis is senior curator and director of outreach at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Colorado.

PEOPLE and PLACES in the NEWS

San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Appoints New Executive Director

This past October, the San Francisco Botanical Garden (SFBG) Society in California appointed **Sue Ann Schiff** as its new executive director. Schiff, who had been serving as the organization's interim executive director since April 2011, has leadership experience in a variety of nonprofits and was also formerly assistant dean of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.



Sue Ann Schiff

Since becoming interim director, Schiff has rejuvenated the society's campaign to build a nursery center focused on sustainability, and improved SFBG's community relationships and programs as part of the larger Golden Gate Park site.

"San Francisco Botanical Garden is one of our city's great treasures," Schiff says. "From my first day with the Society, I have been inspired by the Garden, the meaning it holds for visitors of all ages and backgrounds, and the extraordinary commitment of our trustees, staff, volunteers, and Recreation and Park Department team."

For more information about SFBG, visit www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

NEW NETWORK TO STUDY EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PLANTS

In 2012, the National Science Foundation will fund a \$434 million effort called the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) to help scientists understand how ecosystems respond to climate change, invasive species, and shifts in biodiversity. The network will collect data on more than 500 climate and/or ecology related variables from 20 different regions of the United States for the next 30 years. Researchers, educators, and the public will be able to access the data, analyze it, and look for patterns. The network's developers hope to create a more unified effort to examine every influence that climate change might have on regional ecology in the future.

Many researchers have already been investigating specific ecological ramifications of climate change. Two recent studies looked at the influence climate shifts will have on tree species and regional diversity. One looked at 15 different coniferous tree species growing in natural areas across the West from the Sierra Nevada to the Columbia Plateau to see how they are responding to warming temperatures. The results, published in the December 2011 issue of the journal *Remote Sensing of Environment*, indicate these species are currently shifting their ranges. For instance, formerly prevalent

species such as lodgepole pines are declining and even disappearing in some areas to be replaced by opportunistic newcomers like Douglas fir. Climate change has also made conditions more favorable to outbreaks of disease and pests. Based on these findings, the researchers predict that the "forests of the future" will look dramatically different than the ones in existence today.

In a separate study, published in the October 2011 issue of *Global Change Biology*, researchers at Duke University found that eastern tree species are also "migrating" in response to climate change, but are not keeping pace with environmental shifts. The scientists looked at 92 tree species across 31 eastern states and found that the geographic ranges of 59 percent of the species examined were contracting from both north and south. Only 21 percent had clearly migrated northward, with 16 percent going south and four percent expanding their range in both directions.

The goal of NEON is to provide consistency in ecological research like these studies and give scientists the ability to apply these individual findings to the bigger picture. For more details about this project, visit www.neoninc.org.

Written by Editorial Assistant Helen Thompson.

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8 BULBS TO START THEM VIGOROUSLY, Beating Soil-wet, Heaving Barrier BLOOMING?	9 SEEDS To Help GERMINATION Percentage and SPEED EARLIER, BETTER YIELDS, including Vegetables	10 LAWNs To Make QUICKER, deeper, TOUGHER TURF from SEED, SOIL, Stolons, Sprigs, HYDRO-seeding	
11 XMAS TREES	17 HYDROSEEDING	22 FLOWERING PLANT COMPETITIONS	
12 REFORESTATION	18 LANDSCAPING	23 INTERIORSCAPING	
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GREEN GARAGE® by Rita Pelczar

Contributing editor Rita Pelczar reports on products she has found useful or innovative in her garden, with an emphasis on earth-friendly products and supplies. Here she focuses on products that enhance indoor gardening.

I never seem to have enough window space for my houseplants when I bring them indoors in the fall, so I was pleased to find the **Branch Plant Stand** from Gardener's Supply (www.gardeners.com) that takes up very little space but supports three of my favorite indoor plants. The tubular steel has a rustic bronze finish and is designed to look like branches, with a small bird perched at the top. Three glass shelves measure 7¾, 9½, and 11½ inches square. It's attractive, lightweight, sturdy, and easy to assemble.



PotHoles Drainage Discs (www.gotpot-holes.com) ensure good drainage in your flowerpots. A double layer of mesh material holds a hydroponic filler that promotes drainage as well as air flow to roots, but holds in the soil. When repotting plants, just place a disc in the bottom of your pot before adding soil. They are available in a variety of sizes and are easily rinsed for reuse.

Before reusing a clay pot, it's a good idea to soak it and scour off crusted soil and the salt deposits from fertilizer or hard water. This task is made easier with **Outdoor Scouring Pads** from Goodbye Detergent!® (www.goodbyedetergent.com). These durable, reusable pads work without any soap required; just soak them in water and scrub. They come in three strengths for different types of cleaning.

This winter, get a jump on next season's pests that are overwintering in your trees and shrubs, waiting for spring's arrival to do their damage. Bonide's organic **All Seasons Horticultural Spray Oil** (www.bonide.com) smothers soft-bodied insects and eggs of pests such as scales, leafhoppers, thrips, spider mites, whiteflies, and mealybugs, and is recommended for use on a variety of trees, roses, and vegetables. Be sure to follow all label instructions, and do not apply the oil when temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

A contributing editor for The American Gardener, Rita Pelczar lives in North Carolina. She is the editor-in-chief of the AHS's Homegrown Harvest (Mitchell Beazley/Octopus USA, 2010).

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Indianapolis Museum of Art

by Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

This is the debut of a new column exploring and celebrating America's public gardens. Our tour guide is Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp, a garden columnist and author of The Visitor's Guide to American Gardens (Cool Springs Press, 2011). For 2012, Jo Ellen is focusing on gardens she feels are little known regional gems that merit broader recognition.

ONE OF MY strongest memories of the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) is of a sunny February day more than 25 years ago, when I was there photographing plants. Detecting a sweet scent in the air, I followed my nose to a stand of blooming witch hazels (*Hamamelis* spp.). As an inexperienced gardener, I had no idea there were plants that bloomed in an Indiana winter, let alone perfumed ones.

Plants are probably not the first thing to come to mind when you visit an art museum, but my experience exemplifies one of the underrated aspects of the IMA gardens and grounds. It is a go-to place to see hundreds of thriving, well-adapted ornamentals in a landscape setting. Observing plants through the seasons in beautifully designed beds gives visitors a feel for what these trees, shrubs, and perennials might look like in their own gardens. And having a chance to view the art, both in the museum and around the grounds, makes it a doubly rewarding destination.

The centerpiece of the grounds is the 26-acre **Oldfields**, a restored American country place era estate on the National



The Richard A. and Helen J. Dickinson Four Seasons Garden is a themed garden within Oldfields.

Register of Historic Places. Designed in the 1920s by Percival Gallagher of the famous Olmsted Brothers firm, Oldfields encompasses a formal garden, ravine garden, tree-lined allée, fountain, cutting garden, sensory garden, orchard, vegetable garden, and scenic views.

An eclectic collection of sculpture adorns the gardens and grounds. Although much of it is in keeping with 1920s design elements, George Rickey's **Two Lines Oblique Down, Variation III**, a contemporary kinetic sculpture, sways near the entrance to the museum, and Robert Indiana's original steel **LOVE** sculpture anchors the east end of Sutphin Mall.

One of the museum's more recent acquisitions, the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, is known as **100 Acres**. The park is lovely any time of year, but spring is my favorite because of the thousands of wildflowers that emerge. An extensive trail system allows for exploration of the park's woods, wetlands, meadow, and 35-acre lake.

Garden columnist and author Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Additional Information

Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46208. (317) 923-1331. www.imamuseum.org.

- 150 acres of landscaped gardens and natural areas
- As part of the Reciprocal Admissions Program, AHS members receive a discount in the gift shop. The museum and grounds are handicap accessible. No admission fee except for special exhibits.

While in Indianapolis, other sites to consider visiting include:

- **Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Garden**, www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org.
- **The Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens**, www.indyzoo.com.

Recommendations for Your Gardening Library

Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs

Michael A. Dirr. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2011. 951 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$79.95.

AS A LONGTIME fan of Michael Dirr's work, I have come to rely upon the woody plant knowledge he has shared through his many respected publications. His latest book, *Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs*, brings together the best from two of his previous works—*Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs* (1997) and *Dirr's Trees and Shrubs for Warm Climates* (2002)—plus much more. Even if you already have one or both of the references this book is based on, it would still make a great addition to your garden book shelf.

From *Abelia chinensis* to *Ziziphus jujuba*, this up-to-date and well-organized encyclopedia includes 380 genera “with an emphasis on the best new introductions of the past 10 to 15 years,” along with thousands of color photographs showing key plant characteristics and how they look in landscape situations. It can be read cover to cover or used as a reference for looking up detailed information about specific plants.

For gardeners or landscape designers searching for plants with specific traits to suit the conditions of a particular site or a client's desires, the section “Selecting Plants for Specific Characteristics or Purposes” provides lists of plants sorted by traits such as flower color, winter interest, and shade tolerance.

Although less comprehensive in species coverage than Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, this reference is clearly intended to be more reflective and personal. His relaxed style and authoritative and often opinionated descriptions, based on years of personal experience and observation, make for an informative and enjoyable read. For example, when describing silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), he notes that “Many people express excitement about this species, but I have yet to see one that stimulates my gardening juices,” and refers to box-elder (*Acer negundo*) as “a biological fright.”

To me, Dirr's frank and often witty assessments make his works all the more special, unique, and fun to read. So, while I may sometimes disagree based on my own experience and locality, I respect Dirr's view and often learn from it. Like he says in this book, “One gardener's flower is another's weed.”

—James B. Calkins

James B. Calkins is a landscape horticulturist and educator who lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Designing With Conifers

Richard L. Bitner. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2011. 296 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$34.95.

AN IMMENSE array of conifer species is available today for garden designers and homeowners to choose from. But creating a pleasing garden with these plants takes knowledge and experience, which Richard Bitner deftly shares in *Designing with Conifers*. This book is written not only for garden designers and other landscape professionals, but also for anyone who wants to learn more about how to effectively use conifers in garden settings.

As Bitner points out in the introduction, conifers have gotten a bad rap because they are sometimes used inappropriately, such as placing them too close to a home, often as “blobs in a row across the front of the house.” To remedy this, the book's focus is on helping readers make better choices when selecting conifers and placing them in the landscape.

Throughout the book, Bitner does an excellent job of reinforcing the “right plant, right place” concept, which can never be overstated. Among the many factors he urges readers to consider are specific details on soil requirements, integrating conifers within beds and borders, and utilizing the wide range of conifer needle colors to complement garden designs. The clear color photographs help readers envision how incorporating conifers into established beds can enhance the overall design of the garden and provide that year-round interest we're all trying to achieve.

As a designer, I particularly enjoyed the chapters on conifer shapes, plus the extensive lists of species and cultivars that meet these shape requirements. When choosing conifers, it's very helpful to know the 10-year estimated height and width variables for specific plants, many of which are included here. These may differ a bit depending on region and climate, but having this information as a guideline is essential for making appropriate plant selections.

Designing With Conifers offers a great deal of practical information for creating harmonious landscapes that employ conifers to their best effect. It will become a well-used resource in my library and a valuable aid when I meet with clients who want to add conifers to their gardens.

—Anne Marsh

Anne Marsh is cofounder of Marsh & Fear Garden Solutions (www.marshfear.com) in Portland, Oregon.

One Writer's Garden: Eudora Welty's Home Place

Susan Haltom and Jane Roy Brown. University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, 2011. 272 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$35.

IN *One Writer's Garden*, garden designer and historian Susan Haltom and landscape historian Jane Roy Brown weave a story of a garden, a family, and a time period into a book that is sure to please admirers of Eudora Welty's fiction and photography as well as fans of garden history. Haltom and Brown use Welty's garden in Jackson, Mississippi, as the lens for examining the author's life and the historical and societal changes in

the 20th century that influenced her work.

"Miss Eudora," as Welty was known, was both a Southern regional treasure and a nationally recognized writer. Her novel, *The Optimist's Daughter*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973. She was well-educated—at the University of Wisconsin and Columbia University in New York City—and well-traveled. Perhaps because she spent so much time away from home, her garden helped anchor her life and became a source of inspiration and memories for her writing.

The culmination of more than a decade of work, *One Writer's Garden* taps into the research required for the garden's painstaking restoration. By the mid-1990s, little remained of the garden—originally designed by Welty's mother, Chestina—that was planted some 70 years earlier.

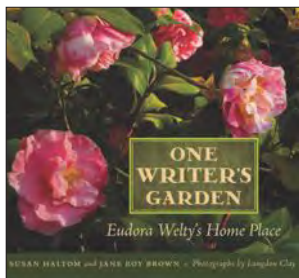
The research for the restoration and for the book was initially informed by conversations between Haltom and Welty before the latter's death in 2001. Later, the authors tapped journals, family photographs, and correspondence—snippets of which are included in the book. They also interviewed some of Welty's family members and friends. Combined, these sources provide fascinating insights into 20th-century trends, suburban life in Mississippi, and the gardens that surrounded similar homes of the period.

The Welty garden evolved through the decades, influenced by historic events and societal developments such as the Great Depression, World War II, the advent of garden clubs and automobiles, and the surrender of the front yard as a public space. This is not a history grown dusty and remote—evidence of this period can still be gleaned from homes and gardens in older neighborhoods—it is part of our living landscape history. It is familiar enough to be accepted unquestioned, but not always thoroughly understood without the aid of the research and well-informed commentary provided in books like this one.

One Writer's Garden is a sparkling, multifaceted work rich in regional personalities, plants, and events that gardeners, with or without a telltale drawl, will relish. It is an important work of garden literature—not to mention a good read.

—Linda Askey

Linda Askey is a horticulturist and garden writer based in Birmingham, Alabama.

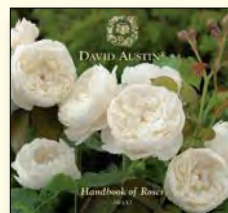


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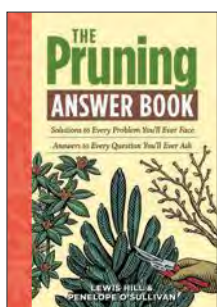
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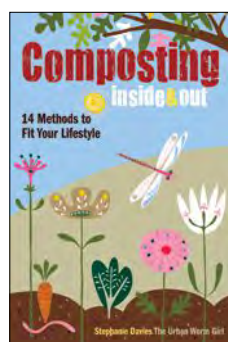
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Expert Gardening Advice

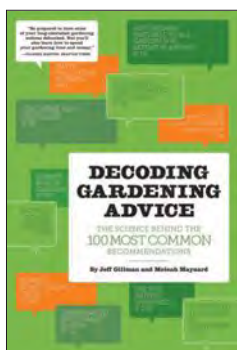
WOULDN'T IT be great if, whenever you had a gardening question, you could have an expert wander your garden with you and explain everything you ever wanted to know in easy-to-understand terms? Fortunately, a number of experts have produced books that are the next best thing to a personal consultation, offering insights and comprehensive information on a variety of garden topics. This selection of books, for example, is packed with answers to quench even the most inquiring minds. The tone of these approachable manuals makes reading them feel almost like having a conversation with the authors, to boot.



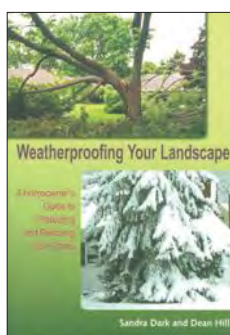
Puzzled by pruning? *The Pruning Answer Book* (Storey Publishing, 2011, \$14.95) by Lewis Hill and Penelope O'Sullivan uses a Q & A format to explain everything and anything you could possibly want to know about the subject. Why and when to prune? Check. Which tools to use? Check. How to prune specific types of plants? Check. Straightforward line drawings illustrate the concepts and instructions, plus helpful charts and sidebars provide even more ideas and information.



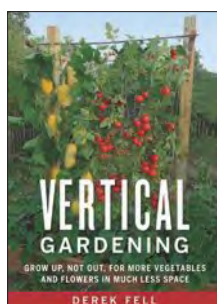
Curious about compost? Stephanie Davies will give you the lowdown in *Composting Inside & Out* (Betterway Home Books, 2011, \$16.99). Whether you're just getting started or want to kick your efforts up a notch, Davies covers the why-to as well as the how-to for a variety of composting methods to fit your particular situation. Or, if things don't seem to be going right, you can skip right to the chapter on troubleshooting.



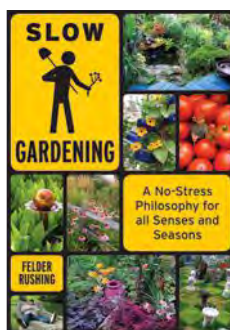
Overwhelmed by advice? In *Decoding Gardening Advice* (Timber Press, 2011, \$18.95), horticulture professor Jeff Gillman and Master Gardener Meleah Maynard look at the "science behind the 100 most common recommendations" to sort the proverbial wheat from the chaff on topics such as soil, water, lawn care, and pest, disease, and weed control. For each, the authors first present "good advice," then "advice that's debatable," and finally "advice that's just wrong," giving their reasoning along the way.



Wondering about weatherproofing? It may not seem like you can do much to protect your garden from storms, fire, drought, and other natural disasters, but in *Weatherproofing Your Landscape* (University Press of Florida, 2011, \$19.95), Sandra Dark and Dean Hill guide you through what you can do before, during, and after extreme weather events, from minimizing vulnerability beforehand to considering insurance to helping plants recover from damage.



Short on space? *Vertical Gardening* (Rodale, 2011, \$23.99) offers the solution of growing up instead of out, based on author Derek Fell's 20 years of experimentation in his own gardens in Pennsylvania. He shares his "best advice and tips for creating planting beds of small spaces or strips of soil; using trellises and supports in new and attractive ways; and choosing the best plants for climbing, cascading, and growing vertically."



Struggling to stop and smell the roses? Felder Rushing has the remedy: a simple attitude adjustment, which he humorously outlines in *Slow Gardening* (Chelsea Green, 2011, \$29.95). Much like the Slow Food movement that inspired it, Rushing's philosophy is about savoring all that life has to offer rather than slogging through an unending to-do list in a desperate attempt to "keep up with the Joneses."

—Viveka Neveln, Associate Editor



REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Horticultural Events from Around the Country

NORTHEAST

CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

RAP JAN. 21–FEB. 26. **Caribbean Garden.** Exhibit. New York Botanical Garden. Bronx, New York. (718) 817-8700. www.nybg.org.

FEB. 4. **Spring into the Garden.** Symposium. Connecticut Horticultural Society. Portland, Connecticut. (860) 529-8713. www.cthort.org.

RAP FEB. 5. **Chase Away the Winter Blues.** Guided tour. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Brooklyn, New York. (718) 623-7200. www.bbg.org.

✿ FEB. 23–26. **Connecticut Flower & Garden Show.** Connecticut Convention Center. Hartford, Connecticut. (860) 844-8461. www.ctflowershow.com.

✿ FEB. 23–26. **Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show.** Rhode Island Convention Center. Providence, Rhode Island. (401) 272-0980. www.flowershow.com.

Looking ahead

✿ MAR. 1–4. **CNY Blooms Flower & Garden Show.** OnCenter Complex. Syracuse, New York. (800) 979-1879. www.cnyblooms.com.

RAP MAR. 10. **Making Brooklyn Bloom.** Conference. Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Brooklyn, New York. (718) 623-7200. www.bbg.org.

✿ MAR. 15–18. **GardenScape Rochester Flower Show.** Monroe County Fair & Expo Center. Rochester, New York. (585) 455-5454. www.rochesterflowershow.com.

MID-ATLANTIC

DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, WV

RAP JAN. 29. **Native Plants for Diverse Landscapes.** Lecture. Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173. www.greenspring.org.

FEB. 3. **Today's Horticulture.** Symposium. Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer Foundation, and the Professional Gardener Alumni Association. Longwood Gardens Ballroom. Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. (610) 388-5454. www.longwoodgardens.org.

✿ FEB. 9–12. **Maymont Flower & Garden Show.** Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Botanical gardens and arboreta that participate in AHS's Reciprocal Admissions Program are identified with the **RAP** symbol. AHS members showing a valid membership card are eligible for free admission to the garden or other benefits. Special events may not be included; contact the host site for details or visit www.ahs.org/rap.

Flower and garden shows that offer free or discounted admission to AHS members or present AHS awards are designated by a ✿ symbol. For details on the specific benefits offered, visit www.ahs.org/events/index.htm and click on "Flower and Home and Garden Shows."

Richmond, Virginia. (800) 332-3976. www.macevents.com/show.cfm/eventID/139.

FEB. 16. **Land Ethics Symposium: Creative Approaches for Ecological Landscaping.** Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. Langhorne, Pennsylvania. (215) 862-2924. www.bhwp.org.

✿ FEB. 16–19. **New Jersey Flower and Garden Show.** New Jersey Convention Center. Edison, New Jersey. (800) 332-3976. www.njflowershow.com.

FEB. 18–APR. 29. **Orchid Mystique: Nature's Triumph.** Exhibit. United States Botanic Garden. Washington, D.C. (202) 225-8333. www.usbg.gov.

FEB. 24. **Green Matters: Urban Farming Pioneers.** Symposium. Brookside Gardens. Wheaton, Maryland. (301) 962-1400. www.brooksidegardens.org.

Looking ahead

✿ MAR. 2–4. **Richmond Home & Garden Show.** Richmond Raceway Complex. Richmond, Virginia. (804) 441-0013. www.richmondhomeandgardenshow.com.

✿ MAR. 3 & 4, 9–11. **Maryland Home & Garden Show.** Maryland State Fairgrounds. Timonium, Maryland. (410) 863-1180. www.mdhomeandgarden.com.

✿ MAR. 4–11. **Philadelphia International Flower Show.** The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (215) 988-8899. www.theflowershow.com.

✿ MAR. 9–11. **Washington Home & Garden Show.** Washington Convention Center. Washington, DC. (703) 823-7960. www.washingtonhomeandgardenshow.com.

✿ MAR. 15–18. **Springfest Flower & Garden Show.** Augusta, New Jersey. (973) 948-9448. www.springfestgardenshow.org.

RAP MAR. 31. **Lahr Native Plant Symposium and Sale.** Beltsville Area Research Center. United States National Arboretum. Washington, D.C. (202) 245-4523. www.usna.usda.gov.

SOUTHEAST

AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN

JAN. 27–29. **Southern Gardening Symposium.** Callaway Gardens. Pine Mountain, Georgia. (800) 225-5292. www.callawaygardens.com.

RAP JAN. 28. **Native Plant Conservation.** Course. Birmingham Botanical Garden. Birmingham, Alabama. (205) 414-3950. www.bbgardens.org.

FEB. 4 & 5. **Garden Fest! 2012.** Show, plant sale, lectures, seminars. Garden Club of Indian River County. Vero Beach, Florida. (772) 567-4602. www.gardenclubofirc.org.

RAP FEB. 4–APR. 15. **Orchid Daze.** Exhibition, plant sales, clinics, and tours. Atlanta Botanical Garden. Atlanta, Georgia. (404) 876-5859. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.

✿ FEB. 10–12. **The Antiques and Garden Show of Nashville.** Nashville Convention Center. Nashville, Tennessee. (800) 891-8075. www.antiquesandgardenshow.com.

RAP FEB. 17. **Southern Garden Heritage Conference.** The State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Athens, Georgia. (706) 442-6156. www.uga.edu/botgarden.

✿ FEB. 29–MAR. 4. **Southern Spring Home & Garden Show.** The Park Expo & Conference Center. Charlotte, North Carolina. (800) 849-0248. www.southernshows.com/sss.

✿ MAR. 1–4. **Nashville Lawn & Garden Show.** Tennessee State Fairgrounds. Nashville, Tennessee. (615) 876-7680. www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com.

MAR. 6. **The Roots of Passion: The Inspired**

Gardener. Davidson Horticultural Symposium. Davidson Garden Club. Davidson College. Davidson, North Carolina. (704) 892-9062. www.davidsonsymposium.org.

NORTH CENTRAL

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI

RAP JAN. 26. **Landscape Genius: The Work of Olmsted, Simonds, and Jensen.** Lecture. Morton Arboretum. Lisle, Illinois. (630) 968-0074. www.mortonarb.org.

RAP JAN. 28. **Soils: Where Are Your Roots?** Class. Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-5440. www.chicagobotanic.org.

RAP FEB. 7. **Gardening in Victorian Times.** Lecture. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

RAP FEB. 7. **Tropical Orchids for Beginners.** Class. Green Bay Botanical Garden. Green Bay, Wisconsin. (920) 490-9457. www.gbbg.org.

RAP FEB. 23. **Magical Terrariums.** Class. Vander Veer Botanical Park. Davenport, Iowa. (563) 326-7818. www.cityofdavenportiowa.com.

Looking ahead

 MAR. 1-4. **Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show.** Allen County Memorial Coliseum. Fort Wayne, Indiana. (800) 695-5288. www.home-gardenshow.com.

MAR. 10-18. **Chicago Flower & Garden Show.** Navy Pier. Chicago, Illinois. (312) 595-5400. www.chicagoflower.com.

 MAR. 10-18. **Indiana Flower & Patio Show.** Indiana State Fairgrounds. Indianapolis, Indiana. (317) 576-9933. www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com.

SOUTH CENTRAL

AR, KS, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX

FEB. 10-12. **Texas Home & Garden Show.** Houston Reliant Center. Houston, Texas. (713) 529-1616. www.texashomeandgarden.com.

RAP FEB. 16. **Plant Propagation from Seed.** Class. Shaw Nature Reserve. Missouri Botanical Garden. St. Louis, Missouri. (314) 577-5100. www.mobot.org.

RAP FEB. 18. **Off the Garden Path.** Lecture. Garvan Woodland Gardens. University of Arkansas. Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. (501) 262-9300. www.garvangardens.com.

 FEB. 24-26. **Arkansas Flower & Garden**

Show. State House Convention Center. Little Rock, Arkansas. (501) 671-2126. www.arflowerandgardenshow.org.

RAP FEB. 25 & 26. **Native Plant Symposium.** Native Plant Society of Texas. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Austin, Texas. (512) 232-0100. www.wildflower.org.

RAP MAR. 3. **Organic Gardeners' Plant Sale.** Zilker Botanical Garden. Austin, Texas. (512) 477-8672. www.zilker garden.org.

SOUTHWEST

AZ, CO, NM, UT

RAP JAN. 16-APR. 2. **Design for a Living World.** Exhibit. The Nature Conservancy. Desert Botanical Garden. Phoenix, Arizona. (480) 941-1225. www.dbg.org.

RAP THROUGH FEB. 26. **The Nature of Sustainable Art.** Exhibit. Red Butte Garden at The University of Utah. Salt Lake City, Utah. (801) 585-0556. www.redbuttegarden.org.

FEB. 11-19. **Colorado Garden & Home Show.** Colorado Convention Center. Denver, Colorado. www.gardeningcolorado.com.

RAP FEB. 21. **Tulip: The Flower that Drove Men Mad.** Lecture. Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Santa Fe, New Mexico. (505) 471-9103. www.santafebotanicalgarden.org.

FEB. 23-26. **Water Conservation Conference & Xeriscape Expo.** Xeriscape Council of New Mexico. Crowne Plaza. Albuquerque, New Mexico. www.xeriscapenm.com.

RAP FEB. 28. **The Art and Science of Plant Herbarium Collections.** Lecture. Denver Botanic Gardens. Denver, Colorado. (720) 865-3500. www.botanicgardens.org.

Looking ahead

 MAR. 2-4. **Maricopa County Home Show: Southwest Flower & Garden Experience.** University of Phoenix Stadium. Phoenix, Arizona. (602) 485-1691. www.maricopacountyhomeshows.com.

RAP MAR. 6. **Utah Rare Plant Meeting.** Red Butte Garden and Utah Native Plant Society. University of Utah. Salt Lake City, Utah. (801) 585-5853. www.unps.org.

WEST COAST

CA, HI, NV

RAP JAN. 14-FEB. 3. **Plants Illustrated Exhibition.** University of California Botanical Garden. Berkeley, California. (510) 643-2755. www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

RAP JAN. 28. **How to Design a Beautiful Garden with Heirlooms, Flowers, Vegetables and Herbs.** Class. San Francisco Botanical

Garden at Strybing Arboretum. San Francisco, California. (415) 661-1316. www.sfbotanicalgardensociety.org.


RAP FEB. 4. **Camellia Festival.** Descanso Gardens. La Cañada Flintridge, California. (818) 949-4200. www.descansogardens.org.

FEB. 23-26. **Pacific Orchid Exhibition.** San Francisco Orchid Society. San Francisco, California. www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.

FEB. 26. **Asian and Indian Trees.** Guided tour. Foster Botanical Garden. Honolulu, Hawaii. (808) 522-7066. www.honolulu.gov/parks/hbg.

Looking ahead

MAR. 2-4. **Magnolia Society International.** Annual Meeting. Sonoma Valley, California. www.magnoliasociety.org.

 MAR. 21-25. **San Francisco Flower & Garden Show.** San Mateo Center. San Mateo, California. (415) 684-7278. www.sfgardenshow.com.

NORTHWEST

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

 FEB. 8-12. **Northwest Flower & Garden Show.** Washington State Convention Center. Seattle, Washington. (253) 756-2121. www.gardenshow.com.

FEB. 15 & 16. **Montana Plant Conservation Conference.** Montana Native Plant Society. Helena, Montana. www.mtnativeplants.org.

RAP FEB. 21. **Pruning Woody Plants.** Class. University of Washington Botanic Gardens. Washington Park Arboretum. Seattle, Washington. (206) 685-8033. <http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg>.

MAR. 5. **Flora of Prince William Sound.** Lecture. Alaska Native Plant Society. Campbell Creek Science Center. Anchorage, Alaska. www.aknps.org.

CANADA

JAN. 28. **Photographing Winter Landscapes.** Workshop. Arboretum at the University of Guelph. Guelph, Ontario. (519) 824-4120 x52358. www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum.

FEB. 13. **Exploring the Love Lore of Plants.** Talk. Assiniboine Park Conservatory. Winnipeg, Manitoba. (204) 927-6000. www.assiniboinepark.ca.

Looking ahead

MAR. 16-25. **Canada Blooms and the National Home Show.** Landscape Toronto and the Garden Club of Toronto. Direct Energy Centre. Toronto, Ontario. www.canadablooms.com.

Special Events and Anniversaries

IN ADDITION TO the American Horticultural Society's 90th anniversary, 2012 will bring several anniversary celebrations to gardens across North America. Here are some highlights:

The new year marks both the 30th anniversary of the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center** in Austin, Texas, and what would have been Johnson's 100th birthday. The Center will celebrate the "Environmental First Lady" with the opening of the



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Molly Steves Zachry Texas Arboretum this spring, along with other events throughout the year leading up to Johnson's birthday on December 22. For example, local sculptor Logan Stoltenwerck's outdoor exhibit of giant metal flower sculptures, titled "A Bouquet for Mrs. J.," opens in March. In July, the Center will unveil a traveling exhibit on Johnson and her legacy of native plant conservation that will make appearances at public gardens and parks around the country. For more information, visit www.ladybirdjohnson.org or www.wildflower.org.

On the West Coast, the **60th Annual Pacific Orchid Exhibition** and the **Orchid Society of San Francisco** will pay homage to the Golden Gate Bridge's 75th anniversary with the theme "a salute to the golden gate" and more than 150,000 flowers. From February 23 to 26, the exhibition will showcase exotic species from the Bay Area's many microclimates and from other worldwide locales. Orchid fans can enjoy educational exhibits from around the world, take daily docent tours, and learn cultivation tips. Orchid societies will also be displaying their most unique hybrids and other varieties. For more information or to register, go to www.orchidsanfrancisco.org.



Reford Gardens

In Canada, Quebec's **Reford Gardens**, or **Les Jardins de Metis**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a smorgasbord of events including lectures, circus events, a food festival, musical brunches, and its 13th International Garden Festival. The gardens' staff is encouraging the public to post photographs, videos, and memories of time spent at Reford since its founding in 1962 to form a virtual history exhibit. For more information, visit www.refordgardens.com.

Floriade

A DUTCH FLOWER EXPOSITION that only rolls around every 10 years, Floriade is the "World's Fair of Horticulture." This year, the 6th edition of Floriade will be held in Venlo, the Netherlands, from April 5 to October 7. This event will



The Villa Flora in Floriade in the Netherlands.

feature exhibits, gardens, lectures, workshops, performances, tastes, sounds, and smells from more than 100 participating countries over the course of its six-month run.

British landscape architect John Boon has overseen the design of a 160-acre park in Venlo divided into five sections: Environment, Relax & Heal, Green Engine, Education & Innovation, and the World Show Stage. The Environment section focuses on how gardens improve quality of life with a variety of office garden designs, and a "living" pavilion that brings nature inside the house. With a vibrant color scheme, "Relax & Heal" features a healing garden, a "feel good garden," and a 1,200-yard cable car system. "Green Engine" gives sustainability a chance to shine with a plant exhibit that transforms a dull office into a horticultural oasis, and three creatively sustainable gardens. In "Education & Innovation," visitors can experience life "through the eyes of a bee" in the Bee Pavilion, dabble in garden design, and view an exhibit on recycled products that includes tomatoes grown on a substrate of old carpet. Finally, performers from all over the world will star in "World Show Stage," which also includes a rose garden and an exhibit on nature in Indonesian culture. For more information on this multifaceted event, visit www.floriade.org.

—Helen Thompson, Editorial Assistant

PRONUNCIATIONS AND PLANTING ZONES

Most of the cultivated plants described in this issue are listed here with their pronunciations, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones, and AHS Plant Heat Zones. These zones suggest a range of locations where temperatures are appropriate—both in winter and summer—for growing each plant.

While the zones are a good place to start in determining plant adaptability in your region, factors such as exposure, moisture, snow cover, and humidity also play an important role in plant survival. The zones tend to be conservative; plants may grow outside the ranges indicated. A USDA zone rating of 0–0 means that the plant is a true annual and completes its life cycle in a year or less.

Agapanthus campanulatus ag-uh-PAN-thus kam-pan-yew-LAY-tus
(USDA Hardiness Zones 7–12, AHS Heat Zones 12–7)

Alcea ficifolia AL-see-uh fih-sih-FO-lee-uh (3–9, 9–1)

Allium cepa var. aggregatum AL-ee-um SEH-puh var. ag-reh-GAY-tum
(5–11, 12–2)

Anemone hupehensis uh-NEM-o-nee hoo-pee-EN-sis (5–7, 7–5)

Angelonia angustifolia an-jeh-LO-nee-uh ang-gus-tih-FO-lee-uh
(9–10, 10–9)

Callitropsis nootkatensis kal-ih-TROP-sis noot-kuh-TEN-sis (4–8, 8–4)

Camellia japonica kuh-MEEL-yuh jah-PON-ih-kuh (7–8, 8–7)

Campsis ×tagliabuana KAMP-siss tag-lee-ah-byew-AN-uh (5–9, 9–5)

Caryopteris ×clandonensis kair-ee-OP-tur-iss klan-doh-NEN-siss (5–9, 9–1)

Coreopsis verticillata kor-ee-OP-siss vur-tih-sih-LAY-tuh (4–9, 9–1)

Cornus kousa KOR-nus KOO-suh (5–8, 8–5)

Drimys winteri var. chiloenae DRIM-iss WIN-tur-eye var. chil-o-EN-see
(7–10, 10–7)

Enkianthus serrulatus en-kee-AN-thus sair-yew-LAY-tus (6–8, 8–6)

Eschscholzia californica es-SHOLTZ-zee-uh kal-ih-FORN-ih-kuh
(0–0, 12–1)

Gaillardia ×grandiflora gay-LARD-ee-uh gran-dih-FLOR-uh (3–9, 10–1)

Globularia ×indubia glob-yew-LAIR-ee-uh in-DEW-be-uh (zones not yet assigned)

Hesperaloe parviflora hes-pur-AL-o par-vih-FLOR-uh (6–11, 12–6)

Hydrangea macrophylla hy-DRAN-juh mak-ro-FIL-luh (6–9, 9–6)

H. paniculata H. pan-ik-yew-LAY-tuh (4–8, 8–1)

Jasminum beesianum JAZ-mih-num bee-see-AN-um (10–11, 12–1)

J. floridum J. FLOR-ih-dum (8–10, 10–8)

J. grandiflorum ssp. grandiflorum J. gran-dih-FLOR-um ssp.
gran-dih-FLOR-um (9–11, 12–9)

J. humile J. HYEW-mih-lee (7–9, 9–7)

J. laurifolium forma nitidum J. law-rih-FO-lee-um forma
NIT-ih-dum (10–11, 12–7)

J. mesnyi J. MES-nee-eye (8–9, 9–8)

J. nudiflorum J. new-dih-FLOR-um (6–9, 9–6)

J. officinale var. affine J. oh-fiss-ih-NAL-ee var. uh-FEE-nay (9–10, 10–9)

J. parkeri J. PAR-ker-eye (8–10, 12–8)

J. polyanthum J. pah-lee-AN-thum (9–10, 10–9)

J. rex J. REKS (11, 12–10)

J. sambac J. SAM-bak (10–11, 12–9)

J. ×stephanense J. stef-uh-NEN-see (7–11, 12–8)

Lewisia longipetala loo-ISS-ee-uh lon-jih-PEH-tal-uh (4–7, 7–1)

Lilium brownii LIL-ee-um BROWN-ee-eye (zones not yet assigned)

Magnolia biondi mag-NOLE-yuh BEE-on-dee (zones not yet assigned)

M. grandiflora M. gran-dih-FLOR-uh (7–9, 9–6)

Pelargonium zonale peh-lar-GO-nee-um zo-NAL-ee (0–0, 12–1)

Rosmarinus officinalis roze-muh-RY-nus oh-fiss-ih-NAL-iss (8–11, 12–8)

Taxodium distichum taks-O-dee-um DIS-tih-kum (5–11, 12–5)

Thuja occidentalis THEW-yuh ahk-sih-den-TAL-iss (2–7, 7–1)

Tsuga chinensis SOO-guh chy-NEN-siss (5–9, 9–5)

Zinnia elegans ZIN-ee-uh EL-ih-ganz (0–0, 12–1)



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Photo © Robyn Churchill

2012 AHS Seed Exchange

About 200 kinds of seeds are offered in this year's Seed Exchange, available only to American Horticultural Society members. For a quick reference, here is the list of seeds to choose from, with an order form on the following page. To see the catalog with detailed plant descriptions, visit www.ahs.org and click on the Seed Exchange link. If you prefer to receive a printed copy of the catalog, please send a self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelope to us at **Seed Exchange Catalog, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308**.

ANNUALS

- 1 *Ageratum houstonianum*
'Blue Bouquet' *
- 2 *Amaranthus caudatus*
- 3 *Amaranthus gangeticus*
- 4 *Antirrhinum majus*
- 5 *Arctotis fastuosa* 'Zulu Prince' *
- 6 *Calendula officinalis*
- 7 *Callistephus chinensis*
- 8 *Campanula medium*
- 9 *Celosia argentea* var. *cristata*
'Burgundy Supercrest'
- 10 *Celosia argentea* var. *cristata*
'Orange Temple Bells' *
- 11 *Cleome hassleriana*
- 12 *Consolida ajacis*
- 13 *Consolida ajacis* 'Beauty Spire Mix'
- 14 *Consolida ajacis* 'Galilee Blue Double'
- 15 *Cosmos bipinnatus*
- 16 *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Dazzler'
- 17 *Datura* spp.
- 18 *Dimorphotheca sinuata*
- 19 *Eschscholzia californica*
- 20 *Eschscholzia californica* 'Buttercream'
- 21 *Eschscholzia californica* 'Dusky Rose'
- 22 *Eschscholzia californica*
'Tequila Sunrise'
- 23 *Eschscholzia californica*
'Tropical Sunset'
- 24 *Helianthus annuus* 'Autumn Beauty'
- 25 *Impatiens balsamina*
- 26 *Impatiens walleriana*
- 27 *Lobelia erinus*
- 28 *Lobularia maritima*
- 29 *Matthiola* spp.
- 30 *Mirabilis jalapa*
- 31 *Molucella laevis*
- 32 *Nicotiana alata*
- 33 *Nigella* spp.
- 34 *Papaver rhoeas*
- 35 *Papaver somniferum*
- 36 *Portulaca grandiflora*
- 37 *Rudbeckia hirta*
- 38 *Sanvitalia procumbens* 'Vanilla Sprite'
- 39 *Tagetes patula* 'Dainty Marietta'
- 40 *Tagetes patula* 'French Brocade'
- 41 *Tagetes patula* 'Lemon Drop'
- 42 *Tagetes patula* 'Moonlight'
- 43 *Tagetes tenuifolia* 'Tangerine Gem'
- 44 *Tithonia rotundifolia* 'Torch'
- 45 *Tropaeolum* spp. (mounding type)
- 46 *Tropaeolum* spp. (climbing type)
- 47 *Viola xwittrockiana*
- 48 *Zinnia elegans*

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS, BIENNIALS & GRASSES

- 49 *Alcea rosea*
- 50 *Anemone virginiana* Not Available
- 51 *Aquilegia* spp.
- 52 *Asclepias incarnata*
- 53 *Canna indica*
- 54 *Carex muskingumensis*
- 55 *Centaurea montana*
- 56 *Coreopsis lanceolata* 'Sunburst'
- 57 *Delphinium* spp. (Pacific Hybrids)

- 58 *Dianthus deltooides* 'Arctic Fire'
- 59 *Digitalis ferruginea*
- 60 *Digitalis purpurea*
- 61 *Echinacea purpurea*
- 62 *Echinacea purpurea* 'Starlight'
- 63 *Echinops bannaticus*
- 64 *Gaillardia* spp.
- 65 *Glaucidium palmatum* *
- 66 *Helenium amarum* 'Dakota Gold'
- 67 *Helenium autumnale*
- 68 *Hemerocallis* spp. *
- 69 *Liatris* spp.
- 70 *Linum lewisii* *
- 71 *Lobelia cardinalis*
- 72 *Lobelia siphilitica*
- 73 *Myosotis sylvatica*
- 74 *Papaver orientale*
- 75 *Pennisetum alopecuroides*
- 76 *Platycodon grandiflorus*
- 77 *Rudbeckia* spp.
- 78 *Silphium perfoliatum* *
- 79 *Vernonia noveboracensis*

TREES & SHRUBS

- 80 *Catalpa speciosa*
- 81 *Magnolia tripetala* *
- 82 *Styrax japonicus* *
- 83 *Vitex agnus-castus* *

VINES

- 84 *Ipomoea quamoclit*
- 85 *Ipomoea tricolor* 'Blue Ensign'
- 86 *Lablab purpureus*
- 87 *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Blue Celeste'
& 'Queen of Hearts'
- 88 *Phaseolus coccineus*

HERBS

- 89 *Allium tuberosum*
- 90 *Anethum graveolens*
- 91 *Coriandrum sativum*
- 92 *Lavandula multifida*
- 93 *Lavandula stoechas*
- 94 *Matricaria recutita*
- 95 *Ocimum basilicum* var. *minimum*
'Lettuce Leaf'
- 96 *Origanum heracleoticum*
- 97 *Origanum majorana*
- 98 *Petroselinum crispum*
'Dark Moss Curled'
- 99 *Petroselinum crispum* var. *neapolitanum*
- 100 *Rosmarinus officinalis*

VEGETABLES & FRUITS

- 101 *Abelmoschus esculentus*
'Clemson Spineless'
- 102 *Abelmoschus esculentus*
'Red Burgundy'
- 103 *Allium cepa* 'Spanish Utah'
- 104 *Allium cepa* 'White Lisbon'
- 105 *Allium porrum* 'American Flag'
- 106 *Apium graveolens* 'Utah'
- 107 *Beta vulgaris* 'Chioggia'
- 108 *Beta vulgaris* var. *cicla* 'Bright Lights'
& 'Ruby Red'

- 109 *Beta vulgaris* var. *cicla*
'Fordhook Giant'
- 110 *Brassica juncea* 'Florida Broadleaf'
- 111 *Brassica juncea* 'Southern Curled'
- 112 *Brassica juncea* 'Tendergreen'
- 113 *Brassica napus* 'Purple Top'
- 114 *Brassica oleracea* 'Early Snowball'
- 115 *Brassica oleracea* 'Snowball Y'
- 116 *Brassica oleracea*
'Copenhagen Market'
- 117 *Brassica oleracea* 'Michihili'
- 118 *Brassica oleracea* 'Red Acre'
- 119 *Brassica oleracea* 'Waltham 29'
- 120 *Brassica oleracea*
'Long Island Improved'
- 121 *Brassica oleracea*
'Early Purple Vienna'
- 122 *Brassica oleracea*
'Early White Vienna'
- 123 *Brassica oleracea* 'Calabrese'
- 124 *Brassica oleracea* 'Vates Dwarf Blue'
- 125 *Brassica oleracea* 'Georgia Southern'
- 126 *Brassica rapa* (baby bok choy)
- 127 *Brassica rapa* (bok choy)
- 128 *Brassica rapa* 'Toy Choy'
- 129 *Brassica rapa* 'Purple Top
White Globe'
- 130 *Brassica rapa* 'Seven Top'
- 131 *Brassica rapa* (broccoli raab)
- 132 *Capsicum annuum*
- 133 *Capsicum annuum* 'California Wonder'
- 134 *Capsicum annuum*
'Cayenne Long Slim'
- 135 *Capsicum annuum* 'Early Jalapeno'
- 136 *Capsicum annuum* 'Habenero'
- 137 *Capsicum annuum* 'Sunbright'
- 138 *Chenopodium giganteum*
- 139 *Chichorium endivia*
'Batavian Full Heart'
- 140 *Chichorium intybus* 'Giulio'
- 141 *Citrullus lanatus* var. *lanatus*
'Crimson Sweet'
- 142 *Citrullus lanatus* var. *lanatus*
'Green Nutmeg'
- 143 *Citrullus lanatus* var. *lanatus*
'Sugar Baby'
- 144 *Cucumis melo*
- 145 *Cucumis melo* 'Hales Best Jumbo'
- 146 *Cucumis melo* 'Hearts of Gold'
- 147 *Cucumis sativus* 'Homemade Pickles'
- 148 *Cucumis sativus* 'Marketmore 76'
- 149 *Cucumis sativus* 'National Pickling'
- 150 *Cucumis sativus* 'Straight Eight'
- 151 *Cucurbita maxima* 'Cucuzzi'
- 152 *Cucurbita maxima* 'Jack-O-Lantern'
- 153 *Cucurbita pepo* 'Early Prolific
Straightneck'
- 154 *Cucurbita pepo* 'Golden Scalloped'
- 155 *Cucurbita pepo* 'Jack-Be-Little'
- 156 *Cucurbita pepo* 'Raven'
- 157 *Cucurbita pepo* 'Table Queen'
- 158 *Daucus carota* var. *sativus*
'Danvers Half Long'
- 159 *Daucus carota* var. *sativus*
'Royal Chantenay'
- 160 *Daucus carota* var. *sativus*
'Scarlet Nantes'
- 161 *Eruca vesicaria* ssp. *sativa*
- 162 *Lactuca sativa* 'Iceberg'
- 163 *Lactuca sativa*
'Parris Island Romaine'
- 164 *Lactuca sativa* 'Salad Bowl'
- 165 *Lactuca* spp. Paris Market Mix
- 166 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum* 'Ace 55'
- 167 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum*
'Beefsteak'
- 168 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum* 'Jubilee'
- 169 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum* 'Roma'
- 170 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum*
'Super Marmande'
- 171 *Lycopersicon lycopersicum*
'Sweet Olive'
- 172 *Pastinaca sativa* 'Hollow Crown'
- 173 *Petroselinum crispum*
'Hamburg Rooted'
- 174 *Pisum sativum* 'Frosty'
- 175 *Pisum sativum* 'Oregon Sugar Pod #2'
- 176 *Raphanus sativus* 'Easter Egg Mix'
- 177 *Raphanus sativus* 'Cherry Belle'
- 178 *Raphanus sativus* 'French Breakfast'
- 179 *Raphanus sativus* 'Minowase'
- 180 *Solanum melongena* 'Black Beauty'
- 181 *Solanum melongena* 'Long Purple'
- 182 *Spinacia oleracea* 'Bloomsdale'
- 183 *Zea mays* 'Early Sunglow'
- 184 *Zea mays* 'Kandy Korn EH'

BONUS SEEDS

- A *Amsonia hubrichtii*
- B *Arisaema triphyllum*
- C Cactus (mixed species)
- D *Callirhoe involucrata*
- E *Fagus sylvatica*
- F *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*
- G *Ipomoea purpurea* 'Grandpa Ott's'
- H *Iris douglasiana*
- I *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead'
- J *Lycopersicon* spp. 'Brandywine' &
'Brandywine Red'
- K *Ocimum basilicum* (Genovese)
- L *Oenothera elata* ssp. *hookeri*
- M *Perilla frutescens*
- N *Viola* spp.
- O *Zea mays* 'Silver Queen'

All-America Selections

- 2012 Winners**
- P *Capsicum annuum* 'Black Olive'
(ornamental pepper)
 - Q *Capsicum annuum* 'Cayennetta'
(edible pepper)
 - R *Salvia coccinea* 'Summer Jewel Pink'
- 2011 Winner**
- S *Salvia coccinea* 'Summer Jewel Red'

* Limited quantity available

2012 AHS SEED EXCHANGE ORDER FORM

Order deadline is March 15, 2012.

Due to Federal regulations, seeds can only be shipped within the United States.

• For questions about the Seed Exchange program, e-mail seeds@ahs.org. •

Name _____
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AHS member # _____

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

A \$20 minimum donation is required to order more than 10 selections.

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Do not substitute any of my selections.

BONUS SEED SELECTIONS

(List by letters only, please.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SUBSTITUTE BONUS SELECTIONS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do not substitute any of my bonus selections.

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Current AHS members can order up to 10 packets of seeds free of charge, but we do suggest a \$5 voluntary contribution to help defray postage and handling costs.

This year, thanks to a special arrangement with All-America Selections (AAS), we are pleased to include an *exclusive* offering of three of the 2012 AAS seed winners and one of the 2011 winners among our bonus seed selections.

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Yours for \$40 donation

Select one of the following:

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- Please send me up to 15 packets *plus* 3 bonus selections for a \$20 donation.
- Please send me up to 15 packets of seeds *plus* 5 bonus seed selections, and a copy of the *AHS Great Plant Guide* for a donation of \$40 or more.

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I donated seeds to the 2012 Seed Exchange and thus get first choice (**order due by 2/10/12**).

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check enclosed. Please make the check payable to AHS.

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please specify

Card # _____

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Name on credit card _____
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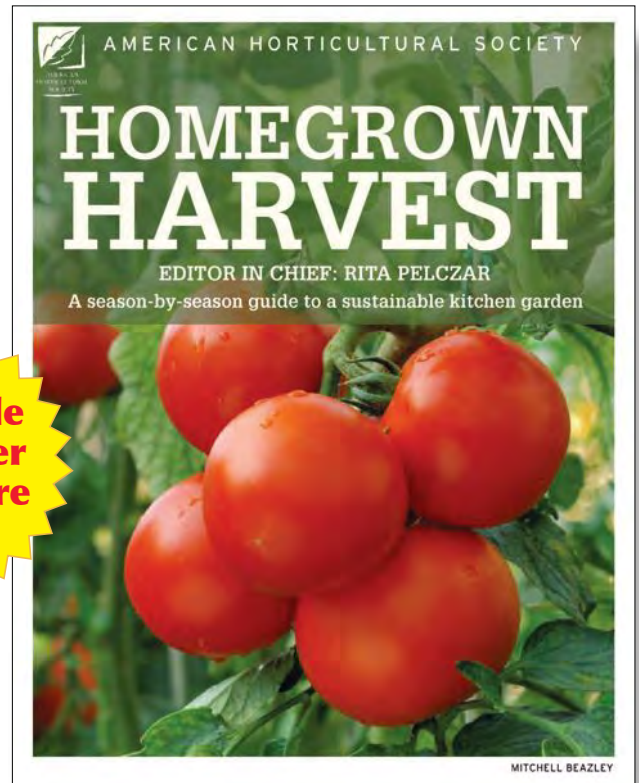
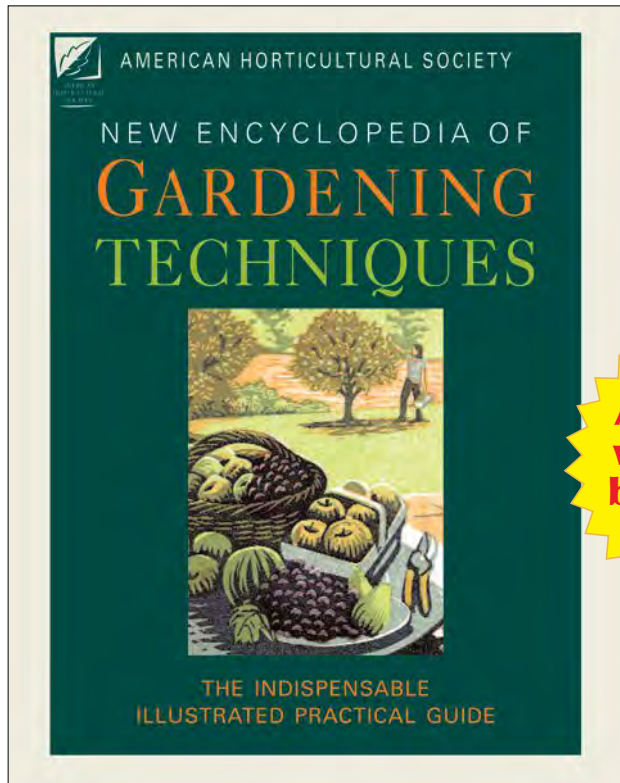


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View an excerpt from *Homegrown Harvest* at www.ahs.org.

Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem': A Jewel for Your Garden

by Margene Whitler Hucek

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I inherited a rather pathetic *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem' from my brother in Illinois. He had managed to keep the tree alive through a few cold Midwestern winters by surrounding it with hay bales, but it refused to flourish. After one fall visit, I found it in a container waiting by the trunk of my car. 'Little Gem' was heading to Virginia.

After planting it in my garden, I was relieved to find that 'Little Gem' is, indeed, considered diminutive in comparison to its parent, southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*, USDA Zones 7–9, AHS Zones 9–6). While southern magnolias can reach up to 80 feet tall and spread more than 30 feet at maturity, 'Little Gem' slowly grows to a modest 20 feet tall and eight to 10 feet wide, with proportionately smaller leaves and flowers. Selected in 1952 by Warren Steed of Candor, North Carolina, 'Little Gem' develops into a dense, multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a compact, upright habit and notably long season of bloom.

LITTLE, YES, BUT STILL A SHOWSTOPPER

New stem growth and the undersides of the glossy, dark green, leathery leaves are covered in a rich russet-brown fuzz. The highly fragrant, creamy white blooms are borne from May to November.

The flowers attract a wide range of beetles that pollinate them. Ornamental red-orange conelike fruits develop in fall with bright red seeds that are relished by a variety of wildlife.

Because it features year-round interest, 'Little Gem' deserves a prominent spot in your garden. Consider planting one in a foundation bed near the front



Growing only to 20 feet tall, 'Little Gem' magnolia is a good option for small gardens.

door or patio, or plant several as an attractive privacy screen.

ALL THAT AND LOW MAINTENANCE, TOO

Like all magnolias, 'Little Gem' is easy to grow and relatively pest free. Because magnolias resent transplanting, select the planting site carefully. The best location provides full to partial sun and moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil with plenty of organic matter.

The shallow, fleshy roots are quick to dry out, so be sure to water newly planted magnolias during dry spells and mulch with two to three inches of organic matter. If you plant in early fall, the roots will have ample time to establish before summer's droughts. Provide an

annual application of balanced organic fertilizer in early spring. Avoid late summer and fall fertilization because this stimulates tender late growth that is susceptible to winter damage.

To maintain a magnolia's natural form, avoid removing the lower branches—this also hides any messy leaves as they drop. In fact, unless you train it as an espalier, pruning is rarely needed at all. Just sit back and enjoy the show. My lovely 'Little Gem' is thriving in its new home, and I plan to send my brother a Valentine card this year with a bloom of his former plant adorning the card. 🌸

Margene Whitler Hucek is a freelance writer based in Keswick, Virginia.

Sources

Ecolage, Lake Charles, LA. (866) 562-8088. www.ecolage.com.
Sooner Plant Farm, Park Hill, OK. (918) 453-0771.
www.soonerplantfarm.com.

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