



July Class

*Class is free and begin at 10am.
Advanced registration is appreciated.*

'A Summer Check-up & Seeding for Fall Veggies'

Saturday, July 9th
*w/ vegetable gardening experts,
Mary Ann & Andy Sudkamp*

Visit [Classes & Events](#) on our website
for more details, along w/an entire
class listing for 2011.

Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour

Saturday, July 16th, 10am-5pm



Snohomish Garden Tour

Sunday, July 31st, 12am-5pm



Want color? Stop by Sunnyside for Summertime Favorites!



Perennials are definitely the summertime favorite for year after year of great color! And the best way to get it is with regular trips to the nursery. Why?

Our selection of fresh, beautiful perennials is constantly changing. While any given plant blooms usually 6 weeks, sometimes more, new plants are coming into bloom all season and we're bringing in new shipments of them all the time.

And though you can always be sure you'll go home with terrific choices, one that generally runs out in July is the savings that comes with 4-inch potted plants.

So, remember! The best way to keep your yard full of color is with regular visits to the nursery. And while it is a great idea to stop by weekly to see what perennials you can plant, sooner is better for taking home that 'small-size' savings!

1-hour design consultations* free w/ the purchase of a \$100 gift certificate to the nursery, *Saturdays 10am-3:30pm while enough interest lasts.

Greetings from 'the Whistling Gardener'

As all of us are eager to get out and enjoy the summer, I will attempt to be concise about what your yard wants from you this much awaited month of July.



Feeding: All those spring showers have washed away our spring fertilizer and put the task before us again. If you really want those summertime blooms, feed again. Organic is the way w/ lawns, perennials, shrubs & trees. Add lime to everything but acid-loving plants, too, as the one thing those rains left behind is an acid residue in our soils.

Don't forget containers. Osmocote every 4 months & Miracle-Gro 1-2 times weekly for best performance. Feed your plants & they'll provide a feast for your eyes.

Weeding: A Hula Hoe is a perfect gift for yourself or your favorite gardener this year. It saves backache and heartache and is a simple solution to help you from giving up before those dirty weeds go to seed again.

Mulch: This second simple solution to weeding goes even further to keeping your beds looking sharp. My no. 1 choice is compost. Along with suppressing new weeds & later on retaining water, topdressing w/ compost builds soil health & allows easy planting anytime. Fertilize & weed first. Keep it to an inch unless you're a first timer, then you can go two. And, keep it off perennial crowns & the woody bases of shrubs and trees.

Watering: It seems like a century since we've had to think about watering but if the sun manages to dry out our sodden soils, we'll have to help out again. Keep an eye on shallow-rooted annuals, perennials & veggies, containers and under eaves. Try for the A.M. so foliage dries over the day and you don't make the PNW diseases happier than they already are.

Prune: Keep it light on hedges. Thin trees and shrubs. Pinch back fall blooming perennials. Get those spring bloomers deadheaded (i.e. remove old blossoms). And you're a sucker if you don't remove water sprouts on fruit & flowering trees now, as it's the easiest time to get it done. Water sprouts. A.k.a. suckers....

Stake: Get tomato cages on now or you'll be tangling with torn limbs when you play catch up later. Grow-thru rings, Link-Stakes, bamboo poles & twine, Y-stakes, Hoop stakes... there's a reason so many solutions have been created for the flailing and flopping perennial. Get them on now. Save the flowers.

Funniest on the list is to plant new plants. If you've done this, gone to our [free veggie class July 9th](#), followed up w/ starting your fall veggie seeds, wrapped up the above 'to do's' and you are itching for more, you can check out my [archived newspaper articles](#) from last year where I detailed for 2 weeks gardening in July. Otherwise, sit back and enjoy the summer!