

'Sunnyside Up'

June 2011 Newsletter

June Classes

All June classes are free & classes begin at 10am. Advanced registration is appreciated.

'Summer Pruning' - Sat, Jun 4th
w/CPH, Trevor Cameron

'Edible Landscapes' - Sat, Jun 11th
w/Master Gardener, Beverly Anderson

'Herbs: From Landscape to Kitchen' - Sat, Jun 18th
w/staff members Stacey & Connie

'Shade Gardens' - Sat, Jun 25th
w/professional designer, Marti Civarra

Visit [Classes & Events](#) on our website for more details.

Sorticulture

June 10th - June 12th
Hear 'The Whistling Gardener' Fri, June 10th at
'Happy Hour' 3:30-4:30pm



Evergreen Arboretum

Gardens of Merit Tour & Plant Sale - June 25th



plus the Gig Harbor Garden Tour
June 25th & 26th w/ Auction June 24th

Suffering from Peonies Envy? Your neighbors should be.



Massive, extravagant blooms, great cut flowers & easy care, peonies are like huge spring roses without all the fuss.

Last year, Itoh hybrids rocked our world. Itohs have the smaller size of an herbaceous peony (2-4 feet vs 3-6 for tree peonies) w/ larger flower size of tree peonies *plus* the ability to set multiple flowers on one stem for an extended bloom time *and* flowering stems sturdy enough to avoid staking.

Herbaceous and tree peonies are still great choices, and their price tags are nicer to look at than Itohs. If you take home an herbaceous peony, you'd be wise to take home a grow-through staking ring w/ it to keep things simple.

Soil prep is really worth it w/ peonies. Amend deeply w/ compost & organic fertilizer & don't over plant. The top of roots should only be .5 to 1.5 inches down for herbaceous & Itoh peonies, 2 inches for tree peonies on their own roots & 4-6 inches for grafted tree peonies. Skip mulching directly overhead.

Good placement w/ space & air flow goes a long way toward healthy, care free plants. Water regularly the first couple years for good roots. Use grow-through rings over herbaceous peonies. Cut plants back in the fall. For tips on cut flower, visit peonysenvy.com. Yep. There really is a company w/ that name.

Greetings from 'The Whistling Gardener'

If your list of gardening chores is looking anything like mine, it includes everything you didn't get done in March, April & May. I'm tougher than a fair weather gardener, but all of us better toughen up a bit more and get out there. We can no longer wait. Time is of the essence.



Prevention: Usually not a category all of its own here, this year is full of anomalies. Slugs are slinking, aphids are propagating & fungi are hiding just below the surface, ready to spread misery over any roses that made it through November- if your roses aren't leafing out by now & you're holding out for a smathering of wild growth coming from the ground, you're better off pulling & replacing.

Back to bugs, sluggo for slugs. Pick your poison for aphids; they are born w/ their grandchildren inside- the hose, Neem oil, Pyrethrum or on non-edibles a systemic like Bonide Tree and Shrub. Fungi, molds & rusts will have a great year if you don't stop them ahead of their schedule. There are generals like Rose Pride & more specific treatments. Come in w/ questions.

Bulbs: Summer bulbs should be planted by now & spring bulbs can be pulled if you're like me. Let leaves of any spring bulbs you are trying to naturalize stick around until brown & easily removed.

Lawns: If you have excellent drainage, your lawn may not have been a soggy mess all winter/spring & red thread may not be a part of it. Otherwise, fertilize again and consider a sprinkling of Bonide Infuse. Even w/ good drainage, fertilize if you haven't in the last couple months. Grow grass, not moss & weeds.

Pruning: Come to ['Summer Pruning'](#), 10am, this Saturday, June 4th. It's free.

Weeds: One way or another, clean them out. Again. Scratch in some fertilizer for your plants. Some lime would be a good idea, especially this year. Sprinkle on some Preen or Corn Gluten if you really don't like weeding. Then, top dress w/ an inch of compost.

Vegetables: There is still time to plant just about every warm season crop. It is just time for some. If we can get through September w/ warm enough weather, you should pull through with some nice produce.

Plant: From peonies to poppies, poplars to petunias, it's still prime planting time. This is where it gets really fun. Come out and have some with us!

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