

**Upcoming
Classes & Activities**

'Fall Pruning' Class

*Saturday, November 5th
10am - Free w/CPH, Trevor Cameron.
Advanced registration appreciated.*

'Wreath-making'

*Sat, Nov 19th - to Sun, Dec 11th
Sun-Thurs 10am-4pm, Fri & Sat 10am-5pm
Price varies; standard wreaths \$40 each.
By appointment; advanced registration required
for private parties of 10 or more.*

Visit [our website](#) for more details.

Fresh homegrown greenery & accents...



... all the difference for beautiful, long-lasting wreaths made with us!

Fall & Winter: They're for the Birds

We are happy to announce that our new bird-feeding area is here! We'll be adding to it through winter & early spring but some of the best bird food for the money is already here, 4 flavors of our own local 'Woodinville Wild Bird Food':

- Waste Not * *The Whistler's' personal favorite
- Cascade Custom
- Northwest Songbirds
- & Finch Favorite.

Bring your 'tuppence' & feed the birds!

We also got a great deal on suet that we're passing on to you: Reg \$1.49 each, Now \$.99, while supplies last.



Brighten Your Winter w/ 'Cool-season' Color!

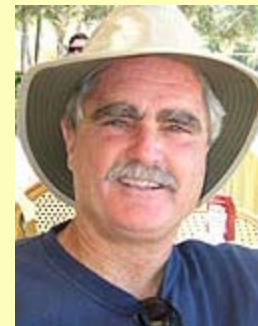


With the 'unmentionable' whisperings of the weatherman, our cool-season plantings will again be a wise investment this year. The trick is to grow a cold heart for your petunias & geraniums before the weather does. Pull your summer color out & make room for the 'cool' stuff!

Get those cool-season plantings in **now** to enjoy them through winter & into spring!

Greetings from 'The Whistling Gardener'

Don the rain gear, break out the muck boots. Take off on a sunny day if you can! What we do now in the garden will not only make a big difference in performance next spring, but also in how our gardens fair until then.



LAWNS: It is time for one last feeding. Slow release organic fertilizer is best, but if your lawn needs a kick use 21-7-14 first, then follow up in 6 weeks w/ the organic. It is also a good time to apply lime to improve soil chemistry for grass.

Look out for red thread, again. This fungus turns grass blades pinkish-red & shrivels them up like a thread. If good fertilizing isn't enough, Bonide Infuse is a very effective treatment that isn't itself affected by a lot of rain.

FRUIT TREES: Sanitation is key here. To protect against problems that surface in the growing season, first clean up & dispose of all leaves. Spray in November when most leaves have fallen & again in late winter as buds begin to swell.

For stone fruits, e.g. cherries, plums & peaches, use a copper spray. For pears & apples, sulfur is best but copper works. Bonide Orchard Spray keeps it simple. It's a natural product safe for fruits & veggies that controls diseases AND insects. Follow up w/ a horticultural oil for extra protection; this will suffocate any eggs or critters still hiding on or under the bark.

Flowering cherries, pears & crab apples are susceptible to problems similar to those of their fruiting counterparts. Good sanitation & the above mentioned dormant spray routine will help avoid much of what our flowering trees suffered from this year.

BERRIES: For raspberries and blackberries, remove any remaining 2-year-old canes that produced this year. Cut current-year canes back to 5 or 6 feet tall & attach to a trellis. Everbearing raspberries can either be completely cut to the ground or current-year canes can be left to produce like traditional raspberries. If your raspberries are in a wet area, transplant to drier ground while dormant- they don't like wet feet.

Blueberries only need a light pruning to remove any dead wood & to shape them. Don't lime blueberries; like rhodies & azaleas, they prefer acidic soil. They also prefer lots of organic matter- mulch w/a nice layer of compost or Soil Booster.

Strawberries are prone to viruses that lead to declined growth, so need to be rejuvenated every few years w/ new plants, which are virus free. Use runners to replace mother plants 2 or 3 times, then throw the whole lot away & buy new.

Grapes & kiwis are vigorous vines that, once established, need serious pruning every year. Insufficient pruning leads to too many fruits that are too small to enjoy. The gist is to remove most twiggy growth leaving the main trunk w/ short side shoots (laterals) 4-6 inches in length spaced every foot along the stem. We can show you how to prune them Sat, Nov 5th, in 'Fall Pruning'. If you miss class we're still here, still know how & have vines on site to see.

VEGETABLES: Don't forget the garlic! It's a 'spring' bulb; like tulips- plant now. For veggie beds you aren't using for fall & winter, it's a good idea to spread a mulch over the soil. Any quality compost works well, but Soil Booster by Greenall works wonders. Spread it 1-2 inches thick & in spring, mix into the soil.

CONTAINERS: Still waiting for the first hard frost, it's easy to let the summer annuals drag on. Yank them! Refresh soil (Soil Booster works great here, too), then fill w/ pansies, winter hardy perennials, ground covers, shrubs & even small trees. They'll look great all winter & in spring you can plant them in the yard.

BULBS: Our bulbs are now 30% OFF & November is the consummate month to plant them. Selection is going to get sparse, so don't delay. Nothing could be easier than digging a hole & dropping in some tulips, daffodils, hyacinths or any of the myriad of other spring bulbs. They're pretty easy to enjoy, too.

ROSES: Follow "Hip high in the fall, knee high in the spring" for pruning most roses. A little off the top now keeps winter wind & rain from knocking them over. Climbing roses need to be secured to their trellis & the long canes shortened up just a bit, but not too far as these long canes will produce your first crop of flowers next spring. Questions? Remember our 'Fall Pruning' class, Nov 5th. We'll have our first 2012 'Roses' Class Sat, March 3rd, when it's time to finish pruning.

After pruning & thoroughly cleaning around rose bases, apply some lime. Then pile mulch 10-12 inches up the base of plants to protect the graft union for winter for cheap insurance against overwinter kill of roses.

WEED CONTROL: Several weeds germinate in the fall & take over by spring. Failing a sprinkling of Preen back in August or early September, your best tact now is to 'Hula Hoe' weeds & cover w/ an inch of good compost. It'll keep things tidy til spring.

PERENNIALS: At this point, for perennials that mush to the ground it really doesn't matter when you cut them back. But for woody ones like hardy fuchsias, asters, black eyed Susans, mums and many more, it is usually best to wait until late February or early March. This is true for most ornamental grasses as well. It protects plants plus provides overwintering forage for our feathered friends.

WINTER PROTECTION: A nice layer of compost for mulch on your beds will help not only w/ winter weeds, but will also provide winter protection. Go light over perennial crowns &, in most cases, keep compost off the base of woody stems. Have some row cover, aka hardy cloth or reemay, on hand; blankety work in a pinch, but row cover won't smother plants. Check our home page for 'emergency' measures that may come up as winter creeps up.

Finally, remember we're open til Christmas Eve & again a couple after the New Year. Even when we're 'closed', we'll open by appointment. Keep enjoying your garden & '**Come garden with us!**'