

'Sunnyside Up'

February 2012 Newsletter

February Classes

February classes are free & on Saturdays.
Advanced registration is appreciated.



'Fruit: It grows on trees'

- Feb 4th, 10am: Class attendees, Saturday only,
RECEIVE 20% OFF ALL FRUIT TREES

'Bountiful Berries' - Feb 11th, 10am

'Dealing with Disease' - Feb 18th, 10am

'Winter Interest' - Feb 25th, 10am

'Attracting Mason Bees' - Feb 25th, 2pm

SEE E-MAILS THROUGH FEBRUARY FOR MORE CLASS SPECIALS

Visit our [Classes & Events](#) for class details.

Festive & Fun,

Come see what our Greenhouse Manager, Mary Stole, has 'grown' this year for our container display:

'Jazz Up Your Yard'



at the

[2012 Northwest Flower & Garden Show](#)

February 8-12th

SAVE \$4/TICKET when you get them with us by February 7th.

Look for handy links in our e-mails & website



Every year we're making improvements to the nursery. Links are a big addition to our website and e-Gardener's Club this year. Look for them on e-mail pictures and in website text for a more user-friendly approach to helping you stay informed!

Did someone forward you this email? [Sign-up](#) yourself now! Our e-Gardeners Club is free, easy to join & brings you lots of great gardening information & savings!

Use Facebook? We do! Share your gardening creations with us!



Stop by & See What's In!

The season has started strong & we're well on our way to helping your garden along!

Cool conifers from [Islei Nursery](#) are here en masse to inspire your spaces, large and small! Stop in and see the rainbow of colors, the diversity of sizes, shapes and textures you can use to fill out your winter.

Roses are in! Last year, they really went fast. Floribundas, grandifloras, climbers, hybrid teas.... Whatever form you are looking for we have in a nice selection of flower color, fragrance and more. Stop in for the best selection now.



Interested in starting from seeds? Our seed racks are full with lots of options! Check out ['Sunnyside Up'](#) from last February for details on how to grow your own transplants for spring crops.

Fruit, flowering and shade trees are here. We've made a transition from bare-root to potted plants, but if you are interested, ask about getting a 'pot-puller's' special this winter to save.

Every fall, we plant our greenhouses with tiny little primrose starts. Here they are, all grown up and ready to go home with you! Our homegrown primroses are blooming beautifully: \$1.59 each or only \$.99 each when you buy 10 or more.

We have plenty of other new stock and fresh ideas. Make sure to stop by soon & see!



'Crown Bees' - a king of resources on Mason Bees



Fuzzy and cute if not warm and cuddly, mason bees are a true friend for the Northwest Gardener. We are happy to be promoting their well-being in our local gardens with a great addition to our 2012 class line-up along with a new (to us) distributor of mason bee supplies.

Crown Bees is a local resource for mason bees with a conservation-minded philosophy and information-based approach. From a great overview of the mason bee [life cycle](#) to [how gentle they really are](#), visit the Crown Bees website and learn more about our native pollinators. Crown Bees also has a [monthly newsletter](#) you may be interest in joining.

Dave Hunter, owner of Crown Bees, will be joining us for the [free class](#), 'Attracting Mason Bees', at 2pm, Feb 25th. Whether you are just considering these produce-friendly pollinators or are a current supporter, this will be a great class for you!

Greetings from 'The Whistling Gardener'

A BRIEF STATE OF THE GARDEN ADDRESS

Here's a little review of 2011 and some hope for 2012.

2011: Not great but better than the two previous years.

In many ways 2011 was a carbon copy of 2010. We never had summer and the spring was cold and wet. I seem to recall having a revelation during this time that it has to get above 58 degrees before I feel like working in my garden. When the mercury did finally go above 60 degrees it turned out to be a respectable summer and as we moved into autumn it was one of the most memorable fall color seasons in years.

In the previous year the month of November proved terminal for many of my garden plants. It was December the two previous years before that. But we managed to make it through not only November but also December without the killer temperatures we were beginning to think of as "normal". And that brings us to 2012.

2012: A year of hope and promise.

Now I realize the words "hope" and "promise" can sound pretty trite in an election year. We are bombarded with these phrases by countless candidates who frankly are about as full of bull as a 1.5 cubic foot bag of manure. But I have good reason to believe this year is going to be much better weather-wise.

The La Nina of 2011 was one of the strongest on record. Compared to the current La Nina, which is fairly weak, I think it is safe to assume that we will see less extreme weather patterns throughout the rest of winter and a more typical spring.

While we did get a good dumping of snow in January, the temperatures did not go below the 20's for most of us so there is virtually no winter kill on perennials, shrubs and trees outside of some branches breaking from the weight of the snow. Even my plants that were bowed down to the ground have sprung back up to their normal positions.

So I am very optimistic about 2012. Already I am seeing signs of life in my garden that last year at this time were absent. Buds are swelling, bulbs are popping and birds are singing and I think we all better be ready to get with the program. February is not too early to plant, control weeds, do some pruning, sow some early veggies and kill some slugs.

Here's to a hopeful and promising 2012.

On 'to do's' from 'The Whistling Gardener'

Looking for a quick list of monthly 'to do's' for the garden? Check out my archived 'Whistler' column to stay on track. Here's [February: read it and weed!](#)

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