

Patt's Garden Center Quarterly

April, May, June 2015

Springing into the Future

We're getting pretty hi-tech around here, gardeners. It started with Facebook, we're going to try out a digital newsletter and now our website www.pattsgardencenter.com is live!

On our website you'll find information about upcoming make-and-take workshops, photos and information about trees, shrubs and perennials we have in stock, as well as printable handouts about deer resistant plants, hummingbird favorites and more! While you're there, sign up for our brand new e-newsletter and our Birthday Club. You can, of course, visit our Facebook page for daily updates about new plant arrivals, photos from workshops and more!

This will be the last printed Patt's Garden Center Quarterly, so don't forget to get us your email address, so you don't miss out on any gardening news!

We're so excited for what lies ahead this Spring, so be sure to stop in often!

- Kate and the Staff at Patt's

GROWING RHODODENDRONS



Sure, we all want to grow rhododendrons that will rival west-side relatives, but the conditions are just not quite suitable here in the Valley.

We may never achieve the towering blooming beauties Seattle is used to, but there are a few things you can do to grow beautiful rhodies in your own backyard micro-climate.

1. The soil needs to be loose enough to let air enter spaces between soil particles and allow water to drain out.
2. Moist and acid soil is required (pH 4.5-6.00)
3. Plants need shelter from wind and direct sun.
4. They do best in a cool humid atmosphere. Plant under trees and keep the soil moist.
5. Water well in late fall. If possible, water during the winter. Use Cloud Cover anti-transpirant for added protection from winter wind.
6. Fertilize with 10-5-4 or other fertilizer for acid-loving plants during the growing season.
7. Mulch well to keep the plants' fine root hairs from drying.

An Idea that **ROCKS**

Tired of birds pecking at your prize Strawberries? A customer shared this great tip with us: Paint small rocks bright red to resemble ripe berries and place in your strawberry patch before berries begin to ripen. Eager birds will get a surprise as they peck at the rocks. By the time berries are ripe, the birds will have learned the "hard way" that your patch isn't the one to visit and will have moved on to another yard.



Tomato Tip

More than a century ago, wise farmers planted tomatoes on the south side of stonewalls to take advantage of the heat that the stones would store during the day and release at night. If you're without such a wall, place a few rocks on the north side of your tomato plants, close to—but not touching—the stems.

Speaking of Tomatoes, we have some great products to help you raise a bountiful harvest. Try Tomato Maker Fertilizer! This organic fertilizer helps correct nutritional deficiencies responsible for blossoms end rot. You can also use it on all other veggies.



Also try Better Reds Mulch Film under your tomatoes this year. The red color helps stimulate growth from reflecting red light back onto plants, it helps to retain moisture, control weeds and keep the soil warm so you'll be sure to harvest before your neighbors!

April In The Garden

- ◆ Control root weevils now. New products available.
- ◆ Watch for slugs and snails. Control them before they multiply. Bait around new growth.
- ◆ When transplanting, use a solution of B-1 to encourage root growth and continue with a regular fertilizing schedule.
- ◆ Divide and rejuvenate perennials—share with a friend!
- ◆ Spray fruit trees after petal drop to prevent insects from ruining your fruit crop. Both chemical and organic options are available.
- ◆ Weed and thin strawberry beds.
- ◆ Apply rose systemic and fertilizer once 1 inch of new growth has emerged. Deep-water after feeding. Cut deadwood from climbing roses.
- ◆ Direct-sow or transplant cold tolerant herbs and vegetables. Thin early plantings of seedlings. Rotate crops yearly to replenish the soil and prevent the build-up of pathogens.
- ◆ Fertilize azaleas, rhododendrons, trees, shrubs, container plants, and fruit trees. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.
- ◆ If you have billbug damage (brown irregular shaped patches) to your lawn in the past, an April application of grub control may prevent the build-up of larva populations to damaging levels.
- ◆ Add yard debris from clean-up to the compost pile.
- ◆ Amend the soil with organic matter such as peat moss, compost, or well-aged manure.
- ◆ Now is the time to start adjusting the soil pH in order to change the color of your hydrangea blooms.
- ◆ Start to plant your potatoes and onions now.
- ◆ **May Basket Class April 30th 5:30pm-7pm \$20. Join us in celebrating this great tradition!**

May In The Garden

- ◆ **Jerry Hendrickson's Rose Clinic May 2nd, 10am.**
- ◆ Don't forget to leave May Baskets for your neighbors and loved ones!
- ◆ Pinch back fall-blooming chrysanthemums every two weeks through the months of May and June to thicken plants and delay bloom.
- ◆ Plant warm season crops and seed (melons, cucumbers, corn) when danger of frost has passed.
- ◆ Lightly fertilize newly transplanted seedlings.
- ◆ Beautiful Memorial Pots available week of May 19th.
- ♥ **Remember Mom w/a gift from Patt's! May 10th is Mother's Day!**

May In The Garden, cont.

- ◆ Begin planting annuals. Stop by Patt's to find your old favorites, as well as new and unique choices.
- ◆ Continue root weevil control.
- ◆ Deadhead rhodies by cutting off faded blooms.
- ◆ Apply liquid herbicide when weeds are still small and actively growing to control broadleaf weeds in lawns.

June In The Garden

- ◆ Spray roses for black spot and powdery mildew. If you've had problems in the past, spray as a preventative measure. Fertilize roses.
- ◆ Thin and tie up brambles. Pinch runners on newly planted strawberries. Use netting to protect berries from birds. Top-dress established plants with fertilizer or compost.
- ◆ **Strictly Succulents Workshop June 10th. 5:30-7pm. \$45 per person. Join us!**
- ◆ **Remember Dad with a gift from Patt's! Father's Day is June 14th.**
- ◆ Thin fruit after the trees naturally drop their unpollinated fruit. Thin triple clusters to doubles and double clusters to singles.
- ◆ Feed new and established lawns.
- ◆ Deep water (all the way through the roots) all plantings, including areas where automatic irrigation might not reach fully.
- ◆ Continue to pinch back mums.
- ◆ Harvest roses so the cut is just above a leaflet with five, not three, leaves. You won't get new growth (flowers) if you cut above a three-leaf leaflet.
- ◆ Clip hedges so they are slightly wider at the bottom than the top. If you shear hedges twice a year, do it early this month and again in late summer or early fall. If you are a once-a-year trimmer, clip hedges in early July.
- ◆ To keep groundcover and low perennials compact, shear them back after the blooms have faded. Water them well and scatter a complete granular fertilizer over the area.
- ◆ Snap the tender new growth of pines (called candles) in half to control their size.
- ◆ Deadhead faded blossoms to prevent seed from setting which reduces flowering.

Succulents Savvy

Join us for a fun evening planting your own container with a variety of succulents. We'll share tips and tricks for growing these



cactus-like perennials. You'll choose a variety of different textures and colors for your own water-wise arrangement in a square concrete planter. Succulents prefer full sun, so keep that in mind when you're choosing where to show off your container. \$45 per person. All supplies included in class fee. Sign up through LCSC Continuing Education at www.lcsc.edu/ce under the Home & Garden tab, or call (208) 792-2447.

April is Arbor Month!

All trees are 10% off for the entire month!

Did you know...

- Shade trees can reduce utility bills by 15-50%.
- One tree can absorb the carbon dioxide produced by four cars every year.
- Healthy trees can increase residential property values by up to 15%
- Planting trees remains the cheapest, most effective means of drawing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



May Baskets: A Beautiful Tradition

Remember how much fun you had as a kid leaving May baskets for your neighbors on May Day? Join us to build a "grown-up" May Basket in a reusable wicker and moss purse! We'll use a variety of cut flowers and twigs to create a beautiful basket to give away or keep for yourself! **Nothing** beats an actual, hand-made gift that comes from the heart like a May Basket. So bring your son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, or young friend, start a 'new' tradition of your own and make something beautiful

together! All materials are included in the class fee. **April 30th, 5:30-7pm. \$20** Sign up through LCSC Continuing Education



at www.lcsc.edu/ce under the Home & Garden tab or call (208) 792-2447.

Drop-In Miniature Workshop

Having company this summer? Bring them to Patt's to build miniature gardens! We'll have a make-and-take Miniature Garden Workshop set up at all times this summer. Building a Miniature Garden is a great project for kids! Commemorate a family trip to the beach with shells and a miniature sandcastle. Use a tiny campfire and bright colored tent for that trip to the mountains. We have mini accessories to fit many mini themes.



Choose your container, a few fun plants, some whimsical accessories and we'll show you how to put it all together! \$65 per garden.



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Spring Happenings at Patt's

Mark your calendars because we have a fun few months ahead of us!

April is Arbor Month! It's the perfect time to plant trees, so watch for sales on all Shade, Flowering and Ornamental trees throughout the month.

April 2nd—Don's Birthday. Stop by to wish our boss, Dad and head grower a **Happy Birthday!**

April 30th: May Basket Workshop 5:30-7pm. \$20 per person. Bring the kids, grandkids or grown-up "kids" and join us for a fun filled evening making good old fashioned May Baskets! All supplies (and snacks!) included in the class fee. Sign up through LCSC Continuing Education at (208)792-2447.

May 10-12th: Mother's Day weekend SALE. Keep an eye out for advertisements in the Lewiston Morning Tribune and on Facebook.

May 19th: Memorial Pots are available. Come check out our selection!

June 13th: Strictly Succulents Workshop 5:30-7pm. \$45 per person. Want to know more about Succulents? This cactus-like family of plants is easy to grow. You plant your own concrete container with a variety Succulents of many textures and colors. Sign up through LCSC Continuing Education at (208) 798-2447.

June 15th: Father's Day weekend SALE. Watch for ads in the Lewiston Morning Tribune and on Facebook.

Visit us often in April, May and June to check out our selection of vegetables, annuals and perennials grown right here at Patt's!

Newsletter composed by kate patterson