



In the Garden

Quarterly Newsletter

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"Lights...Camera...Action" Spring is Coming!

Soon the buds will be bursting into delicate new leaves, and the spring bulbs will push up their colorful heads, if they haven't begun to already! It's time to pull on your galoshes and head outside with pruning shears and rake in hand to prepare the 'stage' for spring in your garden.

The last week of February is the time to clear out winter's shriveled leaves and other yard debris, and prepare the way for the spring show. By doing a few simple chores, your garden will be ready to display the almost achingly bright greens and fresh pastels of spring. As you prepare to head outside, remember that the weather always looks worse from inside than it really is!

This free newsletter is a service to my clients and other interested gardeners, compliments of:

Eden Landscape Design

Janene Walkky

www.edenlandscapedesign.com

If you have questions, comments, or want to unsubscribe, please contact me at:

jswalkky@yahoo.com or
503-289-3129

To do list for late

February/early March:

- Cut **ferns** back to the base
- Cut ornamental **grasses** back to the base, except for evergreen varieties
- Clear dead foliage away from the crowns of **perennials**
- Cut back **roses** by 1/3
- Prune **Hydrangeas** back to the topmost healthy buds-- don't cut back too far or you will lose your crop of flowers
- Cut back summer blooming **Clematis** above plump buds approx. 24" from ground. Do not prune spring blooming Clematis.
- Pick up dead leaves and yard debris in general around the garden
- Clean out bird houses, soon birds will be nesting
- Clean out bird baths, fountains and other water features
- Rake gravel paths and patios
- Spray or sweep other patios and paths

For a more complete, personalized "to-do" list, clients may refer to their Design Information booklet.





The Right Tools Make All the Difference...

...Just ask my do-it-yourselfer, tool-collecting husband--and on this issue, we are in agreement!

The right tool will turn a chore into a pleasure. For instance--take pruning shears--dull, loose, rusty shears are frustrating to use, and crush branches rather than cut them cleanly. A crushed branch will not heal properly, and is an invitation to disease.

I highly recommend by-pass shears and pruners, rather than anvil type. I prize my Felco brand pruners, and know they will last a lifetime, although they were an investment to purchase. I also have similar looking "no name" pruners that were much less expensive, and also do the job admirably well. An advantage to the Felco pruners is that you can buy replacement parts. Felco pruners cost between \$35 and \$50, while good generic pruners are \$12 and up.

Look for pruners that feel good in the hand, work smoothly, and feel

substantial. Brightly colored handles are a plus since they are easy to locate on the ground. You don't want to lose your "investment tool" to the yard debris pile!

You might find a tool holster is a handy way to avoid losing track of your hand pruners in the garden. Some manufacturers make holsters especially sized for their pruners, or there are tool holsters available with several pouches. Sometimes this type can be frustrating if the pockets are so big that tools fall out when you bend over.

A good tool will give you many years of service. Store all tools in a dry place.

Upcoming Local Events

Yard, Garden, and Patio Show

February 18-20, 2005

Friday & Saturday, 10 am – 9 pm

Sunday 10 am – 6 pm

Oregon Convention Center

<http://www.ygpshow.com/>

HPSO Plant sale

April 9-10, 2005

Saturday & Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

Washington County Fairplex,

Hillsboro, Oregon

<http://www.hardyplantsociety.org/plantsale.htm>

Over 100 nurseries offer a tremendous selection of plants.



Enjoy your garden!