



In the Garden

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue2, Summer 2005

'A Breath of Fresh Air'

New leaves, shrubs heavy with blossoms and buds promising summer flowers seem like an unfolding miracle each spring.

Spring is a pleasant time to be outside, *if* you dodge the rain showers, hail stones and heat waves! But when the sun peaks out between billowy cumulous clouds and a gentle breeze blows, spending time in the garden can be an absolute delight.

I think the key to maximum enjoyment is doing garden tasks in short spurts over several days rather than a kamikaze attack that leaves you prostrate with fatigue afterwards. Stroll around with clipper or trowel in hand enjoying your garden. Do a little snipping or digging as needed, but above all pace yourself and take time to enjoy!

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:

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To do list for June:

- Spread compost (see article on next page).
- Remove weeds before they set seed.
- Lay out soaker hoses now in preparation for summer heat.
- Take out 1/3 of old tired soil from containers and add new soil before re-planting pots.
- Cut out flowering stems of **Euphorbias** at the base before they set seed. New stems will already be forming. Be sure to wear gloves and long sleeves because their sap can cause skin irritation.
- Train **vine** tendrils onto structures and trellises while they are putting on rapid new growth. They will look good all summer with some timely guidance now.
- Pinching back the tips of **Sedum 'Autumn Joy'** and some of the other perennials will keep them from flopping later.
- Do not fertilize sedums because that can cause flopping later also.
- Prune hedges and shrubs for shaping

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



Layering groundcover under shrubs

Nature's Layers

Layers of plants in the garden not only provides a beautiful, lush environment, but benefits the growing conditions of the plants and even the soil itself. The right ground covers can help shade the roots of plants, retaining moisture, and protect the soil from harsh sun and beating rain.

Low ground covering plants can spread between shrubs and around perennials to form a soft carpet of color. There are a wide variety of ground covers and it is important to choose ones that match the conditions of the site and the vigor of the surrounding plants, so it doesn't die out altogether, or take over and crowd out the surrounding plants.

Another important way to cover and protect the soil is to spread mulch. One of the best mulches to use is compost. It is like a miracle cure for what ails soils, helping retain just enough moisture while providing drainage for excess water, regulating pH, stabilizing soil temperature and even making the nutrients in the soil more available to plant roots. While

compost is the ideal "food" for soil, even bark dust can help protect the soil and eventually breaks down to provide organic matter.

In fact this is the ideal time of the year to spread compost. The soil has warmed up and perennials have emerged already, so there is less danger of accidentally burying them. There is no need to work the compost into the soil, just spread 1-2" depth over the surface, keeping it about 3" away from the crowns of plants and trunks of trees.

Upcoming Local Events

Loen Nursery

Annual Memorial Day sale
Phone (503) 625 2222
Fax (503) 625-8815
18710 SW Pacific Drive.
Sherwood, OR 97124
www.loennursery.com
May 29 and 30
20% off all plants
Call for details.

Schreiner's Iris Gardens Open daily until June 6th

www.schreinersgardens.com
3625 Quinaby Road N.E., Salem, OR
97303, 800-525-2367
9:00 am - 6:00 pm, FREE
See 10 display acres of Iris
Bring a lunch; a picnic area

The Oregon Garden

<http://www.oregongarden.org/>
879 W. Main Street, Silverton, OR 97381,
503-874-8100,
May - September; 10:00am - 6:00pm, \$4-\$8
This 80-acre botanical display garden just keeps getting better as it matures.



Enjoy your garden!