



In the Garden

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3, Autumn 2005

Does your plant have Jekyll/ Hyde personality?

Just as the horrid Mr. Hyde emerged from the civilized Dr Jekyll, some plants tend to have split personalities. Have you noticed one of your variegated shrubs suddenly sending out a branch with plain green leaves? A weeping shrub or tree with a vigorous branch shooting skyward? A large odd-looking branch jutting out of a dwarf conifer? Any of these are symptoms of plant "reversion".

While reversion can have many causes, the cure is to promptly cut out the offending branch at the base. If it is not removed, eventually the entire plant will go back to its stronger, wilder, less attractive antecedent. Continued on p. 2

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

Late Summer/Early Fall:

- Water trees and shrubs well once a week (more often if they are newly planted). It's better to soak them deeply than to water often but shallowly. Deep watering promotes deep roots that can withstand drought better.
- Water containers daily in dry weather, fertilize weekly.
- Perennials that start blooming in early summer often get 'tired' by late summer and start to flop. If they are cut back in August, lightly fertilized and watered well they will re-sprout new neat looking leaves and sometimes re-bloom into fall. Examples of this type of perennial are *Salvia* 'May Night' and *S. 'Purple Rain'*, *Tradescantia* (Spiderwort), and some Hardy Geraniums.
- Deadhead roses to prolong bloom
- Deadhead spiraeas to keep them looking neat, and to keep them blooming.

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



Note the remaining feeble purple lace-leaf branch on the lower right. A branch emerged from below the graft and was not removed, so the rootstock has taken over the original weeping shrub and become an upright tree.

Jekyll or Hyde? (Cont'd from p. 1)

While the eventual results of reversion are the loss of the desirable qualities of the originally purchased plant, the causes are varied. Sometimes a grafted plant will send up a branch below the graft as in the photo above. If this branch from the rootstock is not removed, it will eventually crowd out the desirable grafted-in plant, and take over completely.

Sometimes a plant will revert to one of its parent's characteristics, for instance a variegated plant will send out a plain green branch. Since the green branch photosynthesizes more efficiently, soon more green branches will appear and you will lose the variegation. The plain green

plant may turn out to be much larger than the variegated one also.

So while the causes for reversion are complicated, the cure is simple, just snip it out.

Upcoming Local Events

Loen Nursery

Autumn Sale

Phone (503) 625 2222

Fax (503) 625-8815

18710 SW Pacific Drive.

Sherwood, OR 97124

www.loennursery.com

20% or more off all plants

Call for details.

Bug Fest (children's event)

Saturday, August 28: 12:30-4 pm

\$1.50

Tualatin Hills Nature Park

15655 SW Millikan Blvd

Beaverton

Bug related games, crafts and displays, along with carnivorous plants

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!