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The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

January/February 2004

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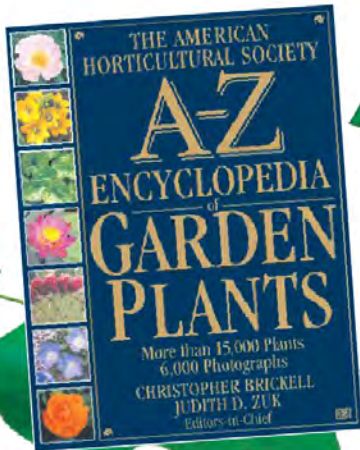
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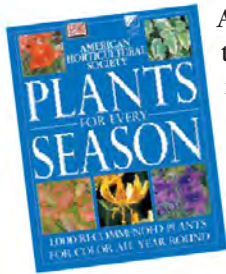
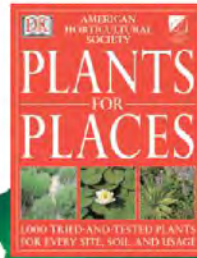


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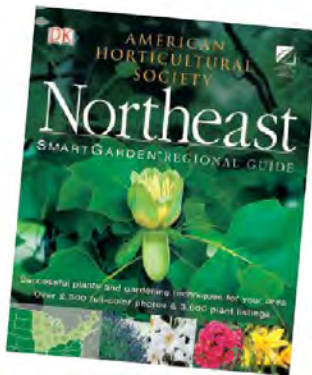
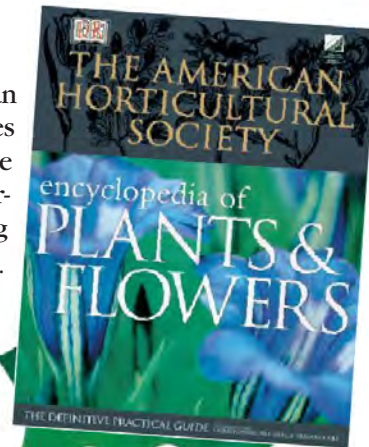
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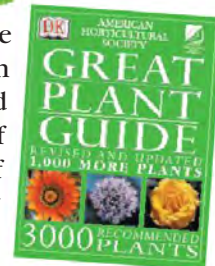
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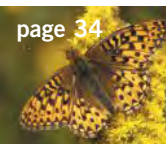
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To receive an application for the Society's Horticultural Intern Program, e-mail tgibson@ahs.org. For information about the Editorial Intern program, e-mail editor@ahs.org. Intern application forms can also be downloaded from the River Farm area at www.ahs.org.

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH GARDEN SYMPOSIUM (NCYGS)

Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, is the setting for the 12th annual NCYGS, to be held July 29 to 31, 2004. For more information, call (800) 777-7931, ext. 117 or visit www.ahs.org.

RECIPROCAL ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

Through this program, AHS members receive free and discounted admission to botanical gardens throughout North America. Participating gardens are listed in this year's *AHS Member Guide* and also in the Membership area of our Web site. For more information, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 127.

TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM

AHS members and friends can visit spectacular gardens around the world through the Society's exclusive arrangement with Leonard Haertter Travel. To learn about upcoming trips, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 117 or visit the Events section of our Web site.

WASHINGTON BLOOMS!

AHS's annual celebration of spring will be held April 1 to 25, 2004, at River Farm. This is the debut of the AHS Garden School, a series of in-depth workshops on exciting new gardening trends. To register, call (800) 777-7931 ext. 121 or visit www.ahs.org.

WEB SITE: www.ahs.org

The AHS Web site contains information about AHS programs and activities, gardening events in your area, and links to other useful Web sites. Starting **January 20, 2004**, AHS members can reach the member's-only area of the site by typing in this year's password: **meadow**.

The American GARDENER

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NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

WE GARDENERS regularly witness new beginnings. We plant bulbs in the fall and eagerly await the first sign of growth. We carefully plant seeds and watch for the wakening of a new favorite treasured plant. We plant trees and shrubs in new locations and hope that the soil and sunshine and heat and cold will be in the perfect combination for ideal growth in their new home. Each of these beginnings offers us an opportunity for joy and satisfaction.

As we welcome this New Year, I hope you will join us at the AHS in planning a few of your own new beginnings. One great opportunity is through the AHS annual seed exchange, which has enjoyed a surge in participation over the last two years. This year there are seeds of more than 160 different plants waiting for you to give them life. If you haven't taken advantage of this program in the past, I encourage you to try it this year. Order some seeds, plant them and watch them grow. You might be pleasantly surprised at how easy it is. With so many wonderful plants now available from nurseries and garden centers, we often miss the special joy of growing our own plants from seeds.

Another beginning we'd like you to be an integral part of is the launch of the AHS Garden School. This program, which will debut during Washington Blooms! in April, will feature three different gardening schools with exceptional instructors sharing how-tos and why-tos and can-dos with innovative technique and personal interaction (for more details, see the ad on page 31). It is our plan that each of these schools will eventually expand beyond Washington Blooms!, and that the entire AHS Garden School will expand through the launch of additional courses of study.

And in this New Year, I hope you will also support us as we unveil some grand new beginnings for the AHS and for horticulture in America. As I have shared with you in previous columns, we are focusing a great deal of attention on our headquarters at George Washington's River Farm. Our nearly-completed new Master Plan envisions development of exciting garden areas, including a new children's garden and restored meadow and woodland areas that reinforce the importance of protecting natural lands. The Master Plan also incorporates renovated offices for the staff of the AHS; new facilities for the AHS Garden School, *The Growing Connection* and other AHS educational programs; and new meeting space that will allow us to convene horticultural organizations throughout America so that we can work on important issues together.

Each of these improvements at River Farm will help us more effectively achieve our vision of "making America a nation of gardeners, a land of gardens." Each of these improvements will help us more effectively reach out across America with programs that connect people to plants and gardens. Please help us plant the important seeds that will let the AHS grow. We need gifts big and small. We need each of our AHS friends to help us realize this dream of a new American Horticultural Society. Feel free to contact me personally with your thoughts and offers of support.

Happy Gardening in this New Year!



—Katy Moss Warner, AHS President

MEMBERS' FORUM

POLLINATORS PRAISED

As a proponent of using native plants to attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds, I enjoyed reading Jo Ann Abell's article, "Garden Havens for Pollinators" (September/October 2003). The meticulous and graceful activity of these little wonders is yet another of nature's gifts.

My favorite magnet for monarch butterfly is *Liatris ligulastylis* (one of the "gayfeathers"). The flower spikes are so intoxicating that the butterflies will obliviously walk across my fingers to continue feeding. When the perennial bed explodes with late-season goldenrods (*Solidago* spp.), you can find me sitting on the ground nearby, marveling at the bustle of countless winged creatures.

Stuart Caplan
Master Gardener Volunteer Educator
Baltimore, Maryland

MORE ON INVASIVES

A few letters in this column recently have addressed the old issue of "plant invasiveness," and I firmly agree with the views expressed by Pam Harper (March/April 2003) and Robert Stiffler (September/October 2003). I believe most people in the plant industry, as well as gardeners and garden writers, would probably agree that the federal government should not be involved in regulating invasive plants. When politicians declare open hunting season on a particular plant (or plants) that has become "noxious," the regulatory effort usually ends up being a dismal failure.

I am not too sure about "localism" as a means of tackling the invasiveness issue, either. I think the only solution is to get everyone involved in the gardening industry working together. After all, many or most of our "unwanted plants" have been introduced, either accidentally or intentionally, by the activities of people. We are not acting responsibly when water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is still sold in garden centers in the lower southeastern states. Or when Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) is still commonly offered to an un-

knowing general public.

We as consumers must also share the blame. When, for example, we dump our aquarium water and plants down stormwater drains, we are contributing to contamination of lakes and ponds with the common aquarium plant, elodea (*Elodea* spp.).

We must all begin cooperating in a socially-responsible manner in order to solve this issue.

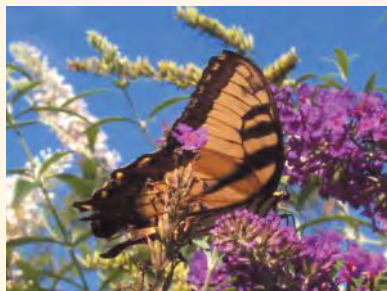
Robert H. Cooper, Jr.
Williamstown, New Jersey

ENCORE FOR WHITE CORAL BELLS

Editor's note: The wording and meaning of a song referenced by Associate Editor Carole Ottesen in an article on heucheras continues to generate interest.

This is in reference to Carole Ottesen's article on *Heuchera* and the subsequent letter from Virginia C. Baker that said

Corrections



Several readers wrote to tell us we misidentified the butterfly shown on page 35 of the article "Garden Havens for Pollinators" (September/October 2003). The butterfly, above, is an eastern tiger swallowtail, not a monarch.

AHS member Judith Harley of Alexandria, Virginia, also noted that in the same article we gave the incorrect address for the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. The correct address is 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190.

the "white coral bells" refer to lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*), rather than to *Heuchera*.

I do not know the song, but using "white coral bells" to refer to lily-of-the-valley seems to make no sense. They aren't coral-colored (although they can be pinkish); they are white to begin with. And "coral bells" is not listed as a common name for *Convallaria* in any of my extensive collection of reference books and online sources. Thus the reference to *Heuchera* makes more sense, because *Heuchera's* common name is coral bells.

My guess is that the song refers to white choral bells, which goes along with the idea of bells ringing (in the song).

Susan Narizny
The Plant Locator®
Portland, Oregon

I just received my September/October issue and in the "Members' Forum" there is a piece about a song, "White Coral Bells." I just wanted to point out that the true title of the song is "White Choral Bells." When you re-read the lyrics, the title and first line make more sense.

Sharon Burgos
High Point, North Carolina

When I learned the song in Girl Scouts, I believed "white coral bells, upon a slender stalk; lily-of-the-valley deck my garden walk..." meant both *Heuchera* and *Convallaria* lined the pathway. The description certainly can pertain to both plants and I've spent decades happily humming that tune, picturing a lovely walk among swaying coral bells and nodding lilies-of-the-valley.

Sally D. Benson
Editor, American Nurseryman magazine
Chicago, Illinois

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AHS Assists Ithaca Children's Garden Workshop

THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S long track record of involvement in successful children's gardening programs—including establishment of the AHS National Children and Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS) in 1993 and development of acclaimed children's gardens at River Farm—makes it a valuable resource in the field. Last November, the AHS was invited to facilitate a design workshop for the planned Ithaca Children's Garden (ICG), which is to be con-



Workshop leaders (left to right) Sonja Skelly, Melody Gray, Tom Underwood, Carla Shuman, and Mark Miller worked closely with ICG director Meg Wahlig Cole (far right) during a two-day workshop in November to help plan a new children's garden in Ithaca.

structed along the Cayuga Lake Scenic Byway in Ithaca, New York. ICG Board Member and NCYGS advisory panel member **Marcia Eames-Sheavly** is working closely with AHS on coordination of the 12th annual NCYGS, which is to be held in Ithaca this summer (see box, page 9).

Leading the ICG workshop were **Tom Underwood**, AHS director and curator of gardens and buildings; **Mark Miller**, AHS deputy director of national programs; **Melody Gray**, AHS landscape design intern; landscape architect **Carla Shuman** of Walt Disney World Resort; and **Sonja Skelly**, director of education at Cornell Plantations. "We were delighted to be able to bring together the talents of all these children's gardening experts to integrate our community's concept into a workable and exciting design," says **Meg Wahlig Cole**, ICG director.

"This was a great opportunity for AHS to share its commitment to children's gardening programs nationwide," says Tom, who worked closely with Carla and AHS President **Katy Moss Warner** in the creation of the AHS-cosponsored Kid's Garden at the 2000 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.

"I was impressed with the vision, creativity, and expertise of all the participants during the ICG design workshop," says Mark, who was involved in the design and installation of the first children's gardens at River Farm during his tenure as AHS horticulturist from 1995 to 1997. "Ithaca is fortunate to be home to so many people committed to realizing a children's garden that is representative of the city's spirit and character."

Chicago Embraces *The Growing Connection*

THE CITY OF CHICAGO has agreed to serve as the flagship city for *The Growing Connection* (TGC), a ground-breaking program designed to teach children the science behind growing food plants and the important role of fruits and vegetables in a healthy diet.

Chicago Mayor **Richard Daley** announced last November that the city had committed to become an official demonstration area for TGC. "The City of Chicago is a leader in the green movement, bringing the beauty of nature to ecologically sustainable urban green space," says Mayor Daley. "I am pleased *The Growing Connection* has chosen Chicago for this project."

"The AHS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and all the other partners in *The Growing Connection* are delighted that Mayor Daley and the City of Chicago are joining us in this important educational project," says **Mary Ann Patterson**, AHS director of national programs. "Chicago's history of support for innovative urban greening ini-

tiatives makes it the perfect site to demonstrate the effectiveness of *The Growing Connection*."

Over the next several months, TGC officials will be working with Mayor Daley's office to establish a local steering committee. The next step will be to identify advantageous school and community garden sites for project installations and look for potential community partners such as civic groups, restaurants, farmer's markets, and cooking schools.

Currently, schools and youth groups throughout North America are participating in an informal phase of TGC. This spring, the formal component of the program will debut at 10 schools in the United States and 10 schools in the West African nation of Ghana. Students at those schools will conduct experiments growing food plants from seed in standardized growing units called EarthBoxes™, then share their findings with other students, teachers, and scientists through state-of-the-art information technology.

Kits ordered for the informal phase of TGC started shipping this January to participating youth groups and schools. A special Web site dedicated to *The Growing Connection* is now available at www.thegrowingconnection.com. Soon, participants can log on and share their activities and experiments with others. To order TGC kits, call (800) 777-7931, or visit the AHS Web site at www.ahs.org.

Children's Handcrafted Ornaments Deck Holiday Trees at River Farm

CREATIVE HANDCRAFTED ornaments made by children's groups from around the country added a special luster to the holiday trees at River Farm this past December. The ornaments decorated trees representing four themes: Americana (red, white, and blue colors), Lewis and Clark (silver and gold), George Washington (blue and white), and plants and flowers (multicolored).

The children's groups that created ornaments were the **Paul C. Bunn Garden Guides** of Poland, Ohio; **John Adams Elementary** and **Tuckahoe Elementary** in Alexandria, Virginia; **Central Elementary** of Muskegon, Michigan; **Mountain View 4-H** of Horse Shoe, North Carolina; **Henderson County 4-H** of Hendersonville, North Carolina; and **Lauritzen Gardens** with **Castelar Elementary School** in Omaha, Nebraska. The teachers and leaders of these youth groups were among the attendees at the AHS National Children and Youth Garden Symposium, held in Washington, D.C., last summer.



Brightly painted ornaments in the shape of cottonwood leaves decorate a holiday tree at River Farm, left. The ornaments were made by sixth-grade students at Castelar Elementary School and, above, by three- to five-year-olds in the "Lil' Sprouts" program at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, Nebraska.

TOP: COURTESY OF CINDY SOBASKI; BOTTOM: MARY YEE

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“Sparkling snowflakes made from recycled tin cans became a creative lesson on the importance of recycling for our diverse students while getting into the festive spirit of the season,” says **Hilari Hinnant**, a first-grade teacher at John Adams Elementary.

Members of the Garden Guides at Paul C. Bunn School submitted quilt-patterned star ornaments for the Americana tree. “The nine guides include students from grades four through six, some with disabilities,” says **Samie Winick**, the Garden Guide mentor. “Their creative spirits were really engaged in making horticultural and patriotic quilt-pattern stars for each state.”

“The fifth-grade class of Tuckahoe Elementary School enjoyed creating their clay Lewis-and-Clark-themed ornaments and are proud to have had them displayed at the American Horticultural Society,” says their teacher, **Laura Keller**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **2004 AHS National Children and Youth Garden Symposium** will be held July 29 to 31 in Ithaca, New York. The theme for this year’s symposium, a joint effort with Cornell University, is “Branching Out: Beyond Formal Garden-Based Education.” Symposium attendees will be able to take advantage of the wealth of field sites and programs available in the Ithaca area, including the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell Plantations, and many more. More information will be available at the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org) starting in February, or call Mark Miller at (800) 777-7931 ext.117.

New Gardens Join RAP Program

THROUGH THE SOCIETY’S Reciprocal Admission Program (RAP), AHS members are eligible for free or discounted admission or other benefits at public gardens throughout North America. According to **Danielle Laday**, AHS Membership Manager, there are now 170 participating gardens, and new ones are constantly being added to the list. “We often hear from our members about much they love the program,” says Danielle. “It is a great opportunity to see a lot of wonderful plants and gardens.”

Three new gardens joining the program in 2004 are **Aldridge Gardens** in Hoover, Alabama; **Rockingham County Botanical Garden** in Brentwood, New Hampshire; and **Georgia Southern Botanical Garden** in Statesboro, Georgia.

Other recently joined gardens include the **Georgia Golf Hall of Fame’s Botanical Garden**, Augusta, Georgia; **The American Orchid Society’s Botanical Garden**, Delray Beach, Florida; **Edison & Ford Winter Estates**, Fort Myers, Florida; **Sunken Gardens**, St. Petersburg, Florida; **UC Davis Arboretum**, Davis, California; **Conejo Valley Botanic Garden**, Thousand Oaks, California; **Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (LEAF)**, Erie, Pennsylvania; and **The Journey Museum and Gardens**, Rapid City, South Dakota.

For a complete RAP listing, see the 2004 AHS Member Guide, included in this issue of the magazine, or visit www.ahs.org.

Compiled by Angela Taylor, editorial intern for The American Gardener

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Photo courtesy of Scott Kunst, Old House Gardens



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sneak peek of

BY RITA PELCZAR

New Plants for 2004

Update your garden this year with some of these exceptional plant introductions.



Verbascum 'Plum Smokey'



Cotinus coggyria 'Ancot'



Begonia 'Prelude Mix'

WE GARDENERS don't ask for much. We only want bigger, longer-lasting flowers, in dazzling new shades, on plants that are taller, shorter, or more statuesque, and, perhaps, a fragrance we've never experienced. And as long as we're talking about improvements, how about some tastier, heavier-yielding, more disease- and pest-tolerant, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and beans?

In our endless quest for perfection, we have come to expect plant breeders to provide us with an annual parade of new and improved varieties for our gardens. Amazingly, each year breeders attempt to fulfill our expectations, and this year is no exception.

The following is a sampling of some of the most exciting new plants we've uncovered for the new growing season.

ANNUALS AND TENDER PERENNIALS

Leave it to Johnny's Selected Seeds to dazzle us with a flower that sports blue pollen. The flowers of *Nicotiana* 'Tinkerbell' (USDA Zone 0-0, AHS Zone 12-1) are rosy pink with a green reverse. Plants grow to 35 inches tall and bear good disease and weather tolerance.

Also from Johnny's comes a periwinkle, *Catharanthus roseus* 'Merry-Go-Round Red' (Zones 12-15, 12-1), a 24-inch hybrid that blooms all summer long. In addition to adding a red splash to mixed borders, it is recommended for use as a dramatic annual hedge.

New high-performing bedding begonias are waiting to brighten outdoor containers and borders. Goldsmith Seeds (www.goldsmithseeds.com) introduces *Begonia* 'Bayou Pink' (Zones 13-15, 12-1), a large, vigorous selection topping out at 14

to 16 inches tall and providing pink flowers non-stop from spring to frost. The hybrid begonia 'Prelude Mix' (Zones 13-15, 12-1) from Ball Horticultural Company (wwwSimplyBeautifulGardens.com) is an extremely uniform selection, perfect for massing. Plants grow six to eight inches tall and flower shades include white, pink, rose, coral, scarlet, and bicolors.

To brighten shady corners, Pan American Seeds (www.PanAmSeed.com) offers *Impatiens auricoma* 'Jungle Gold' (Zones 13-15, 12-1), with golden yellow, orchidlike flowers that show off to perfection against glossy dark green foliage. Plants reach 15 to 18 inches tall and are great for containers.

Pan American also introduces new members of the Devotion series of *Trachelium* (Zones 9-10, 10-9), composed of four dwarf varieties, each with a different flower color: 'Blue Improved', 'Burgundy',

LEFT TO RIGHT: TERRA NOVA, MONROVIA, BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY



Trachelium Devotion series



Lathyrus odoratus 'Sugar n Spice'

'Purple Improved', and 'White Improved'. All are uniform in height, and work well alone or mixed in beds and planters.

If you live where summers are reasonably cool, try the long-flowering *Nemesia cheiranthus* 'Shooting Stars' (Zones 9–10, 8–1) from Thompson & Morgan for an exotic accent. It grows about 12 inches tall, producing unusual gold, purple, and white flowers with reflexed petals from summer through autumn. Its distinctly coconut fragrance will have you dreaming of the tropics.

For lush, sweet-scented container plantings, it's hard to beat annual sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*, Zones 0–0, 8–3). Renee's Garden offers 'Cupid Color Palette', a cascading selection with large, fragrant flowers that range from white through pink, rose, and lavender, to deep purple. Three from Thompson & Morgan are worth considering, each for a slightly different purpose. Sugar n Spice™ is another cascading type that is great for containers, with a mix of solid white, pink, and purple flowers plus bicolors; 'Pansy Lavender Flush' climbs to a very manageable four feet and bears two-tone mauve blooms; and 'Borderline' is an excellent cutting variety with white flowers blushed and edged in magenta.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Terra Nova Nurseries (www.terrannov nurseries.com) continues its effort to expand the options for color, size, and form among several ornamental perennial species, this year introducing 42 new varieties, many that you can look for at your local garden center.

For shady locations, a new lady fern, *Athyrium filix-femina* 'Dre's Dagger' (Zones 4–9, 9–1) makes a dramatic pres-

ence with its deep green, criss-crossed fronds that narrow to a point with a small crest.

As usual, some of Terra Nova's most exciting introductions are heucheras, tiarellas, and heucherellas. *Heuchera* 'Lime Rickey' (Zones 4–9, 8–1) bears ruffled, lime-green leaves and pure white spring flowers. *H.* 'Pink Lipstick' (Zones 4–9, 8–1) produces a low mound of green foliage that supports 24-inch spikes of bright pink flowers. The evergreen leaves display red overtones in winter. The large green leaves of *Tiarella* 'Candy Striper' (Zones 5–8, 8–5) display a deep red stripe down the center of each lobe. The foamy white flowers emerge from pink buds. \times *Heucherella* 'Party Time' (Zones 4–9, 9–3) bears pink flowers over a long season above its bronze and silver leaves.

A new heucherella from Monrovia Nursery (www.monrovia.com) named 'Heart of Darkness' (Zones 4–9, 9–3) is purported to have one of the most interesting foliage patterns of any available heucherella. Leaves are large and lobed, with dark burgundy centers and mint-green margins, all overlaid with metallic silver-gray. The white spring flowers, borne on 18- to 24-inch stems, are excellent for cutting.



Athyrium filix-femina 'Dre's Dagger'



Mukdenia rossii 'Crimson Fans'

Another Terra Nova introduction is a heuchera relative, *Mukdenia rossii* 'Crimson Fans' (Zones 4–9, 9–5). This plant, native to China, has red-splashed green leaves and bears white bell-shaped flowers from February to April. It needs a site in part shade with evenly moist soil.

Aquilegia chrysantha var. *chaplinei* 'Little Treasure' (Zones 3–8, 8–1), is a High Country Gardens introduction suited to compost-enriched soils and part shade. This dwarf columbine grows to 15 inches tall, with bright yellow, upward-facing flowers with prominent spurs.

For gardeners in warm climates, Monrovia offers the gold stripe flax lily (*Di-*

anella tasmanica 'Yellow Stripe', Zones 8–II, 12–1) to add color to shady corners. The strap-shaped, evergreen leaves are striped green and bright yellow along their entire length. Small sprays of blue spring flowers are followed by blue-black fruits that persist into winter.

For sunny cottage gardens, Terra Nova offers two new barrenworts (*Astrantia major*, Zones 4–7, 7–1). The large pink buds of 'Magnum Blush' open to ivory flowers with a pink blush. 'Sunningdale Gold' produces golden foliage and white flowers. As summer progresses and flowers fade, the leaves deepen to green.

Mulleins (*Verbascum* spp.) are particularly at home in the sunny cottage garden. Terra Nova's 'Plum Smokey' (Zones 5–9, 8–2) is a compact variety bearing dense clusters of large purple flowers on 16-inch stems.

A pair of campanulas—also from Terra Nova—may be hard for many to resist given their long-term ornamental displays. *Campanula punctata* 'Plum Wine' (Zones 3–9, 9–1) is easy to grow in the sun, producing red winter leaves that turn dark green in summer, setting off large rose-purple flowers. *Campanula* 'Royal Wave' (Zones 3–9, 9–1) is a sturdy and floriferous selection that bears two-inch-wide, blue-purple flowers with white centers from late spring through summer.

If really big flowers are your aim, look for *Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Luna



Dianthus pinifolius



Echinacea 'Art's Pride'

Red' (Zones 5–II, 12–1), from Ball Horticultural Company. Each bloom measures seven to eight inches across and makes an impressive display on bushy two-to-three-foot-tall plants.

Gardeners in drier climates may want to investigate two introductions from High Country Gardens. Pineleaf garden pink (*Dianthus pinifolius*, Zones 4–9, 8–5) forms low mounds of blue-green foliage, and dark red blooms that are held above the leaves on wiry stems. It thrives in hot, sunny gardens. *Delosperma* 'Tiffindell Magenta' (Zones 8–10, 10–8), a carpeting ice plant, is native to the mountains of South Africa. It produces a tight mat of evergreen foliage and bears small purple flowers early in spring. It prefers a lean soil.

Most coneflowers bear flowers ranging from white to various shades of purple.



Hibiscus moscheutos 'Luna Red'

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: TERRA NOVA, HIGH COUNTRY GARDENS, MONROVIA, BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY

Echinacea 'Art's Pride' (Zones 4–9, 9–3)—offered by Monrovia as the trademarked Orange Meadowbrite—brings a new tropical color to the palette. Like all cone-flowers, it attracts butterflies and prefers a sunny, well-drained location.

Lavandula stoechas 'Hazel' (Zones 8–9, 9–8) hails from New Zealand, is introduced by Pride of Place Plants, Inc. (www.prideofplaceplants.com), and grown by Monrovia. This lavender reaches 30 inches tall, and—

except for a brief hiatus during the hottest part of summer—it bears vibrant lavender flowers from early spring through mid-autumn.

Also from Pride of Place Plants, *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Pink Lady' (Zones 6–9, 9–6), has a more compact, tidy habit than traditional gauras, displaying its blooms just above the foliage rather than in long arching wands. Once established, it is quite drought tolerant.

From the plant introduction program at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (www.santabarbarabotanicgarden.org)



Gaura lindheimeri 'Pink Lady'



Lavandula stoechas 'Hazel'

comes a new globe mallow, *Sphaeralcea fulva* 'La Luna' (Zones 5–9, 9–5). Plants grow to three feet tall and wide, with sage green leaves on fuzzy gold stems, and cup shaped blooms that appear over a long season. The flowers are composed of pink-blushed white petals, a pink stigma, and black anthers. This is a good

choice for dry perennial borders, desert gardens, and for cutting.

West Coast gardeners will also be interested in *Mimulus* 'Valentine' and *M.* 'Verity White' (both Zones 8–10, 10–8), a pair of subshrubs available through El Na-

tivo Growers, Inc. These hybrids produce very large flowers: 'Valentine' is red, 'Verity White' opens cream and fades to pure white. Both are drought tolerant and thrive in full sun or part shade and a well-drained soil. They are well suited to growing in containers or beds.

SHRUBS AND GROUND COVERS

Bailey Nurseries (www.baileynurseries.com) introduces an exotic-looking selection of the eastern North American native staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger' (Zones 4–8, 8–1). Also known as Tiger Eyes™, this selection is much more compact than the species—growing six feet tall and wide—and spreads with more restraint. Its foliage starts off chartreuse, then turns bright yellow in summer, contrasting dramatically with the fuzzy purple-pink stems. Like the species, Tiger Eyes™ is not particular about soil and is drought tolerant once established.

A new selection of the western native sand cherry, *Prunus besseyi* 'Select Spreader' (Zones 4–8, 8–1), offered by High Country Gardens, boasts a profusion of white spring flowers followed by abundant fruit that is an excellent food source for



Rhus typhina Tiger Eyes™



Prunus besseyi 'Select Spreader'

wild birds. It also displays outstanding red foliage in autumn. Growing only three to five feet tall with a horizontal spreading habit, it makes an attractive, rugged large ground cover.

Arctostaphylos 'Arroyo Cascade' (Zones 2–7, 7–1) is a drought-tolerant, prostrate ground cover that spreads slowly six to nine feet. Its leaves are gray-green, and it bears rosy pink flowers in winter on reddish stems. Introduced by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, this hybrid manzanita is recommended for gentle slopes, retaining walls, and rock gardens.

Monrovia Nursery introduces a new smoke tree (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Ancot',

Zones 5–9, 9–3) that bears golden yellow foliage and abundant pale pink flower heads that appear on long plumes. In autumn, leaves turn orange, red, and coral.

Endless Summer™ hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Bailmer’, Zones 4–9, 9–3), another shrub developed by Bailey Nurseries, is a proven repeat bloomer. Because it produces its eight-inch diameter mophead flowers both on new and old wood, it provides summer-



Podocarpus elongatus ‘Monlan’

long color. Mature plants are rounded, reaching three to five feet in height and width. It grows best with some shade and does well in containers.

Another hydrangea worth seeking out is *H.* ‘Mikata Yae’ (Zones 6–9, 9–6), one of a new collection of Japanese hydrangeas from Pride of Place Plants in Canada. ‘Mikata Yae’ bears double, blue, star-shaped blossoms. It will be available from Park’s Countryside Gardens this spring.

Warm-climate gardeners searching for an evergreen screen might want to consider a Monrovia introduction, *Podocarpus elongatus* ‘Monlan’ (Zones 9–11, 12–1)—sold as Icee Blue®. This pyramidal tree has blue-gray fernlike leaves that are two to three inches long. The tree

grows slowly to a mature height of 15 to 25 feet with a spread of 10 to 12 feet. In addition to screening, it is effective as a specimen or in a container on a patio.

A weeping selection of river birch is being released jointly by Shiloh Nursery, North Carolina State University, and North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. *Betula nigra* ‘Summer Cascade’ (Zones 4–8, 8–2) makes a graceful focal point in a garden. It is a fast-growing, adaptable tree with exceptional pest resistance. Although its mature height is not yet known, growers estimate it may eventually grow to 60 feet; a 10-year-old specimen measures six feet tall and 10 feet wide.

ROSES

Bailey Nurseries is expanding its Easy Elegance™ rose collection—roses bred for easy care, hardiness, and disease resistance—with several new varieties this spring. Among these are ‘Firecracker’ (Zones 4–10, 9–4) which bears bright pink-red flowers with white centers, and ‘Funny Face’ (Zones 4–10, 9–4), with variable flowers in shades of pink, some with darker pink blotches, freckles, or blushes.

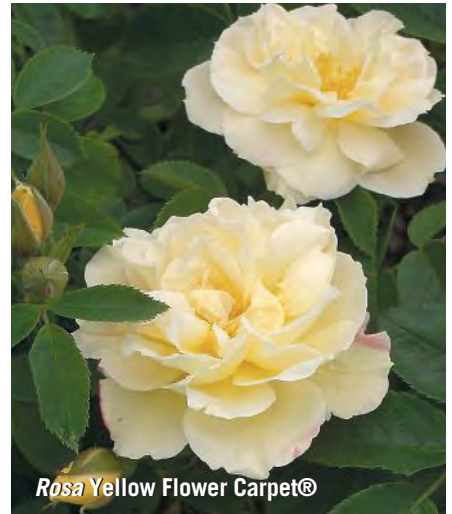
Conard-Pyle (www.starroses.com) is introducing several new easy care and disease-resistant roses, most prominently Blushing Knock Out™ (‘Radyod’, Zones 4–10, 9–4), a pink-flowered shrub rose that blooms profusely, is extremely hardy, and thrives even in humid regions.



Rosa ‘Funny Face’



Rosa ‘Falstaff’



Rosa Yellow Flower Carpet®

Six new roses from David Austin (www.david-austin-roses.com) will debut this growing season, including ‘Falstaff’, which has large, fully double flowers that open dark crimson and fade to a rich purple. ‘Falstaff’ can be grown as a shrub or as a climber.

If you’re looking for a ground cover rose, try Monrovia’s Yellow Flower Carpet® (Zones 4–10, 9–4). A vigorous grower, this rose will reach three feet high and wide. Soft yellow blossoms over two inches across bloom in mid-season. Disease- and pest-resistant as well as heat-tolerant, this rose is semi-evergreen where winters are warm.

VEGETABLES

Salads are bound to taste better this year with several new varieties of greens. Harris Seeds offers ‘Ruby Ruffles’ leaf lettuce, a slow-to-bolt and disease-resistant selection that develops frilly, deep red leaves. Renee’s Garden offers ‘Summer Perfection’ spinach, bred for sweetness and its ability to tolerate heat, resulting in a long harvest season.



'Citrus' cauliflower



'Yellow Punch' tomato

Also from Renee's Garden comes 'Round Romeo', an adaptable and fast-growing ball-shaped carrot with smooth-skinned flesh. Its petite size and sweet flavor make it perfect for eating raw, but it is also delicious cooked.

Cauliflower goes colorful with 'Citrus', an early-maturing hybrid variety from Johnny's Selected Seeds that develops a golden orange head. It makes an attractive presentation in raw vegetable platters. Light cooking intensifies the color.

Thompson & Morgan claim that its new winter squash, 'Jaspée de Vendée', is so sweet, the flesh can be eaten raw, like a melon. It develops a semi-bush habit and produces large fruits that hold up well in storage.

Nichols Garden Nursery introduces varieties of two lesser-known vegetables that deserve greater use—fennel and orach. 'Perfection' fennel is a uniform producer of sweet, tender bulbs with a flavor that suggests a combination of celery and anise.

Orach (*Atriplex hortensis*), often considered a weed, is actually edible and can be grown as a substitute for spinach. (For more about orach and other "weeds" for culinary use, see the article on page 20.)

Sources

Retail sources for many of the plants and seeds described in this article are listed here. For selections that were only available through wholesale distributors at the time we went to press, the name of the distributor and contact information are provided in the article. Contact distributors for retail sources.

El Nativo Growers, Inc., (626) 969-8449. www.elnativogrowers.com.
Mimulus 'Valentine', *M.* 'Verity White'.

Harris Seeds, Rochester, NY. (800) 514-4441. www.harriseseeds.com.
'Ruby Ruffles' leaf lettuce.

High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, NM. (800) 925-9387.
www.highcountrygardens.com.
Aquilegia chrysantha var. *chaplainei* 'Little Treasure'; *Dianthus pinifolius*;
Delosperma 'Tiffindell Magenta'; *Prunus besseyi* 'Select Spreader'.

Johnny's Selected Seeds, Albion, ME. (207) 861-3900. www.johnnyseeds.com.
Nicotiana 'Tinkerbell'; *Vinca* 'Tokonatsu'; 'Citrus' cauliflower; 'Orange Blossom' tomato.

Nichols Garden Nursery, Albany, OR. (800) 422-3985. www.gardennursery.com.
'Perfection' fennel; 'Triple Purple' orach.

Park's Countryside Gardens, Greenwood, SC. (800) 845-3369. www.parkseed.com.
Gaura lindheimeri 'Pink Lady'; *Hydrangea* 'Mikata Yae'.

Pendulous Plants, Fletcher, NC. www.pendulousplants.com.
Betula 'Summer Cascade'.

Renee's Garden, Felton, CA. (888) 880-7228.
Lathyrus odoratus 'Cupid Color Palette'; 'Summer Perfection' spinach; 'Round Romeo' carrot.

Thompson & Morgan, Jackson, NJ. (800) 274-7333. www.thompson-morgan.com.
Nemesia cheiranthus 'Shooting Stars'; *Lathyrus odoratus* 'Sugar n Spice', 'Pansy Lavender Flush', 'Borderline'; *Nicotiana* 'Tinkerbell'; 'Jaspée de Vendée' winter squash; 'Legend', 'Sweet Olive', and 'Yellow Punch' tomato.

Nichols is offering a cultivated orach variety called 'Triple Purple' that produces dark purple-red leaves on five-foot plants. In addition to its food value, it makes a bold statement in any garden.

No vegetable garden would be complete without tomatoes. Thompson & Morgan is offering three new varieties. 'Legend' is a blight-tolerant, determinate type, and a heavy producer of large red fruit. 'Sweet Olive' is an early variety that bears cascading trusses of grape-sized fruit. And 'Yellow Punch' will contrast gorgeously with red varieties in salads with its bright yellow, plum-shaped fruit.

For additional contrast, grow 'Orange Blossom', a determinate variety from Johnny's Selected Seeds. Its mild, sweetly flavored globes are bright orange.

PLANNING THE PERFECT GARDEN

So start planning your gardens and ordering your seeds. This year's varieties just may be the ones you've needed to add that perfect touch to your garden. Try a few, retain those that work, and remember, there's always next year. 🌱

Rita Pelczar is a former associate editor of The American Gardener.

Celebrating 175 Years of *the* Philadelphia



The queen of indoor flower shows has been inspiring generations of gardeners. This year, as the show enters its 175th year, we take you behind the scenes to see what it takes to stage this annual spring event.

*by Adam Levine
and Ray Rogers*

photographs by Adam Laipson

FOR NINE DAYS in March every year, the 10-acre main exhibition floor of the Pennsylvania Convention Center is transformed into a horticultural extravaganza. The Philadelphia Flower Show, with roots reaching back 175 years, is now the largest indoor flower show in the world and is the standard of excellence by which all others are judged. Produced by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), the logistical work for each show begins two to three years prior and involves more than 50 major exhibitors, roughly 3,000 entries from both professionals and hobbyists in hundreds of competitive classes, and more than 3,500 dedicated volunteers. The end result is a combination of horticulture and theater that delights thousands of visitors each year.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

The 52 major exhibit spaces at the 2003 show took up nearly five acres of display area. Starting with spaces ranging from several hundred to several thousand square feet, major exhibitors have less than 10 days to execute plans that have been more than a year in the making.

The exhibits go up with the swiftness and commotion of a military force establishing a base camp. Carpenters build gazebos and pergolas and entire small buildings, while craftsmen lay stone walls and patios that may include ponds, waterfalls, fountains, or all three. Backhoes sculpt piles of composted sawdust that serve as the “soil” of many of these temporary gardens. Soon after, platoons of nursery workers bring in a fantastic array of plants, all forced out of dormancy into early leaf and bloom. Forklifts race across the floor, carrying pallets of stone or big burlapped trees in full flower. Heated tractor-trailers from Florida unload thousands of dollars’ worth of tropical plants. Teams of florists using tens of thousands of cut flowers construct colorful mosaics and towering arrangements dramatically lit in



elaborate scenes, often accompanied by recorded music and theatrical effects.

The largest major exhibit is the central feature, which greets visitors coming through the main entrance. Based on the show theme, which changes every year, this important display often includes a number of experienced nurseries and florists, who are invited to work in collaboration with the show designer.

Other major exhibits are mounted by a variety of entities—including plant societies, non-profit institutions, for-profit companies, government agencies, and schools—but the largest are created by local florists and nurseries. These competitors vie for a range of trophies,

Flower Show



The 2004 Philadelphia Flower Show

will run from March 7 to 14 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The AHS Environmental Award will be presented at the show. A \$2 discount on show tickets is available by ordering them online at www.theflowershow.com until February 15. For more information call (215) 988-8800.

Christine's Garden

Gale Nurseries, 1986

This exhibit's centerpiece was a playhouse that Chuck Gale designed for his daughter, Christine, then four years old. Chuck is the third in a line of Charles H. Gales to run the nursery, which his grandfather started in the late 1920s. His late father, Charlie Gale III, was a fixture at the show for many years, and one of the first exhibitors to force garden plants such as foxgloves and delphiniums.

The sculptures of the children around the maypole are by artist Greg Leavitt, whose work has adorned many show exhibits over the years. The playhouse still stands on Chuck's property, but Christine Gale doesn't play in it anymore. Now a college student, she plans to pursue a master's degree in landscape architecture and join the family business.

awards, and cash prizes. These supplement a show subsidy based on the square footage of their exhibit space. Many major exhibitors consider the show a part of their annual advertising and promotion budget and say that it pays for itself in new business generated.

Another motivation for exhibitors is knowing that the show's proceeds help support the urban greening programs of the PHS. However, it is more than just business or philanthropy that encourages them to take weeks or months out of their busy lives, year after year. The thrill of creating something fresh and exciting out of nothing, quickly and with a definite deadline, is surely part of the attraction.

After setup is done and the judging is over and the trophies and other awards are distributed, the main task is to maintain the exhibit—watering and replacing spent plants or flowers—so it looks good for the entire run of the show.

For the show's nine-day run, the Convention Center glows like Cinderella dressed up for the ball, but as soon as the show closes on Sunday night, the fantasy is quickly stripped away. In less than three days the cavernous hall is emptied, with hardly a rose petal left behind on the concrete floors to serve as evidence that the show ever happened. Like many a wondrous flower, the show blooms only once a year.

THE SCIENCE OF ART

Part science and part horticultural intuition, forcing plants into early bloom is what makes this late-winter event a true flower show. Forcing for the major exhibits is done on a grand scale, with nurseries stacking hundreds and even thousands of pots of various plants into refrigerated trucks. Mature trees are forced by laying balled-and-burlapped specimens on their sides in heated greenhouses.

Aside from sheer numbers and size, the greenhouses of major exhibitors are equipped with technologically sophisticated plant-growing systems. To approximate a long spring day in the dead

A Woodland Retreat

Daniel G. Kepich & Associates, 1994

Daniel G. Kepich first exhibited at the show in 1986, when he created the display for the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association, which is no longer part of the show.

The large trees in this scene were actually cut specimens. To keep them upright, Kepich and current exhibitors use what, in essence, are oversized Christmas tree stands. The trunk of the tree is inserted into a hollow pipe onto which long steel legs have been welded. The trunk is secured in the pipe with tightly wedged shims, and the whole stand is hidden under mulch. To provide added support for taller specimens, guy wires are often strung from the tree trunk to the ceiling. This works only with evergreen specimens that will hold their needles for a time. For safety, the cut trees must be treated with a fire-retardant spray before being put on display.



The Journey Home

Burke Brothers Landscape Contractors,
2003

When the tent Kevin and Sean Burke ordered for this major exhibit came in a few shades too pink, there was less than a week to go before opening day, so they had to use it and managed to soften the color by bathing it in blue light. They also projected branch-like shadows on the top of the tent to suggest overhanging trees.

The waterfall is made from a local Pennsylvania stone. The apparent change in depth toward the waterfall was made by leaving that spot in the dark and floodlighting the area closer to "shore." The pond liner is hidden under a layer of gravel, stones, and moss.

of winter, high-intensity lights are run for as long as 18 hours at a stretch. Studies have shown that carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere increase during warm weather, so many growers also run CO₂ generators for several hours a day. Computerized controls for watering, heating, and ventilation allow the soil to be kept constantly warm while keeping the air temperature cool—ideal conditions for growing stocky plants with flowers packed tightly on the stem.

Many growers keep forcing log books, which, over a period of years, can give a good indication of when to take certain steps with various plants, but weather is always an unpredictable variable. The outdoor temperature and the amount of sunlight can greatly affect when a plant blooms. Most major exhibitors have several greenhouses kept at different temperatures, so plants coming along too slowly can be hurried in a warmer house, and those coming on too fast can be sent to a cooler house to chill out. To be safe, growers might force as many as double the number of plants they need.

Most exhibitors are willing to share information with fellow competitors, but in the end, nothing counts like experience. Years ago, nurseryman Robert Montgomery, eager to learn all the ins and outs of forcing, visited the operation of the late Charlie Gale III, of Gale Nurseries. Gale was among the first exhibitors to perfect the art of forcing late-spring and summer-blooming perennials. He politely showed Montgomery around his facility, describing in detail all the equipment he would need. After the tour Montgomery said, "Great, Charlie, but how do you actually force?" Gale smiled and said, "That's what I've spent the last 25 years learning, and that's what you've got to learn." Montgomery explains the moral to his story, "He was telling me that you can have all the right gadgets, but forcing is as much an art as it is a science." ❧

Adam Levine is a free-lance writer who lives in Pennsylvania. Ray Rogers is a free-lance writer based in New Jersey and has exhibited and won awards at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Photographer Adam Laipson gardens in western Massachusetts.

FORCING BULBS FOR COMPETITIVE EXHIBITION

It's safe to say that most of the bulbs in the Philadelphia Flower Show are forced. While the bulbs in the main exhibits command immediate attention, the forced bulbs entered in the container-grown plant competition at the show—the horticulture classes—require closer inspection to appreciate the beauty of the plant itself, but the growing and grooming skills of the gardener.

Lee Morris Raden's *Narcissus bulbocodium* won the Delaware Valley Daffodil Society rosette for best narcissus in the 2003 show. Raden has served in various leadership roles for PHS and the show, and last year marked his 37th year as an award-winning show exhibitor.

A rock garden enthusiast living in southeastern Pennsylvania, most of Raden's show entries are drawn from the world's choicest alpine species. While forcing bulbs to bloom perfectly and on time for the show is tough in itself, Raden takes it a step further by growing his daffodils from seed collected in the Atlas Mountains in northwestern Africa in 1989.

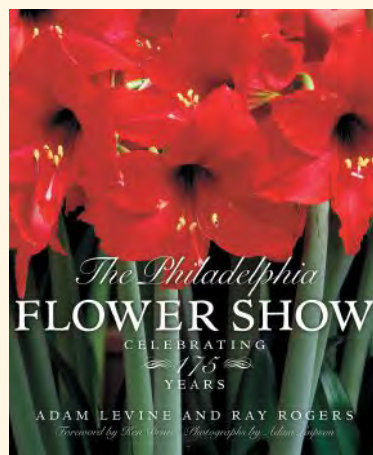


Left: Raden in his specialized greenhouse. Above: Raden's prize-winning *Narcissus bulbocodium* from the 2003 show.

N. bulbocodium, which Raden grows in a specialized greenhouse that recreates alpine conditions, usually begin to emerge from their dry summer dormancy as early as October. When they start to grow, Raden begins to water them freely, simulating the conditions of the snow-melt areas where they grow in the wild.

Raden watches for flower buds to appear at soil level, which normally indicates the plants will bloom in two to three weeks. If a pot of bulbs seems to be coming on too slowly for a specific show judging date, Raden resorts to a method used by many exhibitors: He places the pot immediately below a bank of fluorescent lights in his basement, which is kept at 55 to 65°F.

—A.L. and R.R.



This article is adapted with permission of the publisher from **The Philadelphia Flower Show: Celebrating 175 Years** by Adam Levine and Ray Rogers, with photographs by Adam Laipson, published by HarperCollins, New York, 2003. Hardcover: \$44.95 in U.S., \$69.95 in Canada.

The book features 244 pages filled with inspiring color photos of show exhibitions and stories of the show's events and players over the years. To purchase, log on to the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org) and link to amazon.com. The book is also available in bookstores.



WILD GREENS



Harvesting edible weeds from the garden makes weeding a much more satisfying experience.

BY CAROLE OTTESEN

NO, WILD GREENS are not a pro-environment political party. They are plants—okay, okay, weeds—that you can eat. My association with them began on one fine spring morning some 30 years ago when an old man came into the yard and asked permission to cut poke.

Poke? In the back of my brain a bell rang—ever so faintly.

“Yes, poke sallet,” he said, gesturing toward a fenced area along the road that had once been a paddock. He’d seen a mess of it growing the previous fall, reckoned it would be up about now. I followed him, still mystified, until he pointed to a familiar weed, *Phytolacca americana*.

I had heard that it was sometimes grown as an ornamental in English gardens, but eating it was something new. Or was it? A memory danced just out of reach—a song about pokeweed. A

southern delicacy, then. I was definitely interested.

Seeing my interest, the man indicated a tubular shoot with a gnarled, knobby finger. “You got to get it when it’s like that—just a-comin’ out,” he said, slicing off the shoot with a pocket knife. “It’s good eatin’ but first, you got to boil it in two changes of water. It’s poison, don’t you know.”

That word “poison” triggered my subconscious, and the words of an Elvis Presley song sprang forth:

*Down in Louisiana
Where the alligators grow so mean
There lived a girl that I swear to the world
Made the alligators look tame
Poke salad Annie, poke salad Annie*

Top left to right: Nettle, garlic mustard, poke shoots. Above: A “mess” of greens: chickweed, lambsquarters, and garlic mustard.

No wonder poke salad Annie was meaner than an alligator, I mused. All she had to eat was a poisonous weed. The old man left with a shopping bag full of it. “There’s still plenty left for you,” he said. Not on your life, I thought.

Still, that spring as I hoed and weeded and watered and fussed over my tiny lettuces and embryonic peas and beans, I contemplated the irony of vegetables that grew tentatively, always at risk from drought or deer, slugs, or insects, while weeds like poke shot up, robust and abundant, just like the biblical lilies of the field. Of course, that’s what makes them weeds.

WHEN IS A WEED NOT A WEED?

The dictionary says a weed is “any undesired, uncultivated plant that grows in profusion as to crowd out a desired crop, disfigure a lawn....” That “disfigure a lawn” bit, of course, brings dandelions to mind. People certainly go to great lengths to eliminate them from lawns. And in spite of all the spraying of herbicides and back-breaking hand weeding, they still pop up in front yards in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, and Puerto Rico. Their ubiquity—coupled with our national obsession with neat, ping-pong table lawns—is perhaps the reason this once highly esteemed plant fell from grace.

That may be changing. Even as some folks are trying to eliminate dandelions, others are actually planting them. Dandelion farming, fueled by the demand for organic produce and the plant’s medicinal uses, has become a multi-million dollar in-

dustry in the United States. Around Vineland, New Jersey, the “dandelion capital of the United States,” farms produce 30,000 bushels of dandelion greens each spring. An additional 100,000 pounds of the root are imported each year for patent medicine production.

Dandelions have a long history of medicinal use. In fact, the Latin binomial, *Taraxacum officinale*, comes from the Greek *taraxos*, meaning “disorder,” and *akos* for “remedy.” Both roots and leaves have been used as a purifying tonic for the liver and immune system and as a mild diuretic, a phenomenon that gave rise to the French common name, *pis-senlit*—literally, piss in bed.

Recent scientific research substantiates earlier uses and has illuminated other useful properties in the plants. Cheno-odeoxycolic acid, a substance found in dandelions, dissolves cholesterol. Other studies suggest that additional compounds in dandelions lower blood sugar levels, stimulate immune cells, and retard tumor formation.

Dandelions also have an extraordinary nutritional profile. Ounce per ounce, the leaves are higher in vitamin A than broccoli, carrots, or spinach. They contain potassium, iron, calcium, zinc, and vitamin E. And their vitamin C content was great enough to keep employees in the early days of Hudson’s Bay Company from developing scurvy.

While dandelions pop up here and there in U.S. markets, they are not the fixture they are in Europe, especially in

France and Italy. Italian Nelly Capra, a chef and cooking school teacher who divides her time between the Ligurian Riviera near Genoa and San Francisco, includes them in her signature focaccia stuffed with wild greens, along with “a mixture of bitter greens, broccoli rabe, and kale.”

Like many greens, dandelions are an acquired taste. They are never sweet, but become extremely bitter after bloom when the weather gets hot. The time to buy or gather them is in the cool months when they are putting out new growth. This can be either in the spring or fall or during mild spells in winter. Dandelion greens can be stored unwashed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for about three days.

Young leaves can be eaten raw and are good mixed in salads, where they add a bitter note that is offset pleasantly by mild lettuce and, perhaps, crumbled feta cheese, orange segments, or chopped apples. One way to start cooking with them is to add small amounts to familiar dishes. A mixture of chopped dandelion leaves with spinach or other greens is delicious.

LAMBSQUARTERS

Another wild green with a long history is lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*), an annual most gardeners find growing on the verges of their gardens. Sometimes called goosefoot for the shape of the leaves, the plant grows into a treelike shape with wide branches. In rich, moist soils, it can top six feet, but more commonly it grows to three feet. When young, the small, edible leaves are coated



Above: The ubiquitous and much maligned lawn weed, dandelion, is now gaining culinary recognition. Cultivated varieties specially developed for salads and cooking are now available. Right: Use lambsquarters as a substitute for spinach, either raw or cooked, in any recipe.



Resources

The Encyclopedia of Edible Plants of North America by Francois Couplan and James A. Duke. Keats Publishing, New Canaan, Connecticut, 1998.

Feasting Free on Wild Edibles by Bradford Angier. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 2001.

The Herbal Epicure by Carole Ottesen. Ballantine Wellspring, New York, 2001.

Identifying and Harvesting Edible and Medicinal Plants in Wild (And Not So Wild Places) by Steve Brill. William Morrow Publishers, New York, 1994.

Stalking the Wild Asparagus by Euell Gibbons. Countryman Press, Woodstock, Vermont, 1987.

The Wild Vegetarian Cookbook by Steve Brill. Harvard Common Press, Boston, Massachusetts, 2002.

Wild Food Adventurer Newsletter, 4125 North Colonial Avenue, Portland, OR 97217-3338. www.wildfoodadventures.com.

Seed Sources for Wild Greens

Garden Medicinals and Culinaries, Earlysville, VA. (434) 964-9113. www.gardenmedicinals.com.

■ Burdock, dandelion, garlic mustard, nettle, purslane.

Seeds of Change, Santa Fe, NM. www.seedsofchange.com.

■ Burdock, lambsquarters, purslane.

with a white dust that some gardeners think deters insects and serves to protect other vegetables growing nearby.

Lambsquarter greens are also an ancient food. The Vikings ate them and left a recipe for them, “*Kokt Svinmatta*.” Bronze Age remains suggest lambsquarters were cultivated during that period, and continued to be grown throughout Europe for centuries.

When spinach, which has bigger leaves and shorter stems, arrived from Asia in the 16th century, lambsquarters fell from favor. That’s unfortunate, because lambsquarters are a rich source of vitamins with 349 percent of the daily requirement for vitamin A and 111 percent for vitamin C, as well as folate, calcium, iron, protein, and dietary fiber. Because they don’t shoot up until the weather warms, they become available when spinach peters out. Like any other green, they are best when harvested young. You can prolong the production of new leaves by harvesting frequently, or simply

lopping off old stalks for new growth.

Lambsquarters are interchangeable in recipes calling for spinach. Try them in a Gruyere cheese-charged white sauce as a filling for crêpes. Or use them in a quiche or frittata alone or mixed with other greens. Stir fry them. Chop and mix them with ricotta cheese in lasagna. *Gratin au Chenipode* is a delicious mélange of sautéed onions and lambsquarters, mixed with mashed potato and topped with Gruyere.

Lambsquarters have several near-relatives, considered weedy, such as orach (*Atriplex patula*) and spear-leaved orach (*Atriplex prostrata*), that are also edible.

HANDLE WITH CAUTION

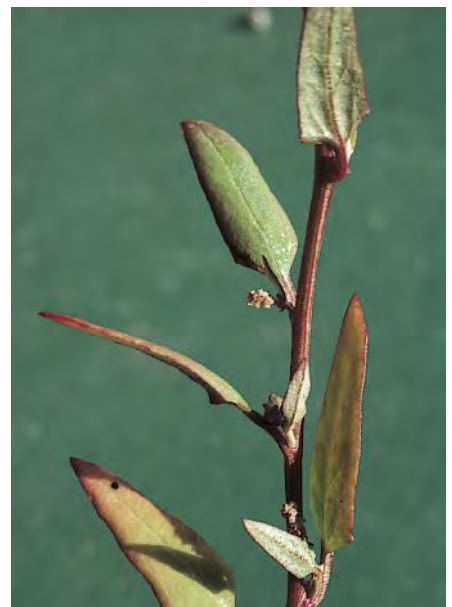
Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), are the garden’s bad boys. Not for nothing are they called “stinging nettles.” They spare no one and raise ferocious welts on the skin of those sensitive. They also spread by rhizomes and seed with abandon. For these reasons, not many people tolerate them in gardens,

but they are easy to find growing wild near woodland edges and in vacant lots. Like most of the weeds I’ve described, they are found just about everywhere, but on the West Coast there is a regional strain identified as *Urtica dioica* var. *californica*, that is just as stingy and edible as the species.

Despite the bad rap on nettles, they are nutritional superstars, containing more than 25 percent protein as well as calcium, magnesium, potassium, selenium, zinc, and vitamins A and C. Herbalists value their medicinal qualities, particularly as a remedy for cystitis and to make a purifying tonic used to treat immune response disorders such as arthritis.

“To me,” says wild edible authority John Kallas, director of Wild Food Adventures in Portland, Oregon, “nettles are a replacement for any green in any recipe. They’re wonderful in lasagna.” Because nettles start growing in early spring long before most other plants, they are popular in cold places. Nettles are a spring rite in countries such as Ireland, Scotland, and Scandinavia, where they are a Viking vegetable that never fell from favor

Nettles must be harvested and handled with caution in their raw state—but they lose their sting as soon as they are cooked. Personally, I find they taste rather bland, so I like to mingle them with lambsquarters, dandelions, collards, or kale in a mess of cooked greens, but recipes for nettle soup also abound. Just be sure to use only young



Orach (*Atriplex patula*) is an edible weed that is related to lambsquarters.

leaves. Eating the older leaves, says Kallas, “is like chewing on rope—even when they are cooked well.” This is not surprising, as nettle stalks were at one time used for making rope as well as a linenlike cloth.

CHICKWEED

One of the earliest wild greens available is chickweed (*Stellaria media*). Present at the cool extremes of the growing season, chickweed is a perennial that can be seen poking through snow in winter thaws. Present throughout the world’s temperate and arctic regions, chickweed is one of the most widespread weeds in the country; a USDA map shows it occurring in 50 states.

Chickweed gets its common name from the fact that birds of all feathers find it delectable and feast upon it. During Elizabethan times, it was fed to falcons. People still offer it to caged birds as a tonic, rich in vitamin C and phosphorus.

Chickweed is good for people, too. It has a nutritional content and cooked flavor comparable to that of spinach and a medicinal tradition that dates to antiquity. The Greek physician Dioscorides recommended it for eye and ear inflammation. Throughout history, it has been used in poultice form to treat inflammation and ulcers, and is still effective, crushed and applied to itchy, irritated skin. A tea from the entire plant yields a soothing drink for colds and flu. According to herbalists, chickweed contains saponins that emulsify fats, which may account for its use in folk medicine as a remedy for obesity.

Chickweed is delicate with small—about half an inch long—spoon-shaped leaves that are rather widely spaced on prostrate stems. This tendency to sprawl makes harvesting difficult. Gardeners can prune the little plants for a steadier supply of shorter, more upright greens.

Chickweed favors moist, rich soil and is very easy to identify. A line of fine hairs runs down only one side of the stem until it hits a leaf, then switches to the other side. Eaten raw, chickweed is a fine addition to salads. Blended with basil or parsley, it makes an excellent pesto.

PURSLANE

Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), belonging to the same family as chickweed, is a succulent, green, annual weed that favors hot, sandy soil. It is frequently found in

TIPS ON GROWING AND HARVESTING WEEDS

- Positively identify weeds before eating them. Once you learn them, you can forage anywhere. “Most wild gourmet garden vegetables are the same all over North America,” says wild food authority John Kallas of Portland, Oregon.
 - If you grow rather than forage for wild greens, give them the TLC you would any vegetable. Wild green seedlings thrive with light, air, nutrients, and room to grow. Thin seedlings to allow for maximum growth. Enrich the soil with compost.
 - Treat greens such as nettles, lambsquarters, purslane, and chickweed as cut-and-come-agains. Trim them back to encourage tender, new growth. Lamb-squarters, nettle, and purslane get tough when mature.
 - Avoid harvesting weeds from an area that may have been treated with chemicals or those growing by the side of a road that may be tainted by car exhaust or road runoff.
- C.O.



Above left: Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) begins growing very early in the year and can sometimes be harvested for a pre-spring salad despite cold weather and snow. **Above right:** The succulent stems and leaves of purslane have a tangy flavor and mucilaginous texture.

the cracks in sidewalks in midsummer at precisely the time when many other greens disappear or become too bitter to eat. The spoon-shaped mucilaginous leaves and round, succulent stems comprise the greatest source of Omega-3 fatty acids in the green world. And that’s not all. Purslane contains iron, more beta-carotene and six times more vitamin E than spinach, high levels of magnesium and potassium, and vitamins C and A.

Although purslane has a long history of medicinal use, its primary use throughout history and the world is as a food plant. Ancient Egyptians prized it, and it is still used in traditional dishes in

India and the Middle East. Although it wasn’t grown in Europe until about the 16th century, by the mid-18th century, Martha Washington was pickling it in the New World. Mexicans call it *vegolaga* and use it in soups, tortillas, and omelets. And, mixed in equal parts with sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), purslane is an okralike component of the classic French *bonne femme* soup.

Young purslane leaves and shoots enliven salads with a citrusy tang. Older shoots and leaves are fine as a potherb and a few cooks still pickle them for winter salads. Some people plant purslane or golden purslane (*Portulaca sativa*), which has

Kimpira Gobo

This basic recipe for fried burdock was shared by Osamu Shimizu. For variation, add other ingredients such as ginger, shallots, and Japanese chili sauce. —C.O.

1 lb. burdock roots
1/2 lb. carrots
1 to 3 togarashi or Thai hot peppers
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon mirin
3 to 4 tablespoons soy sauce
1 to 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
sesame seeds, to taste

1. Rub burdock with the back of a knife to remove skin. Cut into 1 to 1 1/2-inch lengths, then slice into matchstick-sized pieces. Soak in cold water for several minutes, then drain.
2. Peel and slice carrot into matchstick-sized pieces.
3. Cut off top of hot peppers and remove seeds. Slice into thin rounds.
4. Heat oil in frying pan or wok and add burdock and carrot. Stir-fry over high heat for about three minutes.
5. Add sugar, mirin, and soy sauce. Sprinkle hot pepper and sesame seeds. Continue to cook until liquid is gone, stirring frequently.



Both the leaves and roots of burdock (*Arctium lappa*), top, are edible. The roots are especially prized for their reputed efficacy in stimulating the auto-immune system. Sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), above, is another weed that reportedly shares similar disease-fighting abilities.

The roots are prized medicinally, used as a blood purifier for auto-immune conditions, particularly psoriasis and acne. The root also contains inulin, which can be converted to insulin when consumed by diabetics. The plant's most famous—and controversial—medicinal use is as a tumor reducer. Along with slippery elm (*Ulmus fulva*), sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), and turkey rhubarb (*Rheum palmatum*), it is a component of the essiac recipe for cancer, named for Rene Caisse (essiac is “Caisse” spelled backwards), a Canadian nurse. She credited the essiac formula to an old Ojibway medicine man, and used it, often successfully, to treat patients whose prognosis was deemed hopeless.

Its medicinal qualities aside, burdock is an excellent winter vegetable with healthful properties. Skinned and chopped into matchsticks along with an equal amount of similarly prepared carrots, burdock is an essential ingredient in a classic Japanese dish, *Kimpira Gobo* (see box, far left).

larger yellow leaves and grows more upright. Others find just enough wild plants in cracks in the sidewalks and along the patio to enjoy for summer meals. As weeds go, purslane is generally well-behaved.

WEEDS YOU LOVE TO HATE

Not so, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), a biennial that is a nuisance in gardens and a real threat in natural areas. In Europe, where it is native, it is a good citizen. In North America, garlic mustard is a noxious invasive throughout the eastern half of the continent, as well as in many central and western states. In rich, moist, shady places, it spreads swiftly, crowding out native understory plants such as spring beauty (*Claytonia* sp.), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra* sp.), trillium, and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria* sp.). In the absence of familiar wildflowers such as violets, butterflies lay eggs on garlic mustard's round leaves and their emerg-

ing larvae die, it is thought, because of compounds in the leaves.

Fortunately, cooks fare better. The most tender, best-tasting leaves are the first-year rosettes and the small leaves on the stalk, before the plant flowers. Garlic mustard is not so much bitter as it is robust. By itself, it is a powerful blending of its namesakes. Red meat stands up to its lusty flavor. It could star as a stuffing in pork roast or roast beef. Or, lightened up by mixing with lambsquarters or spinach and onions, it makes an excellent side dish for lamb.

Biennial burdock (*Arctium lappa*) is another annoying weed—the one with the seed burrs that stick to your socks and dog. The time to harvest its root, called *gobo* in Japan, where farmers grow it as a food crop, is after the first year before the flower stalk develops. This way, you'll have a gourmet vegetable, and you'll eliminate the nasty burrs that follow the flowers.

GRAZING THE GARDEN

There is beautiful economy in weeding the garden and in so doing, putting tasty and nutritious foods on your table. Once you start harvesting wild greens, you may find your views of vegetable gardening altered.

You may never grow spinach again, but choose to pick the lambsquarters that arrive on their own. You may never again bother raising endive when dandelion roots can be had for the digging. You may buy rather than grow organic carrots and let the burdock grow itself. Nettles planted in flats on the leaky window of a basement room may provide an endless supply of greens throughout the winter. And, on those long January evenings, instead of poring over seed catalogs, you may choose to read about weedy candidates for next year's culinary efforts.

Weed gourmand Carole Ottesen is associate editor of *The American Gardener*.



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Delectable Daphnes



If you're looking for a small to medium-size shrub, hardy, fragrant daphnes should be high on your list.

BY GERALD TAAFFE

JERRY PAVIA

DAPHNES ARE so beautiful, so sweetly fragrant, and so delicate looking—and so often labeled as finicky and difficult—that it took me a few years of trial and error to realize that the genus includes a number of tough and versatile garden plants. Several of the 20 or so selections I have tried since then are strong growing plants that have become mainstays in my USDA Zone 4 garden in Ottawa, Canada.

A good example is a recent planting of the wonderful variegated Burkwood daphne (*Daphne ×burkwoodii* ‘Carol Mackie’, Zones 4–8, 9–2) that fills a space between a flagstone patio and a right angle where two walls meet. In one of the rare landscape schemes I’ve tried that did better than expected, four waist-high daphnes fill an area 12 feet long and deep. The semi-evergreen plants are unfazed by the winter dumps of ice and snow from the roof. In summer, looking down at the multitude of light green leaves, each neatly edged in cream, brings on a sort of blissful daze.

And then there’s the fragrance. For a few weeks in spring, with lesser but very welcome encores in late summer and early fall, the ‘Carol Mackie’ daphnes are covered with clusters of waxy-textured, light pink flowers, shedding an aroma that permeates the garden and makes its way into the house through windows left open for just that purpose. The powerful sweet scents of the garden’s many other daphnes make trips out to the garden, even to pull out weeds or fetch tools an immersion into a sea of fragrance.

BURKWOOD HYBRIDS

‘Carol Mackie’ is the best known of a series of selections, sometimes termed Burkwood daphnes, that resulted from crosses between the deciduous *D. caucasica* and the evergreen rose daphne (*D. cneorum*). All add a special elegance to a foundation planting or shrub border.

‘Carol Mackie’ and the two most widely available green-leaved forms—‘Somerset’ and ‘Arthur Burkwood’—make shapely mounded shrubs between three and four feet high, uniform enough in size to make a sensational untrimmed hedge. ‘Lavenirii’ is a lower, very densely branched, spreading shrub with smaller leaves, and there are varieties with gold-edged leaves and one, ‘Briggs Moonlight,’ with reverse variegation, cream edged in green. All are cold-hardy to at least USDA Zone 4.

Very different is February daphne (*D. mezereum*, Zones 5–8, 8–5), another mainstay of my garden. From November on, fat, purple-tipped flower buds lend hopeful bits of color to the bare twigs of this three- to four-foot-high-and-wide shrub. In milder climates, the plants may be semi-evergreen and actually bloom in February, as the common name suggests. Here, though, they always shed their leaves by early winter, making it all the more dramatic when, just after snowmelt, usually in early April, every last bare twig is lined with intensely fragrant flowers in various shades of purple. In summer pretty but poisonous red berries and self-sown seedlings often spring up around mature plants.



Above: Growing in the author’s USDA Zone 4 garden in Ottawa, February daphne’s bounty of delicate blooms belies its sturdy constitution. ‘Carol Mackie’, opposite page, and ‘Briggs Moonlight’, left, are variegated, cold-hardy forms of the Burkwood daphnes.

The February daphnes in my garden are planted behind a sprawling bed of low-lying winter heath (*Erica carnea*), which has turned out to be the happiest of combinations, giving a jump start to spring. Both bloom just after snowmelt, and the bright pinks, purplish-reds and white of the various heaths bring to life the

daphne’s relatively subdued purples. And both kinds of plants do well in the heath bed’s special lean soil mix of sand, peat moss and composted pine-bark.

There’s considerable variation in flower color in this species. There are named selections, some of them double, in white, pink, magenta, and fairly close to red. The loveliest color variation I have seen, however, was a self-sown seedling with flowers of the lively, clear rose-pink that turned up in the 75-year-old garden of a friend several years after its presumed mother plant had died.

Another sensational specimen is a rose daphne cultivar (*D. cneorum* ‘Ruby Glow’, Zones 5–7, 7–5). Its spring flush of bloom covers the plant with intensely fragrant clusters of deep rosy pink—a powerhouse of color and fragrance on a low mat over five feet wide and still spreading.

Rose daphne is a plant that can rebound from adversity. During the great ice storm of January 1998, the one in my garden was



Daphnes have varied growth habits. Wide-spreading *D. cneorum*, above left, grows close to the ground and can withstand some harsh environmental conditions, while *D. genkwa*, above right, grows upright into a showy, mid-sized shrub with a reputation for being finicky.

bombarded with branches dropped from an immense silver maple, and then in March trampled on by workers taking down the tree's remains. The daphne's top growth was unmistakably dead, yet by late spring a dense growth of tiny green sprigs began to appear in its center. Fall brought flower buds on the new growth, and in following years the plant grew stronger than ever.

Rose daphne also has a number of interesting variations. Along with the deep pink 'Ruby Glow', there is 'Pygmaea', a smaller leaved, prostrate form; a white 'Alba'; 'Variegata', with cream-edged leaves; and a botanical variety, *D. cneorum* var. *verlotii*, which has very narrow leaves and large flowers. All of these varieties are well worth seeking out, but keep in mind that it's best to choose a specimen that has the little imperfections that are inevitable in plants grown outdoors in lean soil. Nurseries can grow lush, unblemished, symmetrical daphnes in protected conditions, but my experience has been that those coddled plants don't last long in the garden.

SMALLER DAPHNES

Almost as prominent in larger rock gardens and at the front of well-drained mixed borders is a bevy of mid-sized daphnes between two and three feet in height and width. A favorite here is the deciduous *D. alpina* (Zones 5–8, 8–6), with clusters of white flowers with a distinctive light, very sweet fragrance. It has pretty orange berries in early summer and, like February daphne, is sometimes surrounded by a brood of self-sown plants. This species grows stronger and prettier with each passing year, and older plants re-bloom freely in late summer and fall.

D. xeschmannii (Zones 5–7, 7–5), another mid-sized deciduous daphne, has very fragrant flowers that open white from pinkish buds. Against expectation, this cross between rose daphne and the difficult, rare alpine *D. blagayana* has turned out to be extremely tough. It didn't miss a beat after being trimmed back radically and transplanted, not once but several times, treatment that often spell disaster for other species in the genus.

Some other daphnes of about the same size are not quite as rugged. Last year, when the deciduous *D. giraldii* (Zones 4–8,

8–3) first bloomed in the garden here, I was thrilled to find that the small clusters of yellow flowers had the usual sweet daphne fragrance. It doesn't bear flowers as freely as other species so is more interesting than showy, but I wouldn't be without it.

Beautiful and showy by any standard is *D. genkwa* (Zones 5–9, 9–6), mid-sized and deciduous with very large bluish-purple flowers that clothe arching, bare branches in early spring. The fragrance is hauntingly light and can be elusive. Although it is winter-killed some years here in Zone 4—and has a reputation for being finicky even in milder climates—the grace and distinctiveness of this plant make it worth any amount of trouble.

My latest try at growing *D. retusa* (Zones 6–9, 9–6) has produced a pretty specimen with shiny, stiff leaves. Hope runs high, but its future is a little doubtful. This species, along with the very similar *D. tangutica* (Zones 6–9, 9–6), is one of two very desirable mid-sized evergreen species that are almost, but not quite, hardy enough for my Zone 4 garden. In slightly milder climates they are stiffly upright shrubs with fragrant rose-purple flowers, sometimes white tinged purple inside. Here, they tend to die back to the snow-line and eventually succumb to an especially severe winter.



Evergreen *D. tangutica* is borderline hardy in USDA Zone 4.

TOP LEFT: MARK TURNER; TOP RIGHT: LYNNE HARRISON; BOTTOM: JERRY PAVIA

ROCK GARDEN GEMS

Daphne arbuscula (Zones 5–7, 7–5) is my favorite among a profusion of smaller daphnes that are ideal for rock gardens, sand beds, and the special fast draining containers that rock gardeners call “troughs.” The flowers are fragrant and relatively large, pink or purplish-pink, on a six-inch-high, gently spreading evergreen shrublet with shiny deep green leaves. Surprisingly, considering it grows wild only in a single location in the mountains of Slovakia, this species has been adaptable and perfectly hardy here.

It's too soon to say whether my recently acquired specimen of 'Muran Castle,' a selection of *D. arbuscula* by the Czech plant explorer Josef Halda, does, as heralded, have slightly showier flowers. So far, it looks just like the type species, which is good enough for me.

Among the many endearing traits of these alpine daphnes is that some start to bloom on young plants no more than an inch or two across. This is true of the lovely hybrid, 'Leila Haines,' with fragrant pink flowers on a plant that never gets higher than a few inches and takes some years to reach a foot in spread. It's a cross

between rose daphne and *D. striata*.

The enchanting 'Delphi Form' of *D. jasminea* (Zones 5–9, 9–6) also blooms on tiny plants, with small, fragrant starlike white flowers. It isn't reliably hardy here, but I've seen flourishing specimens in Denver, only slightly milder at Zone 5, where the ground-hugging plants can spread several feet and be counted on to rebloom in summer.

The rarest alpine species in the garden here is *D. circassica* (Zones 5–8, 8–4), pretty and perfectly hardy but extremely slow growing. Eight years after germination, it has grown into

Petite, at only a foot tall, the hybrid daphne 'Lawrence Crocker'—growing here with echeveria—is perfect for a rock garden.

a perfect little dome no more than three inches across. It hasn't flowered yet, but I'm willing to wait indefinitely to see what might turn up in a plant that's named for an area that since antiquity has been renowned for the beauty of its women.

Somewhat larger, reaching about a foot in height, is evergreen 'Lawrence Crocker' (Zones 5–7, 7–4), a pink-flowered hybrid that blooms very early in life. It's a cross between *D. arbuscula* and *D. collina*, the latter a pink-flowered species native to Italy that's proven to be surprisingly hardy in Zone 4.

Other desirable foot-high evergreen species include *D. do-*

DAPHNE FAMILY PORTRAIT

Botanists have identified some 50 species in the genus *Daphne*, which is part of the daphne family (Thymelaceae). Most are small to mid-sized deciduous to evergreen shrubs with fragrant flowers. Native to mostly temperate regions of Europe, Asia, and North Africa, daphnes occupy a variety of habitats from woodlands to mountain slopes.

Many references connect the name *Daphne* to the legendary chaste nymph of Greek mythology, but the nymph's name may in fact be derived from an old Indo-European root meaning “fragrance,” a glimmer of which can be detected in the modern German word *Duft*.

Daphne flowers, which bloom singly or in clusters, are tubular near the base, opening into four waxy or succulent-looking lobes that resemble petals. Most species have alternate leaves that are linear to oval in shape with smooth edges. Many daphnes bear attractive fleshy fruits in a wide array of colors, but be aware that the fruits—and indeed all parts of daphnes—are considered toxic; some gardeners have reported skin irritations from contact with sap.

There are several other ornamental representatives of the daphne family worth investigating, starting with paperbush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*, Zones 7–9, 11–3), a rounded deciduous shrub that bears dense heads of fragrant yellow flowers in late winter to early spring. Native to China, paperbush grows to about five feet tall and wide.

Another mainstay is leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*, Zones 4–9, 9–1), a deciduous, four- to six-foot shrub native to eastern North America. Leatherwood does best in moist, shady spots, and I grow it under a dense stand of very large magnolias, where its precocious small flowers provide enticing flashes of yellow before the trees have leafed out. Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*) is similar in appearance to its eastern counterpart but its native range is restricted to moist woodland areas in California.

Stellera chamaejasme (Zones 5–8, 8–6), a hard-to-acquire herbaceous perennial, is a sort of Holy Grail among daphnephiles. The two-foot stems of this Himalayan native rise in a dense mass from a long taproot, each topped by very fragrant, daphnelike flowers that are red in bud and open white. There's also a very beautiful yellow variety. —G.T.

mini (sometimes listed as *D. kosaninii*, Zones 5–7, 7–4), which has pink flowers that never quite open and are followed by orange fruit; *D. oleoides* (Zones 5–8, 8–6), a lovely, very hardy pale pink-flowered species; and spurge laurel (*D. laureola* subsp. *philippi*, Zones 5–8, 8–6) which has especially thick textured, shiny leaves and unique fragrant yellow-green flowers.

DAPHNES FOR WARMER REGIONS

Other daphnes would be mainstays if I gardened in a much gentler climate. Near the top of the list is *D. bholua* (Zones 8–9, 9–7), a deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub that can reach close to seven feet. In Irish gardens, which is the only place

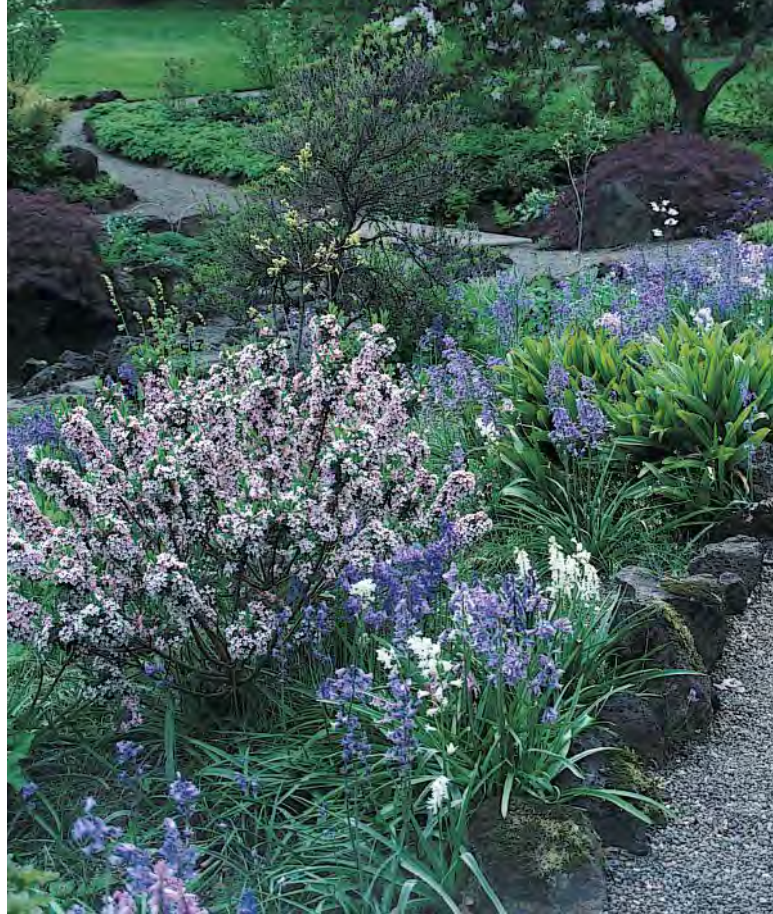


I've seen this plant growing, it blooms from midwinter until St. Patrick's Day, with purplish flower buds that open into big, very fragrant white flowers.

Much more common in milder areas of North America is the fragrant or winter daphne (*D. odora*, Zones 7–9, 9–7), one of the choicest evergreen garden shrubs. Growing three to five feet tall and as wide with a densely branched, broadly mounded habit, it has glossy, dark green leaves and bears a display of extraordinarily fragrant reddish-purple flowers that lasts from late winter to early spring. Best known of several named selections is 'Aureomarginata,' which has gold-edged leaves and is said to be a little hardier than the species. Plant fragrant daphne near the house, where you can enjoy its scent daily.



The extraordinarily fragrant *D. odora* 'Aureomarginata', above, thrives in mild winter areas. *D. ×burkwoodii* 'Somerset', right, like other daphnes, benefits from a garden site that has very good drainage.



KEEPING DAPHNES HAPPY

There is no doubt that daphnes of all kinds can die, sometimes suddenly, for what seem to be mysterious reasons. Some horticulturists ascribe “daphne death”—as this phenomenon is called—to a viral or fungal disease, but I would rather be-


lieve that a little extra care will prevent most of these mishaps.

The most important advice comes from a veteran nurseryman I know, whose prescription for keeping daphnes happy and healthy is to “give them not just good, but *very* good drainage.” His words came back to me this summer when I observed many perfect specimens in the Denver Botanic Garden. They were planted in full sun, between rocks or in dry, gritty soil, and—once established—got very little supplemental irrigation despite the dry, semi-desert climate.

Most daphnes grow best in full sun, but at the southern extent of their range they may benefit from a site that receives filtered light or afternoon shade. The exception to this is spurge laurel (*D. laureola*), which requires some shade.

Daphnes tolerate a wide range of soil pH, but they grow best in slightly alkaline to slightly acidic soil. I've found they thrive in a lean, sandy or gravelly soil, occasionally fortified with a top dressing of organic matter. Mulching with pine bark—or gravel for rock garden specimens—helps keep the roots cool and conserve soil moisture, but be sure to keep mulch away from the crown.

They are especially sensitive to root disturbance. Just digging near a plant can kill it, so avoid this if possible. Although I have successfully moved several species out of necessity, I don't recommend this as a regular practice.

As shrubs go, daphnes require little care beyond an occasional pruning to remove crossing branches. I never fertilize my daphnes; indeed, I worry if they seem to be growing too fast. As I have noted earlier, be leery of garden center specimens that seem unnaturally lush. It was after buying such specimens years ago that I quickly lost my first few daphnes and came close to giving up on the genus. In retrospect, that would have been a great pity. 

Resources

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants (5th edition) by Michael A. Dirr, Stipes Publishing, Champaign, Illinois, 1998.

Sources

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Heronwood Nursery Ltd., Kingston, WA.
(360) 297-4172. www.heronwood.com. Catalog \$5.

Roslyn Nursery, Dix Hills, NY. (631) 643-9347.
www.roslynnursery.com. Catalog \$3.

Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery, Medford, OR.
(541) 772-6846. www.srpn.net. Catalog \$3.

Free-lance writer Gerald Taaffe gardens in Ottawa, Ontario.

Celebrate Spring with AHS



Join us this April for *Washington Blooms!* at River Farm. Nothing compares with the beauty of the early spring blooms in the National Capital area. Cherry blossoms, daffodils, and tulips herald the coming of spring in an explosion of color. Throughout the month of April—National Garden Month—AHS hosts a variety of events with something for every gardener, no matter what your passion!

New! AHS Garden School

This year we introduce the new AHS Garden School. These in-depth workshops offer a truly unique environment—personal instruction from garden pros; behind-the-scenes tours of landmark sites and hidden treasures; and hands-on projects. Each course includes an intimate evening at a spectacular location.

The Amazing World of Indoor Plants—April 1, 2

Gardening is truly a year-round hobby when you bring it indoors. Meet the experts who will introduce you to gorgeous and unusual tropicals. Create a tropical bonsai treasure. Travel to public conservatories as well as small, beautifully designed indoor garden rooms.

Creating Your Own SMARTGARDEN™—April 8, 9

A garden that is low-maintenance, works with nature, has minimal pests and diseases, and flourishes year after year. Sound impossible? Not at all! The SMARTGARDEN™ program provides practical choices and techniques for becoming a successful gardener and a steward of the earth.

The Art and Science of Garden Photography—April 15, 16

Garden photography hangs in galleries and dazzles audiences at symposia.

If you ever wondered “how do they do that?”—this school is for you. Learn the tips and techniques involved in basic photography as well as diverse photographic styles. Small, intimate hands-on workshops led by experts allow you to work closely with the pros.

How to Nurture and Show Prize-Winning Plants—April 23

The work involved in taking a plant from house to show is fraught with challenges. Ray Rogers, frequent winner at the Philadelphia Flower Show and co-author of *The Philadelphia Flower Show*, will provide personal tips and techniques for success. Included is an afternoon visit to the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., District II Flower Show at River Farm.



2004 Washington Blooms! Events at River Farm

- April 1–2** AHS Garden School:
The Amazing World of Indoor Plants
- April 2** Great American Gardener
Award Banquet
- April 3** Spring Garden & Bulb Tour
- April 8–9** AHS Garden School:
Creating Your Own SMARTGARDEN™
- April 10** Spring Garden & Bulb Tour
- April 15–16** AHS Garden School:
The Art & Science of Garden Photography
- April 17**
 - ▶ Spring Garden & Bulb Tour
 - ▶ Alexandria House and Garden Tour
- April 22** *Member's Night*
Friends of River Farm Plant Sale
- April 23** AHS Garden School:
*How to Nurture and Show
Prize-Winning Plants*
- April 23–24**
 - ▶ Friends of River Farm Plant Sale
 - ▶ National Capital Area Federation
of Garden Clubs District II Flower Show

Ongoing for the month of April

- ▶ Washington Landscape Artists Exhibit
- ▶ AHS Green Garage Display
- ▶ River Farm Cottage Shop
- ▶ Historic Garden Week in Virginia
(April 17–25)

Visit the AHS Web site (www.ahs.org) for more details
or call 1 (800) 777-7931 for a brochure.

Anywhere but Eden

This is the debut of an ongoing column on garden design written by Tres Fromme, planning and design leader at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Nationally known for his creative approach to garden design, Tres lectures and teaches classes on garden design. He has also contributed articles on design to magazines such as Country Gardens and Landscape Architecture. Tres earned his Master's of Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia's School of Environmental Design in 1996.

HAVE YOU NOTICED the way most popular “how-to” books cover only “how to” decorate, accessorize, and generally add froufrou to your home and garden? These technicolor tomes, filled with mouth-watering photos of—mostly English—gardens, rarely discuss how to design and build the overall house or garden spaces themselves. The writers seem to assume everyone’s house or garden is just a few throw pillows or an ornate birdbath short of perfection.

Other books and magazines may tell you how to build discrete components of gardens or how to combine plants for various color and sculptural effects. Plants, of course, are one critical element of gardens, but gardens are so much more than mere assemblages of plants or features. Many gardeners amass expert plant knowledge and choice collections of plants only to realize they have little idea what to do with them beyond trying to create color-balanced compositions.

In my experience, little popular garden writing attempts to suggest how to *think* about the overall process of design. Yet thinking, contemplating, and generally mulling things over are all prerequisites of the garden design process. Indeed, the ability to think metaphorically about things in new and often surprising ways is essential to design. It is this process that I will address during the course of this series.

In doing so I hope to change the way you perceive (not merely see) design, gardening, and gardens—to perceive them creatively from new and different perspectives; on deliriously tilted angles. To set the table for this, let’s take a slanted look at the very idea of beginnings and “perfect” or “ideal” gardens, which I believe do not, and, more importantly, *cannot* exist.



IN THE BEGINNING

All gardens have beginnings of one type or another. Some gardens emerge from necessity; the mandate to provide basic sustenance and fulfill basic developmental needs. Others are inspired by a love of beauty and a desire to share its benefits with other people. When you get right down to it, the excuses, reasons, alibis, and justifications people offer for designing and gardening are usually as diverse, fascinating, contradictory, and

human as the gardeners themselves. And these psychological complexities are part of the reason we love gardens so much.

Beginnings are exciting, inspiring, and often intimidating. They are times of great energy, creativity, passion, and trepidation.

Take, for example, one of the most infamous gardens in Western history and literature, the Garden of Eden. I am using Eden as a metaphor because it is a convenient and well-known subject and I ask

you, the reader, to set aside for the moment religious connotations or beliefs.

As the story goes, Adam and Eve lived blissfully unaware and unclothed in Eden. The garden provided all they required without them even having to request it. The weather was perfect. The animals were friendly and tractable. No one toiled or sweated. Peace and plenty reigned supreme. The First Couple from all accounts were in accord with each other on every decision.

Does this sound like any garden (or relationship) you have ever known?

So, along comes the Serpent and convinces Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Adam was a bit slow on the uptake, so she prompts him to taste. Suddenly both know all sorts of things—namely that they need a good tailor (thus fashion, rather than architecture or horticulture, becomes the first

creative human action). The expulsion from Eden quickly follows and the pair find themselves armed only with Knowledge and fig leaves in an inhospitable world.

Adam and Eve begin to toil, to plan, to use their power of creative will to shape the world. They grow their own plants, protect themselves and the garden from unpredictable weather, defend themselves from hostile animals, and become acquainted with death.

Now, *that* sounds more like gardening, doesn't it?

REALITY OVER FANTASY

Many gardeners set out to recapture their own bit of Eden, to make their own earthly paradise. No wonder so many are so quickly disappointed, despite the growing number of gardening books, television makeover shows, lectures, and support groups for the horticulturally-challenged. Praying that Eden is but a season away in your garden is as deluded as hoping you will wake up tomorrow looking like Brad Pitt or Naomi Campbell. These two do not even look like themselves without a lot of artifice, fussing, and good lighting.

And neither does a real garden. Our gardens involve work, creative intent, inspiration, failure, success, and delight. This is why we love them, why we con-

tinually return to them no matter how arduous or annoying they become.

So, why and how do we begin today to create gardens of compelling delight and pragmatic functionality? And how can we avoid being seduced by the sirenlike call of the grocery aisle magazine cover that promises the perfect garden is but one new plant or a pergola away from perfection? For answers to these and other questions, I invite you to join me over the next few years to plumb the murky depths of garden design.

Beginnings are exciting, inspiring, and often intimidating. They are times of great energy, creativity, passion, and trepidation.

We will re-examine basic assumptions about design, gardens, and the idea of creative thinking to pave the way for explorations about “Big Picture” design ideas such as figuring out what you want from your garden, the role of plants in garden design, and understanding the befuddling mess enticingly known as “garden style.”

Having laid these conceptual foundations we will go on to deconstruct several precious darlings of the horticultural “glamoratti,” including color, childrens’ gardens, plant snobbery, and the issue of native versus exotic plants.




But before we go too far afield, in the next issue we will tackle the rather slippery question of “What the Heck is Design, Anyway?”

Tres Fromme is a landscape designer at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.



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Horticultural News and Research Important to American Gardeners

Forcing Winter Flowers

When you're tired of winter and spring seems impossibly far away, the next best thing to seeing trees in flower outdoors is seeing them bloom for you indoors.

Shrubs that bloom in early spring will have formed their flower buds the previous fall. Very often when their branches are brought into the warmth of a house, they will flower ahead of schedule. The easiest and most reliable indoor bloomers are forsythia, flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* spp.), and pussy willow (*Salix* spp.). Other woodies that may be coaxed into flowering ahead of schedule include peach, cherry, apple, and pear trees, dogwoods, cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.), bridal wreath spirea, mountain laurel, *Mahonia* spp., camellia, hibiscus, rhododendrons, lilacs, and magnolias.

The closer to a plant's natural flowering period the branches are cut, the faster they will bloom indoors. For example, forsythia, cut in late Febru-

ary, usually blooms within a week. Dogwood, witch hazel, and fruit tree branches take a little longer—over three weeks.

Cut branches for forcing on a sunny morning when the temperature is above freezing. Select young, pliable branches with fat flower buds. Use a very sharp knife or pruning shears to cut branches measuring one to three feet. Immediately place them into a pail of water.

Once inside, soak the branches in a tub of lukewarm water for several hours before transferring them to containers of water with a floral preservative. A warm room speeds up bloom; a cold one will slow it down. Keep the branches in bright light and, if possible, in a place with high humidity. This is especially important with harder-to-force plants such as magnolia, lilac, and rhododendron. Misting these branches several times each day or soaking the entire branches for several hours every two days will help them stay hydrated.



Cherries are among the shrubs that can be forced for early blooms.

TIP: The little packets of floral preservative florists include with bouquets of flowers supply nutrients for cut flowers and reduce bacterial growth in water. In a pinch, you can make your own preservative by adding one tablespoon of the mouthwash Listerine™ to a gallon of water and using the water to fill the vases for your fresh-cut flower arrangements.

JAPANESE PAINTED FERN IS 2004 PPA PLANT OF THE YEAR

"Graceful, attractive, and versatile," is the way Steven Still, executive director of the Perennial Plant Association (PPA) describes Japanese painted fern (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum'), his organization's choice for 2004 Plant of the Year. The low-maintenance perennial fern—native to China, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan—grows to 18 inches tall with beautiful green and silver variegated fronds and wine-red stems. Japanese painted fern will form graceful colonies when planted in part to full shade and moist soil. Hardy in USDA Zones 4 to 8 and heat tolerant in AHS



Japanese painted fern is a stellar perennial for shade and woodland gardens.

Zones 8 to 1, it combines well with other shade plants that have green and white variegation such as hostas, sedges (*Carex* spp.), and ajugas.

WIN-WIN ORGANIC RESEARCH

An organic gardening study by researchers at the Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has benefited farmers and other growers, fed the needy, and shows promise for home gardeners.

Using organic methods, the researchers raised more than 4,000 pounds of Roma tomatoes last summer on an experimental field site in Champaign, Illi-

nois. "Initially," says project director Cathy Eastman, associate professional scientist with the Center of Economic Entomology at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, "the research focused on the transition from conventional to organic agriculture. But the project is unique because both growers and consumers benefited."

Currently, growers cannot meet the demand for organic products in the Chicago and St. Louis metropolitan markets. Eastman's research, providing science-based data applicable to Midwest growing conditions, will help farmers successfully raise organic crops and capitalize on the evolving markets. "Organic agriculture...is one of the fastest growing segments in the industry, with a 20 percent annual growth rate," says Eastman.

Home gardeners interested in moving from conventional to organic gardening are likely to benefit from the study's findings over the long run. "The group is working with Extension specialists to ensure the dissemination of relevant, timely information," says Eastman. "Some of the basic principles and the results of related experiments (such as the benefits of soil amendments and evaluation of pest management options that do not involve pesticide applications) will provide information that could benefit gardeners."

DIRTY DOZEN

On one hand, we are exhorted to eat more fruits and vegetables. On the other, we are learning that a lot of our produce is contaminated by pesticides. A dirty dozen list—the 12 fruits and vegetables containing the highest levels of the most toxic pesticides—was recently announced by the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a not-for-profit environmental research organization based in Washington, D.C., and Oakland, California. To compile its list of the 12 most contaminated, EWG used data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

From worst to bad, the conventionally-grown contaminated fruits and vegetables are: strawberries, bell peppers and spinach (tied for second), cherries (American grown), peaches, cantaloupes (Mexican grown), celery, apples, apricots, green beans, grapes (Chilean grown), and



Strawberries ranked first on the list of commercially grown fruits and vegetables most contaminated by pesticides.

cucumbers. To learn more about specific chemicals and disease risks—or to download a wallet-size guide to produce—visit www.foodnews.org.

WATER GARDEN SOCIETY FORMED

Water gardening has been rated the fastest growing segment of the green industry and surveys indicate that creating a water garden is the landscape renovation project that homeowners most request. Now, water gardeners with ponds great and small have their own society, the North American Water Garden Society's (NAWGS), founded in May 2003.

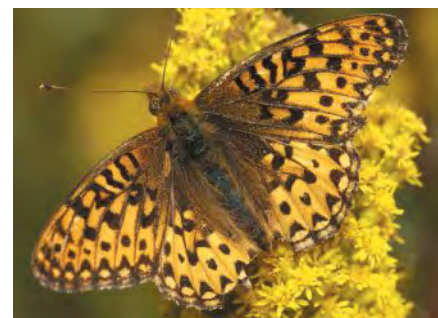
"Anyone interested in water gardening is welcome to join," says Ellen Beaulieu, the organization's first administrative di-

rector. In addition to offering information on creating and maintaining water gardens, NAWGS plans to address issues ranging from plant and fish regulations to permits, water restrictions, safety, insurance, liability issues and even concerns that people have regarding water gardens and the West Nile Virus.

For more information, visit the NAWGS Web site: www.nawgs.com or call Aquascape Designs at (630) 326-2700.

VIOLETS FOR BUTTERFLIES

Fifth graders at Markham Elementary School in Portland, Oregon, were among those who planted seeds of western blue or dog violet (*Viola adunca*), a main larval food source vital for the survival of Oregon's silverspot butterfly. Listed in 1980 as "threatened" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, this butterfly is on the brink



The Oregon Zoo is working to save the endangered silverspot butterfly.

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of extinction. Habitat loss with its corresponding loss of host plants has contributed to a steep decline in many butterfly populations. According to Oregon Zoo director Tony Vecchio, the silverspot is among 22 either endangered or threatened butterfly species.

To stabilize the declining silverspot population, the Oregon Zoo recently released 293 pupae at the Nature Conservancy's 280-acre Cascade Head Preserve, one of the few remaining sites where the Oregon silverspot butterfly is found. Zoo officials collect eggs daily from female butterflies and put them into petri dishes, where they hatch into tiny larvae.

A \$16,100 grant from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) enabled the Oregon Zoo, renowned for its butterfly conservation program, to create a new lab for raising threatened caterpillars and chrysalises. "This conservation effort is serving as a model for rebuilding an ecosystem," says Vecchio. "We want to involve children in the protection of endangered butterflies so they care about the future of all plants and animals."

In Memorium: Currier McEwen

Called a giant in the iris world and "dean of beardless iris hybridizers," Currier McEwen died on June 23, 2003—shortly after his 101st birthday. His long life was packed with accomplishments. After graduating from medical school at 24,



The late Currier McEwen with one of his hybrid irises.

he became a rheumatologist, and, at 35 became the youngest dean of medicine in the country at the New York University School of Medicine. In the late 1930s, he rescued Jewish doctors from Nazi Germany by providing them with positions at NYU.

He was nearing 60 when he first began hybridizing beardless irises, but he learned quickly. Four of McEwen's Siberian irises and five of his Japanese irises received the highest awards of the American Iris Society. In his breeding work, McEwen introduced the use of colchicine—a compound that prevents the normal division of cells—in order to double chromosome sets and produce tetraploids from diploids in *Iris sibirica*. His book *Japanese Iris* was published in 1990, followed by *The Siberian Iris* (Timber Press, 1996). Among McEwen's many honors were the AIS Hybridizers medal in 1976, the comparable Foster Memorial Plaque of the British Iris Society in 1977, the Distinguished Service Medal of the Perennial Plant Association in 1991, the Luther Burbank Award from the American Horticultural Society in 1995, and the AIS Gold Medal in 1999.

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Our Experts Answer Your Gardening Questions

YELLOWING YEWS

We have yews planted at the front entrance to our home and the needles on them are turning yellow and then dropping off. Is there anything we can do to save them?

—S.B., FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

What you describe sounds like a symptom of yew dieback, a serious problem that is usually not directly related to a particular disease but rather is associated with adverse environmental factors such as poorly aerated or extremely acidic soil—sometimes a combination of both.

This kind of dieback often happens because yews are planted too deep or too close to the house where they receive flow from a downspout or overflowing gutter. If this is the case, you probably won't be able to save the existing plants. Before replacing them, you should amend the soil and/or reroute water so it won't collect around their roots. Sometimes just moving them out from under the drip line from the roof can solve the problem.

Yews will do best if planted in well-aerated soil that has a pH between 6 and 7.5. Get your soil tested and amend it with lime if it proves too acidic. If your soil is heavy clay, amend it with fine pine bark mulch and other organic matter. When replanting, be sure the crown (the place where the main stem meets the root system) is at or just above the soil line.

PLANTING FREESIAS

How hardy are freesia bulbs and when is the best time to plant them?

—T.R., MOBILE, ALABAMA

While freesias are suitable only for greenhouse culture in most parts of North America, you live far enough south to try them outdoors. The best time for planting freesias outside is early fall for flowering the following spring. If you want a succession of these fragrant flowers, next year try planting their corms at two-week intervals

WE'RE READY TO HELP: For answers to your gardening questions, call Gardener's Information Service at (800) 777-7931, extension 131, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Eastern time, or e-mail us anytime at gis@ahs.org.

from September through November.

Plant the corms so the tops are an inch below the surface in a sheltered site in full sun or high, filtered shade. They will grow best in a sandy loam or other well-drained soil. Provide a light mulch of pine needles or fine bark to help them through any heavy frosts.



Freesias are not hardy and can only be grown outdoors year round in warm regions.

Gardeners north of USDA Zone 8 can pot corms in a soilless mix in late summer or early fall, keeping them outdoors in full sun until just before frosts are expected. They should be brought indoors to a cool, well-lighted area at that point—or they could be placed in a cold frame as long as it doesn't get cooler than 40 degrees.

Freesias will do best if they are exposed to nighttime temperatures of 45 to 55 degrees while their foliage and flowers are developing. High temperatures or low light will cause plants to become leggy and bloom poorly or not at all.

Mail-order sources for freesias include: McClure and Zimmerman, (800) 883-6998, <http://fall.mzbulb.com>; Brent and Becky's Bulbs, (804) 693-3966,

www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com; and John Scheepers, Inc., (860) 567-0838, www.johnscheepers.com.

SHRUBS FOR CONTAINERS

I have a covered walkway in front of my house that gets very little direct sunlight, but has bright shade. I want to place three containers next to my windows and plant something in them that will eventually reach about five feet and is evergreen. What shrubs will work in USDA Hardiness Zone 6?

—V.C., SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

One plant you might consider for the conditions you describe is the dwarf Alberta spruce (*Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* 'Conica', USDA hardiness zones 2–7, AHS heat zones 7–2). It adapts well to container culture, and although it eventually can grow to 20 feet in height, it is very slow growing—reaching only about seven feet in 35 years. It has soft needles and a pyramidal habit.

Other possibilities include 'Otto Luyken' skip laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken'), the dwarf forms of Japanese andromeda (*Pieris japonica*), one of the many selections of Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*), or a dwarf *Chamaecyparis*. If the plants should eventually get too large for the container, you can always plant them out in your landscape.

Jackie Fazio, director of horticulture at New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden, advises "not to plant them too late in the season so the plants have a chance to become comfortable in the containers before they are hit with the cold of winter." And given that your site is a covered walkway, make sure to water the plants through the winter. Fazio says, "We usually keep watering until the end of November, then put on a heavy mulch for the winter months." 🌿

Compiled by William May, Gardener's Information Service Volunteer, and Marianne Polito, Gardener's Information Service Manager.

In the Eye of the Beholder

by Dr. H. Marc Cathey

AMONG THE greatest gift we humans enjoy is our sense of sight, including the amazing ability to see in color, in three dimensions, and to be able to focus from closeup to far away. Human vision is outstanding, yet our incredible eyes can still be fooled.

Take, for example, the phenomenon of three-dimensional (3-D) video. During the early 1970s, my older brother—who was a physics professor at the University of South Carolina at the time—and two colleagues invented 3-D television. The idea for this research was based on my dad’s old story of how a one-eyed chicken can cross the road without getting hit. Dad told us that the bird puts its one “good” eye in the middle of the plane of vision and moves its head rapidly, creating the illusion of three-dimensional sight. Of course 3-D television and film have gone on to become a staple of the entertainment industry, as well as to yield many scientific benefits.

Another way in which our eyes can be fooled is through the appearance of objects under different kinds of lighting. You may have noticed this when shopping for clothing—an item that appeared to be one color in the store under fluorescent lighting may look quite different in sunlight. The color our eyes see differs with the wavelength of light that is reflected back from fluorescent light than from sunlight.

About 20 years ago, some grocery stores came up with the idea of using green fluorescent lamps in the produce section. Under that lighting, vegetables looked fresh, green, and healthy. But this practice was soon abandoned because consumer groups complained that it was misleading.

I learned about a new twist on this at the Centennial Conference of the Ameri-



can Society for Horticultural Science, held in Providence Rhode Island last fall. During one of the presentations I attended, scientists affiliated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration discussed a new kind of lighting they were testing to grow plants in space in growth chambers. The end goal of the research was to feed astronauts on the space station or long duration flights.

The scientists reported that the lighting, which is made up of red and blue light-emitting diodes (LEDs), proved successful in growing plants, but to the human eye the appearance of the plants growing under these specialized lights was off putting—their foliage looked as if it were metallic black. That’s because under normal lighting, most plants absorb red and blue wavelengths and reflect

the green (and sometimes yellow)—which is what we expect to see. Under the red and blue LEDs there was no green light to reflect back.

To conquer any potential squeamishness on the part of astronauts, the NASA researchers indicated they are going to try adding low levels of green light from fluorescent lamps in future experiments.

Further research along these lines will also benefit the growth of larger plants in space, because light wavelengths in the red and blue range are absorbed by the first layer of foliage they hit and won’t reach leaves lower down on taller plants. Some wavelengths of green and yellow light, on the other hand, will penetrate the top layers of foliage and filter down to allow photosynthesis to occur near the base of large plants.

The challenge in a confined space with finite energy resources is to make the most of that energy supply with a lighting system that still provides everything plants need to grow successfully, and at the same time making edible plants look appealing to the human eye.

Dr. H. Marc Cathey will discuss lighting for indoor plants during an AHS Garden School session on “The Amazing World of Indoor Plants” at River Farm on April 2 during Washington Blooms!, AHS’s annual spring celebration. For more about the AHS Garden School sessions and other events, see the ad on page 31

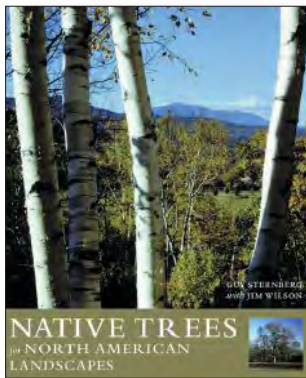
Dr. H. Marc Cathey is president emeritus of the American Horticultural Society.

Recommendations for Your Gardening Library

Native Trees for North American Landscapes (From the Atlantic to the Rockies).

Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, 2004. 575 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$59.95.

AMONG MY COLLECTION of garden books, a few look sadly bedraggled, with bindings falling apart, or spine type worn off. Sometimes I fault poor production. But in the case of the original version of this book, *Landscaping with Native Trees*, published as a paperback in 1995, I have to blame my own passionate affection. It's puffy from rain, stained from coffee, battered from various strange things being used as bookmarks, because I lug it out to the garden, off to the weekend house, and onto the trail. As a



guide to our native trees, it was both paean and practical, so I was surprised to hear it had gone out of print—and jubilant to hear that Timber Press was going to reproduce it.

“Reproduce,” it turns out, was a major misunderstanding. The book has doubled in size, by virtue of including more species, more detailed descriptions, and more photographs. Sternberg has updated information on cultivars, including tips on why you don't necessarily need to spend that money (sure, you can buy a “cottonless” cottonwood, but you can also simply propagate a male specimen) and national champion trees. (That was a major focus of the previous book that is a bit neglected here.)

The range of photos—single specimen profiles, close-ups of nuts, leaves, flowers, and bark, and an occasional grove of trees or leafless branches in a woodland or on a snow-swept plains—is magnificent. The previous version of the book had way too many pictures of the coauthors—much as I like and respect them—posed beside their subjects. Although the champion trees needed this for perspective, Timber's answer was to start each entry with a silhouette drawing of the tree indicating shape and relative size. There's a selection guide for special environmental situations.

The result may be somewhat less down-home friendly than my beat-up old pal, but it achieves a fine mix of academic information and poetic appreciation that could make it a classic. Now I just have to figure out how to lug around something twice as big.

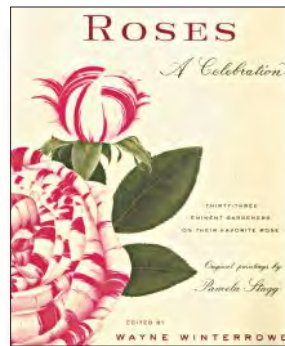
—Kathleen Fisher

A resident of Alexandria, Virginia, Kathleen Fisher is author, most recently, of Taylor's Guide to Shrubs, published by Houghton-Mifflin.

Roses: A Celebration, Thirty-three Eminent Gardeners on their Favorite Rose.

Edited by Wayne Winterrowd. Original paintings by Pamela Stagg. North Point Press, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2003. 256 pages. Publisher's price, hardcover: \$30.

ROSES: A CELEBRATION is a collection of 33 essays written by some of the finest garden writers and rosarians of the 20th century, including Graham Stuart Thomas, David Austin, Lauren Springer, Dan Hinkley, and Ken Druse, among others.



Each writer discusses his or her favorite rose, but the book is much more than a tribute to a selection of hybrids and species.

Many of the essayists use the subject of roses as a springboard to communicate a life truth or an insight into human relationships. Jamaica Kincaid writes, “I take it as a given that all things worth loving are difficult, hard to pin down, and changeable, all the while being true to themselves. The ‘Alchemist’ can do whatever it wants, but it remains a rose, the rose that I love.”

Many of the writers hold strong opinions, and they are not shy about expressing them. Therein lies much of the entertainment. Henry Mitchell, who wrote a much-loved garden column for the *Washington Post* newspaper for more than 20 years, had an antipathy towards hybrid tea roses. Of ‘Chrysler Imperial’ Mitchell wrote, “when it blooms I always feel that I have witnessed an upheaval rather than a flowering.” He was equally disparaging about the rose ‘Peace’, which he said, “has huge flowers that should please anyone who has always longed to grow the largest turnip in the world.”

Each essay in the book is prefaced by an original color painting by Pamela Stagg of the rose in the spotlight.

This is a book you can dip into at random when you have a spare five or 10 minutes to read one essay. But beware: The book is addictive. It is easy to become so immersed that an hour or two later you find yourself still reading, and saying, “I'll read just one more essay, and then I'll stop.” But you can't. And that's all right. Give in to the pleasure and enjoy the book.

—Catriona Tudor Erler

Catriona Tudor Erler's most recent books are Poolscaping: Gardening and Landscaping Around Your Swimming Pool and Spa, The Frugal Gardener and Complete Home Landscaping. She writes and gardens in Vienna, Virginia.

Tomes About Trees

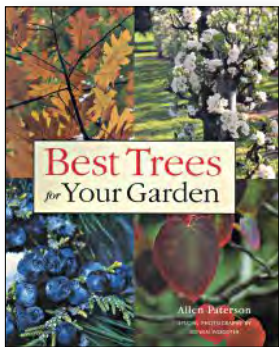
TREES ARE THE backbone of a landscape. They line our avenues, shade our gardens, frame our houses, and provide homes for wildlife. The right tree adds charm and value to the landscape; alternatively, the loss of a tree can be devastating. For help in selecting, caring, and appreciating our woody sentinels, we recommend these recently published books.



Selecting the best tree for your yard requires a bit of research, and two recently published books are here to help. *Trees for the Yard and Garden* by John Cushnie (Tafalgar Square Publishing, 2003) offers recommendations and descriptions of the best trees for special purposes, including those adaptable to clay soil, alkaline soil, sunny dry sites, for growing against walls, in small gardens etc.

The chapter “Trees Grow on You” addresses care and culture, from planting and pruning to propagation.

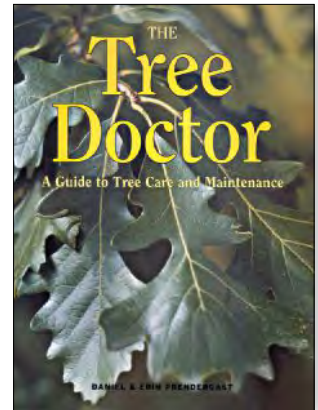
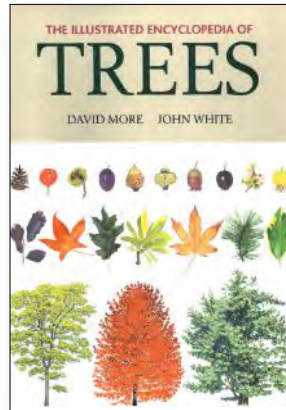
Best Trees for Your Garden by Allen Paterson (Firefly Books, Ltd., 2003) begins by providing a sympathetic perspective of “how trees as living organisms arrange their lives,” and what trees mean to us and our landscapes. Paterson also offers advice on choosing the right tree for the constraints of your site.



Both books include directories of broad leaf trees and conifers, consisting of encyclopedic entries that provide valuable insight into the landscape attributes of each.

For beautiful handpainted illustrations of over 1,000 species and varieties commonly cultivated in Europe—many of which are also grown in the United States—look for *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees* by John White, illustrated by David More (Timber Press, 2002). Each double-page spread contains descriptions and detailed illustrations of leaves or needles, bark, flowers, fruit, etc.

If you need some maintenance advice for your trees, *The Tree Doctor: A Guide to Tree Care and Maintenance* (Firefly Books, 2003) by Daniel and Erin Prendergast is a good place to start. In addition to tips on selecting the right tree for your property, this book addresses placement of trees within the



landscape, planting basics, as well as after-planting care: watering, staking, trunk protection, fertilizing, and mulching. Separate chapters are devoted to pruning, diagnosing problems, protecting trees from damage, and how to determine when it's time to call in an arborist.

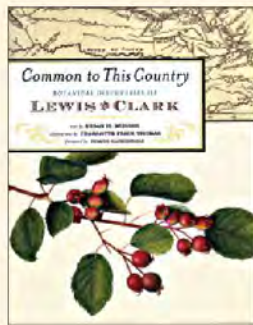
The American elm (*Ulmus americana*) has been a significant part of our country's landscape since its beginning, lining avenues first in the earliest towns and cities of New England, and then, because it proved so adaptable, throughout the United States. *Republic of Shade: New England and the American Elm* by Thomas Campanella (Yale University Press, 2003) is the story of this elegant and highly venerated tree. Campanella discusses how the elm became a symbol of the early environmental movement of the 19th century, and he relates the devastation of this species by Dutch elm disease in the 20th century. Illustrated with historic photographs and prints, this book traces the story of the elm through the history of this country and presents hope for its survival through research aimed at the development of varieties that resist Dutch elm disease.



Covering 20 North American tree groups, *Arboretum America: A Philosophy of the Forest* by Diana Beresford-Kroeger (The University of Michigan Press, 2003)



TO BE SAVORED in small bites, Susan H. Munger's *Common to this Country: Botanical Discoveries of Lewis & Clark* (Artisan, New York, 2003, \$22.95) is a delicious read that retells the well-known story of the Lewis and Clark expedition through the plants encountered along the way. Released on the 200th anniversary of the duo's historic journey, the book is enriched with quotes from the journal of Meriwether Lewis, allowing the reader to see some of the Northwest's botanical treasures through the fresh eyes of the explorers. Charlotte Staub Thomas' botanical watercolor illustrations—from the Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) to the gumbo evening primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*)—remind us of the many beautiful native plants that still inhabit wild landscapes.



is a melding of philosophy, history, ecology, and practical garden advice. Beresford-Kroeger discusses trees in terms of their historic medicinal uses, their culture, their contribution to both human well-being and the health of the natural environment, and their use in our landscapes. She includes tips on seasonal interest, organic care, placement, and complementary plantings.

A variety of stories about trees is included in *Tree Stories: A Collection of Extraordinary Encounters* edited by Warren David Jacobs and Karen I. Shragg (SunShine Press Publications, 2002). This is a collection of stories and poems written by tree lovers of all ages that testifies to the many ways that trees can enrich and add meaning to our lives from childhood to adulthood.

The book is divided into chapters that include: "Trees as Teachers," "Trees of Childhood," "Trees as Companions," and more.

Aptly wrapping up our survey of arboreal book selections is *Tree Bark: A Color Guide* by Hugues Vaucher (Timber Press, 2003). A beautifully illustrated volume, it was originally published in French and German in the 1990s. This translated revision has been expanded to include over 440 species and varieties from all over the world that are guaranteed to have you appreciating tree bark not only for its ornamental value, but also its diverse characteristics, function as part of the tree, and uses in art and industry.




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PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON WALKER
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REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

Horticultural Events from Around the Country

NORTHEAST

CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

JAN. 24–JUNE 7. **Japan and Nature: Spirit of the Seasons.** Exhibit. For children aged 5 to 12. Brooklyn Botanical Garden, New York. (718) 623-7220. www.bbg.org.

JAN. 25. **Winter Wonders Walk.** For children with an adult. New England Wild Flower Society. Framingham, Massachusetts. (508) 877-7630. www.newfs.org.

JAN. 27. **Plant-O-Rama.** Trade show and symposium. Brooklyn Botanical Garden, New York. (718) 623-7220. www.bbg.org.

FEB. 12. **American Gardening Lecture Series: Doug Ruhren and David Franko.** New York Botanical Gardens. (718) 817-8747. www.nybg.org.

FEB. 14. **Topiary Workshop.** Wave Hill. Bronx, New York. (718) 549-3200, ext. 305. www.wavehill.org.

FEB. 25. **Jenks Farmer Photography Lecture.** New York School of Interior Design. Manhattan, New York. (718) 549-3200, ext. 216. www.wavehill.org.

FEB. 29. **A Celebration of Orchids.** Conservatory Exhibit. New York Botanical Gardens. (718) 817-8577. www.nybg.org.

MID-ATLANTIC

PA, NJ, VA, MD, DE, WV, DC

JAN. 14–31. **Landscape Design Workshop for Homeowners.** (Seven sessions.) Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173.

JAN. 18. **The Kingdom's Sexiest Plant: The Orchid.** Green Spring Gardens. Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173.

THROUGH FEB. 1. **Deck the Halls with Hippeastrum.** Botanical exhibit. United States National Arboretum. Washington, DC. (202) 245-5898. www.usna.usda.gov.

JAN. 31–MAR. 21. **Orchids! Beauty and Beyond.** U.S. Botanic Garden. Washington, DC. (202) 225-8333. www.usbg.gov.

FEB. 15. **Creating Green Roofs: Replacing Asphalt with Plants.** Green Spring Gardens.

More Flower and Garden Shows

Most flower and gardens shows are listed in the 2004 *AHS Member Guide* found in the center of this magazine. Listings begin on page 2 of the guide and include details on special discounts and other benefits offered to current AHS members.

Alexandria, Virginia. (703) 642-5173.

FEB. 27. **Green Matters Symposium: Exotic Invasive Plants.** Brookside Gardens Visitors Center Auditorium. Wheaton, Maryland. (301) 962-1400. www.brooksidegardens.org.

Looking ahead

MAR. 10. **Great Gardening at Maymont: Rose Pruning.** Stone Barn & Italian Garden. Richmond, Virginia. (804) 358-7166. www.maymont.org.

MAR. 13. **Eastern Panhandle Horticulture Forum: Livable Landscapes: Design with Habitat in Mind.** Featuring Rick Darke. National Conservation Training Center. Shepherdstown, West Virginia. (304) 725-2040.

SOUTHEAST

AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN

JAN. 23–25. **18th Annual Southern Gardening Symposium.** Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia. (800) 225-5292, ext. 5153. www.callawaygardens.com.

FEB. 7. **Anything Grows—Adventures in Gardening.** Lecture. Greenville Master Gardeners. Furman University. Greenville, South Carolina. (864) 244-1767.

FEB. 8 & 9. **11th Annual Wilmington Garden Show.** Coastline Convention Center. Wilmington, North Carolina. (910) 452-6393. www.ces.ncsu.edu/newhanover/garden_show.html.

FEB. 19–22. **10th Annual Palm Beach Tropical Flower and Garden Show.** Downtown West Palm Beach, Florida. (561) 655-5522. www.palmbeachflowershow.org

MAR. 5 & 6. **Piccadilly Farm's 12th Annual Hellebore Days.** Bishop, Georgia. (706) 769-6516.

MAR. 14. **6th Annual Emily Whaley Memorial Garden Tour.** Self-guided tour. Charleston, South Carolina. (843) 953-7691.

NORTH CENTRAL

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI

JAN. 20–FEB. 10. **The Chef's Kitchen Culinary Program.** Four sessions/demonstration. Chicago Botanic Garden's Garden Cafe. (847) 835-8396. www.chicagobotanic.org.

JAN. 24. **The 8th Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference.** Native landscaping. Oshkosh, Wisconsin. (920) 589-2602. www.for-wild.org.

JAN. 24. **Plant Folklore in Mexican Culture.** The Morton Arboretum. Lisle, Illinois. (630) 719-2468. www.mortonarb.org.

JAN. 24 & 25. **The Orchid Show.** Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

FEB. 9. **The American Prairie Landscape. Wege Environmental Lecture Series.** Gardens & Sculpture Park. Grand Rapids, Michigan. (888) 957-1580. www.meijergardens.org.

FEB. 15. **The Well-designed Mixed Garden.** Lecture. Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-6850. www.chicagobotanic.org.

FEB. 24. **Woody Plants: Urban Upgrowth.** Symposium. Chicago Botanic Garden. Glencoe, Illinois. (847) 835-8261. www.chicagobotanic.org.

MAR. 6–21. **Spring Show.** Olbrich Botanical Gardens. Madison, Wisconsin. (608) 246-4550. www.olbrich.org.

SOUTH CENTRAL

AR, KS, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX

JAN. 12–MAR. 14. **Plants of the Louis and Clark Expedition.** Ridgeway Center in the Missouri Botanical Garden. St. Louis, Missouri. (314) 577-5100. www.mobot.org.

JAN. 29–FEB. 1. **Oklahoma Garden Festival.** Cox Communications Center. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. (405) 330-9150. www.okgardenfestival.org.

FEB. 24. **All About Herbs.** McAshan Herb Gardens. Round Top, Texas. (979) 249-5283. www.festivalhill.org.

MAR. 6. **Kansas City Garden Symposium: Journeys of Garden Discovery.** Unity Village Activities Center. Lee's Summit, Missouri. (816) 697-2600, ext. 225. www.powellgardens.org.

MAR. 6 & 7, 13 & 14. **The 69th Annual Azalea Trail.** Tour of historic sites. River Oaks Garden Club. Houston, Texas. (713) 523-2483. www.riveroaksgardenclub.org.

SOUTHWEST

AZ, NM, CO, UT

JAN. 17. **Boojum Tour Breakfast.** The Desert Botanical Garden. Phoenix, Arizona. (480) 481-8144. www.dbg.org.

FEB. 13-15. **Language of Flowers Show & Chocolate Tasting.** Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Superior, Arizona. (520) 689-2723. <http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu>.

WEST COAST

CA, NV, HI

JAN. 3 & 4. **Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale.** Community Activities Building. Redwood City, California. (650) 593-4793. <http://penorchidsoc.org>.

JAN. 21-24. **Ecological Farming Conference.** Asilomar Conference Center. Pacific Grove, California. (831) 763-2112. www.eco-farm.org.

JAN. 23-26. **Citrus Trees in the Garden.** University of California-Riverside Extension Center. Riverside, California. (909) 787-5804. www.ucextension.net/sciences/homegarden/default.html.

FEB. 12. **14th Annual Nevada Landscape Association Trade Show and Conference.** Reno, Nevada. (775) 673-0404. www.nevadanla.com.

FEB. 19-22. **52nd Pacific Orchid Exposition's Annual Show.** Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. San Francisco, California. (650) 548-6700. www.orchidsanfrancisco.com.

NORTHWEST

AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY

JAN. 28-FEB. 1. **Tacoma Home and Garden Show.** Tacoma Dome. Tacoma, Washington. (253) 756-2121. www.tacomahomeandgardenshow.com.

FEB. 4-8. **Northwest Flower and Garden Show.** Washington Park Arboretum. Washington State Convention Center. (206) 789-5333. www.gardenshow.com.

Davidson Symposium Celebrates 20 Years

"INSIDE OUT: INSPIRED SPACES FOR OUTSIDE LIVING" is the title of this year's Davidson Horticulture Symposium, which will be held March 1 and 2 at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. This is the 20th anniversary of the symposium, which is sponsored by the Davidson Garden Club. The symposium has a rich tradition of bringing together a diverse audience of professional and amateur garden enthusiasts to learn about horticulture topics and issues in a program designed to be inspirational as well as educational. It will offer a framework for the creation of "special spaces" and emphasize the use of transitional plantings and thresholds to connect and harmonize these spaces. The goal of the symposium is to broaden garden palettes with the inspiration to try new plants, new designs, and new ideas.

Lectures from four distinguished garden experts—Julie Moir Messervy, Ken Druse, Doug Ruhren, and Mary Walton Upchurch—will highlight this year's special anniversary.

An acclaimed landscape designer, teacher, and lecturer, Messervy is also author of three award-winning books and writes the "Inspired Design" column in *Fine Gardening* magazine. Among her recent landscape design projects is the three-acre Music Garden in Toronto, Canada.

Nationally known for his garden writing and photography, Druse is currently the senior advisor to *Garden Design* magazine and has authored five successful garden books. Among these is *Making More Plants: the Science Art and Joy of Propagation*, which received the American Horticultural Society's annual book award.

Ruhren, a horticulturist with the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, will discuss how to create four-season flower borders and ornamental edibles. A graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Upchurch is a professional landscape designer who is inspired by the peace and beauty of gardens.

Registration for the Davidson Horticulture Symposium continues through February 14, 2004. For more information, contact Susan Abbott at (704) 892-6281 or by e-mail at sugarden@aol.com.

—Angela Taylor

Angela Taylor is editorial intern for The American Gardener.



The symposium's theme "Inside Out: Inspired Spaces for Outside Living" is depicted in this painting by Robin Wilgus.

FEB. 18-22. **Portland Home and Garden Show.** Expo Center. Portland, Oregon. (503) 246-8291. www.oloughlintradeshows.com.

(800) 265-5656. www.locongress.com.

FEB. 18. **Green Trade Expo 2004.** Exhibition Hall, Lansdowne Park. Ontario. (613) 796-5156. www.greentrade.ca.

CANADA

JAN. 13-15. **Congress 2004.** Lawn and garden trade show and conference. Toronto Congress Centre. Toronto, Ontario.

FEB. 26-APR. 18. **Butterflies Go Free.** Montréal Botanical Garden. Montréal, Québec. (514) 872-1400. www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/propos/papillon.htm.

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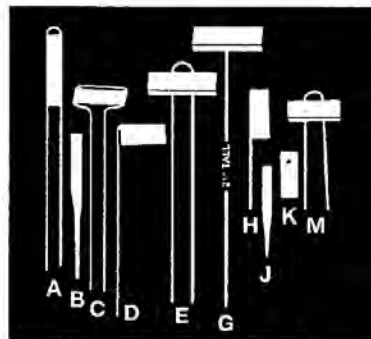
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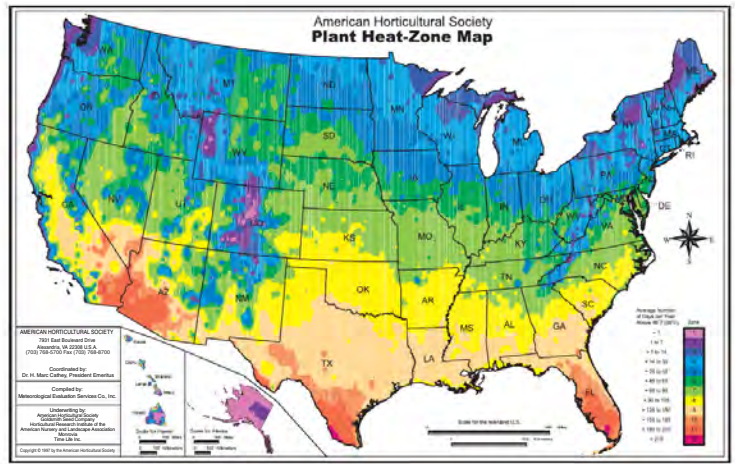
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PRONUNCIATIONS AND PLANTING ZONES

Most of the cultivated plants described in this issue are listed here with their pronunciations, USDA Plant Hardiness Zones—based on the 2003 revised hardiness map, which is currently under review by the USDA—and AHS Plant Heat Zones. These zones suggest a range of locations where temperatures are appropriate—both in winter and summer—for growing each plant. While the zones are a good place to start in determining plant adaptability in your region, factors such as exposure, moisture, snow cover, and humidity also play an important role in plant survival. The codes tend to be conservative; plants may grow outside the ranges indicated. A USDA zone rating of 0–0 means that the plant is a true annual and completes its life cycle in a year or less. To purchase a two-by-three-foot glossy AHS Plant Heat Zone Map for \$9.95, call (800) 777-7931 or visit www.ahs.org. Hardiness and Heat zone codes are generated by AHS and documented in the Showtime™ database, owned by Arabella Dane.



A-C

- Alliaria petiolata** al-ee-AR-ee-uh pet-ee-o-LAY-tuh (USDA 0–0, AHS 10–1)
- Aquilegia chrysantha** var. **chaplinei** 'Little Treasure' ah-kwi-LEE-juh krih-SAN-thuh var. chap-LIN-ee-eye (3–8, 8–1)
- Astrantia major** uh-STRAN-tee-uh MAY-jer (4–7, 7–1)
- Athyrium filix-femina** 'Dre's Dagger' uh-THIH-ree-um FEEL-iks-FEM-ih-nuh (4–9, 9–1)
- Athyrium niponicum** 'Pictum' uh-THIH-ree-um nih-PON-ih-kum (5–8, 8–5)
- Atriplex hortensis** 'Triple Purple' AT-rih-pleks hor-TEN-siss (0–0, 9–1)
- A. prostrata** A. pros-TRAY-tuh (0–0, 8–1)
- Betula nigra** 'Summer Cascade' BET-yew-luh NY-gruh (4–8, 8–2)
- Brassica oleracea** 'Citrus' BRASS-ih-kuh o-luh-RAY-see-uh (0–0, 8–1)
- Campanula punctata** 'Plum Wine' kam-PAN-yew-luh punk-TAY-tuh (3–9, 9–1)
- Chenopodium album** cheh-no-PO-dee-um AL-bum (0–0, 10–1)
- Cornus mas** KOR-nus MAHS (5–8, 8–5)
- Cotinus coggygria** KO-tin-us ko-JEE-gree-uh (5–9, 9–3)
- Cucurbita pepo** 'Jaspée de Vendée' kew-KER-bih-tuh PEH-poh (0–0, 8–1)
- Cyclamen coum** SY-kluh-men KOOM (5–9, 9–5)

D-G

- Daphne alpina** DAF-nee al-PY-nuh (5–8, 8–6)
- D. arbuscula** D. ar-BUS-kew-luh (5–7, 7–5)
- D. bholua** D. bo-LEW-uh (7–9, 9–7)
- D. blagayana** D. blag-ay-AN-uh (7–9, 9–7)
- D. xburkwoodii** D. burk-WOOD-ee-eye (4–8, 9–2)
- D. circassica** D. seer-KASS-ih-kuh (5–8, 8–4)
- D. cneorum** DAF-nee nee-OR-um (5–7, 7–5)
- D. cneorum** var. **verlotii** D. nee-OR-um var. vair-lo-TEE-eye (5–7, 7–5)
- D. domini** D. DOM-ih-nye (5–7, 7–4)

- D. xeschmannii** D. esk-MAN-ee-eye (5–7, 7–5)
- D. genkwa** D. GENK-wuh (5–9, 9–6)
- D. giraldii** D. jir-ALL-dee-eye (4–8, 8–3)
- D. jasminea** D. jaz-MIN-ee-uh (5–9, 9–6)
- D. laureola** ssp. **philippi** D. law-REE-o-luh subsp. fil-LIP-ee-eye (5–8, 8–6)
- D. mezereum** D. meh-ZEE-ree-um (5–8, 8–5)
- D. oleoides** D. o-lee-OY-deez (5–8, 8–6)
- D. odora** D. o-DOR-uh (7–9, 9–7)
- D. retusa** D. reh-TEW-suh (5–9, 9–6)
- D. tangutica** D. tan-GYEW-tih-kuh (6–9, 9–6)
- Daucus carota** 'Round Romeo' DAW-kus kah-RO-tuh (0–0, 8–1)
- Dianella tasmanica** 'Yellow Stripe' dy-uh-NEL-uh taz-MAN-ih-kuh (8–11, 12–1)
- Dianthus pinifolius** dy-AN-thus pin-ih-FO-lee-us (4–9, 8–5)
- Dirca palustris** DEER-kuh pah-LUS-triss (4–9, 9–1)
- Edgeworthia chrysantha** edj-WORTH-ee-uh krih-SAN-thuh (7–9, 11–3)
- Erica carnea** eh-RY-kuh KAR-nee-uh (5–7, 7–5)
- Foeniculum vulgare** 'Perfection' fee-NICK-yoo-lum vul-GAY-ree (4–9, 9–1)
- Garrya elliptica** GAH-ree-uh ee-LIP-tih-kuh (8–10, 10–8)
- Gaura lindheimeri** 'Pink Lady' GAW-ruh lind-HY-mur-eye (6–9, 9–6)

H-M

- Hibiscus moscheutos** 'Luna Red' hy-BISS-kus mos-KOO-tos (5–11, 12–1)
- Hydrangea macrophylla** 'Bailmer' hy-DRAN-juh mak-ro-FIL-luh (4–9, 9–3)
- Ilex crenata** EYE-leks kreh-NAY-tuh (5–7, 7–3)
- Impatiens auricoma** 'Jungle Gold' im-PAY-shenz aw-rih-KO-muh (13–15, 12–1)
- Lactuca sativa** 'Ruby Ruffles' lak-TOO-kuh sah-TEE-vuh (0–0, 12–1)
- Lavandula stoechas** 'Hazel' lah-VAN-dyew-luh STEE-kas (8–9, 9–8)
- Lycopersicon esculentum** cultivars ly-ko-PER-sih-kon es-kyew-LEN-tum (13–15, 12–1)

- Mukdenia rossii** 'Crimson Fans' mook-DEEN-yuh ROSS-ee-eye (4–9, 9–5)

N-Z

- Nemesia cheiranthus** 'Shooting Stars' neh-MEE-see-uh kee-RAN-thus (9–10, 8–1)
- Phytolacca americana** fie-toh-LAK-uh uh-mair-ih-KAN-uh (5–9, 9–5)
- Picea glauca** var. **albertiana** PY-see-uh GLAW-kuh var. al-bur-TEE-an-uh (2–7, 7–2)
- Pieris japonica** PY-er-iss jah-PON-ih-kuh (5–8, 9–6)
- Podocarpus elongatus** pah-doh-KAR-pus ee-lon-GAY-tus (9–11, 12–1)
- Portulaca oleracea** por-chew-LAK-uh o-luh-RAY-see-uh (0–0, 12–1)
- P. sativa** P. sah-TEE-vuh (0–0, 12–1)
- Prunus besseyi** 'Select Spreader' PREW-nus BESS-ee-eye (4–8, 8–1)
- P. laurocerasus** 'Otto Luyken' P. law-ro-SEH-rah-sus (6–9, 9–6)
- Rhus typhina** 'Bailtiger' RUS tie-FEE-nuh (4–8, 8–1)
- Rheum palmatum** REE-um pal-MAY-tum (5–9, 9–5)
- Rumex acetosella** REW-meks uh-set-o-SEL-luh (4–7, 7–1)
- Sphaeralcea fulva** 'La Luna' sfeer-AL-see-uh FUL-vuh (5–9, 9–5)
- Spinacia oleracea** 'Summer Perfection' spin-AY-see-uh o-luh-RAY-see-uh (0–0, 8–1)
- Stellera chamaejasme** STEL-ur-uh kam-ee-JAZ-may (5–8, 8–6)
- Stellaria media** steh-LAR-ee-uh MEE-dee-uh (3–8, 10–1)
- Taraxacum officinale** tah-RAKS-ah-cum oh-fiss-ih-NAL-ee (3–10, 12–1)
- Ulmus fulva** UL-mus FUL-vuh (5–9, 9–5)
- Urtica dioica** UR-tih-kuh die-o-EE-kuh (13–15, 12–1)
- Viola adunca** VY-o-luh uh-DUN-kuh (4–8, 8–1)

Coast Silk Tassel and Hardy Cyclamen

by Carole Ottesen

THE WEST COAST native, coast silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*), and hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen coum*) share the infrequently encountered but profoundly appreciated phenomenon of winter bloom. Combined, as they are here at the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle, they seem at first glance an odd couple—out of sync and out of scale. The evergreen coast silk tassel, a landscape feature that, at 10 to 15 feet tall, can be seen from a distance, has already bloomed. At three inches tall, the ephemeral hardy cyclamen are virtually invisible in the landscape. Their full, fresh blooms are a delightful surprise to be savored close up.

However, this unlikely pair works together in ways that become obvious upon deeper inspection. Earlier, when the coast silk tassel was in full bloom, the young cyclamen leaves formed a collar of beautifully patterned leaves at its base. Now, the unusual dangling after-bloom chains of cream-colored bracts that remain on the coast silk tassel can be easily distinguished from a distance.

Coast silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*), grows 10 to 15 feet high and as wide, with wavy evergreen leaves; male plants bear long chains of showy flowers in winter, USDA Zones 8–10, AHS Zones 10–8.

Hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen coum*), grows 3 inches high and 5 to 6 inches wide, strikingly patterned foliage appears in late fall, with white, pink, red flowers in winter, Zones 5–9, 9–5.

They catch the beholder's eye and lead it downward to the tiny treasures blooming at the foot of the tree.

Both plants share a preference for well-drained soil and tolerate some summer drought. Both are tolerant of a neutral soil and a shady site. Blooming in sequence, coast silk tassel and hardy cyclamen light up the winter garden. If they are an odd couple, they nevertheless marry well.



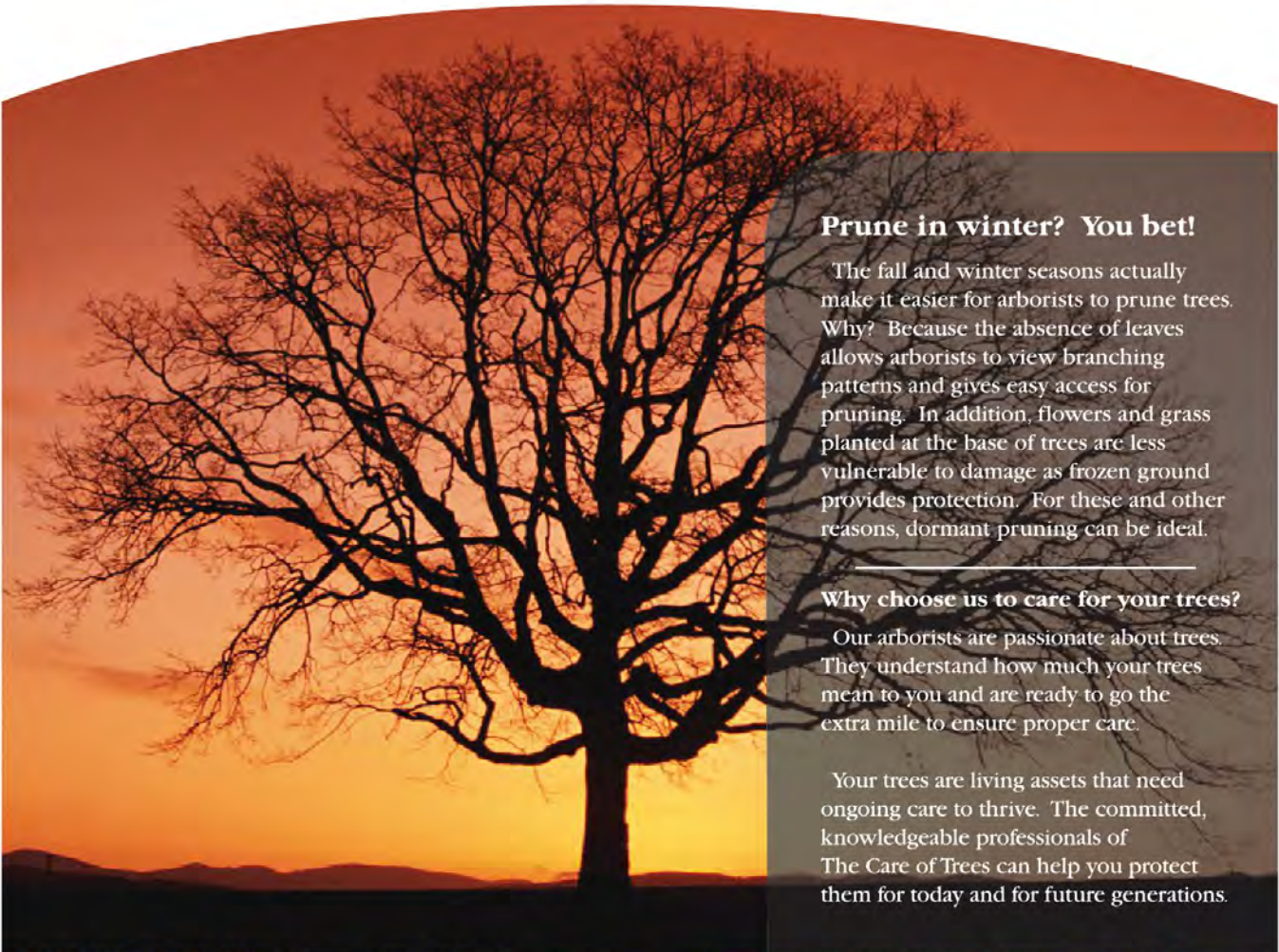
Sources

Garrya elliptica: **Forestfarm**, Williams, OR. (541) 846-7269. www.forestfarm.com. Catalog \$5. Free if ordered online.

Cyclamen coum: **Fraser's Thimble Farm**, 175 Arbutus Road, Salt Spring Island. V8K 1A3 B.C. Canada. (250) 537-5788. www.thimblefarms.com.

Carole Ottesen is associate editor of *The American Gardener*.

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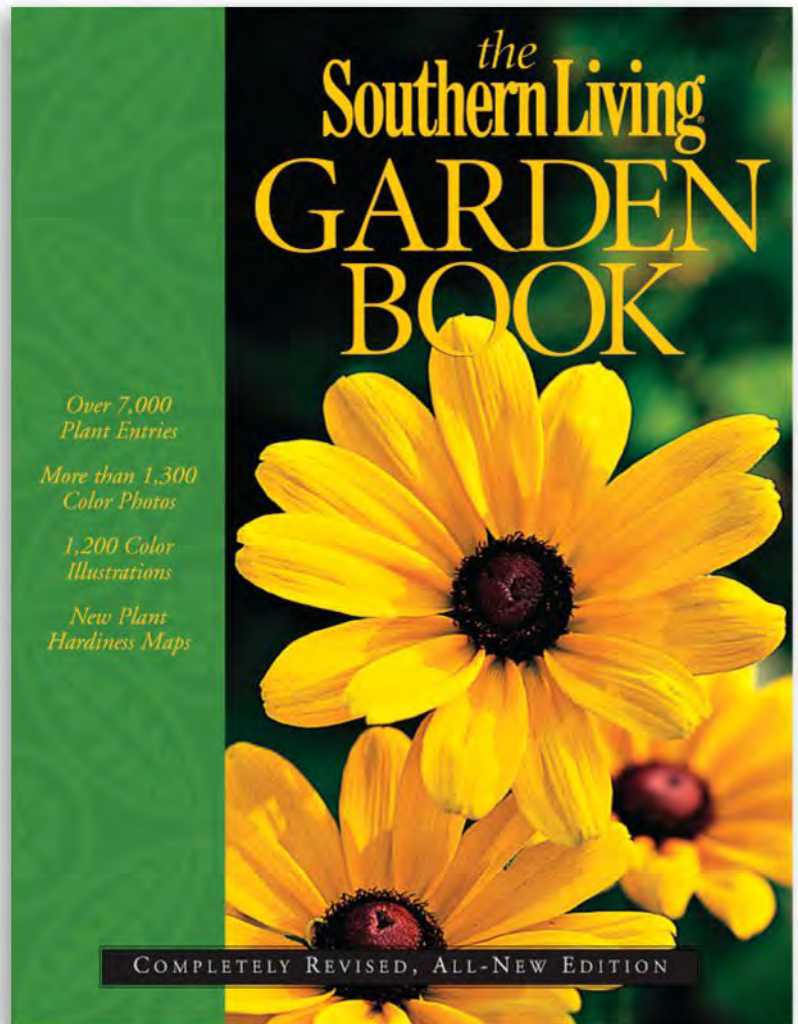
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