When we think about “fall color,” it usually brings to mind the changing colors of foliage. It is spring and summer when we think about flowers, but actually, numerous plants withhold their gorgeous blooms until fall.

Many late-blooming plants provide a feast for pollinators and native wildlife, and their brilliant saturated colors beautifully complement the golden light of fall. Fragrant choices include *Perovskia* (Russian sage), *Lavandula* (lavender), *Solidago ‘Fireworks’* (Goldenrod), as well as many roses that produce another flush of bountiful blooms. Here are just a few examples of fall flowers:

**Helenium ‘Moerheim Beauty’ (Sneezeweed):** What a terrible common name for such a beautiful plant! There are many cultivars of helenium that wait until late August to bloom, but *H. ‘Moerheim Beauty’* produces flowers from July all the way until frost if deadheaded. Upright clump-forming plants grow to four feet tall, and they prefer full sun and average water. The eye-catching daisy flowers have petals in shades of orangey red tipped with yellow and have a prominent chocolate center cone. As a bonus, they make excellent cut flowers. Grow *Helenium* with the dark blue flowers of *Salvia guaranitica* for an electric complimentary color combination.

Another cultivar with even showier flowers is *H. autumnale ‘Fuego’*. The flowers appear in late August and are vibrant orange with a gold ring circling the petals. *H. ‘Fuego’* grows to twenty inches tall and eighteen inches wide.

**Salvia uliginosa (Bog sage):** A hummingbird and bee magnet, this quick growing upright perennial grows four feet tall and spreads outward by rhizomes. It produces a continuous display of small, clear sky-blue flowers that are lined up on upright stems; true blue is a rare color in the plant kingdom. In southern climates, *S. uliginosa* blooms from June through frost, but in the cool Pacific Northwest, the plant does not emerge until the ground warms in July, and flowers are produced from mid-August through frost. As its common name “Bog sage” suggests, *S. uliginosa* thrives in damp to boggy soil, but amazingly, it tolerates dry soil as well. The blooms make excellent cut flowers, fresh or dried.

**Rudbeckia triloba (Brown-eyed Susan):** The genus *Rudbeckia* contains a veritable cornucopia of perennial, biennial, and annual species all featuring daisy-like yellow or orange florets surrounding a raised central “cone,” giving rise to their familiar common name of “coneflower.” Many cultivars bloom for two or three weeks and are finished until the next year, but award-winning *R. triloba* produces masses of rich golden yellow flowers from August to frost providing fantastic and long-lasting color in the late-season garden. It is a politely reseeding biennial with a basal rosette of three-lobed leaves (thus “triloba”) that persists through the winter creating an attractive winter ground cover.

Thriving in full sun, it tolerates part shade, grows five feet tall, and likes average, moist, well-drained soil. This plant is native to the Eastern part of the United States, makes an excellent cut flower, is robust and low
maintenance, and is deer resistant. Grow it with any number of dahlias, including *Dahlia* ‘Fornecett Furnace’, for a color echo of its central yellow disk.

**Gaura lindheimeri**

*Whirling Butterflies*: Airy panicles of one-inch bright white flowers like tiny butterflies emerge from pink buds, and they dance in the breeze along wiry, arching stems—hence the name “Whirling Butterflies.” *Gaura* is an herbaceous clump-forming perennial that is native to Texas and Louisiana. It grows to four feet tall, needs well-drained soil in full sun, and blooms all the way from summer through fall. The genus name comes from the Greek *gauros* meaning “superb” in reference to the beautiful flowers. A magnificent mass planting of *G. ‘Whirling Butterflies’* can be seen in the Urban Meadow at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

**Persicaria amplexicaulis ‘Fat Domino’ (Knotweed, Red bistort)**: The most frequently grown cultivar of *Persicaria* is ‘Firetail’, similar to *P. ‘Fat Domino’*, but with lighter colored, thinner flower spikes. Both are robust growing, three feet high, generally disease- and pest-free, and like semi-shade with ample moisture. *P. ‘Fat Domino’* evolved from a Belgian breeding program and hosts long, chubby, deep red racemes that have purplish overtones. It easily turns heads from late July through fall, starting slightly later than *P. ‘Firetail’*, but lasting longer. Plant with *Gaura, Rudbeckia,* and dahlias.

*P. ‘Blackfield’* is another outstanding cultivar growing thirty inches tall with blood red flowers. There’s also *Solidago, Symphyotrichum* (aster), *Vitex, Anemone japonica, Clematis paniculata*, and the list goes on…

So when the summer show starts to wane, fall brings another bonanza of flowers to create a brilliant encore!
Nature’s airy wand casts a dreamy scene: ethereal purple panicles which nod in a cool breeze, while speckles of gold overtones hover in cloud-like waves above the earth. A tidy tussock of thin arching stalks clump *en masse* along a shaded stream, as variegated leaf blades and tufts of silvery seed plumes sway in the open air. Undoubtedly, the delicate, breezy effects generated by such an ornamental plant are vital to any garden’s composition.

*Deschampsia cespitosa* ‘Pixie Fountain’ (tufted hairgrass) is a cool season specimen that offers year-round true-to-form ornamental properties—particularly from June through October, as its flower panicles change to bronze. A dwarf variety of the larger *D. cespitosa*, this grass provides a habitat for all sorts of woodland animals, birds and insects. Coupled with its mounding habit and winter interest, ‘Pixie Fountain’ reveals true splendor when backlit by the sun, as it frequently highlights surrounding companions with a profuse burst of pomposity.

A hardy, low-maintenance plant, *D. cespitosa* ‘Pixie Fountain’ prefers full sun to dappled shade with well-drained, moist and slightly acidic soil. When given proper attention, this specimen will reach a height and spread of one to two feet per tussock. A best practice is to cut the grass to the ground by late winter before new growth occurs.

Common uses of *Deschampsia cespitosa* include rustic shade borders, mixed containers (as a “filler” or “thriller”), perennial bed accentuators, flower arrangements, and groundcover for rock and woodland style gardens. Notable companion plants for ‘Pixie Fountain’ include ferns, hostas, *Chrysanthemum*, *Coreopsis*, *Gaillardia*, *Leucanthemum*, *Liatris*, and *Salvia*. Lastly, this ornamental specimen may also be used *en masse* near trickling streams and still ponds for added visual effect.

You can see *D. cespitosa* ‘Pixie Fountain’ in the Urban Meadow at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

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This beauty is a must-have! ‘Gilt Edge’ is an evergreen shrub with dramatic foliage, bearing two- to four-inch leaves with contrasting dark green centers and gold-colored margins. Inconspicuous, silvery flowers with an intense, lovely fragrance appear in October, followed by red fruit. It was given the prestigious *Award of Garden Merit* by the London Royal Horticultural Society.

At a height and width of eight feet, ‘Gilt Edge’ is useful as a screen plant, clipped hedge, or high bank cover. It is hardy in zones seven to ten, is drought tolerant when established, adapts easily to its environment, including heat, wind, and seashore conditions, and grows in full sun to deep shade.

‘Gilt Edge’ combines well with David’s viburnum, variegated Japanese barberry, purple smoke bush, compact burning bush, heavenly bamboo, purple leaf ninebark, or purple leaf black elder. Its color contrasts well with Dark green, blue, and burgundy.

Give this beauty a try in your own garden, or enjoy it in the Waterwise Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden.
Is it necessary to divide all perennials? If so, what is the best way to divide them?

A: There’s no single rule when it comes to dividing herbaceous perennials. Some need dividing regularly, while others rarely or never need dividing and can even be harmed if you try it. The main reason to divide most perennials is that they grow outward from the center, causing the middle of the plant to wear out over time. This becomes apparent when the plant becomes bald in the center. The other sign that your perennial needs dividing is if it begins blooming less. Not only does that occur when the center dies out, but also when the roots in the center of the plant become too crowded. You may not notice the latter at first because the plant looks healthy. Perennials such as Achillea (yarrow), Anchusa (bugloss), Campanula, Crocosmia, Hemerocallis (day lily), Siberian Iris, Lobelia, Monarda (bee balm) and Phlox should be divided every one to three years to keep them productively blooming.

On the other hand, there are a number of perennials that are better off if you never divide them. Actaea (bugbane), Aruncus (goat’s beard), Gypsophila (baby’s breath), Eryngium (sea holly), and Platycodon (balloon flower) have woody rope-like roots that tend to break easily, often causing severe dieback when divisions are attempted. Others, such as Aconitum (monkshood), Aquilegia (columbine), Euphorbia (spurge), and Pulsatilla (pasque flower), resent root disturbance and may show their displeasure by going into decline after being divided. Fortunately, these perennials rarely die out in the center or stop blooming with age. For the vast majority of perennials, the general rule is that as long as your plant is thriving and continuing to flower year after year, there really is no need to divide it.

The exception is if you want to make new plants. Other than the difficult ones listed above, most perennials divide easily, resulting in lots of new plant divisions that you can use to start new colonies or share with friends and neighbors.

The two best times to divide perennials are in spring and fall when the air is cool and nature provides plenty of moisture. Fall bloomers, hostas, and deciduous grasses are best divided in spring from March through May. September to November is the best time to divide spring bloomers. Summer bloomers can normally be divided in either early spring or fall. Dividing at these times of year provides adequate time for the plants to reestablish strong roots before the flowering season begins again.

Dividing most perennials is straightforward. The easiest are the ones that form spreading clumps that don’t tend to die out in the middle such as Hosta, Sedum, Ajuga (carpet bugle), and Omphalodes (navelwort), to mention just a few. Best divided when new growth appears in spring, these spreaders can be divided simply by digging a section out of the clump and replanting it to start a new colony.

With most other perennials, however, it’s best to lift the plant after cutting the stems back to the ground to make it easier to pull or cut the roots apart without having to deal with tangled foliage. If the plant being divided has roots that can be easily pulled apart, such as Stachys (lamb’s ears), Pulmonaria (lungwort), and primrose, simply use your hands to tease off sections. The vast majority of perennials, however, are best divided by using your digging spade to slice off sections from the edges of the root mass while discarding the worn-out center. Use this method on Agapanthus (lily of the Nile), Aster, Monarda (bee balm), Hemerocallis (day lily), and Rudbeckia (black eyed Susan), along with a slew of others. Occasionally, you’ll run into perennials such as Astilbe (false spirea), Acanthus (bear’s breech) and Eupatorium (Joe Pye weed) with roots that are thick and hard to break. The best way to divide these is to use a sharp knife to cut the roots into sections. Whatever method you use, don’t forget to work compost and organic fertilizer into the planting hole when you replant the divisions.

I’m not an advocate of the often-recommended method of dividing perennials by inserting two pitchforks back to back through the roots of a lifted perennial. The idea is that by drawing the handles away from each other, it will pry the roots apart to form divisions. The only time I tried this method was on a live TV show. By the time my demonstration ended, I was an exhausted sweaty mess, covered with dirt (as was most of the studio), and I had totally massacred the roots of one of my favorite delphiniums, which I never even managed to divide in the process!
Garden d’Lights is the Society’s most popular event of the year. Each holiday season, tens of thousands of people come to see over half a million sparkling lights formed into the whimsical shapes of plants, birds, animals, and cascading waterfalls set amid the natural beauty of the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Sadly, we have had to cancel Garden d’Lights for 2020. This was a very difficult decision for us, as we know how much this event means to so many, but we felt that this was in the best interests of the continued health and safety of our community.

After Thanksgiving, watch for some special virtual content of prior Garden d’Lights events, to help you remember years past and get you get excited for 2021, when we will be back, better than ever!

Photo by Rebecca Randall

How does one write about the wisdom of a Bellevue Botanical Garden founder and a veteran gardener going on eighty years strong? Well, by taking your dog for a walk through all the beautiful gardens in Bellevue and the greater Seattle area, of course. By watching a grandmother surrounded by her many grandchildren, gently pruning her flowerbed, as the children jump around her full of all the buds and blooms she hands each one. This, I think, was exactly the portrait our lady of the hour, Pat Roome, has taken such care to paint for us, her audience, over the many years of her life.

Pat represents the essence of a gardener: one who loves the earth, and all its marvelous aromas. She loves the feel of every bud, every leaf, every branch. She loves, most of all, the myriad creations that sprout from its rich depths, to pique every corner of even the most reticent imaginations. A woman who, then, spends a lifetime sharing that love with friends, family and, especially, the generation to come. For, as much as we each try to create the perfect garden oasis of our own, we cannot succeed without the shared ingenuity of each other. Pat reminds us that we are more than fear behind a mask and we are not defined by the digital world to which many of us are now confined. But rather, we are an outflowing of courageous words on a page and we are strong, caring hands and fingers in the soil, bringing forth new life and sharing it with those around us.

When asked about the most exciting parts of her life and her new book, Legacy of a Passionate Gardener, a sequel to Memoirs of an Octogenarian, she thinks back to the Master Gardener Foundation as a founding member forty-five years ago, her pivotal role in the 1984 inception of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, and the trials and tribulations of forty-two years of breaking into the landscape design business as one of the first females of her time in the profession. Besides the incredible amount of work, time, dedication, and physical effort she and the Shorts family and other founders put forth to bring the Bellevue Botanical Garden to fruition, Pat has enjoyed teaching in the Master Gardener program. One of her recent engagements with that group was on a topic very relevant to her newly published book: gardening as we age. Her book was inspired by the plants she writes about: the physiology of plant growth, and the history of plant discovery and garden development from the old world to the new. Her favorite parts focus on the value of winter gardening, how gardening changes as we age, and how best to use all the visual elements in the creative space of your garden.

Please visit Amazon.com to obtain a copy of Pat’s book, Legacy of a Passionate Gardener, published by Amazon. She looks forward to hearing from you as, hopefully, you might gain a new perspective and joy from the wonderful insights Pat has garnered from her insatiable desire to grow!
Gardeners enjoy being in the company of fellow gardeners. Like other enthusiasts, “talking shop” is a keen pleasure, which can help bridge the unavoidable hours spent apart from gardening. With winter on the way, these unfortunate gaps in garden time will lengthen, making the need for speedy and accurate spotting of other gardeners more acute. Time to bone up on your gardener identification skills before it is too late.

It is easy enough to spot gardeners in their natural habitat—gardens large and small. They are frequently seen surrounded by tools and talking steadily to themselves (or to the plants at hand) as they dig, pinch, pull, prune, rake, rearrange and otherwise work in the garden. Gardeners always refer to “working” in the garden, but it is more than that; it is life itself.

Away from their beloved home bases, however, spotting gardeners can be trickier, unless you know the signs. In his delightful 1929 book, *The Gardener’s Year*, Czech writer/gardener Karel Capek drops some tantalizing and useful hints about identifying fellow gardeners: “I will not betray to you how gardeners recognize one another, whether by smell, or some password, or secret sign;” he writes, “but it is a fact that they recognize one another at first sight, whether in the gangways of the theatre, or at a tea, or in a dentist’s waiting-room… in the first phrases which they utter they exchange views on the weather (“No sir, I never remember such a spring”), then they pass to the question of humidity, to dahlias…and other such themes. It is only an illusion that they are two men in dress suits in the gangway of the theatre; in deeper and actual reality they are they are two gardeners with a spade and a watering can.”

Mr. Capek may not give away all his secrets, but he does let slip an identification tip: Make a leading comment about the weather such as, “That was quite a rain last night.” If your “target” responds with something like: “It was, but we needed it! My wilting Astilbe looked grateful this morning,” you have made a positive gardener identification in just one move.

It is not always this simple, though. Hence, the next tip: Gardeners can be famously inattentive to their appearance, especially if an errand forces them out of the garden before they are ready to quit for the day. So, in public places watch for telltale signs such as dirt on both trouser knees.

In his collection of gardening essays, *The Gardener’s Bed-Book*, Richardson Wright defends himself and other gardeners on the matter of clothing. “You can tell a real dirt gardener by the clothes he wears,” observes Wright. “…The real gardener has no special clothes to work in; he invariably wears out old clothes. He never deliberately goes to a store and buys brand new shirts and trousers and boots for this purpose. If he does, he is not much of a gardener.”

Gardeners are also generous when it comes to sharing fruits, vegetables, flowers or even plants from their own gardens. And gardening advice is free for the asking. Pass by someone working in their garden and you are apt to be offered a gift—

continued on page 9
Late autumn’s gloom can fall hard on the shoulders of a Puget Sound gardener. Some seek solace by scooting off to southern shores and slopes, if only in the mind’s eye, but I make do at home, slogging along sodden pathways while nursing fleeting images of summer sun and dreaming of saguaros. I’ve long been enamored of cacti, agaves, aloes and other xeriscape plants native to the desert Southwest and South Africa and began amassing an assortment of them about twenty years ago. In the autumn of 2003, deep into the annual chore of lugging my burgeoning population of potted succulents under covered shelter, it occurred to me that some of them might survive planted in the ground if I could overwinter them in dry conditions.

I realized I had just such a place at hand: a twenty-one foot by three-and-a-half foot rectangle of poorly utilized space lodged between garage and sidewalk. The garage’s brick wall faces south, thus capturing the measly amount of light and warmth the winter sun allows us, and the generous, thirty-inch overhang of the eaves blocks the bulk of precipitation. Inspired to action, I ripped out a scrawny, moribund row of boxwood and found the soil beneath both poor and porous—perfect for my plan. I picked a dozen candidates from my collection, planted them in the ash-colored powder that passes for soil, and piled red lava pebbles all around.

Among the first residents of this plot were several agaves, two of which stood out from the others in emerging unscathed each spring from winter’s onslaught. These were Agave havardiana and A. neomexicana, resolutely cold-hardy natives of high-altitude sites in New Mexico and Texas that I acquired in 2001 from a Portland friend who raised them from seed. Thriving in their new terrestrial home, they formed strikingly handsome, perfectly symmetrical, steely gray rosettes and even began producing offsets.

Agave is a prime example of a botanical name reflecting a quality readily apparent even to a lay person. The founder of modern taxonomy, Carl Linnaeus, was so smitten with these American icons in the eighteenth century that he named the genus from the Greek ἀγαυός, meaning noble, illustrious, admirable. In addition to their good looks, agaves are notable for their longevity, and are sometimes called century plants. Most are monocarpic, blooming once after decades of life and then perishing.

As a Seattleite, it hadn’t entered my mind that an agave might bloom in our coolish climate. It happens rarely in Portland, which enjoys (or endures) many more heat hours annually than we do. Therefore, I was gobsmacked in mid-May when the rosette’s core on my Agave havardiana, now twenty years old, began to open. A couple of days later a blossom stalk (or peduncle in botanical terms) emerged, growing several inches a day and looking for all the world like a gargantuan asparagus spear. At this stage, one can readily see that Agave is a member of the botanical family Asparagaceae.

Within a month the spear hit eleven feet in height and began to form a dozen short arms along its top third, arranged candelabra like, each sporting several dozen buds of startling beauty, glossy and pink-tipped like so many tubes of lipstick. The first of these cracked open in mid-July to reveal canary-yellow stamens, followed by the taller style. The bottom-to-top bloom sequence lasted twenty-eight days, a full lunar cycle. At this writing (August 19) this process is near its end; half of the fruiting capsules, unfertilized, have withered and fallen, but the others remain, successfully hand-pollinated (by me, hanging over the garage roof) getting plumper by the day, apparently full of ripening seed. In a future issue of The Buzz we’ll reveal the ending of this most illustrious agave adventure.

A Most Illustrious Agave

By Daniel Sparler

Photo above, Daniel’s agave on July 25; at right, Daniel with his agave on June 25.
Fall tugs at gardeners in two directions at once. On the wistful side we have nineteenth-century poet Robert Browning’s view that “Autumn wins you best by this, its mute appeal to sympathy for its decay.” On the other hand, Browning’s novelist friend Mary Anne Evans (aka George Eliot) held a decidedly more upbeat assessment: “Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.” I suspect that most of us weigh both perspectives in rough balance each October as we scurry like wind-tossed leaves about our gardens, uncertain of which task to tackle next.

First on the to-do list are tried and true essentials: Plant perennials, shrubs and trees; divide perennials for sharing with friends; try rooting cuttings of your favorite shrubs (hydrangea, fuchsia, lavender, rosemary, hebe, choisya and philadelphus are easy); tidy up mushy and matted foliage while leaving seed stalks standing for birds; protect half-hardy and tender plants from frost; give a couple of containers a makeover with frost-tolerant selections that will give you cheer throughout winter.

Next, take stock of your buried botanical treasures: Have you planted enough bulbs and corms for next spring’s bloom? It’s not too late to order more. Remember that they’re much more economical when purchased in quantity from purveyors such as Van Engelen, Brent & Becky’s, and others. If squirrels are digging up your crocuses as soon as you plant them, head to Costco and invest in a fourteen-ounce tub of ground cayenne pepper to sprinkle on the surface of the bulb bed. It’s remarkably cheap as well as effective, although you must repeat after rain.

On sodden or stormy days when you’re loath to go outside, savor some soul-stirring, garden-focused poetry. A riveting place to start is the breathtaking, four-seasons-in-the-garden correspondence between renowned contemporary poets Ross Gay and Aimee Nezhukumatathil, published in 2014 by Orion Magazine and available online for free (Google search: Orion “Letters from Two Gardens”).

How to Spot a Fellow Gardener, continued from page 7

maybe a few tomatoes tenderly tucked into a paper sack for you to “take with you” or a bouquet of the last rowdy zinnias.

Gardeners who write about gardening reveal many other traits about themselves, including the fact that they are passionate and often hold strong views about all things gardening. Michael Pollan, in his introduction to the Modern Library Gardening Series, describes garden writing as the “rich, provocative, and frequently uproarious conversation that, metaphorically at least, takes place over the back fence that joins any two gardeners in the world.”

In his introduction to Green Thoughts by Eleanor Perenyi, Allen Lacy notes that “the best garden writing is always highly opinionated. It simply goes with the territory.” By way of illustration he offers a wry example from gardener writer, Henry Mitchell: “Marigolds should be used as sparingly as ultimatums.”

Perhaps even more characteristic than gardeners’ passion and generosity is their patient hope and faith in tomorrow. It is not just a notable characteristic of many gardeners; it is a gift from them to the rest of the world. Here, Mr. Capek should have the last word. Writing about fall and winter, he makes this self-revealing observation: “Leaves wither because winter begins, but they also wither because spring is already beginning, because new buds are being made, as tiny as percussion caps out of which the spring will crack. It is an optical illusion that trees and bushes are naked in autumn; they are, in fact, sprinkled over with everything that will unpack and unroll in spring. …we say that Nature rests, yet she is working [unseen] like mad… The best thing of all is to be a living [person]—that is, a [person] who grows.”
The Fuchsia Garden at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is a unique display of over one hundred hardy and semi-hardy fuchsias. The intent of the display is to introduce the public to the wide array of fuchsias that are hardy and perform well in Northwest gardens. The plants bloom consistently all summer, providing nectar to hummingbirds and bees, and enjoyment to visitors.

The Fuchsia Garden is maintained in partnership with the Eastside Fuchsia Society (EFS)—an agreement that’s been in place since we opened in 1992. Volunteers with the EFS maintain the Fuchsia Garden by overwintering tender fuchsias, cutting back plants in the spring, weeding, and picking berries off in summer.

**Garden Beginnings**

The first Fuchsia Garden was planned in 1992 by Ollie de Graff and Harry King, founding members of the EFS. The garden included hanging baskets and plants in a bed at the east entrance of the Shorts House. Over time it became crowded with one hundred plants in a three hundred square foot area.

In 2012, the fuchsias were moved to their current location along the path south of the Shorts House. The Fuchsia Garden is now sixteen hundred square feet, giving the plants space to grow and allowing visitors to appreciate each plant on its own.

**About Fuchsias**

Fuchsias are mostly native to Central and South America. They are prized for their intricate flowers which dangle like earrings along the stems. The flowers consist of inner petals (called the corolla) and the outer sepals (the calyx). The calyx and corolla are frequently different colors in a variety of pinks, purples, whites, reds, and oranges. Flower size ranges from one-half to three inches high. Some are single and delicate, some are double and bold, and some are somewhere in between.

Most of the plants in the Fuchsia Garden are hardy here (meaning they can survive winter in the ground), but do not maintain their woody structure above-ground. A few of our shrubs are tender here, so volunteers with EFS dig them and move them to an unheated indoor space and replant them each spring.

**Growing Fuchsias at Home**

Hardy fuchsias are relatively low-maintenance and can produce flowers for up to six months with a little attention. Here are some care tips for your own fuchsias from Caroline Zebroski with the Eastside Fuchsia Society:

- Fuchsias can take more sun then most people think. Planted in the ground, they can take sun until about 2pm.
- Plant in moist, well-drained soil; fuchsias don’t like to be too wet or too dry.
- Pinch new growth back in spring to increase branching.
- Fertilize in spring with organic slow-release fertilizer.
- Remove berries to encourage longer blooming. In September, let berries mature on the plant to signal that winter is coming.
- Cut dead branches to two inches tall in early spring.
- Depending on your microclimate you may not be able to grow as many varieties, but it’s worth a try!

**Find out more**

The Northwest Fuchsia Society maintains a list of hardy fuchsias that its members have been able to overwinter in their gardens for three or more years, and the list is always growing. You can find that list, plus information about growing fuchsias, at the Northwest Fuchsia Society’s website: nwfuchsiasociety.com

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By Cynthia Welte

The Fuchsia Garden, then and now.
I love trees. Consider for a moment that the first vascular plant emerged around four hundred million years ago and continued to evolve with over sixty thousand identified tree species in the world. The earliest trees were tree ferns, horsetails and lycophytes, which grew in forests in the Carboniferous period. Due to their size and vertical mass, trees provide us with a visual framework of design, needed structure, and form in our private and public outdoor spaces. Additionally, what other element in the landscape provides shade, cools and cleans the air, improves the soil, reduces noise, supports wildlife, and provides an environment for understory plantings?

Bellevue is graced with our share of trees. Rick Bailey, who heads up the Forest Management Program at the City of Bellevue, noted that a recent tree canopy study indicated that about thirty-six percent of our city is blanketed in trees. Bellevue’s tree collection provides inspiration and diversity. These kinetic sculptures with their leaves, needles and tracery branches are easy to take for granted, especially here in the Puget Sound area. Watching them move and dance for our enjoyment and then put on visual shows during the various seasons is truly stunning.

After specifying and laying out landscape plans for over forty-five years, I’ve found that one of my favorites is *Nyssa sinensis* (Chinese Tupelo), which you can find just off the southwest corner of the Aaron Education Center at the Garden. There are several tucked into the slope between the Waterwise Garden and the Urban Meadow.

Although this deciduous tree is native to China and Vietnam, it’s considered to be an exceptional plant for the maritime Pacific Northwest. It sports a very unusual green flower in May, new growth that is a bronzed purple color, and blue fruit. In autumn, the red foliage is spectacular. Its pyramidal, rounded, and broad habit will reach up to thirty feet, with a spread that is as wide as it is tall. Leaves can reach eight to ten inches in length.

If you have room in your garden, consider trying this one. You won’t be disappointed.

**The Bellevue Botanical Garden has more than 250 different types of trees.**

You can use the Garden’s Collection Search on the BBG website to find your favorites.
Let’s Paint Birds! Sat, October 3, 11am-1:30pm, $25/$35. Taught by Terry MacDonald. Learn to paint birds with personality! We will paint a wren and a chickadee using acrylic paints and pen. We will focus on getting an accurate drawing and then learn tricks to give your birds the quirks and whimsy that makes them endearing painting subjects.

Botanically Inspired Zentangle Art. October 14, 7-8:30pm. Join Tomomi Galeano, a Certified Zentangle Teacher for an evening of relaxation and creativity, as she walks you through how to make a botanically inspired Zentangle art drawing. With step-by-step instructions, it doesn’t require any previous drawing experience.

Seasonal Splendor: Year-Round Color in the Shade Garden, Wednesday, October 21, 7pm. Details on page 13.

Botanical Drawing: Leaves and Berries, Series of 4 classes, Thursdays, Oct. 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 6:30-8:30pm, $130/$150. Taught by Crystal Shin. This class will cover basics as well as colored pencil techniques including layering, blending, and building saturation with luminosity, while incorporating the observation techniques and elements of botanical illustration.

Autumn Colors in the Garden Watercolor Workshop, Saturday, November 14, 11am-1:30pm, taught by Molly Hashimoto. Learn how to paint the vibrant colors of autumn! Molly will demonstrate some of the beauties of fall, such as Japanese maples and dahlias, and then you will paint along with her, trying out techniques with fun skill-building exercises.

Gardening with an English Accent, Wednesday, November 18, 7-8:30pm. THIS WEBINAR IS FREE FOR BBGS & NPA MEMBERS! Join Alison Johnson for the story of English gardening and its relevance to the Pacific Northwest. She will share her favorite plants and planting combinations and the famous English gardens where she got her ideas and inspiration.

PNW Botanical Living Holiday Centerpiece, Wednesday, December 9, 6:30-8:30pm. Learn how to use native plants to create a beautiful living centerpiece for the holiday season. Visit our website for further details.

Gardens of France and British Isles Cruise
By Nita-Jo Rountree

Next spring, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society will partner with the luxury small-boat French cruise line, Ponant Yacht Cruises & Expeditions, for a tour of famous British and Irish gardens. The cruise will take place April 25 through May 4, 2021.

The tour begins in Saint-Molo, France where you will tour one of the most magnificent gardens in France, The Gardens of La Ballue. More striking gardens that can be accessed via the sea are in Brittany, the Isles of Scilly (Tresco Abbey!), Ireland, and England. In April and May, these gardens are filled with riotous color and fragrance. They could not be more perfect.

Due to the pandemic, all cruises from the United States have been cancelled for 2020, but Ponant feels that the travel ban will be lifted in time for this cruise. Ponant is taking great strides to surpass the industry’s safety and health protocols pertaining to COVID-19 to insure the health and safety of their guests and crew.

BBGS members will be sent a colorful brochure with a complete itinerary. Please note that your tour fee includes a $500 tax deductible donation to the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society!

For more information, contact Tracy at 425-452-6919 or Catherine at 888-400-1082.
Space does not permit us to list all of Cole Burrell’s numerous accolades, but to mention a few, he is an acclaimed international lecturer, garden designer, award winning author, and photographer. He has shared his encyclopedic knowledge of plants with professional and amateur audiences for forty years. In addition to teaching garden writing through workshops, he has written many books including *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide* and *Rodale’s Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials* to name only two. Additionally, he writes articles for many national gardening magazines. His personal garden has been featured in *The New York Times*.

Cole has teamed up with Carlson Wagonlit Travel to offer personalized tours to exceptional gardens and natural areas around the globe. The tours feature the best private and public gardens to create once-in-a-lifetime travel adventures.

In his lecture, Cole will address challenges shade gardeners face in sustaining interest throughout the seasons. He will illustrate how to layer the garden the way nature layers her woodlands, and he will suggest plants with exceptional form and varied textures that persist for a seamless tapestry of year-round color.

Traditionally designed Old World Christmas ornaments are back! Each glass ornament is hand crafted with the same techniques and quality Old World Christmas has provided for years. Molten glass is mouth-blown then hand-painted and glittered with care to create treasured keepsakes. Choose from our charming selection of woodland animals, birds, and garden-themed ornaments. Fawn $14.99; watering can $19.99.

Members, we invite you to shop in the Trillium Store by reservation! Email trillium@bellevuebotanical.org to schedule a twenty-to-thirty-minute shopping reservation. This offer is limited to a party of two, facemasks must be worn, and we can only accept credit cards.

As an alternative to shopping in-store, we offer safe, contactless, curbside pick-up for online purchases. Our virtual store features many of the same delightful holiday gifts you will find in-store. To receive your member discount online, enter bbgsmember10 at checkout.

Use this handy QR code to access our virtual store:

What’s New at the Trillium Store!

$5 Off a Trillium Store purchase of $30 or more

Use this coupon for in-store shopping at The Trillium Store. Members, please mention your membership to save even more!

One coupon per customer. Expires 10/31/2020.
As you know, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, better known as the CARES Act, was passed by the U.S. Congress in March 2020 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. What you may not know is that the CARES Act allows individuals to deduct charitable gifts without having to itemize deductions.

The 2020 CARES Act expands tax incentives for charitable giving, including a deduction of $300 ($600 for married couples filing jointly) for cash charitable contributions made in 2020. You can claim this deduction on your 2020 tax return without having to itemize deductions.

If you are able to itemize your deductions for 2020, the CARES Act allows you to deduct cash contributions up to one hundred percent of your adjusted gross income (prior to and after 2020, the limit is sixty percent). Please check with your tax advisor for further information and to learn about additional incentives.

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. **We need your support now more than ever!** Due to COVID-19, our two biggest community events—Garden d’Lights and Arts in the Garden—have been canceled this year. The loss of revenue from these events will impact our budget significantly. Please consider making a donation to us today. Your gift will provide crucial funds for our educational programming for children and adults, and Garden development. The Garden has remained open during COVID-19 and with your help, we can continue to support this community treasure!

Donations can be made online at bellevuebotanical.org/donate or mailed to PO Box 40536, Bellevue WA 98015. Thank you for your support and generosity!

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**Special Thanks to Our Sponsors**

**Butter & Bacon**

**Aegis Living**

**Bellevue Overlake**

**Bellevue Reporter**

**Morgan Stanley**

**Wells Fargo Nursery**

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**Welcome New Members!**

**Circles of Giving**

Andrea Borning
Jenny Mulligan & Geoff Brock
Gretchen Van Brunt & Paul Bynum
Monica & Ken Chun
Tina Sitt & Mark Cooper
Linda Wheeler & Stefani Cushing
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Sara Catlett & Alex Garcia
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Leslie & Bryan Oakes
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Briston Trapp
Gudrun Utz
Debra Wahl
Jenny Walden
Laura Watson
Phyllis White
Cindy Wldmaier
Shannon Wilson
Jack Yuan

* May 16 to August 15, 2020

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**Do We Have Your Current Email Address?**

Members, we rely on email to stay in touch with you, so please make sure we have your correct and current email address. Also, if you will be attending one of our webinars via Zoom, your current email address is crucial to receive log-in information. Please contact Tracy Landsman at tlandsman@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6919 with questions or to update your email address. Thank you!
Member Discount Program

**BBGS members receive a 10% discount at the following nurseries, garden centers and garden service providers. Please see bellevuebotanical.org/membership for details.**

- Bartlett Tree Experts, Lynnwood
- Bellevue Nursery, Bellevue
- Bouquet Banque Nursery, Marysville
- Cedar Grove, 5 retail locations and online
- City Peoples Garden Store, Seattle
- City People’s Mercantile, Seattle
- Classic Nursery, Woodinville
- Crown Bees, Woodinville
- Davey Tree Expert Co., Redmond
- Gray Barn Nursery & Garden Center, Redmond
- Kent East Hill Nursery, Kent
- Jungle Fever Exotics, Tacoma
- MsK Rare and Native Plant Nursery, Shoreline
- Old Goat Farm, Orting
- Pine Creek Farms and Nursery, Monroe
- Ravenna Gardens, Seattle
- Swansons Nursery, Seattle

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**Bellevue Botanical Garden Society**

*Our Mission is to perpetuate and further enhance the Bellevue Botanical Garden as a learning resource in partnership with the City of Bellevue.*

The Garden is located at 12001 Main St., Bellevue, WA 98005 and is open daily from dawn until dusk.

Visitor Center buildings are closed until further notice

To reach Society staff, please email us at bbgsoffice@bellevuebotanical.org

www.bellevuebotanical.org

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**OFFICERS OF THE BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY**

**CO-PRESIDENTS** Heather Babia-Kane & Cleo Raulerson

**TREASURER** Amy Doughty

**SECRETARY** Jim Livingston

**DIRECTORS**

Tracy Botsford, Barbara Bruell, Anne Dziok, Chuck Freedenberg, Denise Lane, Nita-Jo Rountree, Kathleen Searcy, Gretchen Stengel, Lisa Wozow

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**THE BUZZ TEAM**

Sandra Featherly, JG Federman, Kathryn Highland, Nancy Kartes, Wendy Leavitt, Darcy McChes, Nita-Jo Rountree, Daniel Sparler, Cynthia Welte

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**SUBMIT A QUESTION FOR CISCOE MORRIS**

askciscoe@bellevuebotanical.org

**CONTACT THE BUZZ TEAM**

buzzteam@bellevuebotanical.org

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**Additional Tax Benefits**

If you are over 70½ years old, have an IRA, and must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year, you can give directly from your traditional IRA to a 501(c)(3) charitable institution, such as the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, without having to declare your RMD as taxable income. Please check with your accountant or financial advisor for details.

If you decide to make a gift from your IRA, we hope you will consider designating your gift to one of our endowment funds. The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society has two endowment funds. One fund is for Adult and Children’s Education and Garden Development, and the other is to supplement regular maintenance and operation funding to help insure perpetual care of the Garden. Because an endowment gift will be invested permanently, it will immortalize the donor’s values and ensure that the Garden is here for future generations to enjoy.

Look for more information about our endowments in future issues of *The BUZZ.*
The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that supports the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Our Vision: Through education and community involvement, we inspire all generations to advance Northwest horticultural knowledge, and preserve natural beauty and our local ecology.

Did you know that AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to donate to BBGS every time you shop, at no cost to you? Just make your purchase through smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase may be donated to BBGS. Visit smile.amazon.com to sign up!

Let's Paint Birds! Sat., October 3, 11am-1:30pm.

Botanically Inspired Zentangle Art, October 14, 7-8:30pm.

Seasonal Splendor: Year-Round Color in the Shade Garden, Wednesday, October 21, 7pm.

Botanical Drawing: Leaves & Berries, Series of 4 classes, Thursdays, Oct. 29, Nov 5, 12, 19, 6:30-8:30pm.

Autumn Colors in the Garden Watercolor Workshop, Saturday, November 14, 11am-1:30pm.

Gardening with an English Accent, Wednesday, November 18, 7-8:30pm. THIS WEBINAR IS FREE FOR BBGS & NPA MEMBERS!

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