

# Garden News

City  People's  
garden store + landscape

## Growing a Container Garden

Spring  
2008

**City People's Garden Store**  
2939 E Madison  
Seattle, WA 98112

**Hours:**  
Monday–Saturday 9-6  
Sunday 10-6

Container gardening allows us to extend the garden beyond the yard, out onto balconies, steps, patios, and decks. Even city apartment dwellers can have lush gardens without an ounce of ground. Well placed pots with plants of varying heights can soften and beautify even a concrete terrace (*right*).

Highlight a favorite plant at the height of its beauty, then move it off center stage when its peak has passed. Grow a tender tropical plant and move it inside during the coldest months. Container environments can be more controlled than in the ground, allowing more experimentation and play.

### Conditions Count

To create a successful container design, basic gardening rules apply: pick the right plants for the site. Be particularly mindful of wind and sun exposure. The fine leaves of Japanese maples can burn or curl if placed in too much direct sun without adequate water; evergreen shrubs can topple over in very windy spots. Look at sun and shade requirements on plant tags and place accordingly. And choose the right soil (not dirt from the garden). A good potting mix is essential for good drainage and optimal moisture retention. The Garden Store carries both **Cedar Grove** and **Gardner & Bloome** potting soils, which each contain special blends of worm castings and organic nutrients for plant health and growth.



### Constrained Container Life

The life span of plants in pots is limited. While a well-maintained, slower growing tree can last over a decade in a large container (at least 18 inches deep and wide), eventually growth will become less vigorous. As the soil compacts and roots crowd each other, water and nutrient uptake is hindered. Although slowed growth might be desired, eventually the plant will not be able to survive the conditions and will be prone to insect damage and disease. Root pruning can prolong a plant's container life. Transplanting into the yard is another option.

Slow growing trees and shrubs will last longer with less fuss. Most Japanese maples are great picks not only because of their size, but also because of their year-round attributes: beautiful, textured leave, fall color,

*Continued on page 2*

# NW Natural Yard Days

April 15th - May 15th

City People's Garden Store is a proud participant in a campaign to promote environmentally friendly gardening practices.

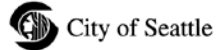
April 15th - May 15th is **Northwest Natural Yard Days (NNYD)** during which we will offer a 25% discount on select natural yard care products such as **Dr. Earth Lawn Fertilizer, Swanson's Bark Mulch, Safer Moss Control, Hori Hori** and more!

Choosing **Northwest Natural Yard Days** products can improve the health of your yard and help protect our local environment.

Gardens can thrive without the use of toxic weed and pest killers and with careful use of watering methods.

#### Follow these 5 basic steps:

- **Build healthy soil** with the generous use of mulch and compost. Both help hold moisture in and keep weeds out.
- **Plant right for your site;** plants that are in optimal conditions for growth will be better at resisting disease and pest damage.
- **Practice smart watering** by using well-placed soaker hoses or drip systems



- **Think twice before using pesticides;** find low toxic alternatives; Hand weed instead of using weed killers.
- **Practice natural lawn care:** aerate, mulch, reseed, use natural fertilizer, and water early in the morning or, even better, let the lawn go dormant (and brown) in summer.

To learn more about natural yard care, pick up a **Natural Yard Care** brochure at the Garden Store or come to our free **Natural Lawn Care** workshop on March 29th.

*See page 3 for details.*

*Containers, continued from page 1*

and interesting architectural structure in the winter when bare. *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' with its red foliage which turns bright orange in fall is a great choice. Other smaller trees include *Styrax japonica*, crab apples (*malus spp*), and dogwoods (*cornus spp*).

For screening plants, try the evergreen Hinoki cypress (*Chameacyparis obtusa*). Faster growing plants such as bamboos and wax myrtle (*Myrica californica*) are possible as well but will need to be replanted every few years. **Note:** *Getting bamboo out of the pot it has been in for a few years is no easy feat. Choosing a container with straight sides will make the task slightly easier.*

#### Color Craft

Catie Corpron-Smith is the enthusiastic container designer for **City People's Gardens Design & Landscape**. Having grown up in the jungles of Thailand, Catie loves bold flowers and profuse bloomers. "Mix and match both container and plants," she suggests. "Use a large pot for structure, a medium one to add contrast, and then a small container to go wild with!" She is all for cramming numerous plants together for maximum effect, mixing upright with trailing, bright color with bold leaves. Catie will often use tender perennials such as hibiscus and mandevilla vine for their big "in your face" blooms. Either bring them inside in winter to protect them, or consider them a seasonal indulgence to be replaced the following year.

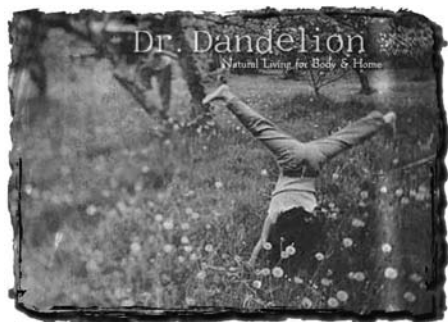
Each week Catie scans the annual racks to assemble striking containers for clients. When the colorful coleus start pouring in, Catie will be filling her cart with delight. She loves to play and experiment with designs, and when advising do-it-yourself gardeners, encourages them to do the same, adding "take lots of pictures to keep track of what works and what doesn't, and most importantly, have fun!"

Learn more about container design from Catie at her popular workshop on April 19th. *See page 3.* Or call **City People's Gardens Design & Landscape** to have Catie custom design a container or two for your home (206) 324-0963.

*live outside*

CITY PEOPLE'S GARDENS  
*Design + landscape*  
206 324-0963 www.citypeoples.com

# Gifts Inside: Dr. Dandelion



We're pleased to offer products from a local Bellingham company. **Dr. Dandelion** is "earth friendly, people friendly, and animal friendly," and as company owner Deb Robbins notes, "the only animal testing we do is on our dog, Bea. She loves a bath using our Olive Oil Soap!"

**Dr. Dandelion** has a Gardeners product line which includes soap, scrub, and balm—all made for those overworked hands that have been exposed to the elements all day.



- Gardeners scrub**     \$13.49
- Gardeners balm**   \$5.49 sm / \$9.99 lg
- Gardeners soap**   \$5.49



**Dr. Dandelion** loofah soaps are loofah sponges surrounded by soap to

slough away dry skin and leave skin feeling smooth and polished.

We also are carrying a variety of other **Dr. Dandelion** products from bath oils to chapstick to baby soap. Try them out and enjoy the benefits — for your body and your community!



# Spring Workshops

**City People's Garden Store workshops are all FREE and open to the public. All workshops meet in the indoor nursery.**

## The Organic Vegetable Garden

Saturday, March 22nd: 11 am

What does organic mean exactly? Is it more difficult than conventional gardening practices? And what are heirloom vegetables anyway? **Seattle Tilth** will be here to answer all your questions on how to successfully grow organic vegetables.

## Natural Lawn Care

Saturday, March 29th: 11 am

Your lawn can be safe for children and pets and be beautiful as well. Come learn how with **Ladd Smith** of **InHarmony Sustainable Landscapes**. Since 1994, InHarmony has been helping homeowners develop sustainable practices in their home gardens.

## Extraordinary Trees for Northwest Gardens

Saturday, April 5th: 11 am

**Arthur Lee Jacobsen**, author of *Trees of Seattle*, will be here to discuss some uncommon but highly worthy trees for urban planting. Arthur will give advice on how and where to plant, as well as background on 25 interesting and unique specimens.

## Get Carried Away with Containers

Saturday, April 19th: 11 am

**Catie Corpron-Smith** of **City People's Gardens Design & Landscape** will be back to host her popular workshop on spring container plantings. Learn how to select plants that lend texture, color, and luminosity to your design.

## The Charm of Roses

Saturday, May 3rd: 11 am

Find out how to grow beautiful, fragrant roses organically at our rose seminar with **Pam Seaberg**, consulting rosarian.

## Tantalizing & Tasty Tomatoes

Saturday, May 17th: 11 am

Discover secrets for growing your most colorful, luscious, and flavorful tomatoes this summer with **Lindy Sheehan**, Tomato Enthusiast and Projects Coordinator at the **Ballard P-Patch Garden**.

## Outdoor Rooms & Intimate Garden Spaces

Saturday, June 14th: 11 am

Jean Zaputil, of **Jean Zaputil Garden Design**, will be here to teach the ins and outs of creating inviting outdoor "rooms" for relaxing and entertaining.

## GARDEN STORE ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 19th, 10:00-4:00 pm

Come celebrate our favorite time of year with us! Snacks and beverages and in-store specials will help us usher in the gardening season. Scout out new plant arrivals and sit in on the popular Container Design workshop (above).

# As the Weather Warms...

## Featherweight Fiberstone

We now carry handsome **Fiberstone** pots made of a composite of limestone and fiberglass. The combination allows for the texture and durability of limestone and the lightweight and waterproof qualities of fiberglass. **Fiberstone** pots are ideal for balcony gardens and decks. Great for indoors or out.



## Pick Up Summer Bulbs

Plant a mass of bloomers such as dahlias, crocosmia, alliums, and lilies to provide brilliant color that can last well into fall.

## Repot Your Indoor Plants

Don't forget your indoor plants have been dormant all winter and will now go into active growth. Assess which ones need to be moved into a bigger pot and transplant. Only go up one pot size at a time.

## Divide Perennials

Early perennials can be divided after they have bloomed. Perennials that bloom in summer or fall can be divided once they've sent up at least a couple inches of foliage. Be sure to water well.

## Prune Woody Ornamentals

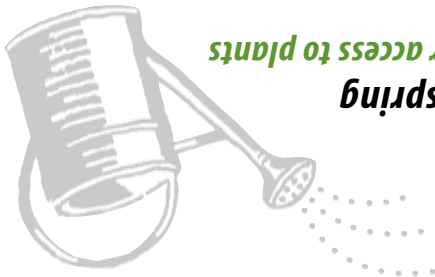
Forsythia can be cut back hard. Cane growers can be selectively thinned after blooming. Consult *How to Prune* by local author Cass Turnbull with illustrations by City People's own **Kate Allen**.

## Set Up Your Drip Systems

Water precisely and efficiently. Need help? **City People's Gardens Design & Landscape** can create and install a low maintenance watering system for you. Call 324-0963.

## Prepare for your veggie garden

Till the soil and create beds. Sow seeds when the ground has warmed, and add some vegetable starts from the nursery. Don't forget **Dr. Earth Vegetable Fertilizer**



*Come See the Nursery Fresh this spring  
We've done some rearranging for easier access to plants*

**15% Off**  
 All Regularly Priced Merchandise  
 Valid only with coupon at  
 City People's Garden Store  
 through April 5th, 2008.  
 Does not apply to sales items  
 or landscape orders.

**City People's Garden Store**  
 2939 E. Madison Street Seattle, WA 98112  
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