

Daily Courier

HOME & GARDEN

MAY 12, 2024

RURAL GARDENS

A new tour event in the
Illinois Valley supports
the Southern Oregon Guild

INSIDE

» Asante Medford's new healing garden
» A builder's own spiral staircase

» Tips for spring cleaning from a local pro
» Area garden events, club meetings

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ON THE COVER

Standing in front of a shed lined with various garden tools, Kathy Lombardo takes out one of her favorites. Lombardo's grounds, located in O'Brien, will be featured on a new garden tour called Arts Alive! An Art & Rural Garden Adventure, planned for May 18. Her expansive property includes a turtle rescue, extensive ponds and many native plants.

Photo by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

A collection of garden tools, usually found at estate sales, awaits at the Lombardo garden, which will be open to tour. See page 16.

INSIDE

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POLAR PETER PUMPKIN EATER, 2017
By artists Crystal R. Pyren & Del Hearn

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Healing by design



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

The Sutton Healing Garden at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center’s new pavilion in Medford was made possible by a generous gift.

Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center’s new pavilion came wrapped in an extensive healing garden

By Patrice Hanlon
for the Daily Courier

Research suggests that gardens and garden settings encourage healing. So, it’s no surprise that Asante Medical Center designed a large new addition in Medford, where a healing garden was part of the plan.

Thanks to the generosity of Bonnie and Herb Sutton, the new Sutton Healing Garden at Asante officially opened in February. The new garden is a place of respite and healing for the Asante community.

Sam Bikel and Jim Love with Terrain Landscape Architectural Firm from Ashland worked with the hospital’s staff, and others in the community to create the healing garden that is located just outside of the entrance to the hospital, making it highly visible and accessible to visitors, staff and patients.

Love has since left Terrain, but he spearheaded the design of this garden. He grew up in Grants Pass and studied landscape architecture at the University of Oregon. He’s been a landscape architect for about 30 years and lived in various places before returning to Grants Pass. While working in Portland he met Teresa Hazen with Legacy Health where he was introduced to the therapeutic aspects of landscape architecture.

Legacy Health is one of the prominent hospitals in the United States using horticultural therapy in the hospital as part of the recovery plan for patients. Horticultural therapy is defined by the American Horticultural Therapy Association as the engagement of a person in gardening and plant-based activities, facilitated by a trained therapist, to achieve specific treatment goals.

Love said this project was close to his

heart because the goal of his designs is for people to feel a sense of calm when interacting with his gardens. For him, design is not just the aesthetic softening of the developed world. It’s about creatively connecting people to one of the most basic relationships — the relationship between human beings and nature.

Love said whether he is designing a parking area or a garden such as Asante’s, he thinks about how people interact with their surroundings. This might mean creating shade for people parking their cars or placing a bench near water or a scented plant.

Asante’s architectural team’s theme for the facility’s interior was Journey Through the Rogue Valley. The Terrain team decided to bring the same theme to the outdoor garden.

“Think Table Rock with its diverse ecosystems. When you stand at the lower

end of the garden and look up toward the garden toward the facility it is like being at the bottom of the mountain. As you climb, you follow grasses, chaparral plantings and trees, all the while hearing the gentle flow of the water feature that bisects the garden,” Love said.

Because of Love’s background in therapeutic design, he said they wanted to include the main components for a healing garden which include water, sensory plants that bloom throughout the year, different types of seating, meandering pathways and places for quiet.

Love said there are different types of therapeutic landscape design in hospitals or care facilities. Some gardens are created with the intention that they will be used as part of the healing plan for patients. At this time Asante does not have specific



The Sutton Healing Garden just opened in February. It offers a variety of plants, pathways, seating areas and water features.

JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Healing From Page 4

staff for using the garden but hopes to incorporate this type of use for the garden in the future.

More importantly, Love said they designed the garden as a place for respite for families since being in a hospital or having a loved one in the hospital can be a most stressful time. Additionally, research has shown that having outdoor garden places for hospital staff, whose jobs are often challenging, reduces stress.

PLANTS

The garden was designed as small rooms for quiet contemplation and for visiting. Since it was planted just before the opening in February it is still young.

Bikel commented that it feels more like an island in the middle of the parking area, but when the trees and shrubs mature, they will create natural walls that absorb the noise and screen views of the parking areas.

The plantings, Love said, were chosen to bloom at different times during the year, with scent texture and vibrant colors.

Ornamental grasses are planted throughout to mimic the meadows below the Table Rocks, Love said. They make a good backdrop and as they mature, they display beautiful seed heads, movement and sound in the wind.

Native plants were a significant part of the final plant list.

WATER

Water is known for immediately calming people. And because of this, Love said

water is a predominant feature of the garden. The water feature bisects the garden and is surrounded by small garden rooms with benches and plants. So, no matter where you are you can hear the water.

The hospital staff requested water near the main entrance to create white noise so two other smaller water ponds are near the entrances and are intended to soothe those entering or leaving the hospital.

THE CANYON

There are always challenges to any design, and the “canyon” was one of those areas. The architects were concerned because this narrow area between the hospital and the parking area was dark and cavernous.

“Then we will make it feel like a canyon,” Love recalled suggesting.

He chose species of plants usually found growing in deep shade, and trees — lots of trees — to shade an understory for the plantings.

Trees normally found in canyons near water such as birch are planted in this area. As they mature, they will help to scale down the size of the building.

Other featured plants for this woodland garden include dogwoods, rhododendrons, and pink bergenia.

They brought in quite a bit of soil for the garden so they incorporated rock walls that can also be used for seating.

Along the walkway are three keyholes with seating benches that help bring visitors closer to the garden.

PATHWAYS

The overall design for the pathways

Turn to DESIGN, Page 6



When: June 8 and 9, from 10am - 4pm both days.

What: A tour of eight gardens in and around Grants Pass.

Why: A great outdoor event and a fundraiser for the Grants Pass Museum of Art.

Cost: Tickets to the tour are \$25 each.

Where can I purchase tickets?

Diamond Home Improvement, The Kitchen Company, Grants Pass Museum of Art, Gallery One, Greenleaf Industries, and Redwood Nursery.

About the event:

Gardens are chosen for their diversity. Each of the gardens on this year's tour is unique - some simple, some elaborate - a delight for all Artists bring art for sale in each of the gardens. There will be everything from pottery to paintings, original cards, jewelry, bags and more.

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JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

One of the water features at the Sutton Healing Garden brings the soothing sound of water with a modern look. Seating around it allows visitors to have a private talk or walk for therapy with a seat nearby if needed.

“Color is an important aspect of planting a healing garden. It stimulates mood and positive emotions.”

JIM LOVE, Garden designer

Design From Page 5

allows visitors to move easily, whether walking or in a wheelchair. The meandering paths allow someone to quiet their mind or improve their strength in mobility from the walk. The opposite side of the garden has wide, and not too steep stairs. Having these types of walkways helps those who need to gain skills in walking feel safer during their rehabilitation.

Love mentioned using different hardscapes in the pathways including reusing the donor bricks from the original garden. Love said one of his favorite materials they used is made from silicon carbide, also known as sparkle grain. “I love how it sparkles from many angles in the garden when the sun is on it, and it makes a very durable non-skid surface for folks with mobility issues,” Love said.

SEATING

Seating throughout the garden is abundant and varied. “I originally wanted seating that could be moved about,” said Love. But the hospital requested seating be a permanent part of the design.

Rock walls, benches with arms, and flat

benches are found throughout, and each area is big enough that wheelchairs can be accommodated.

“I designed the space for seating to be near trees that would eventually create shade because the garden’s western exposure will make it hot during the summer months,” Love said.

Benches and gathering areas are intentionally placed near plants with fragrance or bright colors like yellow. “Color is an important aspect of planting a healing garden. It stimulates mood and positive emotions,” said Love.

DESIGN TIPS

If someone wanted to design a healing garden at their home, Love enthusiastically suggested, “Color! Write down all your favorite colors and then go after plants that will fill all the seasons — not just summer. And it doesn’t have to be just flowers. Leaves, grasses and bark all have beautiful colors during different seasons.”

Also, some people are drawn to sunny spots while others like shade. He suggested placing a bench in that favorite spot, and sit there. Quiet time in the garden or outdoors is beneficial.

Scents invoke memories. Herbs are as fragrant as flowers, and most are easy to

grow.

Consider sound, he suggested. This does not have to be a water feature. It could be from wind chimes. There are many different tones in wind chimes.

Art is a great way to bring joy to the garden. Whether you prefer whimsical or abstract, “it is your space to create a place that brings you peace when you are out there,” he said.

One final thought: Remember to look out your windows into your garden, and place plants, a hummingbird feeder, or art in spots you look at when you are inside, he said.

A good resource is “Therapeutic Landscapes, An Evidenced Approach to Designing Healing Gardens and Restorative Outdoor Spaces,” a book by Clare Cooper Marcus, landscape architect and cancer survivor.

She writes: “Spending time interacting with nature in a well-designed garden won’t cure your cancer or heal a badly burned leg. But there is good evidence it can reduce your levels of pain and stress — and, by doing that, boost your immune system in ways that allow your own body and other treatments to help you heal.”

Freelance reporter Patrice Hanlon of Grants Pass works at the Josephine County Food Bank and Raptor Creek Garden.

Plant list

Below is a partial plant list for the healing and entry gardens at Asante’s new pavilion in Medford, provided by the designers:

TREES

Vine maple, *Acer Circinatum*
Dura-Heat River Birch, *Betula nigra* ‘Dura-Heat’
Columnar Hornbeam,
Carpinus betulus ‘Fastigiata’
Venus White Dogwood,
Cornus ‘Venus’ and several other varieties including Kelsey and Midwinter Fire
Avondale Redbud and Oklahoma Redbud, *Cercis chinensis* and *Cercis Reniformis*
Black Tupelo, *Nyssa Sylvatica*
Coast Redwood, *Sequoia Sempervirens*

SHRUBS

Howard McMinn Manzanita, *Arcostaphylos* den. ‘Howard McMinn’
Heartleaf Bergenia, *Bergenia cordifolia*
Emily Brown Ceanothus, *Ceanothus* t. ‘Emily Brown’
Summer Ice Daphne, *Daphne transatlantica* ‘Summer Ice’
Kramer’s Red Heath, *Erica x darleyensis* ‘Kramers Red’
Several hydrangeas, *Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Tardiva,’ *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Hydrangea quercifolia* ‘Sikes Dwarf’
Privet Honeysuckle, *Lonicera pileata*
Oregon Grape
Fraser’s Photinia, *Photinia fraseri*
Rhododendrons, PJM and Jean Marie de Montague
Viburnum, David and Summer Snowflake

GRASSES

Maiden Grass, *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Little Kitten’ and ‘Yakushima’
Dwarf Fountain Grass, *Pennisetum alopecuroides* ‘Hameln’
Autumn Moor Grass, ‘*Sesleria autumnalis*

PERENNIALS

Moonshine Yarrow, *Achillea x ‘Moonshine’*
Spurge, *Euphorbia wulfenii*
Siskiyou Pink Gaura, *Gaura lindheimeri* ‘Siskiyou Pink’
Black-Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*

GROUNDCOVERS

Kinnikinnick, *Arcostaphylos uva-ursi*
Genista
Angelina Stonecrop, *Sedum rupestre* ‘Angelina’
Water Smarter Tall Fescue Blend lawn seed



Healing gardens an ancient idea recently revived

From ancient Egypt to medieval monasteries, plants eased the sick

Healing landscapes have a long history in the world. Before people began building dwellings, natural groves of trees, a grouping of rocks or caves were used for healing and spiritual gatherings.

Egyptian tomb paintings of lotus and other garden plants are some of the earliest physical evidence of designed gardens. In ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome, gardens were often attached to places of healing or spiritual practices.

Monasteries in France and England intentionally designed gardens with medicinal plants and utilized them for healing purposes.

Because of modern technological advances, gardens were often lost as part of the healing process in the modern world.

From approximately 1950 to 1990, the therapeutic value of access to nature all but disappeared from hospitals in most Western countries. High-rise hospitals became the norm.

Since then, many hospitals have included healing gardens with their new designs, including hospitals in the Asante family in the Rogue Valley.

— Patrice Hanlon

JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Keyhole seating areas and shade are part of what designers came to call The Canyon — a space between two buildings that was landscaped as part of the Sutton Healing Garden at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford. The garden wraps around the new pavilion and opened earlier this year.

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One step at a time



JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Master craftsman Michael Klein discusses some of the materials used for building a spiral staircase he designed and welded outside his new home. He covered the handrails in commercial-grade pipe and for the stair treads, he repurposed decommissioned shopping carts. The frame is solid steel and passed county inspection. The kit Mercedes Benz roadster at left was a gift that also has benefited from his mechanical skill.

Hand-crafted Applegate home is finished with a homemade spiral staircase

By Edith Decker
of the Daily Courier

Handcrafted home builder Michael Klein is finishing off his retirement home. The last major addition is a second way up to the second floor.

A master woodworker who once made violins as well as his own mortise and tenon homes on his Murphy area property, he's also a welder.

That skill was required for his new spiral staircase. The other skills were math, sketching and more math.

"It had to be made to county specifications," Klein said. The tread and rise of each step was set. He needed it to span 15 feet exactly from the cement walkway around the home's first floor where his workshop is, to the second floor where the

living quarters are. A traditional staircase in the back of the home allows access as well.

The spiral stairs were a second option for safety — and just for fun.

A steel pipe is at the center of the stair. After sketching the staircase, he welded the frame.

The grid material for the each step's platform is recycled from old shopping carts.

"I welded it up three steps at a time and slid it up the pipe, then welded the sections together," he says.

It's 15 feet and 15 steps. The angles and making the stairs start and stop in the right places on each level required quite a bit more math.

"I sketch everything and then I put measurements on the sketch," he says. "To

me it was interesting. ... I had to make it and turn it just exactly."

Because it's outdoors, he needed a railing that would take the weather. He settled on ABS heavy irrigation pipe.

"People ask how I got the curve of the rail, but I bought it that way, on a five-foot roll," he says, adding a chuckle.

He just stretched the rolled pipe out and fitted it onto the base of the rail top. "It already had a bend."

With a few health setbacks and contractor issues, it's taken more than three years to be this close to completion on the handmade home with its chalet look.

It started with trees from his own property that were milled on a small sawmill he purchased and set up on site.

The three-level structure has decks and window views of his Applegate hillside

property and beyond.

He's reused things where he could, including the kitchen cabinets, gifted to him by a contractor after a remodel and the various solid wood doors, which once were at Heaven on Earth in Azalea, he says.

He studied traditional building methods for several years in Germany.

Klein, who is in his 80s, hopes to move himself and his wife, Janice, in by next month.

"The whole place is old-fashioned. I'm old-fashioned."

The home was featured in more detail in a September 2021 Daily Courier special section.

Reach reporter Edith Decker at 541-474-3724 or edecker@thedailycourier.com.



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

The spiral staircase had to reach from a second-story deck to the ground level patio perfectly with every stair equal in size. The railings are covered in heavy irrigation pipe with the center railing strung with lights which make a helix beacon at night.



Master builder Michael Klein shows off the steel staircase, though he usually uses the more standard stairs at the other end of the new home he built on his Applegate Valley property.



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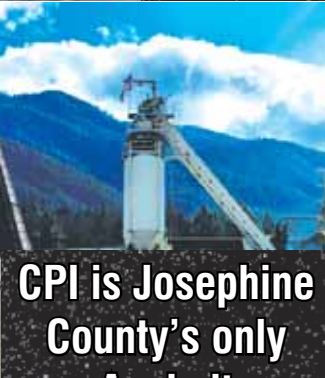
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A good spring clean

Professional cleaners offer their top tips for ditching dirt

By Tricia Drevets
for the Daily Courier

Spring offers a sense of renewal, and since ancient times, the season has prompted us to refresh our surroundings. If you feel the urge to do some cleaning projects around the home, you're not alone.

However, it can be challenging — even overwhelming — to know which chores to tackle first. As a result, many of us procrastinate or quit before obtaining the results we seek.

With 30 years under her belt — er, apron — as a professional housecleaner, Susan Morelos of Linda's Housecleaning in Grants Pass says taking on too much at one time is the top mistake people make when it comes to spring cleaning.

"When people think about spring cleaning, they think about doing things like cleaning out the cupboards and washing the walls and windows," Morelos says. "And they want to do those things and clean the rest of the house in one day."

"Even I couldn't deep clean that many things in my house in one day," she says.

Morelos explains that when folks realize they can't get everything done on a too-strict timetable, they get frustrated and quit. Then, a cycle of procrastination often sets in.

What's the answer?
Prioritizing.

Morelos, whose mother is the Linda in Linda's Housecleaning, recommends making a list of spring cleaning tasks to handle one at a time. "It takes time to take everything out of the cupboards, clean the shelves, and put everything back in," she offers as an example. "Tell yourself, 'This is what I'll do today.'"

The most time-consuming parts of the house to clean are the kitchen and the bathroom, according to Morelos. She suggests taking on other spring cleaning projects at a separate time from the routine cleaning of those rooms.

Here is a list of tips for cleaning some of the areas in your home that may need a spring refresher.

• **Zap a messy microwave.** Fill a microwave-safe bowl halfway with water and a squeeze of lemon juice. Microwave



EDITH DECKER / Daily Courier

A squeeze of lemon in a bowl of water, then five minutes on high, will steam the gunk in your microwave oven and prepare it to be wiped up and cleaned out. Be careful with the very hot water when you remove it, though.

on high for five minutes and let the bowl sit with the door shut while the steam works to loosen the residue. Remove the bowl with an oven mitt and wipe down all interior surfaces.

• **Clean the mattress.** Remove and wash all bedding. Vacuum the mattress surface. Then, sprinkle the surface with baking soda. After about three hours, vacuum again thoroughly.

• **Wipe down walls and baseboards.** Begin by mopping the floor with a dry dust mop. Then, use a microfiber cloth to wipe dust from baseboards. Next, use a clean sponge and a bucket filled with a solution of mild dish soap and warm water

to wipe down smudges, fingerprints and dirt.

• **De-stink the garbage disposal.** Sprinkle a half-cup of baking soda into the garbage disposal, followed by one cup of white vinegar. Allow the mixture to sit for 10 minutes. Then, run hot water in the sink while the disposal is running.

• **Clean the cleaners.** Your dishwasher and washing machine need some cleaning, too.

For the dishwasher, first, remove and rinse out the dishwasher filter and drain. Then, place a dishwasher-safe bowl filled with one cup of white vinegar on the lower rack and run the hot cycle.

For the washing machine, run a hot cycle using two cups of white vinegar instead of detergent. Afterward, scrub and wipe the interior basin with a half-and-half vinegar and water solution.

• **Get rid of mineral deposits.** White vinegar works wonders in removing mineral stains and deposits from kettles, refrigerator water dispensers, faucets, and shower heads. For stubborn stains that can disrupt water flow, remove faucet heads and let them soak overnight in a container of white vinegar.

• **Say no to streaky windows.** A white

Turn to CLEAN, Page 11

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- Paint removers
- Oil or toxic wood preservatives
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Alkaline and rechargeable batteries
- Thermostats containing mercury

What Not To Bring

- No paints
- No explosives or ammunition
- No medical or biological waste
- No asbestos
- No propane tanks
- No antifreeze
- No fluorescent light tubes
- No 55-gallon drums
- No metal canisters/tire retrogarders
- No radioactive materials
- No waste in containers larger than 5 gal (this service is by appointment only)

NO PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED

Clean From Page 10

vinegar and water spray also does the job on dirty windows. Fill a spray bottle with a 50/50 blend of white vinegar and water. Spray the glass before wiping with a clean, soft cloth or squeegee.

• **Clean or replace the furnace and AC filters.** This fairly simple task will not only help keep the dust in your home down but also help your HVAC systems run more efficiently.

• **Clean the doormats.** Dirt and grime can walk right in the door if you don't use doormats or don't clean the ones you have. Vacuum your indoor mats on both sides. Next, hose off both sides of your outdoor mats before allowing them to air dry in the sun.

• **Wash the shower curtain.** Most plastic and vinyl shower curtains can be washed on the gentle cycle in the washing machine. Add a couple of towels to help the machine's scrubbing action. Allow the curtains to hang dry outside in the sun, if possible.

• **De-fuzz the dryer.** Here's a chore that does more than clean; it can help prevent a fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than 15,000 fires start in American home laundry rooms each year. A major contributing factor is dryer lint.

In addition to removing filter lint after each load, it's important to routinely remove this flammable debris from other spots where it accumulates. Unplug the dryer and clean under, around, and behind the machine. Use your vacuum's angled crevice attachment to reach as far into the dryer vent and hose as possible. You can purchase special attachment kits for this purpose as well.

What's in your bucket?

According to professional house cleaner Susan Morelos of Linda's Housecleaning in Grants Pass, you don't need pricey name-brand cleaners to do a great job cleaning your home.

She shared her list of must-have supplies she takes with her on a home cleaning job.

- White vinegar
- All-purpose spray cleaner (such as Formula 409 or Mr. Clean)
- All-purpose liquid cleaner (such as Pine Sol)
- Abrasive cleanser (such as Ajax or Comet)
- Soft abrasive cleaner (such as Soft Scrub)
- Scrubbing pads and sponges
- Soft cloths and pads
- Mop

— Tricia Drevets

• **Sanitize trash cans.** Even if you use plastic bags as liners, your trash cans are not immune to odors. Use your favorite all-purpose cleaner or a dish soap and water solution to scrub the inside of your kitchen and bathroom waste bins. Let the container air dry. (If things are really yucky, hose the can down outside first.)

And here's one final tip from Morelos. She says that it is easy to become distracted when cleaning your home. She recommends silencing your phone while you work to help stay on task.

It sounds like a good time to put on your favorite upbeat playlist, too.

Freelance reporter Tricia Drevets of Grants Pass is a regular contributor to Daily Courier special publications.

UPCOMING

Look for these upcoming Daily Courier special sections:

- May 23 — Summer Adventures
- June 9 — Graduation special
- June 9 — Home & Garden
- July 7 — Home & Garden
- July 21 — Back to the 50s
- Aug. 18 — County fairs special
- Aug. 29 — Football Preview
- Sept. 15 — Home & Family
- Sept. 29 — Prime Time (for active retirees)
- Oct. 6 — Home for the Harvest
- Oct. 27 — Health & Wellness
- Oct. 27 — Holiday bazaar guide
- Nov. 3 — Home for the Holidays
- Nov. 11 — Salute to Veterans
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Are ants in the garden harmful or benign? Depends.

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

I replanted some of my containers last week, swapping out dead pansies for petunias, which will better withstand the heat as summer progresses. As I removed the spent plants from their pots, a swarm of ants immediately covered my bare arms.

That wasn't the first time I'd disturbed an ants' nest in my garden. Last year, they were in my potato grow bags; the year prior, in the front garden bed. Each encounter ended with me racing into the house, removing my clothes as quickly as possible, placing them straight into the washer and taking my second shower of the day.

It's not pleasant to stumble upon a colony of ants, to say the least, but are the tiny little insects actually harmful to our plants?

Myths abound! I've heard gardeners attest that peonies won't bloom without ants. This is simply untrue. I've also heard gardeners lament that ants were eating their peony blossoms. Also untrue. In reality, ants and peonies share a mutually beneficial relationship: Peony buds exude a sweet nectar that attracts and feeds the ants, who in return protect the plant from insect pests.

(I'm not referring here to carpenter ants, fire ants or leafcutter ants, which can pose serious threats to structures, people and plants, respectively. If you've identified one of those species around your home, insecticides may be warranted. Check with your county extension office for guidance.)

Some folks report noticing leaves on a plant turning black and, upon inspection, find an army of ants on its on stems and foliage. It's not the ants that are damaging the plant, however. They're innocent bystanders whose presence merely indicates that the plant is infested with aphids, the real threats in this scenario.

After sucking sap from the plant,



Adult ants feed on the nectar-like substance secreted by a peony bud. As long as you identify ants as non-destructive, like leaf-eater or carpenter ants are, most ants do no damage and may help your garden.

WHITNEY CRANSHAW
via AP

aphids excrete a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew, on which black, sooty mold tends to grow. The ants are attracted to the honeydew and eat it without harming the plant.

Common yellow ants, who know a good thing when they see it, actually "corral" aphids to a plant's root zone to protect the aphids from natural predators like ladybugs, said Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, a Cornell University entomologist based in Babylon, New York. That ensures the survival of the ants' literal sugar daddies, who provide a continuous supply of food but can imperil plant roots.

"It's a real farming example that's akin

to humans and cows," she added.

Ants dabble in pollination, break down organic matter, eat the eggs of some harmful pests, and are a food source for birds, frogs and insects higher up the food chain.

They also tunnel through the soil, creating air pockets that deliver oxygen to plant roots and improve drainage. That tunneling also moves seeds through the soil, which is necessary for the propagation of self-sowing plants, including native wildflowers.

"Ants are like a sanitation crew," Gangloff-Kaufmann said. "When there's a dead bird or mouse, they are among the

first to reach the carcass, competing for resources with the filth flies, and that reduces the number of flies that carry disease and visit your potato salad."

Although they might occasionally ruin a picnic or send you running for the shower, the misunderstood arthropods aren't typically destructive to garden plants. But if you spot both aphids and ants on a plant, it's best to rinse them off with a stream of hose water.

— — —

Jessica Damiano writes the award-winning *Weekly Dirt Newsletter* and regular gardening columns for *The Associated Press*.



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Drip, drip tips

Save money, gallons and your plants, too

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

Until I installed soaker hoses throughout my vegetable beds this year, I'd always watered my plants by hand, which over the years had become tiresome.

Standing outside holding a garden hose wasn't exactly my idea of a good time, but it directs water precisely to the soil above roots, making sure it lands where it's needed. That eliminates waste, and goes a long way toward preventing diseases like powdery mildew. That's good for plants, the environment and the water bill.

Placing flexible, porous rubber or fabric soaker hoses on the soil around plants is another preferred way to irrigate, as it allows water to seep slowly over roots. Drip irrigation hoses (rigid tubes with emitter holes that drip or stream water) work similarly.

There are plenty of other easy ways to save water around the garden.

When to water and how deeply

Applying water in the morning, for instance, allows time for it to permeate deeply into the soil before the sun gets too hot. Wait until later in the day, and a good portion of that water will evaporate from the soil surface before doing its job. Later still, and moisture could stick around overnight, risking mold, mildew and fungal diseases.

How you water is just as important as when. Giving plants a quick, daily sprinkle offers little if any benefit to roots, which, depending on the plant, could extend a foot or more into the soil. Instead, water less frequently but deeply.

And when the soil is really dry, it's even more important to slow down, or the water will run off without penetrating the surface, just as a bone-dry kitchen sponge has difficulty absorbing a spill.

Capture and reuse water

You can recycle water from boiling pasta, vegetables and eggs instead of pouring it down the drain, as long as it hasn't been salted. Water from dehumidifiers can be used, too. Waste not, want not.

Redirect a downspout to fill a rain barrel, then use the captured water to fill watering cans. Or use an adapter to attach a garden or soaker hose to the spigot hole at the bottom of the barrel.

Some are thirstier than others

When planting a garden, we typically give thought to what looks good with what and (hopefully) each plant's sunlight requirements. Consider water needs, too, so as not to overwater drought-resistant plants when trying to appease thirsty water hogs nearby.



JESSICA DOMIANO / Associated Press

A soaker hose system was easily laid into a raised vegetable garden. Using soaker hoses or other drip irrigation methods instead of overhead sprinklers saves water and money, reduces waste and helps protect plant health. Dripping water doesn't evaporate, but goes directly into the soil slowly so plants can absorb it.

For the same reason, it's a good idea to keep lawns separate from trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials and annuals if you use an automatic sprinkler system, which, by the way, wets the foliage of plants in the path of the spray, making them susceptible to disease.

Better yet, use native plants, most of which are drought-tolerant. They'll need regular watering during their first year or two, but once they're established, they can typically get by on rainwater alone, except maybe during prolonged heat waves. To find plants native to your area, plug your zip code into the online databases at The National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/Plants and Audubon Society, www.audubon.org/native-plants.

Hold in moisture with mulch, compost or even a diaper

When planting in the garden, incorpo-

rate a generous amount of compost into holes to increase the water-holding capacity of sandy soil and improve drainage in clay.

Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch around trees, shrubs and plants to retain soil moisture, reduce surface evaporation and inhibit weeds. Wait until the soil warms up before mulching, and keep the material a few inches away from stems and trunks.

When planting containers, look for a potting mix that includes vermiculite, a moisture-retaining mineral. Soil moisture polymer granules such as SoilMoist can also be added to reduce watering needs by as much as 50%.

You can even tear open a (clean!) baby diaper and mix the absorbent hydrogels with your potting mix, or simply place an unfolded diaper at the bottom of a container (plastic side down, with holes poked in for drainage) to absorb and hold moisture. Just don't use any of these if your container includes succulents or other plants that

require dry, well-draining soil.

Factor in the rain

If you're using an automatic sprinkler, set the timer for early in the morning, preferably just before dawn. Look for a timer with a rain sensor, or manually override its programming to avoid waste on rainy days.

Most lawns need about 1 to 1 ½ inches of water per week, including from rain, but you won't know how much your system puts out unless you test it. Set a tuna fish can on the lawn during a cycle, then measure the water accumulation in the can.

A rain gauge, which sort of looks like a test tube marked with measurements, will also inform on rainfall amounts.

— — —
Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning *Weekly Dirt Newsletter*.

Spring homebuying decisions tied to interest rates, inventory

By Alexa Veiga
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shop for a home now or hold out for the possibility of lower mortgage rates? That question is confronting many home shoppers this spring homebuying season.

Lower rates give home shoppers more financial breathing room, so holding out for a more attractive rate can make a big difference, especially for first-time homebuyers who often struggle to find an affordable home.

However, there's a potential downside to waiting. Lower rates can attract more prospective homebuyers, heating up the market and driving up prices.

Acting now would likely saddle a buyer with a rate of around 6.9% on a 30-year mortgage. In late October, the rate surged to a 23-year high of nearly 8%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. Economists generally expect the average rate on a 30-year mortgage to decline later in the year.

"If mortgage rates do in fact drop as expected, I would expect there to be more competition from increased demand, so that's one reason to potentially act now," said Danielle Hale, chief economist at Realtor.com. "And then those buyers, if mortgage rates do fall, would presumably have an opportunity to refinance."

Gagan Hegde, a software engineer in Durham, North Carolina, is leaning toward the proactive approach as he looks to buy his first home.

Hegde, 29, worries that delaying his search would eventually put him against others also looking for lower rates in a market that's already plenty competitive.

Just recently, he matched the \$450,000 list price on a townhome, but another buyer offered more than what the seller was asking.

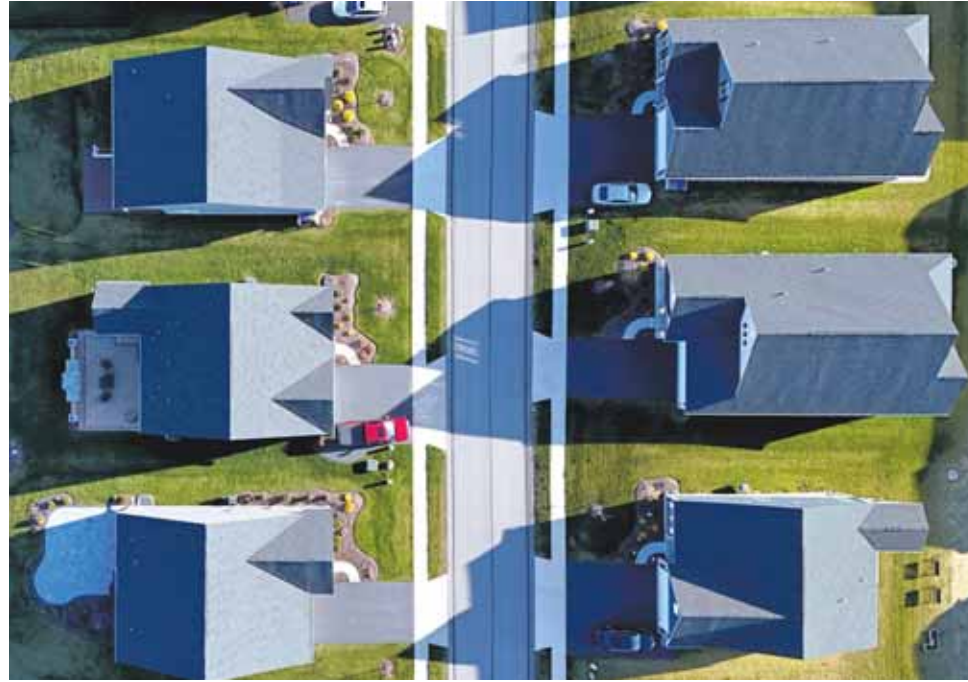
Rather than dwell too much on mortgage rates, he's now focusing on finding a three-bedroom, three-bath home he can afford. Once rates fall, he'll look to refinance.

"I'm just completely being agnostic to the financing prices because I think if you start paying too much attention to it, there's no clear answer," he said.

The rock-bottom mortgage rates that fueled a buying frenzy in 2021 and early 2022 are long gone. While an average rate on a 30-year home loan of just under 7% is not far from the historical average, that's little consolation to homebuyers who, prior to the last couple of years, hadn't seen average rates this high going back nearly two decades.

Combined with a nearly 44% increase in the national median sale price of previously occupied homes between 2019 and 2023, elevated mortgage rates have made buying a home less affordable for many Americans.

A recent analysis by Redfin found that the typical U.S. household earns about \$30,000 less than the \$113,520 a year it needs to afford a median-priced U.S. home, which the company estimated was \$412,778 in February. Redfin defines a home as affordable if the buyer spends no more than 30% of their income on their monthly housing payment. The analysis factored in a 15% down payment and the



GENE J. PUSKAR / Associated Press

Holding out for more attractive mortgage rates could give homebuyers some financial breathing room. On the other hand, low rates mean more homebuyers vying for a good property, leading to higher prices.

average rate on a 30-year loan in February, which was around 6.8%.

Lower mortgage rates would boost homebuyers' purchasing power. Financing a \$400,000 home with a 30-year mortgage with a fixed rate at last week's average of 6.82% works out to about \$215 more a month than if the rate was at 6%, for example. Monthly payments on the same loan two years ago, when the mortgage rate averaged 4.72%, would be \$534 less.

Many economists expect that mortgage rates will ease this year, but not before inflation has cooled enough for the Federal Reserve to begin lowering its short-term interest rate.

The Fed has indicated it expects to cut rates this year once it sees more evidence that inflation is slowing from its current level above 3%. How the bond market reacts to the Fed's interest rate policy, as well as other factors can influence mortgage rates.

For now, the uncertainty in the trajectory of mortgage rates is working in favor of home shoppers like Shelby Rogozhnikov and her husband, Anton.

The couple own a townhome in Dallas and want more space now that they're planning on having their first child. They're looking for a house with at least three bedrooms that's priced within their budget of around \$300,000.

They're not feeling any urgency, but they are eager to avoid a surge in competition should mortgage rates decline in the coming months.

"I know interest rates will go down eventually, but I feel like when they go down housing prices might go back up again," said Shelby Rogozhnikov, 38, a dental hygienist. "I have the mortgage rate thing to worry about and my biological clock, which has less time on it than the mortgage rates, so it's now or never."

Real estate agents from Los Angeles to New York say bidding wars are still happening, though not as often as in recent

Dallas-Fort Worth area. "We're still in a sellers' market, but it's much more mild than it was."

Home shoppers also have more properties to choose from this spring than a year ago. Active listings — a tally that encompasses all the homes on the market but excludes those pending a finalized sale — have exceeded prior-year levels for five straight months, according to Realtor.com. They jumped nearly 24% in March from a year earlier, though they were down nearly 38% compared to March 2019.

The still-relatively tight inventory is helping give sellers the edge in many markets around the country, but not all.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, home listings are taking longer to sell, and that's made sellers more flexible on price or with helping cover repair costs, said Jordan Hammond, a Redfin agent.

"Before we saw sellers could really do what they wanted," she said. "They didn't have to contribute at all to the buyer's purchase. And now that's kind of flipped. I'm seeing more buyers pushing sellers."

Still, the thin inventory of properties on the market means home shoppers who can find a property for sale in their price range may want to put in an offer rather than wait, because there's no guarantee a better option will come along right away.

In response to higher mortgage rates, more than one-third of builders cut home prices in 2023. Builders also stepped up construction of smaller, less expensive homes.

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JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

Kathy Lombardo’s expansive grounds, located in O’Brien, will be featured on a new garden tour called Arts Alive! An Art & Rural Garden Adventure, planned for May 18. The surroundings include a turtle rescue area, extensive ponds, birds, native plants and this path through a lush, shaded area.

Ru

New garden tour in 5 of the Illinois Valley properties to be

By Kathleen Alaks
of the Daily Courier

O’BRIEN — From the lizard castle to the rescue turtle pond, the dead tree snags to the bird houses, Kathy Lombardo embraces sharing her forested property with the other critters that live there.

“It’s just learning how to live with wildlife,” Lombardo said as she led a pair of visitors through her extensive acreage just north of the California border and 40 feet above the West Fork Illinois River.

“The wildlife are every bit as beautiful as the plants.”

In this wildlife preserve of a place that Lombardo has called home since 1986, Pacific dogwood, Western redbud and vine maples share space with robins and grosbeaks and tree swallows.

One of several ponds offers sanctuary to a clutch of wood ducks. Hummingbirds zip past the grape arbor to a feeder hanging nearby.

Lizards bask on rocks piled next to the house — the aforementioned lizard castle — feeding on insects that are attracted to the vegetable scraps that are composting in the small water pipe, rigged specifically as a lizard feeder.

Lombardo’s property is one of five rural Illinois Valley locations that will be part of a new garden tour that makes its debut next weekend.

Arts Alive! An Art & Rural Garden Adventure, a fundraiser for the Southern Oregon Guild, highlights five picturesque home gardens displaying a range of botanical wonders — from spring blooms to kitchen gardens, from native plants to a magical forest setting.

Each garden will also be a showcase of artwork by regional artists — sculpture and paintings, ceramics and fabric arts, glass work and woodwork, books and photography.

Each will also be the site of various arts activities, including painting demonstrations, readings, storytelling and live music.

“The wildlife are every bit a

KATHY LO
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WHAT: Arts Alive! An Art & Rural Garden Adventure, self-guided tours of private gardens showcasing artwork by 20 local artists, plus a variety of activities at each
WHEN: May 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Five Illinois Valley locations
AFTER-PARTY: 6-8 p.m. at Bridgeview Winery, 4210 Holland Loop Road, Cave Junction
TICKETS: \$20 adults, \$10 teens, free for 12 and younger; get tickets at the Guild Gallery & Art Center, 24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby, online at bit.ly/guildartsalive24 or find the link online at southernoregonguild.org, click on Events.
INFORMATION: 541-592-5019 or southernoregonguild.org.

The first-ever Arts Alive! tour takes place May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$20.

On the day of the tour, the Guild Gallery & Art Center in Kerby will be open, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., as an informational hub, providing tour programs, maps and wristbands, answering questions and selling tickets for those who have not purchased theirs in advance.

Bottled water and snacks will be available for purchase.

The tour will conclude with an after-party at Bridgeview Winery.

The mid-May event should be a great time to see many of the plants around her home in bloom, Lombardo said.

Like the foxglove and poppies, which are planted on a small "island" in the backyard. Like the columbine, which poke out of unlikely spots in the walkway. Like the Chinese ground orchids that brighten a shady path.

Visitors also will get to see some unusual plants. Like the Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria Japonica* 'Araucarioioides') that looks like a monkey puzzle

Turn to RURAL, Page 18

as beautiful as the plants."

OMBARDO
owner



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

One of several ponds on Kathy Lombardo's property is a haven for birds and wildlife as well as plants.



Michelle, a box turtle that is at least 100 years old, resides on an expansive property owned by Kathy Lombardo along with fellow slow mover Irene. A repurposed fish hatchery pool is their home.



Photos by JULIE ANDERSON / Daily Courier

A huge stump serves as a table for a collection of plants in whimsical pots.

Rural From Page 17

tree, its snake-like limbs sporting short dark needles resembling a cord of rope.
Like mayapples, both American and Chinese varieties, with their deeply lobed, umbrella-like leaves growing near a spongy, shady path.
Like the Himalayan giant lilies, and the mimosa tree, also known as Persian silk tree.
In addition to being wildlife friendly, Lombardo's property is also earth-friendly, with lots of reused and recycled materials.
"I like to repurpose things," she said.

Her herb garden is fashioned from cement blocks and old red fireplace bricks.
The raised beds in her vegetable garden are made from lumber that used to be her front porch.
Her two box turtles, Michelle and Irene, live in a recycled fish hatchery pool sunk deep in the ground.
Even her collection of garden tools, which hang in a row on the outside wall of a large wooden shed, are mostly well-used, rust-covered garage sale finds.

Reach reporter Kathleen Alaks at 541-474-3815 or kalaks@thedailycourier.com.



Kathy Lombardo spent decades creating her extensive gardens and green spaces in O'Brien, which will be on a new Illinois Valley garden tour on May 18.



Spring greens grow in the raised beds in the vegetable garden at the Lombardo property along with herbs and many other vegetables when the weather turns warm.

Tickets available for June's Art in the Garden tour

By Kathleen Alaks
of the Daily Courier

Get ready to step into summer with a walk through some beautiful local landscapes. It's almost time for Art in the Garden. Tickets are on sale now.

A fundraiser for the Grants Pass Museum of Art, Art in the Garden opens up area properties to self-guided tours, where tour-goers get introduced to novel landscape ideas and indulge their garden envy.

To make the venues even even more appealing, the gardens are accessorized with the artwork of more than 50 regional artists, everything from jewelry to yard art. And all the art is for sale.

This year's Art in the Garden is June 8 and 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

The tour includes three properties in the Merlin area, two in the New Hope area and three in Wilderville, including a 140-acre medicinal herb farm and a winery with river views and wine tasting.

Several of the venues will also be hosting food trucks

Tickets for Art in the Garden, which include addresses and directions to each location, are \$25 per person. The ticket is good for both days.

Children 11 and younger can tag along for free.

Tickets are available at the museum, 229 S.W. G St, and at Diamond Home Improvement, The Kitchen Company, Greenleaf Industries and Redwood Nursery.



Courtesy of Grants Pass Museum of Art

One of the properties on the Art in the Garden tour. Tickets are on sale at the Grants Pass Museum of Art.

Reach reporter Kathleen Alaks at 541-474-3815 or kalaks@thedailycourier.com.



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Veggies can be perennial, too

Asparagus, rhubarb among options to plant

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

Most vegetables grown in home gardens are annuals. They wither and die at the end of the season and need to be replanted every year to reap more crops. But if you're short on time or money, don't want to be bothered with yearly planting or want to try something new, I've got just the plants for you: perennial vegetables.

PREPARING THE SOIL

If you ever were to prioritize improving your soil, it should be before planting perennials. Since the bed will contain plants for years to come, it's the only chance you'll get to truly mix in compost or manure, till in amendments to adjust the soil's pH and properly dig weeds up by their roots without the risk of disturbing nearby plants.

It's also an excellent time to incorporate an organic fertilizer. Just as a house needs a good foundation, healthy plants begin with healthy soil. Seize the opportunity while you have it.

One benefit of growing perennial crops is that they're generally low maintenance. Once you've planted a crop, there will be no need to plant it again, so you won't find yourself tilling, turning or digging the soil again for as long as they are in your garden.

Going forward, sprinkle an inch or two of compost and, in most cases, a dose of fertilizer granules over the soil every spring.

Just as when growing ornamental perennials, be sure to confirm that your growing conditions match your chosen plants' individual requirements, such as cold hardiness, pH range, sunlight exposure and water needs.

GIVING THEM TIME

Some perennial vegetables should be allowed to become fully established in the garden before harvesting.

Asparagus, for instance, is an exercise in patience. Plants should be allowed to grow undisturbed for two full years before harvesting. Plant in spring, and when third-year stalks are 6-10 inches tall, use a sharp knife to cut each slightly below the soil line. Stop harvesting in early July to allow plants to store up the energy required for next year's crop. (Perennial in zones 3-8)

Rhubarb also shouldn't be harvested immediately. You can, however, sample up to four stalks per plant in their second year. Plant bare-root crowns, with their buds, or "eyes," facing upward, 2 inches below the soil surface in either spring or fall, allowing 3-4 feet between plants. Starting in their third year, harvest stalks when they're between 12 and 18 inches long, but never remove more than two-thirds of each plant. (Perennial in zones 3-8)



A healthy asparagus bed takes time to establish, but once you do, it produces for years. Shown is a classic, "Jersey Knight" asparagus variety.

Courtesy of Ball Horticultural Company

QUICKER GRATIFICATION

Jerusalem artichokes — also called sunchokes — are quick-spreading plants that can take over a garden bed, so consider growing them in their own space. Plant 3-5 inches deep and 12-18 inches apart in early spring. The easy-to-grow plants aren't particular about soil type and don't need annual fertilization, but they cannot tolerate soggy soils. Harvest tubers in autumn, preferably after a couple of light frosts, which will improve their flavor. But allow some to remain in the ground to produce next year's crop. (Perennial in zones 3-8)

Egyptian walking onions are unusual, fun-to-grow onions that spread as they "walk" across the garden bed. Not considered invasive because they can be easily controlled (unwanted plants pull up easily), these onions grow clusters of small bulbils (secondary bulbs that grow at the top of the plant) at the top of their stalks. When they become too heavy for the plant to bear, the stalks bend over, resting the bulbils on the soil surface. Before long, the bulbils root and grow into new plants. Harvest bulbils anytime and use as you would onions, or dig up full-size onions in late summer, allowing some to remain in the ground for next year. (Perennial zones 3-9)



Courtesy of Ball Horticultural Company

Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.

Rhubarb, if kept happy, will produce year after year in zones 3-8. Shown is "Canada Red" rhubarb plant.

No garden spot? Slip edible plants into landscape.

Called 'foodscaping,' a happy mix of flowers, vegetables and herbs just takes a little know-how

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

I recently started my seeds — tomatoes, cucurbit squash, climbing zucchini, golden beets, Florida cranberries, nasturtiums, zinnias, edelweiss, various herbs and Roma beans.

They barely fit on my kitchen counter, which becomes a transient nursery every spring.

Come planting time, they also won't all fit in my 4-by-4-foot raised beds, grow bags, Earth boxes or around the arbor I installed last year. But rather than curtail my ambitions, I'll slip sweet potatoes, onions, extra tomatoes and other edibles into my front-yard flower garden.

The practice of combining fruits, vegetables and herbs with ornamental plants — called "foodscaping" — is worth considering even if you're not short on space, as it can create visual interest in your beds and borders.

FIRST, SOME GROUND RULES

- All plants, whether edible or ornamental, should be grouped according to their sunlight, water and fertilizer requirements. Mixing them up is a recipe for disaster. Don't do it.
- Even if two plants are sun lovers, consider whether either will grow so large that it shades out the other.
- Follow the spacing recommendations on your seed packs or plant tags. They are meant to accommodate the mature size of plants and thwart fungal and mold diseases that result from overcrowding. This will also protect nearby ornamentals.
- Your edibles should be easily accessible for frequent pest- and disease-monitoring, watering and harvesting. Ensure a clear path to avoid trampling perennials and annuals.

USING VEGETABLES TO ADD COLOR, TEXTURE

Vining sweet potatoes are beautiful plants with lush, heart-shaped leaves. They grow quickly to fill bare spots and can be used as an annual groundcover. And their lovely purple flowers are reminiscent of their morning glory relatives. I'll be planting mine at the front of a border, but they can also be trained to grow up a trellis.

I'll plant cherry tomatoes near my roses, where they'll exude the chemical solanine into the soil to protect the shrubs from the fungus that causes black spot, an often-deadly rose disease. The tomatoes will serve as a visual prelude to the rose hips, which won't come until later in the season.

I strategically selected tomato varieties that are resistant to verticillium and fusarium wilt diseases because roses are also susceptible.

I've been growing Alliums (ornamental onions) under my roses for years because they look so pretty together. This year, I'll add some edible onions and chives to the



JOSEPH ALLIE

Jerusalem artichokes grow in a garden in Long Island, New York. Their bright yellow flowers add to the landscape, as well as the dinner plate.

mix. Aesthetically, they'll fit right in and hide the bottoms of my leggy rose bushes. As a bonus, they'll team up with the Alliums to repel degenerate pests like aphids with their aromatic scent.

There are so many other possibilities. You could line a pathway with lettuces or use them as border plants. Lollo Rosa is one of several varieties with eye-catching frilly, red leaves; curled endives, or frisees, have lacy foliage with curly tips. Curly parsley works nicely, too.

Rainbow chards have bold red or yellow stems and interestingly wrinkled leaves with colored veins. Mix them in with ferns, pansies and coral bells.

Rhubarb foliage can add drama to a formal garden when surrounded by low-growing mounded boxwood shrubs.

Underplant pink or orange flowers with purple basil varieties. Amethyst, Dark Opal and the new Prospera Red, which is resistant to downy mildew and fusarium wilt, are three of many options.

Amaranth is an unusual plant with airy red flowers, spinach-like leaves and seeds that can be milled into flour or cooked as a stand-in for quinoa. The plants are annual but tend to reseed, so they typically reappear every year.

Carrots' lacy foliage complements marigolds and provides a feathery contrast to plants with broad-shaped leaves, such as nasturtiums. They also may improve the health of nearby plants by aerating the soil as their long taproots work their way downward.

Highbush blueberries are beautiful shrubs with dramatic red fall foliage. Some varieties can reach 12 feet tall. It's also an excellent stand-in for Burning Bush winged euonymus, which has been deemed invasive along the entire East Coast and in Illinois. It's winter-hardy in horticultural zones 3-8.

Rainbow chards have bold red or yellow stems and interestingly wrinkled leaves. Mix them with ferns, pansies and coral bells.

perennial groundcover everywhere in the continental U.S.

Rosemary lends a perennial evergreen vibe to gardens in zones 8 and 9, but certainly can be included elsewhere as an annual.

Corn is a member of the grass family, so why not put it to work in place of ornamental grasses?

Plant a row in full sun at the back of a border, or use just one to fill a bare spot in the garden.

Instead of purchasing ornamental kales and cabbages for fall decorations, why not plant garden cabbages and kale?

Although the ornamentals are technically edible, they don't taste as good. Instead, typical crop varieties, however, can be served with your Thanksgiving feast.

And that's something to be thankful for.

Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.

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Nature's design



EMMA HAYES

New Zealand designer Emma Hayes shows her Sediment pattern in turquoise. Hayes draws much of her inspiration from the landscape around her.

Wallpaper inspired by the natural world helps a room tell a story

By Kim Cook

Associated Press

In the Emmy-nominated opening credits of HBO's "White Lotus," wallpaper-like images told a story: The tropical prints started off innocuously enough, but then turned ominous. Fruit started rotting, fish got tangled in seaweed, and a sense of foreboding set the whole premise of an exotic paradise on its edge.

The artist, Lezio Lopes, has said he was trying to evoke the design and themes of the show's resort suites.

It's a surreal example of a current trend in decor — wallpapers that combine art and narrative qualities to set the mood of a room. Some take us to wild places in nature, others to wild worlds born in artists' imaginations. They go way beyond your nice stripe or simple floral.

They tell a story.

Wallpaper in general is back in a big way, decor experts say, and often makes a statement through images or texture (many papers incorporate fabric or fibers). Chicago-based design writer Elaine Markoutsas, who attended two of the year's biggest design expositions, Maison et Objet and Deco Off, in Paris, said new wallcoverings were among the most exciting things she saw.

She cited intriguing patterns, and digital and 3D printing techniques. One theme stuck out.

"We heard the term 'revenge travel,' referring to a post-pandemic urge to get away for real, or virtually," she says. "Travel often triggers designers, who mine details from architecture, landscape and destination culture."

Some of the new papers feature contemplative renditions of forests and seascapes. Others reference places, people or creatures as fun, imaginative, maximalist marvels.

For a mashup of both, there's the baroque "Novafrica Sunset" created by Christian Lacroix's creative director, Sacha Walchhoff.

He's envisioned a kind of fever dream jungle with a tangerine sky, foliage clouds, glimpses of fauna, hyper-colored blooms and silk-ribbon-wrapped tree trunks. Put this on your walls and let the conversation begin.

At Pierre Frey, artist Veronique Villaret cut out simple paper sprigs of Pacific Island vegetation to create a joyful, colorful pattern she calls "Rangiroa." It's available as a wallpaper or fabric.

Dutch studio Moooi's "Memento Moooi Medley" wallcovering collection was inspired by the accounts of early explorers and the creatures they encountered. The "Golden Tiger" roams among cubs and other jungle animals on a wood veneer background. "Mimic Moths," now extinct, take on the coloring of their favorite plants. Other moths, moon orchids and lilies-of-dusk tumble across an embossed, suede-like wallcovering.

Partnering with textile giant Romo, Alice Temperley's eponymous London-based fashion and design house drew inspiration from their archive of richly detailed gowns. They came up with a wallcovering collection full of leopard prints, swirling sea agate patterns, and golden Victorian keys and dressmaking scissors.

Stories for Walls has a cheeky one called "Safari Gangsta," featuring fierce and funny wild animals dressed in hip-hop gear; there'll be some cool kids who'll want it in their bedrooms, and probably some adults too.

Katie Deedy has found a way to artfully mix her intellectual curiosity and love of history. Her Brooklyn-based Grow House Grow studio produces some of the most imaginative wallpapers and tile. One pattern, "Ode to the Unhasty," includes pictures of sloths, snails, manatees and slow-grow-



Courtesy of Grow House Grow

Designer Katie Deedy of the Brooklyn-based studio Grow House Grow shows her Mary Ward wallpaper pattern, which honors the forgotten female entomologist.



Courtesy of Romo & Temperley London

Romo and Temperley London's leopard print wallpaper pattern is one of their most popular. Wallpaper is back in a big way, designers say.

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EMMA HAYES

New Zealand designer Emma Hayes shows her Willow wallpaper.

Design From Page 24

ing bristlecone pines.

“The pattern’s narrative inspiration is more of a gentle lesson,” she laughs.

Between running her business and parenting, Deedy says she began to feel like life was going too fast.

“So I created this wallpaper as a visual ode to taking it easy. When I look at this collection of our Earth’s slowest moving flora and fauna, it’s a reminder to mosey more and sprint less.”

Another of her patterns, “Mary Ward,” honors a forgotten female entomologist. In the mid-1800s, Ward spent her days with a magnifying glass, collecting and drawing insects.

“As a woman, she couldn’t be formally trained at university,” says Deedy. “Yet over the course of her young life, she became a renowned expert in microscopy, writing the go-to texts used in the same schools that wouldn’t admit her.”

The wallpaper playfully intermingles late-Georgian-style silhouettes of Ward and her beloved oversize insects.

At this year’s International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York, Emma Hayes showed a couple of ethereal and dreamy wallcoverings based on her New Zealand home. “Willow” depicts willow wisps caught by a breeze, against a midnight background. “Sediment” shows a gently rolling shoreline of tonal watery hues.

Alexis Audette of New York-based studio Mazy Path showed nature-inspired

papers in the styles of Arts & Crafts textiles, Delft tiles and 16th century French wallpapers. Audette sees a commonality between plants and people.

“Just as family heirlooms remind us of our history and identity, heirloom plants do too,” she says.

She developed wallpapers that tell stories about plants. One collection, “Heirloom,” features patterns depicting wild ramps, Virginia strawberries and winter wheat — all part of America’s food history. Her “Treasure Tree” collection pays homage to trees that provide food, medicine or protection; the paper is printed with imagery of guava, elderberry, nickel trees and mangroves.

Studio Heimat recently worked with clients in Mission Dolores, California, to incorporate their interests in geology and zoology into their home’s interior design.

“The clients LOVE bugs,” says the studio’s Eva Bradley. So local artist Rafael Arana was commissioned to hand-paint some crawling up a stairwell’s wall.

“The homeowners asked that the bugs be black and white and oversize, so visitors wouldn’t be scared,” says the studio’s Alicia Cheung.

Another way designers tell artful stories is by mixing materials, Markoutsas says. She cites a new wallpaper from French design house deGournay “made of embroidered silk, embellished with shells. Elitis has a vinyl wallcovering that simulates beautiful embroidery.”

And Arte introduced “Le Foret,” with wallcoverings made from wood, raffia and banana leaf. Dare I say, very “White Lotus” hotel?

Tools can assist gardeners to keep on growing

From raised beds to power tools, help is out there

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

Gardening is widely regarded as a moderate to strenuous form of exercise. All that bending, lifting, digging and hauling burns calories and builds muscle.

But it can also strain backs and leave even the fittest among us aching the next day. And when we’re less fit, or have arthritis, a limited range of motion or other mobility issues, the once-pleasurable pastime can seem impossible.

But there’s no need to throw in the trowel.

Before heading out for a weeding or planting session, I wrap heating pads around my neck and lower back, which are my personal Achilles heels. Five minutes is usually all it takes to loosen my muscles.

Sometimes, I apply disposable, stick-on pads like those made by TheraCare to whatever happens to hurt at the moment and wear them while I work. A few minutes of pre-gardening gentle stretching helps, too.

A little forethought can go a long way toward saving your strength and energy. For instance, collecting all the tools you anticipate needing before you begin your work will cut down on unnecessary trips to and from the shed.

While you’re in there, be sure to store the heaviest items on waist-height shelves for the easiest and safest retrieval.

Sometimes, simple postural adjustments like remembering to bend at the knees when lifting bags of mulch or standing with your feet shoulder-width apart to maintain good balance are all you need.

But if bending has become too difficult, or if you garden while seated, grow plants in waist- or chair-height raised beds or vertically in towers, wall-affixed planting units or trellises.

Using a wheelbarrow instead of carrying heavy supplies sounds like a no-brainer, but I can’t tell you how many times I’ve overestimated my ability and paid dearly for it.

When carrying by hand, hug heavy objects like filled containers to your chest, keeping your back as straight as possible. Better yet, set pots in place while they’re empty, then fill them.

My flower garden contains mostly perennials, because I prefer them and also because they don’t need replanting every year as annuals do. That cuts my work — and bending — a great deal. Plus, perennials, which return year after year, typically cost more at the outset but, over time, are



Courtesy of Rotashovel

A handheld power digger can help those with arthritis, foot problems or balance issues who find it hard to use a traditional shovel.

more cost-effective than buying new annuals every spring.

Scoot around the yard on a rolling garden seat, or use a padded kneeler to cushion the earth. Many adaptive tools available these days can make raking, hoeing or tending to other chores easier, too.

If you haven’t shopped around in a while, you might be surprised by the ergonomic options available. Start at your local garden store or online.

Corona, Fiskars and other leading brands make tools with extendable-reach handles that eliminate bending and facilitate gardening in a wheelchair.

Rotashovel, a battery-powered, “hand-held automatic shovel” that won a 2022 AmericanHort Retailer’s Choice award, makes easy work of digging small holes for plants and bulbs. As a bonus, it knocks out rooted weeds, too.

And if you have hand pain or difficulty holding onto things, many tools now come with easy-grip handles. Foam grips and wraps also are sold separately to accommodate a wide range of older tools you might already own.

Most importantly, pace yourself. Limit gardening sessions to between 60 and 90 minutes. Remember, home wasn’t built in a day.

Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.



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A man gardens more easily in a wheelchair accessible raised bed, one of many available products designed to make gardening easier for those with physical issues.

Courtesy of Gardeners.comP



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JESSICA DAMIANO / Associated Press

Spring gift plants are on display to shoppers. Once the flowers fade, these bulbs can be planted and should bloom again.

Gift bulbs

Whether you're getting them for Mother's Day, a birthday or just because, they can live another day

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

If you celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, you might be reading this beside a pot of tulips, hydrangeas, hyacinths or daffodils covered in cellophane or foil.

Typically, spring gift plants like these are enjoyed until their flowers fade and are then thrown away like stale brunch leftovers.

But treat them right and they can thrive in your garden, often for years to come.

Your first step should be to remove the pot's wrapper, which traps the water draining from the hole at the bottom of the container, placing the plant at risk for root rot.

Then, set the plant by a sunny window and water lightly whenever the soil dries. Snip off spent flowers as they fade and continue to care for plants indoors until the danger of frost has passed.

LILIES

Plant lilies in a sunny garden spot at the same depth as they were growing in the pot.

Water thoroughly, apply mulch to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds, and feed with a 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Repeat feedings monthly throughout the growing season. Although you may see new growth during spring and summer, the plant will not likely bloom again this year.

HYDRANGEAS

Plant gift hydrangeas similarly, then

provide one dose of a slow-release, balanced fertilizer (10-10-10). No further fertilization should be needed for the remainder of the season. The plant should bloom next year.

When hyacinth or tulip foliage turns yellow (this may be well after the danger of frost has passed), dig a hole as deep as the container and toss in a handful of bone meal before planting.

Water, mulch and fertilize with a 10-10-10 product weekly throughout summer to provide energy that the underground bulb will store to produce next year's flowers.

TULIPS

Tulips aren't very reliable rebloomers outside of their native range of Central Asia and Turkey. Gardeners in most other regions face diminishing returns for a few years until, one day, nothing but leaves and stems show up. Because of this, many gardeners treat tulips as annuals, planting new bulbs every year. Still, there's nothing to lose by experimenting.

Warning: All of these plants are toxic to cats. Chewing on one lily leaf or simply licking its pollen can lead to kidney failure.

If you suspect your pet may have ingested any part of a toxic plant, no matter how small, call your veterinarian immediately.

Reach an emergency pet poisoning hotline at 888-426-4435.

— — —
Jessica Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter.

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FARMERS MARKETS

Applegate Evening Market, 5-8 p.m.
Wednesdays, The Lindsay Lodge, 15100 Highway 238, Applegate. Call 541-761-6502, or visit applegateeveningmarket.com.

Cave Junction Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m. Friday, starting April 19, 24100 Redwood Highway, Kerby. Outdoor market of locally grown produce and flowers, farm products, artisan food and crafts, and dance performances by RiverStars, runs through Sept. 27, then 1-4 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 4-Nov. 22. Call Alisa Ocean, 458-229-2067, cjfarmersmarket.org.

Grants Pass Growers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fourth and F streets, Grants Pass. The market of locally grown produce and flowers, artisan foods and handcrafted goods, continues until late October. Call 541-816-1144 or visit growersmarket.org.

Rogue Valley Growers Market, Ashland Tuesday Market, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, ScienceWorks parking lot, 1500 N. Main St., Ash-

land. An indoor market of locally grown produce and flowers, locally made artisan foods and handcrafted goods, runs through Nov. 26. Call 541-261-5045 or visit rvgrowersmarket.com.

Rogue Valley Growers Market, Ashland Saturday Market, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, Oak Street, downtown Ashland. Call 541-261-5045 or visit rvgrowersmarket.com.

Rogue Valley Growers Market, Medford Thursday Market, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursdays, Hawthorne Park, 501 E. Main St., Medford. An outdoor market of locally grown produce and flowers, locally made artisan foods and handcrafted goods, runs through Nov. 21.

Call 541-261-5045 or visit rvgrowersmarket.com.

Williams Farmers Market, 4-6:30 p.m. Mondays, Sugarloaf Community Association, 206 Tetherow Road, Williams. Contact williamsfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Subscribe to the Daily Courier. Call 541-474-3702.

HOME & GARDEN CALENDAR

Here are some home and garden events coming between May 11-June 9.

MAY 11

Free Green Debris Drop Off Day, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Valley View Transfer Station, 3000 Valley View Road, Ashland. Jackson and Josephine county residents can drop off green debris at no charge. Accepted materials include leaves, pine needles, small branches and brush.

Call 541-482-2770 or visit ashland.or.us/GreenDebris.

Ashland Garden Club plant sale, 9 a.m.-noon, parking lot of Safeway, 585 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland. Club members sell annuals, perennials, vegetable starts and houseplants plus fresh-cut Mother's Day bouquets. Proceeds support the club's scholarship program.

Talent Garden Club plant sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friends Church parking lot, 50 Talent Ave., Talent. Club members sell self-propagated plants, including 1,000 tomato plants — approximately 100 varieties — vegetable starts, culinary and medicinal herbs, flowers and shrubs.

Also features a native plant sale by Klamath Siskiyou Seeds.

Call 541-601-6791.

Mother's Day kids class, 10 a.m.-noon, Shooting Star Nursery, 3223 Taylor Road, Central Point. Children plant a ceramic pot and personalize it for Mom's garden.

Cost is \$13 per child, free for adults, any time in the two-hour window. Call 541-840-6453 or visit roguevalleynursery.com.

Jacksonville Garden Club plant sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., alcove next to the post office, 175 N. Oregon St., Jacksonville. Members sell fresh-cut spring flower arrangements, starts of flowering



SUSAN MILLER, 2022

The Jacksonville Garden Club will sell fresh-cut spring flower arrangements at its plant sale May 11.

plants and vegetables, potted plants, succulents, plus handmade cards, crafts, homemade baked goods and sweet treats.

Proceeds provide scholarships to young people and support community beautification projects. Contact Pam Smith, 702-767-6424, nickn-mack@gmail.com.

Rogue Valley Piecemakers 42nd annual Quilt Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Josephine County

Fairgrounds, Grants Pass. More than 200 quilts on display, with special exhibits, demonstrations, vendors, boutique, silent auction, door prizes and raffle baskets.

Admission \$5 per day, free for 12 and younger. Call 541-659-7719 or 415-279-4637 or see rvpiecemakers.com.

Why Natives, 1-2:30 p.m., OSU Extension, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass. Master Gardener

Lynn Kuntzman explains the benefits of using native plants in the home landscape. Free. Call 541-476-6613.

MAY 11-12

Galice Garden Faire, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, Galice Community Hall, 10821 Galice Road, Galice. Vendors sell native plants, trees, deer resistant plants, herbs, perennials and vegetable starts, including heirloom tomatoes, as well as hand-made garden-related crafts, garden art and a raffle. Admission is free. Call Dale Byrd, 541-479-8712.

MAY 12

Illinois Valley Garden Club plant sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. True Value parking lot, 232 N. Redwood Highway, Cave Junction. Club members sell common and rare plants, annuals, perennials, bulbs, tubers, shrubs, trees, vegetable starts and garden-related items.

Proceeds benefit Illinois Valley High School student scholarships. Call Ron Morse, 562-824-0771.

MAY 14

Plant a Fairy Garden, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Ashland Library, 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Kids 6 and older make a fairy garden using real plants and fun decor.

Free. Call 541-774-6980 or visit jcls.libcal.com.

MAY 15

Ashland Wildfire Workshop, 6 p.m., online, through the city of Ashland. Discover simple steps to take to safeguard

Continued on Page 30.



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HOME & GARDEN CALENDAR

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Free, advance registration required. Call Kelly Burns, 541-880-3564 or sign up at bit.ly/3Qj1eWY.

MAY 16

Make Your Own Air Plant Terrarium, 5-6 p.m., Rogue River Library, 412 E. Main St. Ages 13 and older learn about air plants, then make their own terrarium.
Free, materials provided. Call 541-864-8850 or visit jcls.libcal.com.
Local Goodness: Turning Our Valley's Bounty into Culinary Art, 6-8 p.m., Ashland Food Co-op Classroom, 300 Pioneer St., Ashland. Local chef uses fresh ingredients to create classic carbonara from scratch.
Free; call 541-0482-2237, or go to ashland-food.coop/events.

MAY 17

Save Our Seeds Day, 4-8 p.m., Fry Family Farm, 2184 Ross Lane, Medford. Celebrate local GMO-free seeds with live music, local food and drink samples, information about local seeds.
Free. Call 541-200-9972.

MAY 18

Sustainable Living Series: Drip Irrigation 101, 10 a.m.-noon, Oregon State University Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Learn to increase water use efficiency and reduce area weeds, strategies for a successful drip set up.
The cost is \$15, advance registration. Call 541-776-7371 or visit extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec and click on Events.
Arts Alive! An Art & Rural Garden Adventure, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Illinois Valley. Take self-guided tours of five picturesque home gardens in the



ELAYNA YUSSEN / Daily Courier, 2021

Elise Higley (left), her grandson Leo Siemon and dog Thea pause to look at something in the creek at Oshala Farm. The Applegate Valley property opens for tours June 12.

Illinois Valley, each with different activities throughout the day and showcasing the work of local artists. An after-party will be held at Bridgeview

Winery from 6-8 p.m.
Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 youth and teens. Get tickets online at bit.ly/guildartsalive24 or at the Guild Gallery & Art Center, 24353 Redwood Highway, Kerby.
Call 541-592-5019.
See story in this issue.
Guided Spring Mushroom Walk, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., meet at Northwest Nature Shop, 154 Oak St., Ashland. Search for, identify and harvest wild mushrooms.
Cost is \$55, kids accompanied by an adult are free; advance registration. Call 541-482-3241 or visit northwestnatureshop.com, click on Events. Walks also offered June 1-2.

Oregon State University Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Learn how to thin grapes to make for more productive vines and a more bountiful harvest, with some hands-on experience; bring hand pruners and gloves.
The cost is \$15 or sliding scale, advance registration. Call 541-776-7371 or visit extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec and click on Events.

JUNE 1

Kids' do-it-yourself workshop, 9 a.m.-noon, Home Depot, 111 N.E. Mill St., Grants Pass. Children get hands-on experience making something for the home or garden. Free. Held every first Saturday of the month. Call 541-226-0114 or visit homedepot.com.

JUNE 4

Monarchs and Milkweeds: Creating Habitat to Attract Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Oregon State University Extension, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point. Learn current status of the western monarch butterfly, factors that have caused the recent population declines, how to establish a specialized pollinator garden with the best nectar plants for early-, mid- and late-season blooms.
The cost is \$15 or sliding scale, advance registration. Call 541-776-7371 or visit extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec and click on Events.

JUNE 5

Medford Seed Library, noon-5 p.m., Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave. Pick up free seeds at the library reference desk. Limit of five packets per patron per month; each seed packet must be a different type.
Free, while supplies last. Call 541-774-8690 or visit jcls.libcal.com.

JUNE 8

Spring Garden Tour, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Douglas County. Take self-guided tour of six gardens within

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MAY 22

Heat Lovers Class, 10-11 a.m., Ashland Greenhouses, 650 E. Ashland Lane. Learn about combining fun and colorful choices to get amazing color through the hottest season.
Free, call to reserve a spot, 541-482-2866.

MAY 24

Controlling Weeds, Edible Weeds, Weed Identification, noon-1 p.m., Raptor Creek Farm at the Josephine County Food Bank, 3658 Upper River Road, Grants Pass. Learn to identify weeds, effective weed control measures and how to turn some weeds into culinary delights.
A \$10-\$15 donation. Call 541-479-5556 or visit jocofoodbank.org.

MAY 25

A Bee C's of Pollinators, 1-2:30 p.m., Medford Library, 205 S. Central Ave., and online through Oregon State University Extension Service. Learn what pollinators do for the planet, how to create an attractive, sustainable, landscape to attract them.
Free. Call 541-774-8690 or register at extension.oregonstate.edu/sorec and click on Events.

MAY 29

Summer Grapevine Thinning, 10 a.m.-noon,

Continued on Page 31.

HOME & GARDEN CALENDAR

15 miles of one another, with art by local artists in each one and some live music, hosted by the League of Women Voters of the Umpqua Valley.

Tickets are \$15, sold at While Away Books, My Coffee, Atom Espresso & Coffee Bar, Fine Home Decor & Gifts and Central Feed & Supply. Call 541-643-8113 or visit lvvvv.org.

Native Bees and Their Plants, 1-2:30 p.m., OSU Extension, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass. Master Gardener Lincoln "Linc" Best discusses how to attract native bees through landscape plant choices.

Free. Call 541-476-6613.

JUNE 8-9

Art in the Garden, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days, Grants Pass area. Self-guided tour of several private gardens, paired with work by local artists at each.

Tickets are \$25, good for both days, to benefit the Grants Pass Museum of Art; children 12 and younger can participate for free.

Tickets are sold at the museum, Diamond Home Improvement, The Kitchen Company, Greenleaf Industries and Redwood Nursery. Call 541-479-3290.

JUNE 12

Organic Herb Farm Tour, 3-4:30 p.m., Oshala Farm, 14900 Highway 238, Grants Pass. Guided walking tour of an organic herb farm and a peek into the multi-step process of making teas and body care products.

Free, advance registration required. Call 541-846-1120 or visit oshalafarm.com.

Tours are also planned this summer on July

10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11.

ONGOING

Garden volunteer work days, 9 a.m.-noon Wednesdays through November, North Mountain Park, 620 N. Mountain Ave., Ashland. Volunteers care for plants in the park's demonstration gardens. Volunteers, age 15 and older, can work as often as they wish and drop-ins are welcome. Gloves, tools and snacks provided, or bring your own.

Free. Contact Sulaiman Shelton at 541-552-2264 or sulaiman.shelton@ashland.or.us, or visit ashlandparksandrec.org.

Josephine County Master Gardener Plant Clinic, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed noon-1 p.m.) Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Josephine County Extension, 215 Ringuette St., Grants Pass. Get free assistance with all garden questions and problems, insect identification.

Contact 541-476-6613 or josephinemg@oregonstate.edu.

Kathy Allen's Rock Garden and Nursery, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, 2850 Taylor Creek Road, Central Point. A member of the North American Rock Garden Society opens her private gardens for self-guided strolls and sells a variety of rock and alpine garden plants, including succulents, dwarf iris, anemone and gentians.

This is Allen's last year growing choice alpine plants.

Calendar compiled by Kathleen Alaks; send entries for upcoming events to kalaks@thedailycourier.com or P.O. Box 1468, Grants Pass, OR 97528.

GARDENING CLUBS

ASHLAND GARDEN CLUB, June 3, Blue Heron Park, Phoenix. A members-only garden tour, with Sandy White and Sharon Schmidt showing highlights of the park, including an edible flower garden, a vegetable patch that helps support the local food pantry, native bird nesting houses, rain catchment and a bee city pollinator garden.

Contact Sherri Morgan at shemor484@gmail.com, Lisa Zingarelli at zingarelli@aol.com, ashlandorgardenclub.org.

GRANTS PASS GARDEN CLUB, June 5, noon, Fruitdale Grange, 1440 Parkdale Drive, Grants Pass. The club meets for a potluck lunch and induction of new officers.

Contact Carole Genovesi, 541-218-3453, contactus@grantspassgardenclub.org, or visit www.grantspassgardenclub.org.

ILLINOIS VALLEY GARDEN CLUB, May 17, noon social, 1 p.m. meeting, Bridgeview Community Church, 5181 Holland Loop Road, Cave Junction. Regular monthly meeting, with an open discussion.

Contact Ron Morse, 562-824-0771, gpron63@gmail.com, illinoisvalleygardenclub@gmail.com.

JACKSONVILLE GARDEN CLUB, May 16, 12:30 p.m. social, 1 p.m. program, second floor assembly room, Jacksonville City Hall, 206 N. Fifth St., Jacksonville. Regular monthly meeting, with Cathy Cooper giving a slide show presentation on the principles of ikebana, the Japanese art of floral arranging.

Contact Susan Casaleggio, 541-899-2029, sscasaleggio@charter.net.

MEDFORD GARDEN CLUB, May 17, 1 p.m., a members-only garden tour. Contact Baldassare Mineo, 541-840-0929, italio@hotmail.com

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON, SISKIYOU CHAPTER, May 16, 7 p.m., Room 161, Science Building, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, and online via Zoom. Regular monthly meeting, topic to be announced. Free.

To register for the free Zoom talks: <https://bit.ly/npsotalks>.

Contact Rachel Werling at si_president@npsoregon.org or Kristi Mergenthaler, 541-941-3744 or coprolitemergie@yahoo.com.

NORTH AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY, 2 p.m. May 12, Lidgate Hall, Congregational United Church of Christ, 1801 E. Jackson St., Medford. Regular monthly meeting.

Contact Baldassare Mineo, 541-840-0929, italio@hotmail.com.

ROGUE GARDENERS OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY, May 17, noon, Black Forest restaurant, 820 N.E. E St., Grants Pass. Regular monthly meeting. Call 541-955-9795, 541-761-6210 or see roguegardenersofjosephinecounty.com.

ROGUE RIVER GARDEN CLUB, May 15, a field trip to The Plant Connection in Ashland.

Contact Carol Ries, 541-816-5866, Vicki Allen, 530-409-7030.

ROGUE VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY, May 19, 2 p.m., Our Lady of the River Catholic Church, 3625 N. River Road, Rogue River. Monthly meeting, with David Kollen of the Xerces Society, speaking on "Gardening for The Bees (and the Birds)."

Call CaroleAnne Durante, 541-471-7091 or Joy Smith, 714-356-9118.

TALENT GARDEN CLUB, June 1, 9:30 a.m. Annual garden tour for members only.

Contact Gerlinde Smith, 541-601-6791, gardenintalent@gmail.com.

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