

Got Trees?



Lael's Moon Garden

Plant Your Own Eden™

Arbor Day and Earth Day are both celebrated in April.

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. The first Arbor day was in Nebraska on April 10, 1972. Nationally Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. In Washington, we celebrate Arbor Day on the second Wednesday in April - the 11th this year. Why the days are different - who know? We in Washington are just different.

On the First Earth Day in 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to show their support for the environment. The organizers of this year's Earth Day have set a goal of people undertaking 1 billion "Acts of Green" world-wide. Last year over one million trees were planted in conjunction with Earth Day. This is the same number of trees estimated to have been planted on the first Arbor Day.

So let's get out there and plant some more trees.

Here are some ideas for **Flowering trees (and a few shrubs)** in approximate ordering of flowering. Almost all trees flower in some manner; it's how they have sex (and we're all in favor of that) and produce more trees – except of course Ginkgos which are actually Gymnosperms – but more about those prehisoric trees some other time. Today we're going to discuss trees with showy flowers.

Flowering Plums (prunus)

Generally the earliest to flower and their flowering also signals the return of the Rufus hummingbirds. Thundercloud is our favorite due to its disease resistance, consistent flowering and toughness once established. Ever notice the beautiful trees along Capital Blvd in Tumwater – those are Thundercloud Plums. Maturing at 20' 20' their light pink flowers contrast well with dark purple foliage. We offer several sizes.



Flowering Currants (Ribes sanguineum)

Another hummer favorite and a northwest native, their early flowering feeds the hummingbirds. Just listen to them zip around hopping from flower to flower.

Tolerant of a wide variety of soils and light from full sun to part-shade, this is a great plant for the back of the border. These flower early while others are dormant and then form a backdrop to other plants; in fall blue-black berries provide food for birds.

King Edward the VII has showy red flowers and can be grown as a tree or shrub. Size can be managed by pruning. Allow 6-8' for shrub form, 8-10' for tree form. Selected as a Great Plant Pick for the NW (GPP). [King Edward Flowering currant - GPP](#)

Pulborough Scarlet – also bright red, with whitish centers. Habit similar to King Edward. Also a GPP, link to read more: [Ribes Pulborough Scarlet - GPP](#)

Flowering Cherries (prunus)

Next to flower are the cherries. Singles, doubles, pink, white, upright or weeping, green or maroon foliage. Whatever you like best, there is a cherry for you.

Akebono – 25' x 25', delicate pink flowers, green foliage with yellowish fall color. A GPP selection. [Akebono Flowering cherry-GPP](#)

Kwanzan – 30 x 20 ' , vase shaped, double rosy-pink flowers with dark green foliage, bronzy orange-red fall color. Read more and pics at [Kwanzan Cherry](#)



Mt Fuji – 15' x 20'. Pink buds open to double white flowers. Fall color yellow-orange. This is the tree planted in our well-house garden. (Pictured spring and fall.)

Royal Burgundy – 20' x 15'; Double rosy-pink flowers contrast with maroon foliage. Fall color is bronzy purple. Read more @ [Royal Burgundy Cherry](#)

Subhirtella – weeping pink cherry. Depending on how high it's grafted is this small tree grows to 15' x 15', has pink flowers along its weeping branches. Easy to maintain for small yards.

Magnolias (deciduous) In the winter, the branches hold fuzzy buds which produce, mostly on bare branches, lovely flowers of pink, white, yellow, purple and shades in between. Garden carefully under magnolias, they have fleshy roots and give them a little extra mulch and compost to keep the roots cool and feed their heavy flowering.

Alexandrina - Large flowers, rose-purple at the base and pure white inside, shrubby 10 to 15'

Butterflies – Tulip shaped yellow flowers, slightly scented of lemon. Can be grown as a small tree or multi-stemmed large shrub. To 15 -20' x same.

Elizabeth - Yellow, fragrant, tulip-shaped flowers spring, to 25-30' tree. Selected as a great Plant Pick for the NW. Read more at [Elizabeth Magnolia- GPP](#)

Royal Star Magnolia - strap or star shaped white flowers spring, fragrant 10-15'x same.

Rosea Star Magnolia - strap or star shaped pink flowers spring, fragrant 10-15'x same.

Leonard Messel – Light pink strap shaped flowers, spring. Small tree will be 12-15 in 10 years, eventually to 20' x 15'. Selected as a great Plant Pick for the NW.

[Leonard messel Magnolia - GPP](#)

Galaxy – (Pictured) Lots of large, fragrant 6-9" red-purple flowers spring. Narrow tree when young, becomes wider with age. To 15-20' x 8-10' in 10 yrs, event 30-40'. A GPP, more details at: [Galaxy Mgnolia - GPP](#)



Crabapples (malus) –

Loved by birds and people, for their lovely spring flowers and showy fall fruit that feeds the birds and us. Did you know a crabapple can also be used to pollinate an apple tree? We select crabapples for good color, shape and disease resistance.

Lollipop Dwarf - White flowers, small green leaves, symmetrical, dense rounded habit. Yellow 3/8" fruit fall. Slow to 10' x 10' – can be kept smaller.

Prairiefire - Bright pink-red flowers with purple foliage that turns to reddish-green. Dark red 3/8" fruits. To 20' x 20'. Read more at: [Prairiefire Crabapple](#)

Royal Raindrops - Pink-red flowers combine with purple cut-leaf foliage red 1/4" persistent fruits for the birds. To

20' x 15'. (pictured), more at: [Royal Raindrops Crabapple](#)

Louisa - Pink flowers on weeping form are followed by 3/8" yellow fruit. To 10-15' x 8-10'. More ar [Louisa Crabapple](#)

Dolgo - White flowers spring followed by 1.5" red oval fruit. Great for crabapple jelly and eating. To 30' x 25'.

Sugar Tyme - Fragrant, white flowers smother tree in spring red 1/2" fruit persistent. To 18' x 15'.

Dogwoods

Trees, shrubs, even a groundcover. Flowers in spring, many with fall fruit and great fall or winter color; what's not to like. See our earlier article on 'Dogwoods - More Than You Ever Wanted To Know" on our website at this link:: LMG- Garden - Tips [Dogwoods \(MTYEWTK\)](#)

Golden Chain Trees (Laburnum)

Long fragrant racemes of yellow flowers cascade from these trees like a golden chain. Flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. We have the upright variety Vossi which grows to 15-20' x same and the weeping form alpinum growing 10-15' x 8-10'. (Note: Golden chains are poisonous to livestock on the plus side, deer usually leave them alone.)



Lilacs (syringa)

The scent of lilacs means summer is coming. Just a few cuttings from some lilacs can perfume the entire house. And such a variety of colors and sizes are available. From deep red purple to pure white, even a bi-colored one. Fragrances can be sweet and floral or spicy.

This is also a plant that is very cold hardy for those of you in the colder outlying regions and deer generally do not bother lilacs. Lilacs should be pruned right after they bloom, never in the fall. Here are some of our favorites.



Ludwig Spaeth - Dark red-purple flowers with the classic lilac fragrance in spring. Large 10-12'

Tinkerbelle - Wine-Red buds, pink flowers, spicy fragrance. Compact 5-6'. Picture link: [Tinkerbelle Lilac](#)

Spokane - magenta buds open to magenta pink flowers, lighter pink then silver white when fully open. Very fragrant. New foliage tipped with burgundy. Large 8-10' x 6-8'. Picture link: [Spokane Lilac](#)

Sensation - Fragrant, bicolored-single purple flowers with white margins. Large 10-12' x 6-8'. (pictured)

'Miss Kim' AKA Korean Lilac - Lavender-blue flowers spring with a mild, sweet fragrance, fall color purplish to burgundy. Compact 5-6'. A GPP selection. read more at: [Miss Kim lilac - GPP](#)

Beauty of Moscow 'Krasavitsa Moskv' –and she is. Pink buds open to pale pink-white double flowers. To 10-12' x 6-8'. Picture link: [Beauty of Moscow lilac](#)

Ivory Silk – upright tree with large plumes of small fragrant white flowers summer. Fragrance is sweet but different than other lilacs. To 20' x 15' more info: [Ivory Silk Lilac Tree](#)

Japanese Snowbells (Styrax)

Carillon – Soft white bell shaped flowers on a weeping tree with a layered shape. To 8-10'.

Emerald Pagoda - White fragrant bell shaped flowers June, Yellow fall color. To 20-30' x 15-20'. Another GPP [Emerald Pagoda - GPP](#)

Pink Chimes - Pink fragrant bell shaped flowers June, Yellow fall color. To '20-30' x 20'

Fragrant Snowbell (Styrax obassia) - White fragrant bell shaped flowers May-June, yellow fall color. Grows to '20-30' x 20-30'. Fragrant snowbell has larger leaves with more texture and blooms earlier than the other styrax. And it is yet another GPP: [Fragrant Snowbell - GPP](#)

And then there are the summer flowering trees such as: Robinias, Liriodendron or Tulip trees, Stewartias, Franklinias, Evergreen or Southern Magnolias, Hibiscus (what is the plural of hibiscus? Hibisci?), Hydrangeas and Sourwoods – more about them some other time.

Whew! Find something you like? We have lots more at the nursery. Just ask us if you don't see what you're looking for. And if you're looking for plants, we're finding them.

April Garden Shows

Come visit with us and lots of other nurseries. Score some plants to slake your plant habit. You'll find lots of rare, unusual and just good plants at the sales. Two of the April shows feature free admission to spectacular gardens.

April 9-10 – Chase Garden Spring Plant Sale

@ The Chase Garden, 3.5 miles east of SR 161, 10615 264th St E, Orting, WA 98360.

Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Featuring those spring blooming ground covers, perennials, ferns & native wildflowers that define this lovely Northwest garden. Specialty nursery vendors will offer choice perennials, dwarf shrubs, rhododendrons, & alpine plants. Benefits the Chase Garden, a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy. Free admission to the garden.

<http://www.chasegarden.org/> or 206-242-4040

April 15 & 16 Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale

@Weyerhaeuser Campus. West End Parking Lot 2525 S 336th St, Federal Way, WA 98003

Friday 2 PM to 6 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 3 PM

Rare & unusual plants, plus all-around favorites from vendors around the Puget Sound area. Wide variety of plants to choose from. Garden admission is free.

<http://www.rhodygarden.org/page/page/1083654.htm> 253-661-9377 or 253-838-4646

April 30 and May 1– Master Gardener Found. of Pierce Co. Plant Sale

@ WSU Campus at 2606 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, 98371

Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM and Sunday 9 AM to 3 PM

Free Admission, Free Parking

<http://county.wsu.edu/pierce/mg/Pages/default.aspx>

New Plants Keep Coming

Although it's been wet and cold, the plants are doing fine. It's really amazing to see some of the little guys out there blooming through the snow and hail and whatever today's torture is. With all that this winter has brought, it's so nice to see some things beginning to leaf out and some buds swelling. We have received most of our spring shipments of trees and shrubs; a few items can't be dug yet. You can find a list of our recently arrived plants at"

<http://laelsmoongarden.com/inventory.html>

(scroll down to the section labeled "**New Plant Purchases as of April, 2011**" and click on the link to the right to open the pdf file)

This is by no means a comprehensive list of our plants. We have lots more of all kinds of plants; it's merely the newest stuff.

If you're looking for something not on the list, visit, call or email us and we'll see if we have it or can get it for you.

Fruit and Nut Tree Sale

Our remaining bare root trees and shrubs are on sale until they are potted. Remember we stock many larger fruit trees that will bear sooner than the little ones sold elsewhere. Once the trees are potted, the discount no longer applies.

Save 10 % on bare root trees and shrubs; 15 % for 5 or more.

List on our website at [Lael's Moon Garden - Specials](#)

Shop early for best selection. Some varieties are already sold out.

Berries, Grapes and Figs

We still have a fairly good selection of blueberries, grapes, strawberries and cane berries. We have just a few large blueberry plants in # 10 pots about 3' tall, varieties Bluecrop, Bluejay and Herbert. See the webpage specials for list of varieties or call us. [Lael's Moon Garden - Specials](#)

Garden Tasks for April

Bait for Slugs – we like Sluggo as it is non-toxic to birds and mammals. Those pesky slimy critters are coming out on warm days and heading for your perennial beds.

Apply a layer of compost around plants to help mulch and enrich the soil.

Plant peas, potatoes, carrots, radishes and the coles – (cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts), Begin succession plantings of lettuce and other greens.

Finish any cutting back on roses (sooner the better) and ornamental grasses.

Allow the foliage on spring bulbs – daffodils and snowdrops – to remain after flowering to nourish the bulbs for next year.

Begin hardening off any of the plants over-wintered in the garage. Take them out during the warmth of the day (if you can find it) so they get light, and put them back in at night if freezes are predicted.

Blog worth Reading

We love what we do and that's why we keep doing it. But it is still nice to be noticed and appreciated. Click on the link below to read what was recently said about us. Our ears are warm and our faces are smiling. [Fresh by Northwest](#)

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See web site for more details, nursery pictures, hours, directions and more.

www.laelsmoongarden.com/

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