

## **Geezer Lael**

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**From:** "Bethany Lael"  
**To:** "Undisclosed\_Mailing\_List"  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2009 12:27 PM  
**Subject:** Garden show dates and edible landscaping



Lael's Moon Garden Nursery  
 Garden Show Dates for 2009

### **March 20, 21 & 22 , 44th Annual Home and Garden Show**

@ Yardbirds Mall in Chehalis

2100 N. National, Chehalis WA

Friday 10 AM to 7 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM

**Free** Admission, Speakers: Ed Hume, Ciscoe Morris, Mallory Gwynn and others.

Sponsored by the Centralia- Chehalis Chamber of Commerce

Web site - <http://www.chamberway.com>

### **April 25 and 26th Master Gardener Show**

@ WSU Puyallup, 7612 Pioneer Way E, Puyallup

Saturday 9:30 AM to 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM

**Free** Admission

Sponsored by Pierce County Master Gardener Foundation

[http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Master\\_Gardeners/pcmgfoundation/index.htm](http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Master_Gardeners/pcmgfoundation/index.htm)

### **May 1, 2 and 3rd Gift and Garden Event**

@ St Martins University in Lacey, WA

Friday 10 AM to 6 PM, Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

Admission fees go to support Junior League's community programs

Speakers include Marianne Binnett, Ciscoe Morris and many others

Sponsored by Jr. League of Olympia

<http://www.jlolympia.org/pages/giftgarden.htm>

## **Eat Your Landscape!**

Fruiting plants are not only productive, they are also ornamental in flower and fruit. Last year we noticed a dramatic increase in demand for fruit-bearing trees and shrubs at our nursery. You too may have wanted to add edibles to your yard---if only you had the space. The space puzzle is compounded by the fact that many fruiting plants do not set fruit with their own pollen, so they require a second variety for pollination. If you have space for two fruiting trees or shrubs it's not a problem, but what if you don't? You'll be happy to know that there are space saving solutions that have ornamental value and produce plenty of fruit!

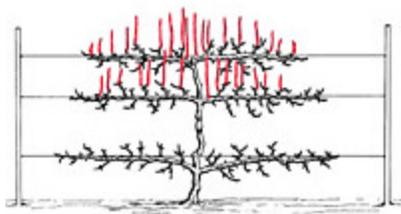
**Thank the Bees** for the first solution to the pollination problem. The range of a honeybee is up to three

miles. If there are already fruit trees in your neighborhood, chances are you could get by with one tree and still get fruit as long as the neighboring trees are a different variety of the same kind of fruit. If your neighbor's trees are far away, you may have to wait until your tree gets large enough to produce lots of flowers to attract bees from a distance.

**Multiple Variety Trees** are another solution. Apples, sweet cherries, and pears all require pollination by a second variety. Enterprising growers have made those fruits "self-fruitful" by grafting several varieties on one trunk. So if you have enough space for one tree, the pollination dilemma is handled and you also benefit by having several varieties of apples, cherries, or pears on one tree. Pie cherries are self-fruitful, so for those you only need one tree anyway.

**Espalier Trees** solve two problems-space and pollination. They are trained to grow flat against a wall or fence, so they take very little space. Espalier trees can be apples, pears, or sweet cherries and grow only about a foot away from the wall or fence on which they are trained. The arms extend horizontally to either side of the trunk along the fence or wall. They can be kept narrow or trained to grow wide depending on the available space. Typically, they are grafted to have three sets of limbs on either side of the trunk and each set of limbs is a different variety.

Some easy maintenance is required to keep espaliers trained. The horizontal limbs will try to grow vertical branches which should be cut back to two sets of buds as soon as they appear. And the side limbs will grow longer from the bud at the end. If you want the horizontal side limbs to grow longer, simply keep tying them to the fence or wall--they will try to grow vertically otherwise. If you want the horizontal limbs to stay the same length, cut off the end bud. (By the way, this method of training is pronounced "es-pal-yay" for those of you are French impaired.)



Espalier figure courtesy of WSU, PNW 400 Training and Pruning

Your Home Orchard

**Columnar Apples** require even less space than espalier trees. They basically have a trunk, but no limbs so they take about one or two square feet of ground space. The apples grow along the trunk. At our house, we have grown columnar apples in pots for several years. (I've got to figure out where to plant them one of these days!) So it's clear they make a good container tree. They are disease resistant and ours set large amounts of fruit for their diminutive size. Although there are three varieties of columnar apples, there are no columnar varieties of other fruits in the trade as yet.

Columnar apples are easy to maintain and can be expected to grow to eight to ten feet tall in the ground. Occasionally, they will grow a short limb or two. To keep the tree's columnar shape, these should be cut back to two sets of buds as soon as they start to grow more than four or five inches. It's easy to tell the limbs from the many fruit spurs that grow along the trunk. Limbs have narrow, pointed leaf buds and fruit spurs have fat, rounded flower buds. Fruit spurs remain short naturally and are needed to get fruit. Columnar apples will pollinate each other and can be pollinated by most other varieties of apple trees.



Scarlet Sentinel columnar Apple



Northpole Columnar apple

**Blueberries** require two different varieties for cross-pollination. After many years a full-size blueberry bush will be about six feet tall and wide. (They can be kept smaller with pruning.) Here's a trick if you don't have room for two bushes-plant two different varieties of one- or two-gallon blueberry plants in one hole. The combined adult plant will be little larger than a single plant (due to competition for light and nutrients) and pollination will occur between the two "halves". Plant an early ripening variety with a mid- or late- ripening variety and you can enjoy fresh berries from mid-July through late September. Besides the flowers and fruit, blueberries add bright red fall color to your landscape.



**Strawberries** make a great (and productive) groundcover for a sunny location. They produce offshoots that will blanket the ground in time. Grown as a groundcover, strawberries are a little harder to harvest, but they can be integrated into an ornamental landscape that way and the foliage is beautiful too.

**Filberts** (also called Hazelnuts) grow on small trees or multi-stemmed shrubs. Two different varieties are required to get nuts. They are wind pollinated so they should be planted relatively close together. All are most ornamental in winter when they have long pollen catkins hanging along the limbs. There are two varieties that are particularly ornamental. The first is the famous "Harry Lauder's Walking Stick" which has heavily contorted limbs. The other ornamental variety is "Red Majestic" which also has contorted limbs with the added attraction of burgundy leaves. Both will grow nuts if they are pollinated. For larger nuts, the commercial upright varieties are required. "Barcelona", "Ennis" and "Duchilly" are the most frequently grown commercial varieties.



Winter catkins on Filberts



Harry Lauder's Walking Stick

**Grapes** make ornamental trellis plants as well as providing fruit. They can also be trained along a fence. Grapes are self-fruitful so only one plant is required to get fruit. Some exciting new seedless table grapes are currently undergoing field trials at the WSU Field Station near Mt Vernon, WA. They were developed by University of Arkansas and are named after planets ("Jupiter", "Mars", "Venus", etc.) "Canadice" is also a good seedless grape for our climate.

**Hardy Kiwis** can be used in the edible landscape much like grapes. Grow them on a trellis or fence. The hardiest ones have fruit about the size of grapes and grow in similar clusters. The fruit has a smooth skin and can be eaten like grapes as well. They taste like the familiar fuzzy kiwis only perhaps a little sweeter. Kiwis have both female and male plants and both are required to get fruit. The little devils are not monogamous, so one male can pollinate several females. Good fruiting varieties are "Issai" (said to be partially self-fruitful), and "Anna".

**Figs** are grown on small trees that have bold, very ornamental leaves as well as sweet fruit. They are self-fruitful and the two best varieties for the Northwest are "Desert King" (green fruit, pink inside) and "Vern's Brown Turkey"(mahogany fruit).

Whichever fruiting plants you decide to try in your landscape plant them in a sunny location. Sunshine is necessary to produce good fruit and also to get honeybees to pollinate the flowers. (Did you ever wonder why there is fruit on the outside of a tree but little on the inside? Bees don't like to go into the shade.) For all of the fruiting plants listed above except blueberries, good drainage is also a must. Blueberries will grow in wet or even boggy soil. Water all fruiting plants regularly during warm summer weather, particularly while the plants are developing fruit. And, *bon appetite!*

We still have a good selection of fruit trees, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, figs, rhubarb, strawberries and more. Remaining bare root trees are 10% off regular prices. We are now open Thursday - Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM.

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