



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENnotes  
AUTUMN 2021

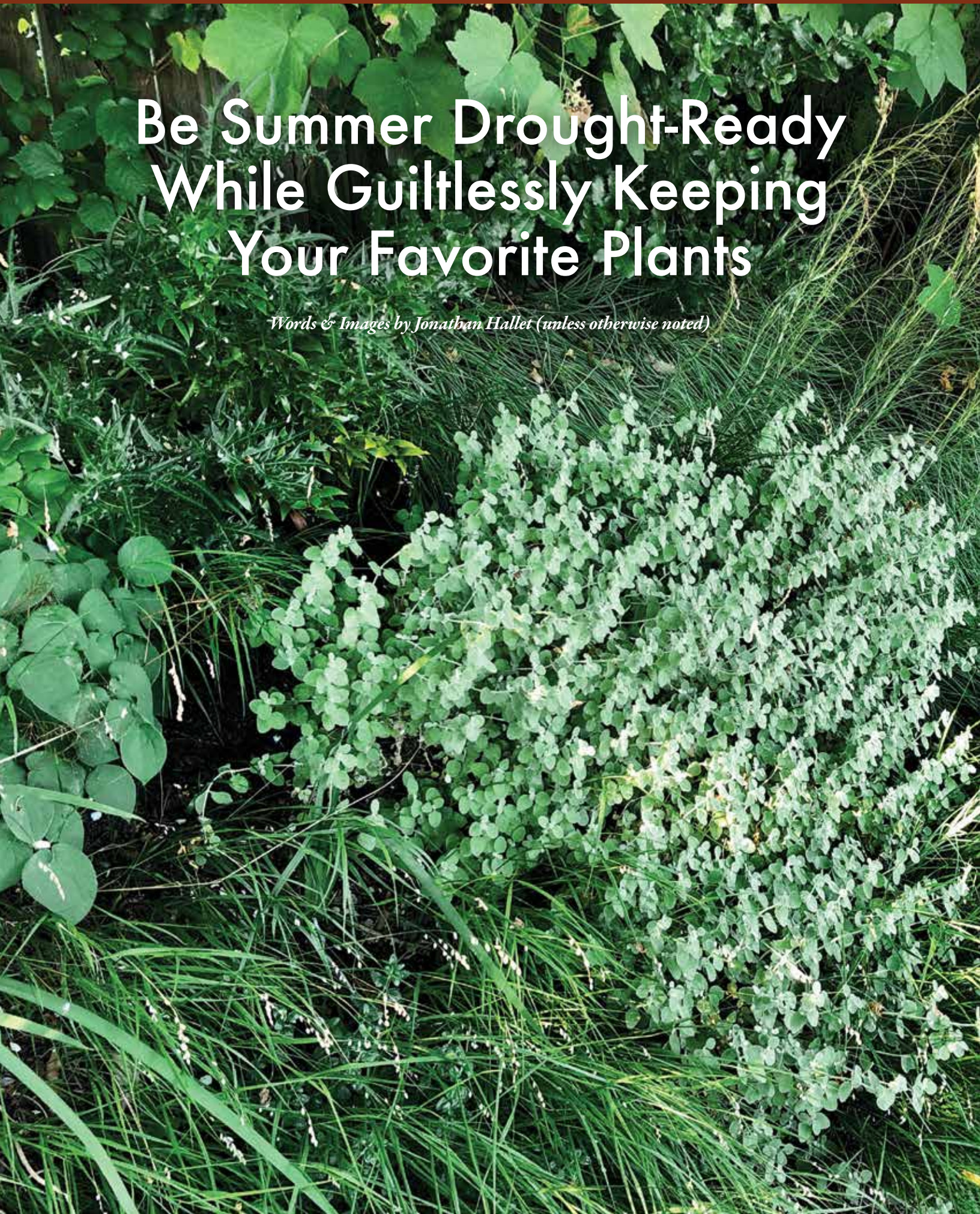


*Fothergilla major*  
Image by Richie Steffen



# Be Summer Drought-Ready While Guiltlessly Keeping Your Favorite Plants

*Words & Images by Jonathan Hallet (unless otherwise noted)*

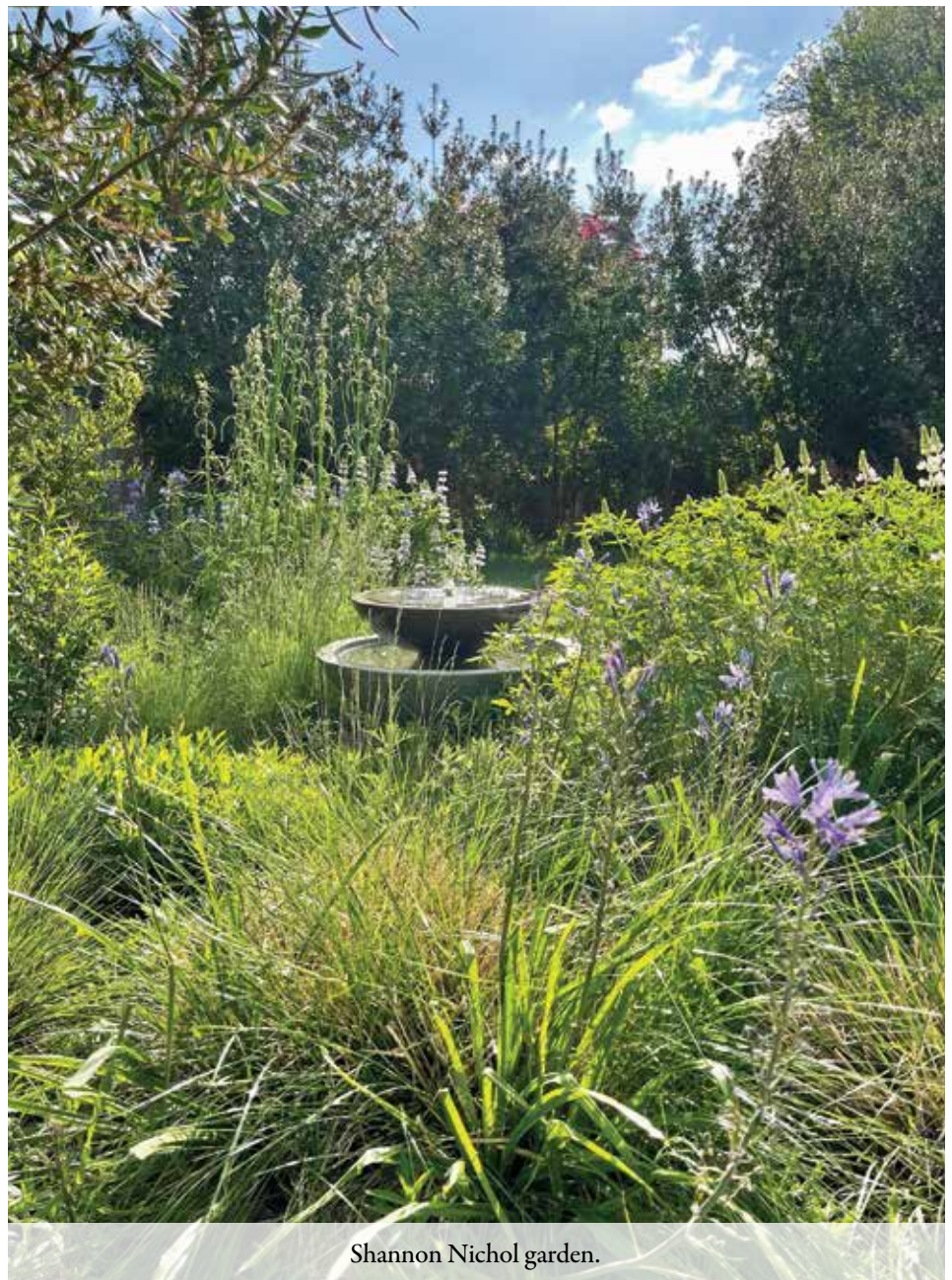


OUR HORTICULTURAL DREAMS HAVE for a long time been verdant hydrangeaey notions of East Coast and British gardens. Our inspirations have been from places with plants that want more water. It sounds strange to say that the Pacific Northwest has a Mediterranean climate (we're not Italy after all). Yet, Mediterranean means long dry summers and wet winters, and more than ever that's us – with an emphasis on the dry summers. In the broader definition of “right plant, right place,” it means our plant vocabulary should consist of plants from here and plants from other Mediterranean climates.

Wait, you can have your hydrangeas too. Of course, we mainly garden for pleasure, and I want you to have your favorite plants. But I want you to grow those thirstier flowery plants in close vicinity of your house where you can enjoy and water them. Just not everywhere. Group thirsty plants together for watering efficiency. Moving away from where you are in your garden on a daily basis, transition to low/no-water plants. Organizing your garden into hydrozones (groups of plants with similar water requirements) makes watering much more efficient and helps assure plants get the water (or dry) they need. This isn't a sacrifice: the contrast of less showy plants moving outward from a showier core establishes a visual hierarchy for your garden. A special flowery or showy garden moment is actually more special when not everything in the garden is special.

Get ready for fewer weeds and less pruning. Summer-dry adapted plants don't expect summer water and giving them water encourages bad behavior. When you don't water, you reduce the available resources for living plants. This means fewer weeds and less pruning.

*On the left:* Clay Antineau garden.



Shannon Nichol garden.

It doesn't have to look like a rosemary and thyme gravel garden. It can still feel lush or dry, naturalistic or formal, and everything in between. Through plant selection, layout and pruning, you can do anything. Don't feel like you need to use classic British border plants to achieve a great border garden. The best gardens have a sense of place. Native and Mediterranean plants have adaptations that often make them look more at home in the Pacific Northwest.

Here are some top go-to plant picks from

local designers and horticulturists who have been working with low-water plants for a long time. I asked each expert to choose their favorite three dry plants, and it is grueling task for a plant person to choose favorites, so I am thankful to everyone for participating.

Shannon Nichol, founding principal at GGN Landscape Architecture, experiments in her home garden with native plants, providing no water after establishment. Shannon stands by three powerhouse native meadow

plants: *Festuca roemerii* (Roemer's fescue), a blue-toned evergreen clumping grass, *Achillea millefolium* (common yarrow), and *Eriophyllum lanatum* (wooly sunflower), a low mat-former with yellow daisy flowers. "I can think of more obscure favorites but not more foolproof and rewarding. When planted together, the *Achillea* makes a stoloniferous rug that weaves with the sparse *Festuca* and pillowy eruptions of *Eriophyllum*, adding up to a heat/drought-tolerant carpet you can mix all sorts of plants into."

Dave Demers, plant wizard & founder of Cyan Horticulture in Vancouver, British Columbia, tests for climate-appropriate garden plants in his micro-nursery. A few of his no-water picks include *Grevillea victoriae* (royal grevillea) a large winter-flowering evergreen shrub, to 6 x 6' and beyond, for sun and poor well-draining soil, *Achillea hybrids* (yarrow hybrids), and *Stipa gigantea* (giant feather grass). If you don't want the self-sowing spread of common yarrow, there are many sterile yarrow hybrids.

Clay Antineau is an ever-knowledgeable horticulturist, botanist and environmental scientist with over 40 years of Western Washington experience. His home garden showcases obscure native plants alongside obscure Mediterranean plants. Top dry plant picks include *Phlomis lanata* (wooly Jerusalem sage) an easily managed shrub for a hot, sunny and infertile spot. Another is *Ruscus aculeatus* (butcher's broom) a 4' tall, slowly-spreading evergreen shrub that tolerates extreme dry shade. And *Dictamnus albus* (gas plant) is a long-lived perennial with full foliage, a bold floral display, and which tolerates dry conditions in sun or shade.



Shelagh Tucker garden.

Jenny Harris, garden designer, working in the droughty San Juan Islands pushes boundaries with resilient native plant-rich gardens. Her go-tos are all native plants: *Shepherdia canadensis* (soapberry), *Iris douglasiana* (Douglas iris), and *Erigeron speciosus* (showy fleabane). "I like *Shepherdia* for being a little obscure and lying so low many don't even notice it, but it is very interesting in its habit, beautiful coppery stems with the whole thing looking like it was dusted with mica."

Unhybridized Douglas iris has great evergreen foliage, and Jenny says, "I love the simplicity of the straight species here. It looks interesting all year long." Showy fleabane is great in poor soil, where it will persist without flopping, providing structure and seeds (loved by birds), well into winter.

Jason Jorgensen, NHS president, garden designer and horticulturist, lets self-seeding perennials fill in the gaps in his no-water sidewalk garden. Favorite self-seeders are *Scabiosa*

*ochroleuca* (pincushion flower) and *Catanache caerulea* (cupid's dart), both providing a mid-summer diaphanous cloud of flowers. Jason also recommends *Salvia greggii* cvs. (autumn sage cultivars), short shrubby perennial sages that come in many colors.

Del Brummet, head gardener of the Miller Garden, recommends *Vancouveria chrysantha* (Siskiyou inside-out-flower) as the most dry-shade tolerant of the Pacific Northwest inside-out-flower species. Other dry favorites include a classic garden perennial, *Aster* × *frikartii* 'Monch' (Frikart's aster), a long and late-bloomer, tolerant of low water and *Leptospermum grandiflorum* (large-flowered tea tree), a beautiful small tree, with silver foliage and shaggy bark, hardy and drought-tolerant for full sun.

To find more ideas for low-water plants, visit the websites of Xera Nursery, Cistus Nursery, and The Desert Northwest Nursery. Expanding our horticultural vocabulary of summer-dry plants is critical in allowing us to create gardens that we love and that our environment can sustain. We can design in a way that conserves our water resources and adapts to a changing climate. Tell your favorite local nursery what plants you're looking for and ask what drought-tolerant plants they have. We all need to make a quick pivot and create more demand from gardeners and designers for the sort of plants that will thrive here for the long haul. ∞

*Jonathan Hallet is a Seattle-based landscape architect and his practice, Beautifier, aims to make gardens with feelings. www.beautifier.us*



*Erigeron speciosus* (Wikimedia Commons)



*Grevillea victoriae* (Richie Steffen)



*Iris douglasiana* (Richie Steffen)



# OSMANTHUS FOR AUTUMN

*Words & Images by Richie Steffen (unless otherwise noted)*



*Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Ogon' (Nancy Heckler)

THE FALL BLOOMING *OSMANTHUS* ARE TRULY A GIFT to our gardens. These tough and resilient shrubs will tolerate a wide range of exposures and soil types with little extra watering once established. I have long had a soft spot for *Osmanthus*, and it was a delight for me to find that Mrs. Miller shared my interest in this shrub and had collected several species and cultivars that thrive at the Miller Garden today. I learned about these useful shrubs in my college ID class at the University of Maryland, but I do not remember fully appreciating the wonderful fragrance of this genus until I moved to Seattle and started to come across them regularly in the landscape and in nurseries.

When I started working for the Garden

**On the left:** *Osmanthus* 'Jim Porter'

in the fall of 2000, I was greeted by the enticing fruity and floral fragrance of *Osmanthus* × *fortunei*, Fortune's sweet olive. Few plants evoke autumn for me more than the intense and lingering apricot fragrance of this evergreen shrub. I have longed to have a chance to grow it in my home garden and look forward to multiple plants in my developing Kingston property. The Miller Garden has four specimens, three large old plants that reach 20 to 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide that were likely planted in the 1960's. A ten-year-old specimen growing in deep shade is about eight feet tall and 4 feet wide. The leaves on the younger more vigorous growth are edged in short spines that are slightly prickly, but nowhere near as spiny as holly. On mature branches the leaves are smooth along the edge with one spine on the very tip of the leaf. The first plant was introduced to Western horti-

culture from Japan by Robert Fortune in 1856. Two cultivars can be found offered occasionally, 'San José', selected in 1934 by W. B. Clarke nursery of San José, California, and 'Fruitlandii' selected by Fruitland Nurseries in Augusta, Georgia. Both are credited with additional hardiness and narrower leaves. 'Fruitlandii' is also said to have slightly longer leaves while 'San José' is said to have smaller, finer spines along the edges of the leaves and have a slightly narrower growth habit. In reality, I find little difference in all of the plants in cultivation and wonder if these two cultivars have been hopelessly mixed in the trade. Fortunately for us all, any plant of *Osmanthus* × *fortunei* is a good plant.

It is easy to think that these larger *Osmanthus* do not have a place in the urban landscape due to their size, but



*Osmanthus fragrans* var. *aurantiacus*



*Osmanthus fragrans* 'Qi'

this could not be further from the truth. Young plants can be pruned and shaped to conform to a small location; and as the shrub grows, it can be limbed up and arborized creating a sculptural multi-branched small tree that adds character and would grow to a useful scale in smaller city gardens. Out of the four plants at the Miller Garden two have been arborized and are spectacular specimens.

There are two other large *Osmanthus* that would be excellent shrubs for arborizing but not as readily available as *Osmanthus*  $\times$  *fortunei*. These are *Osmanthus armatus* and *Osmanthus* 'Jim Porter'. Both stately shrubs are as hardy as *Osmanthus*  $\times$  *fortunei* (USDA zones 7b to 9) but have more visually striking foliage with more pronounced, larger spines, but still not over prickly to the touch. *Osmanthus armatus*,

toothed sweet olive, is rare to find either in the landscape or in nurseries. The Miller Garden has one old plant growing in heavy shade with a straight trunk that arches out to about 15 feet wide and about 18 feet tall. A younger ten-year-old shrub would be about 7 to 8 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide. Literature states that it is fragrant in bloom, but our plant flowers irregularly in its low light location and has little fragrance to the flowers. I would like to see if the fragrance is improved if it was in a location that allows for more prolific flowering. The blooming time for *Osmanthus armatus* is similar to *Osmanthus*  $\times$  *fortunei* being September to November.

The selection 'Jim Porter' is perhaps a selection or hybrid with *Osmanthus armatus*. The leaves of this clone have

bold conspicuous large spines that make for an eye-catching plant. It is a vigorous grower reaching 7 to 8 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide in ten years and making a dense hedge or striking specimen as it matures. The original plant was found in the garden of Jim Porter in Columbia, South Carolina. It is not a young bloomer and plants may not start flowering until 5 to 7 years old. I have not seen this plant in flower, but it is said to have fragrant blooms in fall, much like its potential parent.

*Osmanthus*  $\times$  *fortunei* is a naturally occurring hybrid of *Osmanthus fragrans* and *Osmanthus heterophyllus*. Both of these species are stellar garden plants in their own right. *Osmanthus fragrans* or tea olive is a tender species for most of the Pacific Northwest (USDA zones 8 to 9)





Qiannan Guifei'

*Osmanthus* × *fortunei*

but has an interesting history for its use of the flowers for tea and is widely grown in China for this use. There are over 100 cultivars of *O. fragrans* in China with most being selected for heavier bloom or larger flowers for use in making tea. Flowers can be quite variable from a creamy white, light yellow, pale orange to deep reddish orange. The flower size can also vary from tiny 1/8 inch blossoms to giants (by *Osmanthus* standards) reaching close to 1/2 inch in size. Unfortunately, most of these cultivars are highly prized and rigidly protected to prevent them from being distributed out of their small growing regions. There has been a small, but exciting movement to acquire some of the more ornamental clones and introduce them to gardeners in the United States. Its tender nature makes it an uncommon shrub for the region and old plants are

far and few between. Most of these older plants are not very remarkable and are superseded by *O. × fortunei* as a garden plant. The exception to this is *Osmanthus fragrans* var. *aurantiacus*. Tucked amongst the foliage are striking orange flowers borne in abundance, especially on mature shrubs. There is an excellent example of this at the Center for Urban Horticulture in the fragrance garden built by the Seattle Garden Club.

At the Miller Garden we are trialing some of the newly introduced *Osmanthus fragrans* cultivars. Some of these were chosen for their extraordinary flowers, a few examples are 'Apricot Echo', a lovely orange with reoccurring bloom from fall to spring, 'Beni Kin Mokusei', a legendary "red" flowered *Osmanthus* with richly colored red orange flowers and 'Tianxiang

Taige', reported to have the largest and most fragrant flowers of the species. Other cultivars were selected for unusual foliage: 'Ogon' is a selection with bright yellow new growth blushed with bronze which fades over the summer to green and 'Qiannan Guifei' has bright pinkish purple new growth that quickly changes to a creamy white then finally green.

The most commonly used *Osmanthus* is also one of the hardiest, *Osmanthus heterophyllus*, false holly, hardy to USDA zones 7 to 9 with some cultivars hardy to zone 6. This has smaller leaves than the other fall blooming sweet olives and generally a smaller size. This very adaptive shrub makes an excellent sheared hedge or can be arborized to create a stunning show piece for the small garden. There are several cultivars with many of them being



*Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Variegatus'

readily available. As young plants the leaves can be quite holly-like in appearance, but on a majority of the cultivars, they will lose most of these spines as the shrub matures.

There are over a dozen selections of *Osmanthus heterophyllus* making them very useful in our gardens, not only for fragrance, but also to add interesting texture and foliage color. Two older cultivars are 'Variegatus' and 'Purpurea'. 'Variegatus' has green leaves with an irregular margin of creamy white. The foliage is bright and adds a levity to the garden especially when used in a shady location. 'Purpurea' is best in sun to bright shade. This is where the deep reddish purple new growth shows the most intense coloring. Both grow to 8 to 12 feet tall and 8 to 10 feet wide. I remember how excited I was when the

first plants of *O.* 'Goshiki' made their way to nurseries in Seattle. This compact variegated cultivar combines the best of 'Variegatus' and 'Purpurea'. 'Goshiki' roughly translates to "five colors" and certainly the new growth lives up to the name. Initially emerging purple and pink, this gives way to pale yellows, creamy white and green tones in splashed patterns. As the foliage matures cream and green dominates. Even though this is often listed as a smaller shrub, it is only compact and densely branched. Mature plants can reach 8 feet tall over time. 'Variegatus', 'Purpurea' and 'Goshiki' have all been selected as Great Plant Picks.

Other colorful leaved *Osmanthus heterophyllus* cultivars are occasionally available but are much more uncommon. For many years Gossler Farms Nursery

in Springfield, Oregon has offered the golden leaved cultivar 'Ogon'. I have not had luck growing this selection finding it weak and slow, but I do see it in gardens sporadically and it is quite appealing. Another plant that I recently acquired at Xera Nursery in Portland, Oregon is 'Akebono'. Selected for its amazing new growth in mid-spring, vibrant pink stems and leaves emerge gradually changing to bone white and finally by summer to a shiny green. This is a compact cultivar reaching about 4 feet tall in 10 years with older plants reaching about 6 to 7 feet over time and roughly oval in shape. Similar to 'Akebono' is the newer cultivar 'Shien' sold under the registered name PARTY LIGHTS®. Vibrant purple pink new shoots light up the landscape, fading to a soft pink then turning green by summer. I have not grown this shrub and



*Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki'

have only seen a few plants in nurseries, but it looks like it will be something spectacular. I would suspect it will mature to a similar size as 'Akebono'.

The shape of the leaf is another commonly selected for characteristic. Two of the oldest cultivars chosen for interesting leaf shape are 'Gulf tide' and 'Rotundifolius'. 'Gulf tide', most popular for its exceptional hardiness, is compact with a very spiny and shiny dark green leaf. It is slow to lose the spiny foliage as it matures. 'Rotundifolius' is a spine free clone with a more rounded shaped leaf and deep green foliage. A new cultivar has been introduced that is a very compact form of 'Rotundifolius' with a wavy leaf. It is sold under the name 'Rotundifolius Nouveau'. There are also a few very deeply lobed and very spiny forms that make the leaves have

a slight bamboo foliage look. 'Sasaba' is widely available and shows this characteristic well. It is best grown in sun where the form remains the most compact. In my experience it is not a young bloomer. 'Sasaba' also has a look-a-like new cultivar that is very compact and cutely spiny, if there is such a thing, called 'Hariyama'. I have not seen this form in person, but it is said to grow to about 5 to 6 feet tall in 10 years.

A friend gave me one of the most unusual *Osmanthus heterophyllus* cultivars: 'Kaori Hime', sold under the registered name of PARTY PRINCESS®. The leaves of this selection are spiny like the typical form but are less than ¼ the size of typical foliage. A compact dense grower, this would make an excellent low hedge of an unusual specimen with some thoughtful pruning.

It could also make an interesting bonsai. It seems to retain a tough constitution in the garden and flowers when quite young with deliciously fragrant flowers.

These fall flowering sweet olives can have much to offer us as gardeners, and I think the alluring fragrance at a time of the year when we need it is just icing on the cake. Take a look at the selections on the Great Plant Picks website. The listed *Osmanthus* not only include a selection of fall bloomers, it also contains a few spring bloomers that I will be featuring in a future issue of Garden Notes. ☺

*Richie Steffen is Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden and a board member of NHS.*

# 8 TIPS TO GEAR UP GARDEN FOR COLD WEATHER

*By Kym Pokorny*

AS FREEZING WEATHER MOVES IN, gardeners may be worrying about how to protect their plants from the cold. Experts with Oregon State University Extension Service recommend several ways to guard your landscape from frigid conditions.

- Though snow can act as excellent mulch on the ground, it can weigh down the branches of shrubs with frail structures such as arborvitae, boxwoods, cypress, young rhododendrons and azaleas. Knock the snow off branches and wrap rope around them. Tying the branches upward helps restructure them to a more upright position before the storm. Leave snow at the base of plants, however, because it insulates roots.
- Insulate tender perennials – including hardy fuchsias, roses, clematis, salvia, some ferns, canna, agapanthus and dahlias with mulch, compost, leaves, conifer branches or any kind of organic matter that will protect root systems. For extra help on plants you particularly prize, use this trick: Assemble a tomato cage (the square, folding types are best) around it. Wrap burlap around the outside of the cage and secure with bungee cords. Fill with straw or leaves. Be sure to remove the material when the temperature rises.
- It's especially important to protect container plants since the pots can freeze. Pull them into an unheated garage, basement, greenhouse, cold frame or similar site. Make sure it's a place where the temperature stays above freezing. If you've no place indoors for plants, safeguard them by covering with evergreen boughs, straw, leaves, old blankets, sheets, burlap, woven row cover, a sheet of plastic or anything that can help insulate them. Wrap pots in bubble wrap to provide even more protection. Don't leave pots hanging. Place on the ground and cover.
- If you don't know the hardiness of your plants but have lived in the same place for more than a couple of years, think back to which plants limped through winter and concentrate on those. Most trees go dormant in the winter and can withstand temperatures in the negative degrees. The exception? Non-native trees that do not have the same cold tolerance. Be sure to check labels before buying and make sure to plant trees with cold hardiness appropriate to your area. Check the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map to find your hardiness zone.
- Don't walk on your lawn, especially if there is no snow insulating the grass. Walking on it can break the leaf tissue and damage the grass if it is frozen.
- Keep your greenhouse above 35 degrees and plants inside will likely survive.
- Next spring you may notice some brown freeze streaks and damage on the leaves of the spring-flowering trees and bulbs you put in the ground recently. Cold weather likely will cause a lot of leaf and tissue damage. Frost damage causes leaves to appear water-soaked or shriveled, or to turn dark brown or black — but does not always kill the plant.
- Generally, do not water your plants in freezing conditions. But shrubs growing underneath the eaves of a house are susceptible to drought damage. Water them deeply every six to eight weeks only when the air temperature is above freezing and early in the day.



Snow weighing down branches.  
(Wikimedia Commons)

*Courtesy of Oregon State University – OSU Extension Service – Corvallis, Oregon*

## NEW MEMBERS

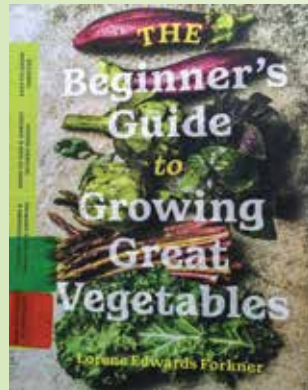
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# LITERARY NOTES

## from the Miller Library

by Brian Thompson

HOPEFULLY, MOST OF YOU SAW the excellent NHS presentation by Lorene Edwards Forkner this past July titled “Edible Year-Round Gardening,” and the subsequent panel she led of regional experts on this topic. It was an inspiration to try veggies, even for the most die-hard ornamental gardener.



Much of Forkner’s presentation is captured in her new book, *The Beginner’s Guide to Growing Great Vegetables*. The title is modest. These pages are chockful of good advice for all gardeners.

If you are a beginner, I encourage reading the opening chapter titled “Gardening 101.” For everyone, the chapter on “Garden Planning” will help you decide what type and especially how much food growing is realistic for you, including options if you do not have garden space. Like ornamentals? These are encouraged for edible fruits or flowers, or to attract beneficial insects to

protect or pollinate your food crops.

The book’s core is a month-by-month calendar showing both the planning and the doing for the time of year, including season-related essays. For example, September is the time to plan for your fall and winter garden, planting cover crops, and saving seeds. October is about cleaning and feeding the garden for the future, especially after the first frost, and creating or enhancing your process for making home compost.

Forkner encourages experimentation and keeping a journal of the results. She happily shares her personal experiences, good and bad. “Over the years, I’ve experimented with sowing ornamental corn, winter wheat, and fancy French melons. Ultimately, I decided that homegrown popping corn is highly overrated, and my cat took up napping in the middle of my ‘wheat field.’” She concludes that the two tiny Charentais melons her efforts produced “were absolutely delicious--well worth the time and garden space they occupied all summer.”

While similar in some ways to her 2012 publication *The Timber Press Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Pacific Northwest*, this book incorporates nine more years of Forkner’s experience. It is also broader in scope, addressing all of North America, although I detected a slight PNW bias. That just makes this the perfect book for NHS members!🍷

*Brian Thompson is the manager and curator of horticultural literature for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library.*

**Thank you to our Patrons!** The Webinar Lecture Program would not be possible without the tremendous support of our Patrons. Their generosity helps NHS provide an outstanding educational program for Northwest gardeners. In light of current events limiting gatherings, these generous contributions allow NHS to provide online forums for the dissemination of horticultural information. Thanks for your continued support.

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## 2022 NHS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

As chair of the Education Committee, I am excited to share a little about our 2022 educational programs for NHS. While COVID-19 still impacts our programs, we are looking at ways we can still share gardening experiences and stories with our members. We feel that it is important to make our educational events a safe space for sharing information and connecting people with inspiring places and expert gardeners. As we move through the pandemic, we are enthusiastic about the opportunity for in-person events next year. The Education committee is working on a series of smaller, intimate in-person class experiences that put you in the presence of skilled gardeners and in the middle of their beautiful spaces. These classes will include the popular class series hosted at the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden by their staff. We are also looking forward to developing a few focused day tours providing a glimpse of regional flair in both private and public spaces.

Over this last year and a half our membership has grown considerably. We hope to offer three large social events next year through partnerships with local public gardens allowing you a chance to meet other members of our board and enjoy some of the best public gardens Puget Sound has to offer. Of course, we will continue to offer a robust and diverse series of webinars that will be accessible to our membership including several free webinars for members only. Your feedback on our webinar program has been overwhelmingly positive, and you can continue to expect the best in online content from NHS.

Looking forward to 2022!

All the best,

Richie Steffen,  
NHS Education Chair

# President's Message



Dear NHS Members,

After three years, this letter is my farewell president's message to our wonderfully supportive and greatly appreciated members and determined Board of Directors. It has been a great honor and a great responsibility to help guide the Northwest Horticultural Society through these challenging times. As I look back to what has happened to our organization, the horticultural world, and the world in general these past few years, it is surely stunning, amazing, and remarkable.

No one could have imagined that we would be living through such a virulent pandemic at the beginning of 2020. Luckily, with great support from the NHS Board of Directors, we made a decisive switch to online programming that would continue to accomplish our mission to provide a forum for gardeners and plant lovers to share their interests and learn about horticulture. The transition to online programs not only met this goal but exceeded it! We were able to expand our speaker offerings from around the US and the globe. By word of mouth about our webinar series, members buying tickets for their friends, and via a robust social media campaign, our membership grew to levels never seen before by our organization. It changed the reach of the NHS from a local horticultural organization to encompass the US and even internationally. This was truly a great accomplishment. Kudos to everyone involved, from the Program Committee, Social Media Committee, and you, our engaged steadfast members.

We must not lose sight of the dramatic changes that have happened in our world over these past years. We need to confront the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, food insecurity, and social inequality issues that confront us and will for future generations. While this is not the typical goal of a horticultural society, our members are cognizant and ready for those challenges, willing to acknowledge these issues, and most of all, make meaningful changes. In our small part, NHS will continue to support underserved communities (e.g. BIPOC, LGBTQI) by actively inviting lecturers with diverse backgrounds, encouraging diverse organizations to apply for our educational grants and scholarships, and with our hearts, voices, and open arms.

The Northwest Horticultural Society continues to be one of the preeminent horticultural organizations in the Pacific Northwest due to our membership's continued engagement, support, and donations. I want to whole-heartedly thank you all for making this a reality. 2022 will soon be here and we are again transitioning into a hybrid program with both virtual webinars and in-person events and classes for our members. I am personally very excited, as I know you are also, to see friends old and new and to interact in person again. Please watch for emails, continue to check our new and improved website ([www.northwesthort.org](http://www.northwesthort.org)), and watch out for our social media postings on Instagram and Facebook for our exciting offerings in 2022.

While this is my farewell president's message, it is not a good-bye letter. With the changes to the NHS by-laws implemented to accommodate virtual board meetings due to the pandemic and board of director term lengths, I will still be on the Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President for one more year. I will also continue to help co-host our wonderful and truly amazing webinar series that brings everyone educational and enlightening horticultural topics from all the engaging speakers from the US and other countries with different perspectives.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am wishing you all a safe and healthy 2022 with heartfelt thanks for your continued support. 🌿

Happy Gardening,  
Jason Jorgensen  
NHS President

## GARDENnotes

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“The work of a garden bears visible fruits-in a world where most of our labours seem suspiciously meaningless.”

— Pam Brown, Australian poet

Autumn in the garden  
Image by Richie Steffen