

## February To-Do List:

- **Dormant Spray!**  
You still have a little bit of time left for dormant spray, but not much. In most cases you can spray up until the buds start to break. For more complete information, refer back to our December Newsletter in our online newsletter archives.
- You can start planting some of the early cool season vegetables this month, like peas and many leafy vegetables. It's also a great time to start planting onions, garlic, and potatoes.
- February is traditionally the month for rose pruning. Proper pruning can make a world of difference in the health of your plants!
- The grass will be growing again soon! If you forgot in fall, be sure to apply lime and fertilizer early in spring so that you get a head start on the season.
- Remember, the earlier you plant your trees and shrubs, the better established and able to deal with the summer heat they will be. Fall is the best time to plant, but late winter is a close second!



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February 1st, 2009

## Thinking Back, Looking Forward.

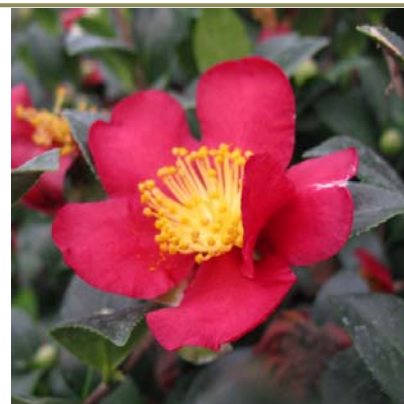
It's hard to believe that we are already a month into 2009, and that the spring gardening season is almost upon us! It seems like just a few weeks ago we were still digging out from our record snowfall, but the nursery is really winding up and coming to life as we begin the prelude to the upcoming spring season.

2009 marks a special year at Farmington Gardens. 15 years ago, we started out as a little roadside stand, selling a small number of plants to people who would pass by on Farmington Road. Anyone visiting today would find that pretty hard to believe, as we have certainly expanded quite a bit since then! Though we may have grown, at heart we still go back to the ideals that we started with in that roadside stand, where people come first and quality and service are our top priorities. We love to work with plants, and it is a pleasure to be able to share that with all of you year after year.

While we look back with nostalgia on the years that made us who we are today, we also look forward to what this new year and the years to come will bring! "Growing for You" is not just a tagline, it's our way of life, and it's what we do here every day. We have a lot of fun things in the works for 2009, and we'll keep you posted as we get plans finalized. And, as always, we look forward to seeing all of you this spring!

## Inside...

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- Seeds, Bulbs, and Fruit Trees
- Gardening in the Information Age
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## A Victory Garden for the 21st Century

It seems like everywhere you turn these days there's talk of our national economic issues and uncertainty, record unemployment and job losses, global climate change, and all kinds of other things. Many people are going through difficult times, and many others are uncertain about what the future will bring. Even if you aren't being greatly affected by current events, it's pretty safe to say that you know someone who is.

In the earlier 20th century, during WWI and later WWII, an idea was set forth that brought together communities, boosted morale and confidence, and helped to curb some of the pressures of some pretty difficult times. The Victory Garden campaign mobilized gardeners around the country to support themselves and their communities by planting gardens to provide food in a time of great need and shortage. As word began to spread, Victory Gardens started to show up everywhere and anywhere that crops could be planted. For quite some time a large portion of the White House lawn was even turned into a victory garden!

Over the past few years, the victory garden idea has again been floated around, and is developing a strong following. A quick online search will show you just how much this idea is gaining traction. So we are bringing it to you for your own consideration. In 2009, a "victory" garden could mean a lot of things. It could be economic victory, environmental victory, personal victory; it could be anything. Whatever you choose as your victory, the idea is the same: get out and plant a garden. Most people have extra space that they aren't using productively. And let's face it, many people are staying home more and finding themselves with extra time lately.

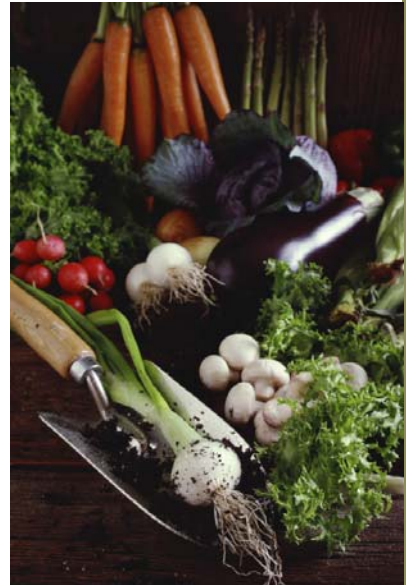
So, we encourage you to plant a garden this year. Gardens can do wonderful things; they bring together families, neighbors and communities, and they feed people. Many cities have community garden programs if you don't have a yard of your own. You might also want to consider growing a central neighborhood garden, so everyone can take turns tending to it and share in the harvest. And gardening is definitely a fantastic family activity. It's a great opportunity to work together towards something, and an opportunity to teach your children about garden-



## A Victory Garden for the 21st Century

ing. And if you've never gardened before, the best way to learn is to just jump in and do it. We're always here to encourage and help with information.

As for the benefits of growing your own produce, there are many. Locally grown produce is much more flavorful and healthy than produce that has been grown across the country, picked before fully ripened, and shipped here on a truck smashed between a bunch of other stuff. For produce to really develop to its full potential, it has to be harvested fresh and fully ripened. Gardening also promotes the healthy habit of eating more fresh produce, because that produce is readily available, and the price is always right when you grow it yourself!



You also get to control what you put on your own produce. For some of you that means a completely organic garden, and for others it means limiting the use of and type of pesticides that you use. Some things bought in stores can have rather nasty residues on them, but you never really know what exactly it was exposed to unless you grew it yourself. Think of it as controlling your food source.

A victory garden can connect you to your community in ways you may have never thought about. Gardeners love to talk about gardening, and soon you'll find yourself having fascinating conversations with people at the garden center about fertilizer and soil amendments. Also, might we suggest, you could stir up some gardening conversation on our community page. Help a new gardener out, pick up a few tips, and brag about your bumper crop of tomatoes.

And finally, your victory garden could give some much needed help to those that need it. We will once again be participating in the Plant a Row for the Hungry program, and invite you to plant a little extra for those in need. Last year we collected over 3200 lbs of fresh produce that went to the Sunshine Pantry in Beaverton, and directly to those in our area who needed it most. If everyone grew a garden this year, even a small one, and dropped off just a little bit of extra produce throughout the season, we could really do some amazing things!



## Not-Quite-Bare-Root Fruit Trees

Around this time every year, we start getting calls for bare-root fruit trees, but have traditionally only sold containerized trees because of our quality standards. We really don't sell *any* trees bare-root, because we don't feel that they are as reliable as their container grown counterparts. Bare-root trees are subject to a higher degree of failure, because their roots are exposed and vulnerable for long periods of time, with plenty of opportunities for damage or to dry out. The longer they stay out, the more damage they sustain. We have always waited until we know our trees have established a good root system in the pot and are leafing out before selling them in spring, so that we know we are selling a quality product.



A lot of people still want their bare-root trees really early in the season though, so we came up with a compromise that allows us to sell the trees earlier, without sacrificing quality and tree survivability. We will be planting a large number of bare root trees in paper pulp pots, and putting them up for sale immediately. This means that the tree roots are not left exposed, and the trees can start to root into their containers and grow like they normally would. The pulp pots are biodegradable (within a year or less), so you can plant them directly into the ground without removing the tree and disturbing the fragile new roots. We feel that this will eliminate most of the problems we've seen with bare-root trees in the past, and will let us sell our fruit trees a few months earlier than normal. Look for our new pulp-pot early fruit trees in early February!

## Seeds, Bulbs, and Root Crops

It's that time of year again, and the seeds, bulbs, and root crops are starting to make their way into the store. We already have a good selection of seeds for cool season vegetables and indoor seed-starting, and we expect to see the spring flower bulbs this next week. Over the next few weeks, we will be seeing potatoes, garlic, and onions arrive just in time for early spring planting! For early seed starting, take a look at our blog for more information on CowPots, an organic, biodegradable product made entirely from agricultural byproducts!



## Gardening in the Information Age

In an era of digital everything, where everything seems to be done electronically, gardening has been a staunch holdout. Gardening is still a very manual undertaking, and while I think deep down most people would prefer it stay that way (probably not when you're pulling weeds in the heat of summer), there are certainly some aspects of technology that could be very helpful in our gardening endeavors.

One thing technology has brought us is the ability to create, catalog, and share information in ways that have never before been possible in our history. There is a tremendous amount of information and knowledge floating around in the gardening community, so we thought that these two should meet and see what happens. We have been really busy over the past month or so (which is why you didn't get a January newsletter) updating our website and adding some really useful new features to make this a possibility, and we think you'll enjoy the changes. Here are a few of the ways in which we are enhancing our communications:

### Our Website

[www.farmingtongardens.com](http://www.farmingtongardens.com). This is a great place to start, and your gateway to our different online areas. We changed the layout and structure this year to allow greater flexibility in adding content, and made it more user friendly and navigable. You can see news and events, check out our ever-growing digital reference library that covers many common subjects, look through old newsletters, view our current plant availability, and much more! You can also do a search of our entire site, which makes it really easy to find things if you are looking for something specific.



### Our Blog

[blog.farmingtongardens.com](http://blog.farmingtongardens.com). Our main webpage acts as an anchor on the web, so people always know where to find us, and can always find the basic information that they need in a consistent place. In contrast, the information in our blog is constantly being updated and changed. Consider it our "daily news". We post up-to-date nursery news, information on events and classes, information on sales, new products and product spotlights, and updates on what's currently blooming or looking neat at the nursery.



## Gardening in the Information Age ...continued

### Your Community Page

[community.farmingtongardens.com](http://community.farmingtongardens.com). The Community Page is the place to come together and talk about gardening. There is a tremendous amount of knowledge in our local gardening community, and this is a great forum to come to and get and share ideas, ask questions, and assist and encourage less experienced gardeners. We maintain and manage the forum since it is on our website, but it is open for everyone to contribute and participate. We want it to be your garden forum, with us as your host.



### Facebook

Yes, you read that correctly. More and more people, especially those from younger generations, are getting involved with Facebook, and we decided that we should have a presence there for anyone interested. The feed from our blog is automatically sent to our facebook page, and we will be posting events there as well. We invite you to become a fan of Farmington Gardens: [www.facebook.com/pages/Farmington-Gardens/19397284985](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Farmington-Gardens/19397284985).

### Newsfeeds

Our blog and community pages have a built-in RSS (really simple syndication) newsfeed function, which allows you to read articles and get updates as they are posted. This way you don't have to keep checking back to see if there is something new, it automatically comes to you! Most newer web browsers, Microsoft Outlook 2007, and some webmail programs (like gmail) have built in RSS feed functions. There are also several programs and add-ons that you can install which will let you subscribe to these feeds. If this is all more than you want to worry about, don't worry, you can still just go to the blog page and view it as a normal website. These are the addresses of the RSS feeds:



Blog: <http://blog.farmingtongardens.com/?feed=rss2>

Community: <http://community.farmingtongardens.com/index.php?type=rss;action=.xml>

In addition, you will still be able to count on our monthly newsletter for timely news and information. So stop by, take a look around, and enjoy!

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Farmington Gardens is a  
Licensed Landscape Con-  
tracting Business in the  
State of Oregon—

OLCB# 8633



## Upcoming Events

### February 7

11 AM

#### What's the Buzz About Mason Bees?

With Beth Rose. After the first of the year every year, we start hearing from our customers interested in mason bees – and so we are happy to start our speaker series in 2009 with one on mason bees. Beth is an expert on mason bees and loves watching their habits in her own garden. She will share the easy steps you can take to bring this friendly native insect into your garden as well. You won't get honey or wax from these hard workers, because they focus all their time and energy on pollinating. If you have an edible garden or fruit trees, you will want to know about mason bees! We will have starter houses and replacement tubes available by then as well, so that you will be ready when the bees are.



### February 21

11 AM

#### Raingardens for the Disconnected Downspout

With landscape designer Amy Whitworth. Homeowners can stem the tide of polluted runoff threatening rivers and streams by setting up a simple 'rain garden,' which is beautiful as well as beneficial. This concept mimics natural systems – the idea is to create a depression filled with plants that collects the rainwater that runs off a building. The carefully selected plants absorb the water and release it slowly, reducing the risk of flooding, as well as neutralizing some of the toxins present in runoff. Amy will share tips for this sustainable, earth-friendly strategy.

**Classes are free. Please call us at 503-649-4568 to register.**